


Hans Knot International Radio Report

Summer 2024

Welcome back to another edition of the international radio report. Today, when I'm starting to edit this edition it's July 2nd and on that day 57 years ago, a new station came on the air with Dutch language programs. One of the offshore radio stations which had no long life. Radio 227 came from aboard the Laissez Faire, where also during periods Swinging Radio England, Britain Radio, Radio Dolfijn and Radio 355 could be heard. I know readers will have their own opinion about the various stations and their formats. However I want to tell that my favorite stations were Swinging Radio England and Radio 355.

Also this time a lot of e mails came in during the past two months, from which I will mention a few. We have lot of memories, questions and more and a special about a weekend for celebrating in the Netherlands with the topic '50 years Radio Mi Amigo', as well a sad lost, the passing of Paul May.

| | |  RADIO ENGLAND - BRITAIN RADIO | | | | | |
|--|-----|--|-----|------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| No. of times in one year period | | 30 [†] SECONDS | | 15 SECONDS | | 7 SECONDS | |
| CLASS A (7.30 a.m.-2 p.m.*) | 1 | \$213 | £76 | \$107 | £38 | \$54 | £19 |
| | 26 | 204 | 72 | 102 | 36 | 51 | 18 |
| | 52 | 191 | 68 | 96 | 34 | 48 | 17 |
| | 104 | 181 | 64 | 91 | 32 | 46 | 16 |
| | 156 | 169 | 60 | 85 | 30 | 43 | 15 |
| 260 | 158 | 56 | 79 | 28 | 40 | 14 | |
| No. of times in one year period | | 30 [†] SECONDS | | 15 SECONDS | | 7 SECONDS | |
| CLASS B (2 p.m.-6 p.m.*) | 1 | \$181 | £64 | \$91 | £32 | \$46 | £16 |
| | 26 | 169 | 60 | 85 | 30 | 43 | 15 |
| | 52 | 158 | 56 | 79 | 28 | 40 | 14 |
| | 104 | 147 | 52 | 74 | 26 | 37 | 13 |
| | 156 | 136 | 48 | 68 | 24 | 34 | 12 |
| 260 | 124 | 44 | 62 | 22 | 31 | 11 | |
| No. of times in one year period | | 30 [†] SECONDS | | 15 SECONDS | | 7 SECONDS | |
| CLASS C (6 p.m. to midnight) | 1 | \$188 | £56 | \$79 | £28 | \$40 | £14 |
| | 26 | 147 | 52 | 74 | 26 | 37 | 13 |
| | 52 | 136 | 48 | 68 | 24 | 34 | 12 |
| | 104 | 124 | 44 | 62 | 22 | 31 | 11 |
| | 156 | 112 | 40 | 56 | 20 | 28 | 10 |
| 260 | 102 | 36 | 51 | 18 | 26 | 9 | |
| No. of times in one year period | | 30 [†] SECONDS | | 15 SECONDS | | 7 SECONDS | |
| CLASS D (midnight-7.30 a.m.) | 1 | \$84 | £30 | \$42 | £15 | \$23 | £8 |
| | 26 | 79 | 28 | 40 | 14 | 20 | 7 |
| | 52 | 68 | 24 | 34 | 12 | 17 | 6 |
| | 104 | 62 | 22 | 31 | 11 | 14 | 5 |
| | 156 | 56 | 20 | 28 | 10 | 12 | 4 |
| 260 | 51 | 18 | 26 | 9 | 9 | 3 | |

DISCOUNTS
 A month's package of 50 spots takes 156 times rates
 A month's package of 100 spots takes 260 times rates
 Guaranteed Minimum Expenditure per annum
 over £4,000 2% on amount guaranteed
 over £10,000 4% on amount guaranteed
 over £20,000 6% on amount guaranteed
 over £50,000 8% on amount guaranteed
 over £100,000 10% on amount guaranteed

NOTE: Rates are protected for 12 months for advertisers taking advantage of this discount.

AGENCY COMMISSION
 Advertising Agency commission of 15% will be allowed on invoiced amount—with an additional 2% discount for payment by 7th of month following broadcast.

ACCOUNTS
 Accounts payable by recognised advertising agencies shall be paid not later than the 15th of the month following the month of transmission. Other accounts shall be paid not later than ten days before transmission date.

CANCELLATION PERIOD
 Advertising is cancellable upon 8 weeks' written notice unless it forms part of a Guaranteed Minimum Expenditure Contract.

TAPES
 Two tapes and/or scripts should be supplied at least ten days before transmission time. (Single play full track recording at 7 1/2 i.p.s. with long leaders). No charge is made for live commercial announcing.

*Subject to availability, advertisers may specify 30 minute segments in which spots are to be scheduled. There will be no extra charge for this except for advertising fixed between Noon and 2 p.m. which will be charged at a 15% premium. Rates are subject to change upon 8 weeks' notice.

†Commercials exceeding 30 seconds shall be charged on a pro-rata basis.

THE RATE FOR COMBINED STATION ADVERTISING WILL QUALIFY FOR AN ADDITIONAL 12% DISCOUNT ON THE DUAL RATE.

Above the rate card for Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio. And talking about those stations, I had an e mail from Rick Crandell, who we remember as Rick Randell.

'When I was working at commercial local radio stations local artists used to bring their records and tapes into the station in the hope we might give them some airplay. We rarely did. That used to bother me quite a bit and when internet streaming became possible I saw my chance to do something about it. This year begins my 20th year streaming all original music by local artists through my website, MusicTampaBay.com. The local FM station I founded a few years ago here in my hometown in St Petersburg, Florida, has expanded on this and includes cover songs by local artists as well.

I have also made a point to see local artists perform, like the one in the photo I posted on Facebook. An unforeseen outcome of this effort is the number of good friendships that have come about among the artists in the local music community. I don't know if anyone else is taking this approach to programming radio here in this USA, or around your corner of the world. But it is an idea I hope will evolve into the future for many years to come.



Joshua Reilly at Crook Thumbed Brewery

Thanks a lot bringing this idea into the report. Good your still active in Florida.

Radex radio and TV

Next an article I wrote a long time ago and was waiting for publication:

A memory of Radio Syd, the organisation run by Britt Wadner, recurred that she and her team were also planning to provide television broadcasts from the Cheeta II. In my mind, along with many others, it seems an impossibility to receive such broadcasts from a ship in good condition. Partly given that a transmitting ship may have been at anchor but still in constant motion.

Offshore TV Stations

Immediately following Reg Calverts statement that a ship based TV station run by Radio City was in the offing, came the news that Radex TV, another ship board TV station would begin transmissions within eight weeks. Coincidental with Radex TV is expected to be another off-shore radio station broadcasting 24 hours a day. The market is claimed to be London, East Anglia, the Midlands and the West Country. The projects, according to reports, are backed by US money. Test transmissions will be on channel 6 VHF 405 lines.

But on 3rd and 4th of June 1965, through a number of publications, another interesting reason was added to prevent such broadcasts. At issue in that case was the planned broadcasts of a new organisation that promised to go on air 24 hours a day with radio programmes and also wished to provide television broadcasts for 12 hours a day under the name Radex TV.

The Dutch newspaper Telegraaf reported that, in the opinion of experts, this commercial station would be heard and seen in London, western Netherlands to Amsterdam, northern France and throughout the Belgian coastal area. It was also thought to reach much of south-east England with the use of three transmitter ships. These would be anchored in international waters, with the TV transmitter ship anchored offshore off Whitstable. Two other ships would also have transmitters where they would provide relay of the

programmes. One ship off Harwich in Essex and the other off the Isle of Wight.

Channel 6 was indicated as the channel to be used. Days after the initial publication regarding the plans, a warning was issued that any broadcasts by Radex TV via the aforementioned channel would cause serious problems for British space research. What was the case? It was precisely channel 6 that was also used by British Radio Astronomy. The remarkable thing about this was that the government had already twice issued a warning to two other organisations instructing them never to use channel 6. These were the television arm of the BBC and that of commercial television ITV.

Radex mystery

RADEX-TV, the much-proclaimed offshore television station which was to have started transmissions shortly from a ship off the East coast of England, seems to have sunk without trace.

This, at any rate is the general consensus of opinion within the industry in this country. TELEVISION MAIL, in common with the national newspapers who carried the original story, has been unable to contact the source of the announcement made about a month ago about Radex-TV and despite a recent report in Variety of concern among the contractors in the area which Radex-TV planned to cover, the 'threat' of the offshore station to on-shore TV revenues has virtually been written off.

Meanwhile Radio City's plans for an offshore TV station are still very tentative indeed, according to Reg Calvert of Radio City. Though he has said that he will be in the market for programmes, and advertising, no specific approaches have yet been made. Certainly no transmission or studio equipment has yet been purchased.

With the cover and service provided by the existing, legal, television networks, it is in fact extremely doubtful whether Britain will ever have an off-shore television station.

Professor Martin Ryle, director of the radio astronomy service in Cambridge, reportedly said, "If this station comes on air at the same time we are working, we just can't work. We use two big radio telescopes and one of them would be put out of action. I am absolutely appalled at the incredibly lax action Western Europe is

taking against these pirate stations. People just don't seem to care. I am very worried about all this.

An official from the GPO reported that unfortunately it was impossible for the UK government to bring any broadcasts to an immediate end. He was referring to the fact that the three ships to be used would be in international waters and 'flying' a 'foreign' flag. However, he did add that it was likely that the minister responsible for GPO would put pressure on the UK House of Commons after Whitsun and insist on ending all activities of the so-called 'pirate broadcasters'.

The organisation behind Radex TV was not alarmed, stating that they had at their disposal a sum of £10 million and with that amount they could hold out for at least a year. £100 in 1965 corresponds in purchasing power to about £2,426.60 in March 2024, an increase of £2,326.60 in 59 years. The pound had an average annual inflation rate of 5.55%. The Radex TV spokesman also reported that they would be targeting a potential 5 million viewers in southern England and that anyone, in possession of a television set, could receive the signal and also did not need to convert the set.

Radex plans may have been scuppered at last moment

JIM DE GREY'S ambitious plan outlined on page 8 are likely to come to nought after all (writes John Mountjoy). A phone call late on Press day told TVM that American financial backing has been withdrawn and that another offer was decided to be completely unacceptable by Jim de Grey. He says that he believes that Radex TV is still a good project and should financial support be forthcoming within the next three weeks, then Radex TV could be transmitting by Christmas time. Asked about the likelihood of backing, De Grey was optimistic because of the lucrative returns that can come from Radex.

Organisers had also thought in advance not to come up with an abundance of advertising as they announced that this was going to be

a maximum of four minutes per broadcast hour. In terms of programming, they stated that these were mainly American productions and 90% of them were delivered on videotapes, a new product for the time and only used in the professional sphere.

Radex TV's programs included the then innovative idea of a two-hour breakfast show from 7am, after which broadcasts would resume at 3pm and continue until 1.30am. And finally, they announced that there was also going to be a, its own, news bulletin. Radex's spokesman in Britain was Jim de Grey, an engineer from New Zealand. He claimed that the organisation could have obtained registration in the Bahamas, strangely part of the great British empire.

Another day later, more came out: People were going to use a 1250-tonne ship that would be fitted out for the task in a port in the British capital. It was a former cargo ship registered in Panama. The television station would have a power of 35 kW, with only British companies being allowed to advertise on the station.

Yet for the benefit of viewers in mainland western Europe, special equipment would be used to rebroadcast the programs via the so-called 625 line system, while in Britain it would be broadcast via the 405 line system. However, the Telegraph did report having inquired with government agencies in The Hague, which had revealed that any station, anywhere in the world, would be prohibited from broadcasting television programs without an authorisation from the government as to which countries the programs would be directed at.

Offshore TV Stations

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Divergent information regarding the channel to be used also followed as it was suddenly stated that channel 9 was in the planning. The radio broadcasts, with no power of the transmitter mentioned, would be beamed on the 288 or 294 metres. It was also stated that two deejays had already been employed for the radio station, including a female, Mrs. H. Mercedes. A day later, the first criticisms could be read in the various newspapers. One of the articles stated that Radex TV would launch within eight weeks and that bet radio station would broadcast 24 hours a day.

Again a few days later, a notice could be found stating that daily programmes would start in August and would run from 6 to 9 in the morning, 12 to 3 in the afternoon and from 5 in the afternoon to midnight. The cost of a commercial would be around 1,200 pounds per 30 seconds.

Rates for Advertising Time - Spot advertisements
Monday - Friday

| Time | 15 secs | 30 secs |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| 06.05—09.35 | 105 | 130 |
| 14.55—15.25 | 85 | 125 |
| 15.25—17.25 | 210 | 300 |
| 17.25—17.55 | 245 | 350 |
| 17.55—19.25 | 340 | 485 |
| 19.25—22.55 | 675 | 975 |
| 22.55—00.40 | 770 | 1,100 |
| 00.40—01.25 | 350 | 500 |
| Saturday | | |
| 09.00—11.30 | 120 | 175 |
| 14.00—15.45 | 210 | 300 |
| 15.45—18.00 | 330 | 475 |
| 18.00—23.15 | 770 | 1,100 |
| 23.15—01.15 | 525 | 750 |
| Sunday | | |
| 10.55—13.55 | 350 | 500 |
| 13.55—18.25 | 435 | 625 |
| 18.25—19.55 | 524 | 750 |
| 19.55—23.05 | 840 | 1,200 |
| 23.05—23.55 | 350 | 500 |

Summer Rates (July 2-September 9 1966) 40 per cent below above rates.

Guaranteed Expenditure Contracts in 12 months period.

£25,000—£39,999: 3 per cent; £40,000—£99,999: 5 per cent; £100,000—£199,999: 7 per cent; £200,000—£299,999: 8 per cent; £300,00—£499,999: 10 per cent; £500,000 and over: 12 per cent.

As crew, Americans, Canadians and Brits alike would have signed contracts. The idea, it emerged a few weeks later, had come from 49-year-old James De Grey, a New Zealander, who had gained experience at various US television companies. In an interview, he suddenly declared that the television station would broadcast 18 hours a day and that, moreover, they would abide by existing ITV rules, which allowed commercial television stations to carry up to a maximum of six minutes of advertising time per hour.

A direct associate of De Grey, Michael Williams, who had gained his experience in the British National Film Industry, also spoke: "In total, we have spent two years researching to make Radex TV a reality, but we may want to hold off on launching it as we are prepared to make an official licence application for the fourth national network to be launched, which may be run on a commercial basis (later Channel Four, which only started in 1982). If such an application will not be granted, it will have nothing to stop us from coming up with Radex TV after all. We have taken legal advice and we will without question on our plans."

This already showed that Radex TV was unlikely to happen. De Grey went further about his plans: "If we go on air, we will definitely not advertise cigarettes. We will also start paying tax on our income in England, although our company will not be registered as a UK one. We will make payments as we do not want to hold anyone against us without question. We have appointed a Board of Directors for the venture but will not disclose the names yet. Although we have enough money to start bet project, we will wait until other committed capital is credited to on our account."

As always, the *Algemeen Handelsblad*, the predecessor of the *Algemeen Dagblad*, had a little something extra to report. And that was that the television station would have a power output of 50 kW which could reach a potential of 5 million viewers. Forty crew members would work on the ships, in rotation. At the end of July 1965, it was announced by the organisation that they would look for

another frequency and that it could only be a few weeks before the television station would be on air.

Disc & Music Echo 4-9-1965

Pirate TV off

RADEX TV, Britain's first offshore television project, which was to have gone on the air this week has again been held up. The company's American backers have withdrawn their support causing the project to be put back still further. Radex are, however, confident that they will obtain British financial backing and be on the air by Christmas. They have bought over 200 American films and have a full programme schedule planned.

On the 26th of August, everyone was helped out of the dream when newspapers reported that the project had been shelved as they were facing problems, the main reason being that the channel, on which Radex TV was to broadcast, was for astronomical and space research.

Two more times we heard Radex TV and Radio project. The first time in early September 1965 when it was announced that five major investors from America had pulled out and the second time was in

late October that year when it was announced that the launch of Radex Radio would take place in January 1966 and that of Radex TV in spring 1966. However, the spring sun never rose for the Radex project.

The above article is an expanded version of the article published by Hans Knot in 2009 regarding the Radex radio and television project.

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Radio Tag Erkrath This annual gathering of radio enthusiasts with special interests has been held since September 2001.

Many of the participants used to (and still do) tune their radios to medium and shortwave frequencies to receive special radio stations. These were often so-called pirate stations but broadcast legally from ships in the North Sea, before there were commercial land-based radio stations as we know them today. These "anoraks" used to meet at the Berlin Funkausstellung, back when the event lived up to its name, or at radio events in the Netherlands, Belgium, or England. There, they would discuss their hobby with broadcasting professionals, and some "anoraks" even found their career paths into the media.

For several years now, the event has been hosted at the Technical Museum QQTec, Forststr. 73, in Hilden. Nevertheless, it continues to be known as the "Erkrather Radiotag" and attracts visitors from all over Germany and the Benelux countries. Here the photo parade of 2600 photos from the German event through many years.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/collections/72157639722520823/>

More about next event later in this report.

Paul Fraser, who worked on the Peace Ship, will share with you the reader memories from his time with the Voice of Peace. This time all about food and a supplies crisis as well as rats and cockroaches.

Food

Food supplies to the Peace Ship were on the lean side of adequate. When prepared with care and competence, meals were fairly tasty and kept us going until the next shore leave. In my times aboard, all but one of our Cooks did their best with the ingredients and facilities available. The exception was Max Berber.

Max was a bit of a rough diamond. He had a fiery and truculent outward persona, probably developed through years of 'catering' to irate diners. Beneath that, he was actually a nice chap.

The problem for us was, he didn't transfer much of that niceness to his cooking. To be brutally frank, he just didn't really care. Uppermost in my memories is the dish 'Anorexic Chicken.' Small pieces of chicken would be made even less appetising by undercooking and a liberal compliment of grease. I remember that Steve Richards was made ill by one of these delightful repasts.



Another memorable offering was 'that ***** liver', as an earlier

Presenter termed it. I do recall meeting one of the keen friends of the station, sometime in 1987. We went to her home in Rehovot, where I met her mother. Although I then knew very little Hebrew (and still do!), I could converse in French - as could the young lady's mother. I told her about life on the ship, including Max's terrible output. I was then plied with food from the family fridge and pantry, to my combined gratitude and guilt! I must confess that I was so hungry for some decent food that I ate a fair amount of it myself, before rejoining the ship.

Access to food supplies by station staff was strictly forbidden, with the exceptions of fruit, plain yoghurt and small cartons of cottage cheese. We were also forbidden to use the kitchen to prepare our own meals. These rules were flouted, late at night! Steve Richards and I resorted to buying packets of dried meals when we had shore leave. We would split the food between us and usually have some pitta bread. All done very quietly, to avoid waking Max!



Steve Richards photo archive Jon Myer

By way of great and wonderful contrast, the meals prepared on Saturdays by Radha were excellent. Everything was done properly, to make them as appetising as possible. Radha joined the Peace Ship as a Cook; in 1979 I believe. He taught himself the ship's engineering systems and requirements, thus gaining promotion to Resident Ship's Engineer. I, and no doubt many of my former colleagues, are profoundly grateful that Radha would cook for us once a week On Max's day off!

The regular food onboard was occasionally enhanced by fresh fish. The best fishermen on the ship were our Filipino crew. A regular catch was tuna; mackerel also featured. I am certainly no fisherman, but even I managed to land substantial catches of mackerel when they were abundant.

There was a curious incident involving a yacht which arrived alongside, on a Friday IIRC. It was laden with top quality meat supplies - all of which were non-kosher! As the cargo transfer began there were many comments of appreciation for this bounty and of gratitude to Abie. Then the Motorola radio burst into life! Abie gave strict orders that the meat be promptly put into storage and that neither the Cook nor the station staff were to touch it! And on the following Monday, the same yacht arrived to take all the non-kosher delights away!

As an interesting end note on Max: Radha told me, I think in 1993 after I had left the station, that Max had secured a job as a Pastry Chef at one of the luxury hotels in Dublin. Well, well.

The Supplies Crisis

Food was sent out on small pleasure craft. Getting the cargo on board was a bit tricky in even slight-moderate sea conditions. Things had to be loaded into a plastic crate on a long rope, then the boatman would step back and we would haul it up at just the right moment,

without pitching the contents into the sea!

For 2-3 weeks in Autumn 1989, the sea was too rough for any food to be sent. The weather was constantly in a state of 'getting ready for a storm', but the storm never actually came. It just wore us and our supplies down. If the timing had been different, we could have managed, but we were due a food boat just at the start of the rough weather.



One of the many forms of tendering Photo: SMC Archive

We steadily ran out of just about everything. No bread, fruit, milk, no vegetables apart from red cabbage, no meat apart from burger meat. It got to the point where I spoke to Abie about it - not the sort of thing I would normally do, for fear of incurring his wrath. He was calm and understanding, but we still had to wait for the weather to improve.

During all this time, we could see the MV Hatzvi, the home of Aruts 7, receiving regular supplies by boat! This was possible because the Hatzvi was larger than the MV Peace, which provided a sufficiently calm leeward area for transferring cargo. In retrospect, we were not in any grave danger. We still had fuel, electricity and a functioning engine. We could have either called for emergency aid from the Israeli Navy or simply upped anchor and sailed to Ashdod Port. It's certainly an experience I will never forget.

Rats and Cockroaches

Rats are intelligent creatures. Inside one of the storage benches in the Messroom on the Peace ship was a small rat cage, made of wood and wire mesh. There was a hole in one of the wooden side pieces; on the other side was written: 'Dear Rat, Please enter via other end.'

We made regular visits to Ashdod Port, for fresh water, and diesel if needed, plus any other items such as engine oil and station supplies. It was during one of these visits that the rat (1987) came aboard.



Ashdod harbour

Port rats are well versed in the ways to board ships. The most obvious would be the gangplank. If that is not available, unprotected ropes are a good alternative. I did notice some anti-rat devices on other ships' mooring ropes in Ashdod. These are metal collars which clamp on to the ropes a short distance from the ship's mooring chocks. Any rat scurrying along a protected rope would find him/herself halted by an insurmountable barrier, high above the water! They no doubt learned, long ago, to avoid those ropes.

But the Peace Ship was an easy target! Not only were our ropes

unprotected, I cannot be sure that we withdrew the gangplank when it was not in use. We might have left it in place overnight. We duly left Ashdod Port, with some undeclared live cargo. A few relatively uneventful days passed, then our murine friend made him/herself known.

I was presenting Late Night Affair, which ran from midnight to 3AM. John McDonald had presented the previous programme and had retired to his cabin for the night. At around half past midnight, John reappeared in the studio, looking rather pale and shocked. He had switched off the light in his cabin and climbed into his bunk, when in the faint light from the corridor he saw 'a dirty great rat' sitting atop his suitcase, gazing at him!

John decided to sleep in the TV lounge. After Late Night Affair, I went to my cabin to get some sleep. I heard scratching sounds from part of the cabin wall, which was made of wood and soundproofing tiles. Not much of a barrier to a rat! I made my way to the TV lounge, which was raised above the main deck and thus offered more protection. Also, unfortunately, more generator noise.

Later that morning, Captain Aaldijk told HQ about our new guest and requested rat poison. This arrived on the next supply boat and was deployed. And then...a certain aroma became evident in the on air studio. It was coming from the air conditioning vent and rapidly getting stronger. The rat had taken the poison and had chewed its way into the ducting, where it had died and was decaying.

The aroma made the on air studio impossible to use normally. We would stand in the doorway with the door open, until the next link or commercial break required being at the desk. The adjacent production studio was also badly affected; our cabins were further along the air conditioning route and thus not so bad.

Programme Controller Mike Darby and Tim Shepherd broke into the

ducting and tried to reach the rat corpse, but it proved to be inaccessible. We just had to 'grin and bear it', until the aroma faded away.



Mike Darby aka Coconut Photo: OEM Archive.

Cockroaches were a constant presence. They were to be found everywhere, from the Bridge to the Hold. Tim said he opened the cornflake packet one morning, to find 2 cornflakes and 3 cockroaches inside. Most appetising! Neil Armstrong killed them on sight. Given the slipshod and careless nature of Max's food preparation, it's quite possible that we ate a few cockroaches! A 'Bush Tucker Challenge' before its time.'

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Thanks a lot and more in another copy of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. By the way, for every reader it's possible to write memories for the report. It's simply: write down the memories and add, if possible a photo or newspaper cuttings. Feel free to send it to HKnot@home.nl

In November 1970, Meister and Bollier from RNI wished to pay their debts to the Veronica organisation. So they packed a sum of 1 million guilders in a suitcase and travelled to Hilversum to hand over the amount. However, it was Bull Verweij who rejected the offer and closed the door. As a reminder, Meister and Bollier had previously been given this amount on loan under certain conditions, which, however, had not been met.

Big question is whether the amount was still transferred at another time. Martin van der Ven searched the archives and newspaper clippings earlier this year, seeking an answer from RNI side, which he did not get. As far as we know Rob Out published about the subject, of course with the Veronica Sauce, in his 1975 book 'Veronica 1 jaar later'. We would like an answer to that question, perhaps bringing clarity around this financial issue after more than 53 years. Victor Pelli was asked to have a talk with Edwin Bollier, co-owner from MEBO Ltd, to see if an answer is possible.

On July 8th early in the morning an answer was in the message box:

'Edwin Bollier, owner of MEBO AG told me: "It was fact and not fiction that we brought the money in cash to Veronica HQ. The Veronica owners refused to accept it. There was no further attempt to deliver the money to Veronica. Later, the catastrophic fire attack on the MEBO II caused huge damage to the broadcasting ship. The sum owed to Veronica was offset against the major repair works on the MEBO II, including handling and legal costs. It is therefore clear that MEBO Ltd has fully settled its debt with Veronica.'

Grateful thanks to Edwin and Victor coming back with this answer.

Hans Knot: It was in 1992 that the Caroline organization got their first RSL (restricted service licence) for a period of 28 days. Together with Rob Olthof I went to England to visit the Ross Revenge in Dover, where the radio ship was located in those days. We were not the only ones as the Monitor Magazine team, where I was also a part of, was there. So you will see Jane and Don too, as well as Chris Edwards. He is a radio friend since the early seventies

and runs, along with others, Offshore Echos. Yes you see it well I had a black and white film in my camera.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720316890291/>



Studio 2 Ross Revenge Dover 1992. Photo: Hans Knot

Next it is e mail time: 'Greetings Hans! 'I so much love these. It's always great to read about the history of radio and the people who loved doing it. Radio has been in my blood for my lifetime and when it became possible I got into my own hobby. AARRGGH! Maybe you remember me saying I made my first AM transmitter in 1968 from a GE table radio.



Connecting a long wire antenna to pin 5 of the 12BE6 and inputting audio where the loop antenna had been was exciting as I "got out" for about two blocks around. Today is much better with a 15 watt FM'er with a coverage of 10 miles. My friend Mark allows me to broadcast some great programming from WYLC in Connecticut. Now

listeners get to hear music that's not available around here anymore.

Recently I got a Zenith Royal 640, the first transistor radio I bought for myself in 1966. It's beautiful. Very rare and hard to find. Before that, my mother bought things for me. When I was growing up in Florida in the 60's, I listened to KSL in Salt Lake City Utah like it was pretty much local-sounding on this radio.

It used two 'D' batteries and had great range. Now it's been upgraded to use a rechargeable UltraFire 18650 battery {2 'D's, 3vdc, one UltraFire, 3.7vdc.} Now it's even more powerful.

Somehow it got away from me over the years. I watched & watched for many years and finally.....it turned up on eBay for only 20 bucks.



Vtg.'60s Zenith Royal 640 White Portable Transistor Radio AS IS



Creation Care Treasures (1145)

100% positive · Seller's other items · Contact seller

US \$19.99 02-22-2024 {finally found after 50 years!}
or Best Offer

Condition: Used

"Radio is untested, and I do not know if it works. It is being sold AS IS."

Delivery: Estimated between Fri, Mar 1 and Tue, Mar 5 to 55421 ⓘ

Returns: 30 days returns.

Worked perfectly right out of the package. I knew it would. So now that goes with my two TransOceanics, GE P808, Westinghouse RG32S170, Admiral Y2093A, Westinghouse H655, Channel Master 6506B and more too many to list. All are clean and work like new. I change my radios like my clothes; they are used according to my mood at the time. I am radio-crazy some say! Whatever; I'm 74 (how long will I be around? I'm a diabetic. Gonna enjoy 'em while I can.

Well, thanks again for the newsletter and be well, friend.

Phil Colaianni.'

Well it's amazing finding such very personal memories in my mailbox. So once again feel free to send your own memories and stories.

Another e mail comes from England: 'Hi Hans and thanks for the report. It must take you forever to compile it all! My interest in offshore radio came about in the 80's as I was too young for the earlier stations. What a station Laser 558 was! I recall that as a new, young employee in my first job, I had to collect rolls and cakes from a cafe for the workers. One day I asked the owner what radio station she had on. It was Laser 558 and I was well and truly hooked.

And I still am. I would still far rather listen to old tapes of Laser than what is on offer now. I cannot believe that it is now 40 years since that great adventure. It seems like just a couple of years ago. That makes the loss of those who made it happen all the more poignant. I was really saddened to learn that Andrew Turner had passed away. He became a familiar voice through his presenting in one way or another in the early days of Laser Hot Hits. Another chapter closes.

One particular recording that has never come to light (if it exists) is the final show and closedown of Laser Hot Hits by DL Bogart. The story goes he made an announcement regarding lack of fuel. I have made enquiries over the years without success.

Keep up the good work. I am sure everyone must appreciate your efforts. Kind regards Rob Parsloe from Gloucestershire. Actually right on the Gloucestershire/Wiltshire border but my address is Glos.'

Hopefully I wish someone has the recording for you Rob and thanks for the memories. Does anyone has this recording or know of an internet site that does? Please respond to HKnot@home.nl

Another one from England comes now:

Podcasts from Jeff Martin

Radio Rollback Podcast is produced by Jeff Martin. It celebrates the great days of music radio in the 60s 70s and 80s. The latest episode is the first of 3 about Laser 558. Jeff has 45 Episodes now and they have had 10.7k downloads.

http://bit.ly/Radio_Rollback

And talking about Laser 558, in May it was 40 years ago that this marvelous station came on the air. ABC News in the USA brought a small item in the news featuring their correspondent in Great Britain, who we all remember as a Laser 558 jock:

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/radio-caroline-britains-pirate-radio-station-broadcasting-sea/story?id=110204908>

In last issue of the report I made a reconstruction from what was written en said in several newspapers around this time in 1970 and it's Jan Sundermann reflecting on what was in the newspapers.

[Interference and Interference in 1970, a reconstruction](#)

'In fact the interference discussions have been always a matter when a new ship like the MEBO II or the Communicator appeared on the horizon.

The use of 1230 kHz by RNI really is strange as it is not a mid-frequency of a channel in our region (but Radio London did it similarity). The official channels have been 1223 and 1232 then. So broadcasting on 1230 or 1228 kHz must have been source of interference noise.

But disturbing up to 1250 kHz Lopik, when the MEBO II was off the Essex coast? According to my 1973 WRTM there was Bloemendaal on

1223 kHz. So that 50 Watt station must have been made impossible to be received then. It could have been a keen journalist heard of disturbing Radio Bloemendaal and made it "bigger" by mentioning Lopik?

Maybe Ferry Eden or someone else could explain how the PTT telephone service for public transport then was working. Did the RNI FM signal disturb which other FM or AM frequencies used by such public transport enterprises?

Best regards
Jan Sundermann.'

This year marks more than two decades since my International Radio Report was published and distributed worldwide. One of the readers who responds to almost every issue and gives an update on his own activities or brings memories from his long career is Michael Pasternak. He has also, many years ago now, given me access to his personal photo archive. That way, piece by piece, his fans and my followers can get to know who he is, namely deejay Emperor Rosko.

My columns mostly mean looking back, and this time I take you back to the 1960s when Michael Pasternak was also in the spotlight. Unfortunately, the newspaper clipping I found about 'French teenagers chose Rosko as their new idol' contained no indication of which newspaper it came from, let alone a date of publication. I assume it was 1968.

It seemed that Rosko's fans made it quite difficult for him to make his daily show, which was broadcast in Paris for Radio Luxembourg every weekday afternoon from 5 o'clock, because on the way to the studio, according to journalist Constance van der Valk, it was as if Rosko had to fight a battle to reach his radio studio.



She was of the opinion that Rosko had become an idol because people had run out of top stars. A few excepted like Johnny Halliday. No it was the beloved deejay who spun records and made small talk through the microphone in his programme Minimax. Constance also knew that at the MIDEM in Cannes, where Tom Jones and The Supremes, among others, were present, it was the Emperor Rosko who received the most interest.

During the MIDEM, Rosko was present to present programmes in the afternoon, from a glass studio, while in the evening he also gave away a show in one of Nice's many clubs. When he arrived at the studio in the afternoon, hundreds of screaming girls were waiting for him to take a photo or get an autograph or tried to touch him for a moment.

He stole the show by arriving either in creamy white sports car or a shiny motorbike, with the handlebars clearly raised and equipped with numerous horns. But numerous young women also stood around the glass studio, Constance observed, giving him kissing hands and giving Rosko all the space he needed to be admired.



Hans Knot and Emperor Rosko Photo: Martin van der Ven

His shows at the time were swinging with English, French, Spanish and German being spoken and the older attendees standing at a distance watching and marveling at the extent of his popularity. After all, he was just a deejay. At the time, Michael Pasternak was only 25 and officially from California. He was son of world-famous film director Joe Pasternak. According to the journalist, his career at Radio Caroline had failed miserably.

Intense followers of the station at the time know better; he was immensely popular. At Radio Luxembourg, he earned no less than the gigantic salary of 50,000 guilders a month at the time, which quickly made him a millionaire. Not for nothing that he flaunted the fact that he could call himself Emperor Rosko.

Here you will find a blog written by and about Rosko years ago:

<https://emperor-rosko.blogspot.com/p/40-years-of-radio-caroline-by-hansknot.html>

Despite being 82 years old, The Emperor is still active in radio:

<https://emperorrosko.net/>

And more on the MIDEM festival organised since 1967 here:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midem>

By the way recently Mike Pasternak was in a 4 part series about the birth and rise of Stax Records on HBO Max and Sky TV. And Mike Barraclough has watched on Sky and reported on our SMC FB page: 'I watched and thoroughly enjoyed the first episode of a new HBO documentary Stax Souville USA which is currently being shown on Sky Documentaries and is available on demand.



Near the end of the episode Al Bell comments that he wasn't able to get the radio play for their records he wanted, stations suggested they should like Motown record more crossover music which he said they weren't going to do. He then said they started getting mail from England saying they'd heard their music on pirate radio. They didn't what that was. Narrator then explains that together with British Pathé footage of Radio Caroline and Emperor Rosko then interviewed about how he played Stax on his Caroline shows. That led to the March/April 67 tour of the UK of Europe with Rosko compering, see part of programme.

From a blog post on the tour by Russell Clarke: "The MGs are 2 black guys and 2 white guys, the horn section is 2 white guys and a black guy. They couldn't believe it when they got to the MayFair Hotel - nice digs by the way - and there was only one entrance. In the US there were hotels for whites and different hotels for black people and there were restaurants for white people and different ones for blacks. Here any hotel would take them and the bell hop treated them like stars. Amazingly they had never seen that before. After two days of rehearsals and a warm up gig at the Bag O'Nails, the first gig was Friday night March 17th at the Finsbury Park Astoria

for two sold out shows at 6.40pm and 9.10pm, 3000 a show. Tickets were 17/6 top price ranged down from 20/ 15/ 12/6 8/6.

The cars were mobbed as it arrived for the sound check at the stage door and the queue to get in snaked all the way down the Seven Sisters Road despite the cold. 'Gimme an S, Gimme a T, Gimme an A, Gimme an X' chanted compere, DJ Emperor Rosko before Booker T and the MGs opened the first half." HBO trailer for the documentary in the comments includes the artists on the 67 Stax/Volt tour of the UK and Europe opposite the Houses of Parliament. Only Otis Redding had visited the UK before.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAjCOWHUGM8>

Exciting getting an e mail from someone who brings compliments about one of my books released 18 years ago: 'Greetings Hans, we have just returned from a week away for the Eid break, our last holiday in Saudi before my retirement at the end of July. It was great to spend a lazy time on a Saudi farm with the trees, goats and chickens with no TV or wifi so there was a lot of reading to be done.

Having received your VOP book some years ago I finally got around to reading it and enjoyed it very much. The history, anecdotes and first hand information from those who worked there was very interesting to read. Ironically we would have been in prime position to receive 1540Khz where we were had it been on air. I think there is still a need for such a station, maybe even more so than before.



Teunis Aaldijk Dave Shearer Abe Nathan Keith Lewis and Richard Staines. From the SMC VOP Reunion Archive.

In September 1985 I was offered the chance to work on the ship but I chose instead to go to Cavan Community Radio in Ireland to work with Don Allen, I don't regret my decision one bit but would have also loved to have worked on the Peace ship. During my time of deciding what to do, I called Abie and talked to him about opportunities to work, I'm really pleased I got to speak to him, if only for a few minutes.

We will be returning to Ireland to visit my old haunts in Cavan, Mullingar and Dublin this September and look forward to meeting some old radio friends along the way. Looking forward to going back very much. Kind regards Philip Hilton.'

Thanks a lot for the e mail and compliments on the book (unbelievable 18 years after the first release in 2006). Going back to all those almost 50 books I've written through the past 5 decades the book about Abe and the Voice of Peace brought in so many reactions by letters and e mail from the readers living in all parts of the world. Above that it was shown the day after the big VOP reunion in 2006 in Amsterdam on the Israeli news program.

Good to hear you both had a wonderful lazy time over there during holiday and may I wish you a great time with the retirement. I presume. Also have fun in Ireland and maybe some memories later for the report. Best wishes to you both.

Time for a message from Jon Myer in England: 'I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

This month:

- our old friend Duncan Johnson is honoured with a blue plaque;
- we have some great photos of Radio 270's studio taken by the late Robin Best and shared with us by his son Matt;

- two RNI Super Hit 50 charts from 1971;
- and, if you haven't voted yet on which cover Erin Kelly should use for her book about Laser-558, there's still time.

My thanks, as ever, to all the contributors.

The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

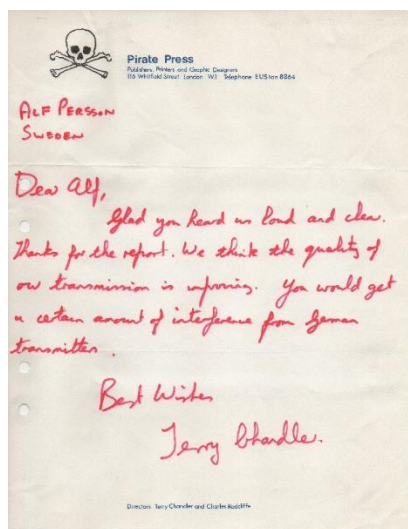
www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Best wishes, Jon

Next it's Herbert Visser: 'Hi Hans, with Radio Veronica, we also broadcast on 5955 KHz shortwave. And so we (still) receive reception reports and these are answered with a QSL letter via e-mail.

This week I received a receiver report from one Alf Persson from Sweden, who also sent along that he sent his first receiver report to Radio Veronica as early as 1965. He had also received a QSL card from Radio Noordzee in the 1970s.

Then he came with this attachment and asked if I knew anything about it and which sea station this might have been.



It was something from spring 1967. What I was able to find is that this Terry Chandler of Pirate Press in London did anarchist

publications and also produced fake US dollars with anti-Vietnam war texts instead of "In God We Trust". It doesn't seem to me that any offshore radio station was providing anarchist broadcasts at the time. But at the same time, then, there was a broadcast from around England that got through well in Sweden, provided by "Pirate Press". Does this ring a bell with you? Kind regards, Herbert Visser.'

Personally I've never heard about this guy but I have to add that I was not too much active in listening to landbased pirates. But surely one of the readers may have an answer about Terry Chandler related to radio.

Next it's time for guest writer Walter Beilo who attended the activities in Terneuzen where three days long '50 years Mi Amigo' was celebrated.

'For three days, on 28th, 29th and 30th of June, former staff and listeners of Radio Mi Amigo could meet one more (last?) time during the Havendagen in Terneuzen.

A studio had been set up on the MV Castor, sister ship of the Bellatrix, well-known in offshore radio circles. This did not go without a hitch. Technicians were working late into the night with soldering irons to lay cables and get the equipment working in the Castor's mess room, where pilots and crew once stayed. This time, the studio was just one steep flight of stairs down, so as not to give the many elderly attendees another flight of stairs. Five years ago, the studio was two stairs down. It says something about the older age of the attendees, who had come from all corners of the world to this perhaps last reunion of this scale. The preparations for this event also took a lot of time from many volunteers. A great achievement.

Numerous well-known Mi Amigo DJs provided their program for three days, interviewing each other and many others involved.

Stories were told about the history of Radio Mi Amigo, broadcasting from the North Sea from 1974 to 1979.

The programmes from Terneuzen were broadcast live on several stations that took over the live stream. Almost no moment escaped the attention of the fans, who took photos together with their heroes of yesteryear and engaged in animated conversations. The atmosphere was very convivial and relaxed.

The *Castor* would briefly become a real broadcasting ship during the fleet show, were it not for the loss of the connection between the ship and the antennas on Terneuzen town hall. There were also power cuts several times. The resemblance to offshore radio station Radio Mi Amigo was also present in this.

It is always difficult to mention names because people are always forgotten, for which we apologise. A number of persons are mentioned anyway (with or without their real or radio name). Without their cooperation in one way or another, the event would probably not have been possible or would not have had the impact it did: Walter Galle, Gino De Simpelaere, Bart Serlie, Eddy Govert, Serge Haderman, Edward Klein, Noël Cordier, Bart van Leeuwen, Marc Jacobs, Bart van Gogh, Johan Vermeer, Ferry Eden, Maurice Bokkebroek, Ton Schipper, Wim de Groot, Marc van Amstel, Ad Vlaminck, Ad Petersen, Frans van der Drift, Tom de Bree, Jerry Hoogland, Ruud Hendriks, Marc Hindryckx, Ben van Praag, Marc Hermans, Danny Keuckelinck, Michel Dauwe and many many many others who contributed selflessly.

Among the unmentioned are the many who took the trouble to visit the *Castor* and often made a long journey to do so. Even without their presence and interest, the event could not have been successful. A large number of the former employees spent several days in Terneuzen, in a hotel or in the ship. Memories were shared

over dinner, with Patrick Valain, well known in Mi Amigo circles, joining them.

During the broadcasts, they explained how the programmes from Spain, for instance, arrived on the ship, how supplies ran, how DJ names came about and where things went wrong.

The legendary programme Beacon 16 was presented by Bart van Leeuwen and Marc Jacobs, accompanied by many guests.

During the event, many Mi Amigo Lievelingen were played, provided with an introductory text by Johan Vermeer.

The possible 'future' of Mi Amigo was also considered in Ton Schipper's programme Kitchen Fun. He showed an hour of music made with artificial intelligence about Mi Amigo.

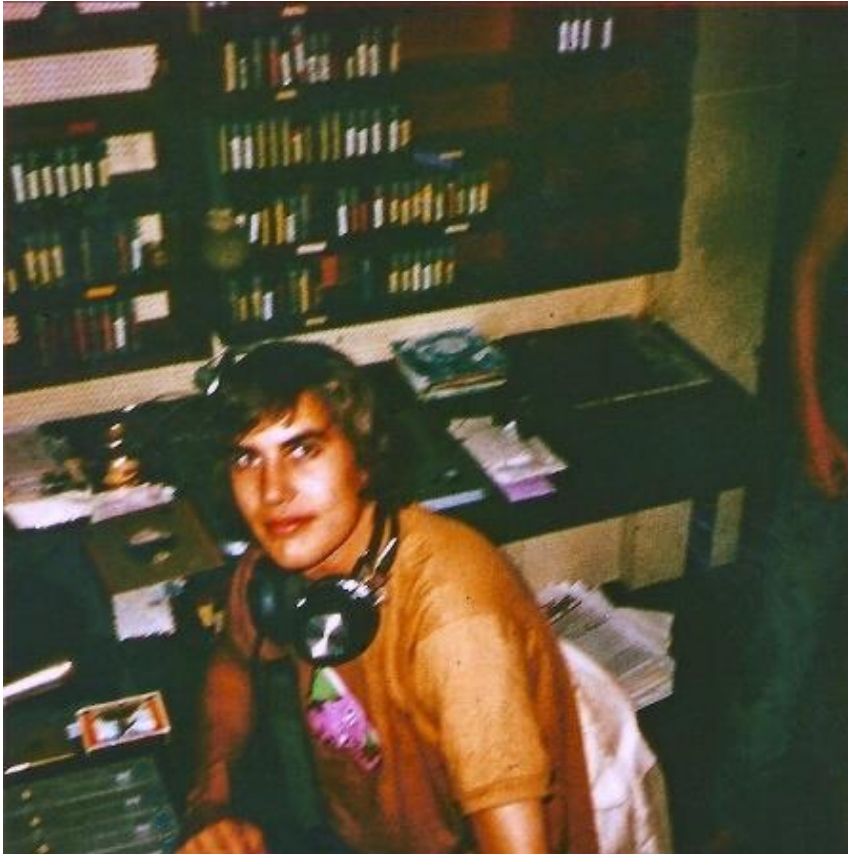
The final hour on Sunday 30th of June was sometimes full of emotion and humour. Special was the 'involvement' of Peter van Dam, sadly deceased several years ago. His voice, shaped with AI, addressed the audience (with the knowledge of his widow).

Whether there will be a sequel to Mi Amigo 50, time will have to tell. In any case, the programmes have been preserved.

Here a link to a wonderful video about Mi Amigo 50 by Alex Hoek and Wim van de Water: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uNnD31mamY>

Thanks a lot Walter for this contribution.

Just before closing the report the very sad news came in that on July 8th Paul May died after a long battle with cancer. Of course we know Paul from RNI days as well as Paul Dean on Laser.



Paul May on RNI from his personal collection

Here's what the Pirate Hall of Fame has on his career: Paul was born in April 1950, just outside Detroit, Michigan, to an American father and English mother, she being a war bride originally from Norwich. Paul says: "I really fell in love with radio as early as 1963, as there was a great radio station in Windsor, Ontario, called CKLW. They played much of the early 'British invasion' material.

By 1965 we were living in Pittsburgh. My favourite DJ on KQV Audio 14 was Chuck Brinkman, the evening jock. I called him and told him I was interested in radio and he invited me to visit him at the station. Once in a studio. I knew that this was for me! During my childhood I traveled back and forth to the UK and, of course, along came 1964 with Radio Caroline and, being in Norfolk, the signal boomed in. I remember being in Bacton, at my aunt's bungalow, listening for hours. 1967 rolled around and I was back in England, this time I found Radio London. That was it. I was hooked.

I knew then that this was the life for me and, at the age of 17, set about trying to get onto any of the stations. I was told by Radio Caroline that they may have an opening for me in August on one of their two stations. I told my father but he insisted I return to the US to finish my education. As it turned out, it was for the best, as we know Caroline didn't last. My father was a brick throughout my early years and helped me to get into radio. We were living in Baltimore in 1968 and he started to call on friends in the radio business.

One of them, a news reader on station WBAL invited the two of us into the station. He had me read a script and said that I had a suitable voice for radio. He told me about a broadcasting school called the Broadcasting Institute of Baltimore, so I applied and was accepted. I attended school for 9 months. The school tried to place everyone in jobs at the end of the course. I joined a station in southern Maryland, WKIK, Leonardtown. I did 1 to 6 in the afternoon and within two months was Programme Director. I worked there from November 1968 to 1971.

After my 21st birthday I made up my mind to return to England. I was getting the NME in the mail every week and saw that a new station was running off Holland. You guessed it - Radio Northsea International. So I wrote to (station owner) Edwin Bollier. He wrote back saying to come over and see (Production Director) Vic Pelli in Holland. So I handed in my notice at WKIK and booked my flight. I made my way to Hilversum.



Gerard van Dam, Mark Stuart and Paul May. Photo Paul May collection in SMC Archive.

No one knew I was coming but I was immediately asked to go out to the MEBO II as they had just sacked Tony Allan and Andy Archer and were short-staffed." Paul joined Radio Northsea International in August 1971. In January 1972 he was appointed Senior DJ but left in July that year to get married. He returned to Norwich, working for the council by day, DJ-ing at night. In 1984 he joined Laser 558 where he was known as "Paul Dean"



Paul May as Paul Dean on Laser 558. Photo Leen Vingerling.

Memories to his days on Laser 558 are here:

<https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djs8d.htm#pdean>

With thanks to the Pirate Hall of Fame

Gavin McCoy, who met Paul May in 1974 wrote an obituary about his friendship with Paul: 'So very sorry to hear of Paul's passing, who my wife and I have known since 1974. We first met when I was then resident dj at a nightclub in Norwich (Scamps) and Paul spun records at a nearby club (Legs).

Being between radio jobs, his day job was working in a plant bakery mass producing Wonderloaf or something similar. We became good friends, and had many laughs along with fellow ex RNI personality Greg Bance (Arnold Layne), who was announcing at Anglia TV at the time.

Paul was one of the first to send condolences when the death of our friend BBC broadcaster Steve Wright hit the national news back in February. It feels like only a few months ago that Paul secretly revealed that he'd received a serious cancer diagnosis, and asked that I didn't share the information publicly. I kept my word.

We spoke at length in a FaceTime call just over a month ago, he said his operation and chemo had been successful. The 10 minute catch up call lasted for 90 minutes! He expressed his gratitude that the procedure to deal with esophageal cancer had meant that his voicebox was almost unaffected. His attitude was upbeat and optimistic, although he was somewhat exhausted by the treatment.

You may not know that during the past 10 years, Paul had previously suffered a double family tragedy, with the death of his both his wife and his son due to illnesses. He invited my wife Ingy and I to visit him in central Florida (not too far from the Space Center) in the near future. We planned to do so.

Paul had unlimited passion for radio, and we had much in common, having both worked on shipboard pirate stations. He loved to talk about everything radio. He told me about future online radio projects that he was considering.

Away from broadcasting, he was a highly skilled builder, telling us with much pride, about the many home improvement projects he'd meticulously undertaken. Paul really was one of the good guys, he was kind, caring, generous and great company.

We send our sympathies and condolences to Paul's US and UK family and many friends and former listeners around the world.

Gavin & Ingy (McCoy)

Abingdon UK.'

Thanks a lot Gavin for your warm words about Paul, who we never will forget.

And we have another photo update: On July 18th 2015 during the Radio Essex 50th Anniversary Celebration, starting at the Pearson's Arms pub, Horsebridge Road, Whitstable, Andy Cadier made some photos. And so the set is now in our massive photo archive on Flickr.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720318683734/with/53847610333>

Well that ends this summer edition for 2024. Have a good time the forthcoming weeks and I will be back with another report at the start of the autumn (or spring in other regions of the world). Keep sending questions, memories, articles and more to HKnot@home.nl

Greetings Hans Knot