

Hans Knot International Radio Report September 2024

Welcome to this edition again filled with memories, questions, news and more. Sad news again as the Offshore Radio People are slipping away one by one. On September 12th came in the message that Carl Kingston passed away after a short illness. Just in the weekend before he was heard on the special 80's broadcasts on Radio Caroline from the Ross Revenge.

When, together with others, I started the Freewave Magazine in July 1978, it was Carl whom I interviewed as the first radioperson. It was during the event Zeezenders 20 in Noordwijkerhout. My interest in Carl was the fact he worked for Abe Nathan's Voice of Peace. It came out that he was a close friend to Paul Alexander Rusling, who also was at the event. So I asked Paul Rusling to write the tribute to Carl Kingston.



CARL KINGSTON
A tribute by Paul Rusling

Carl Kingston and I were but schoolboys when we first met, largely thanks to Radio 270. We both shared two great loves - music and radio and we both had - 'The Admiral' Robbie Dale as our original DJ hero.

As Carl told the Caroline audience during his last show on 7th September, I repaired family radiogram the day we met and we then spent all day talking about music, radio and girls. A year or so later, I was working as a DJ (while still at school) and Carl came along to see me in action at the Skyline Ballroom in Hull and told me he was also going to become a DJ. He was just 16 when he set up his own Mobile Discotheque and later as a club resident DJ.

My own period on Radio Caroline sparked Carl to switch to radio and he did programmes for BBC Radio Humberside but was still a 100% dyed in the wool offshore anorak, regularly attending radio meetings and conventions. A meeting with Peter van Dam, a Dutch DJ on Caroline's Dutch service, Radio Mi Amigo, led to him doing a weekly insert of all the latest pop music news from the UK. There was no better man for the role, as Carl had religiously devoured every pop music publication there was and his knowledge of the music scene was encyclopaedical.

Carl's club DJ skills were soon snapped up by the biggest agencies in Europe and, when only 19, he began appearing at clubs across Europe. After falling in love his new bride Sue even took up a career herself as a DJ, on the European club circuit. I think she must have said "If you can't beat 'em, join em".

Music and radio were the key things in his life; he had no time for hobbies, he rarely drank, didn't do drugs, smoke or any other kind of chemical stimulant, because music and radio were all he needed.

While working in Norway he visited the studios of the NRK and was

given a regular programme. His first experience of living offshore was on the Voice of Peace, where Carl learned real radio from, the late Howard Rose, better known then as Crispian St John. Carl would want me to say that he learned most he knew about radio presentation from Howard, a true master of the craft.



On board the Voice of Peace Archive SMC collection VOP

After his 'Mediterranean cruise', Carl found himself at a long list of radio stations, including Viking Radio in Hull and Radio Aire in Leeds where he stayed the longest - 23 years - nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a century.

One of his colleagues was the much-missed Peter Tait, who had been offered a job on Radio Caroline's new ship, the Grimsby trawler Ross

Revenge. Peter had got the job because his colleague Dale Winton had turned it down and he got Carl's demo tape heard by the new station manager, Anne Challis. Carl went out to the ship in September 1983, one of the first new hires for the relaunched Caroline.

At last, Carl was where we knew he belonged - among a glittering galaxy of radio super-stars that included Andy Archer, Dixie Peach, and Paul MacKenna. Carl was an instant hit with Caroline listeners with his easy-going, but factual and precise delivery, coupled with his love of a wide range of music. He was in radio heaven.



Carl on the Ross Revenge. Collection Radio Caroline

In the 1980s, Carl decided to try his hand in the "Land of Milk and Honey" - the United States. He chose a station in a capital city. It wasn't to be Washington DC, but Sacramento, the capital of California. There at Magic 1380 KSMJ, Carl made many life-long friends.

On returning to the UK Carl was heard on many more stations, including Hereward, Minster FM in our very own capital city, York, as well as Stray FM Home FM, Alpha FM in Darlington, and more. In the 90s, Carl was recruited for The SuperStation, a national service

headed by Richard Branson.

Holding down a full-length daily strip (that's a radio-business term for a daily show, and not always descriptive of the DJs state of dress) was never enough for Carl, who could easily keep it up for 4 and 5 hours, while others would be drained after two hours on the air. Carl relished radio, and supplied programmes by tape, and later "down the line", from Moldova on the Black Sea, via Blue Danube Radio in Vienna, to Radio Seagull, where he also did a couple of cruises for them too. Carl his shows were also popular at 99-WSFW in Seneca Falls, New York.



Carl Kingston on the Jenni Baynton 2014 photo Walter Galle

And yet still Carl had more to give. He dearly wanted his own radio station, so he took off to Spain with Sue and the boys, where he set up Spectrum FM on the Costa Calida. There were to be many more stations, from Thailand to Dallas where he recently started a daily show. but Carl's life is now looking like a lengthy relationship with the old-style radio dials. Which is, in many ways, it was. If he had lived to be a thousand, Carl would have kept the same ambition - to be heard on every radio station around the world. The world would have been a much better place for that.

But Carl wasn't just a radio person, performing hours of endless

links. He was also a full member of Equity and was often seen 'on screen' in various TV shows, including, of course, Emmerdale Farm shot in his then home city of Leeds. He also appeared in many TV commercials and made hundreds of commercials in his career as a voice-over artiste; And Carl wasn't just "jumping on the bandwagon", as many artists have done these days. Carl was doing commercials over forty years ago.

But when he was heard on the radio or appear in TV, Carl was deeply involved in planning various new services and programmes, and helping his friends, and colleagues achieve their goals of getting that vital 'big break' into radio. Many well-known names of today are where they are now thanks to Carl's unceasing generosity in encouraging new talent. Young wanna-be DJs were invited to join him at the studio and shown the ropes.

Carl knew that it is so important to nurture and guide young radio personalities, and help wherever possible - all DJs PDs and others in radio should heed Carl's work very carefully. Some who do recognise the enormous help that Carl gave them are Chris Moyles, who was a Radio 1 breakfast DJ and still does the same shift on Radio X each morning. He began his career as a young teenager going into Radio Aire to help Carl answer the phones and make the tea. In his autobiography, Chris openly acknowledged that vital "fanning of the spark" that Carl gave and jump-starting his career.

Likewise Stephanie Hirst, who became infatuated with our noble industry after being encouraged as a 12 year old by Carl, leading to a glittering career including Viking Radio, Radio Aire and more recently the BBC's national channels. Steve Marshall too, who got into the industry after Carl put in a word for him at a DJ agency in Switzerland and helped to kick-start his career in radio. All these marvellous people share Carl's help in common, and they have remained life-long friends. As Steve says: "Carl was a lover of life, good food, good friends, and most of all great radio"

When he settled in Switzerland some years ago, Carl installed ISDN lines, meaning he was at last able to broadcast live from home. Now everyone does it, but Carl was one of the pioneers.

And it wasn't only radio folk who Carl helped. When Putin invaded Ukraine, Carl decided to do his bit and help the refugee mums and young children who fled to the west, not only helping them apply for citizen papers but also putting them up in his flat. I'm not talking an odd one or two refugees, but usually two or three plus their children too.

Carl and I have been involved in a new type of radio station in the last year or two and he was full of determination and positivity for the future. Carl worked tirelessly and would help anyone, but sadly he ignored his own health problems. He had been looking forward to taking part in a weekend of commemorative broadcasts from the Radio Caroline ship in September and flew over from Switzerland but sadly, he was very ill. Those who knew him well could hear it in his voice; although to the casual listener, they would never realise that anything was wrong. Carl was the complete professional and believed in radiating only happiness and joy.



Carl Kingston 2024-09-07 photo Radio Caroline Facebook Group

That Carl made that last broadcast, among some friends and colleagues and his all-time favourite, Radio Caroline, will have been a comfort to him. The world is a much sadder place without Carl, and many will miss him, some for his direct help, many for his genuine friendship, and many thousands more, for his dulcet tones and his companionship on the radio.

September 2024 Paul Rusling

Paul Rusling wrote also on July 29th: '

So sad to report the passing of the First Lady of Radio Caroline, Oonagh (* 6 december 1936), who has finally succumbed after a long battle to Amyloidosis. Oonagh was Ronan's 'right hand man' from 1962 and oversaw the admin of his music business enterprises as well as the launch of Caroline, including transport of thousands of Pounds in cash across borders to get suppliers paid.

She was persecuted by the authorities, and finally faced the French courts for operating tenders in 1977. Oonagh leaves her loving husband Sonny (the architect of Caroline Homes) and her family in Ireland, but the eternal thanks and love of Caroline supporters everywhere. Rest well Oonagh, you've earned it. God Bless you my darling.



Oonagh's story could fill a book; she had many stories to tell, many of them rip-roaring. When she met Ronan she was managing a band that were at number one in the charts, the Temperance 7 no less!

Oonagh didn't melt away on 14th August 67 but ran the covert office in Soho, where DJs such as Andy Archer, Steve Merike, Bud Ballou, etc. were hired. She was certainly running the show when I first met her in 1970 at Hayes Mews and continued to do so till late in the 70s.

Following the court case in France (Jon Myer wrote on the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame). On 1st June 1977, Oonagh Karanjia appeared in court in Boulogne with a number of boatmen, charged with tendering the radio ship. The Captain gave evidence that Mrs. Kariangia had chartered his vessel and he was fined, as was his mate, although the charges against a third crewman were dropped. Mrs. Karanjia refused to give any information about the Caroline organisation and was fined 4,000 francs (nearly £500), which she did not have. The court was adjourned until 23rd June and, when it resumed, she was freed. The fine had been paid by an anonymous well-wisher.

She joined Richard Laren (Lightning records) to run Old Gold. Her periods of apparent absence were when she was deep under-cover. She was a very private lady who didn't shout about her work, but she was undoubtedly the First Lady of Caroline.

I thought I'd better clear up confusion around Oonagh's name: She was born Oonagh Huggard, but later married a chap in London whose family name she took, Leigh with whom she had a son. It was a short and not very happy marriage.

Oonagh then dated and married Sonny Kariangia, who she met when he played cricket for Radio London. He's still a keen cricket fan and terribly sad, and disconsolate, to lose his lifelong partner.

Oonagh was incredibly loyal to Ronan and to the station; I believe she really was the First Lady of Caroline. She did so much, it would take a full book. Some rip-roaring tales she could tell as well. Well, she

did. I promised her to keep many of them back - but she had been collaborating with me on the next edition of the Caroline Bible which we hope to get out later this year. A true lady and one we should all be grateful for.

She hated publicity and did well to keep her head below the parapet, but all the Caroline family know what a corner-piece of the operation she was, especially in the dark days after the MoA. I was honoured that she gave me the picture to use, and all her stories too. In fact, she was one of the leading proponents of my putting the Caroline Bible out.

So many wonderful women played a role in Caroline - Frances, Pinky, Kate, Lyn, Annie and Oonagh. Think of her doting husband Sonny who faces his twilight years without the love of his life.

Thanks a lot Paul Rusling with sharing above article. Now over to another Paul.

It was Paul de Haan who pointed at a wonderful story written by Phil Champion about Radio Mercur:

http://jvnforg.dreamhosters.com/radiohistoria/rn/t/philip.champion_2_radio.mercur.pdf?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWOCMTAAAR2O16PtXh2wEvENF1ab1z1ZfFw4yhAXjIoLNRZrQi2wMVHNn3LDAakoOKg_aem_fJZxn_JVGEb51A97I+0_WA

And Phil's article about DCR is here:

http://jvnforg.dreamhosters.com/radiohistoria/rn/t/philip.champion_3_dcr.pdf?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWOCMTAAAR1zdHXQy98gCM_5O8UsuWWc3Wy5Q5k3R8nrEqVc2brnM_yePlmziOsX84k_aem_IKvN8rmULSFkZIEP3E1iFA

Norman Barrington early July in our SMC FB group: 'My personal tribute to the late, great Trella Hart who passed away on 4th July 2024. A unique singer with the great personality, who made jingles so much more than just jingles. Her instantly recognisable voice,

powerful enough to drive the most strident jingle as soloist, yet just as delicate and fragile when the score required (Hear WSGN, KQV-FM & WRIZ).



Trella Hart Archive PAMS

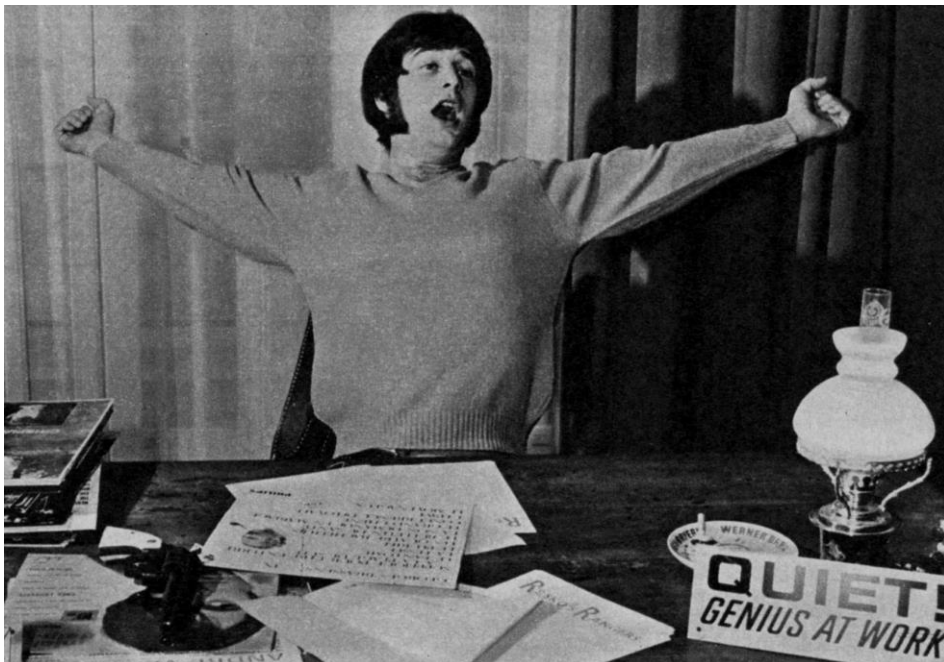
As natural with a fun novelty cut as with a jazz standard. She was everywhere, PAMS, Pepper Tanner, Gwinsound, Spot Productions, JAM, TM, CPMG, KenR, Alfasound and more. We were fortunate that the BBC chose some of her cuts in 1967. Also profusely bootlegged by Radio Caroline, Radio Veronica and RNI.

She will indeed be sadly missed by all who worked with her, and those who loved her personality through her voice. One for the truly great singers, from the golden age of radio. All copyrights acknowledged. https://soundcloud.com/norman-barrington/trella-hart-tribute-by-norman-barrington-july-2024?si=645f4afff47b4504afe9e9492028f631&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAAR04dmde1PJ1UB2VU1uAwjVkJMt2mR2TgawDUIAZu2v6B1JQHPH_c9JsZ4D0_aem_A1BH2nY0XvhLDFTBzuMw3Q

And other sad news is the passing Dave Foster on the age of 64 on August 25th. A look back with many reflections from former of his colleagues are on Caroline's Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1021653643296171&set=a.388002376661304>

And look who was one of the first person to reflect on the summer edition from the international radio report: The Emperor Rosko: 'Hi Hans, I had time, yes plenty of time to consume two cocktails reading this epic! They get longer and longer. Thanks for the Rosko story. I followed that Stax tour with another one that had the Detroit Spinners and Sister Sledge, Rufus Thomas and others . Those were the days, if I had not been introducing them on stage and getting a ring side seat I would have had to pay and see them. I was so lucky back then.



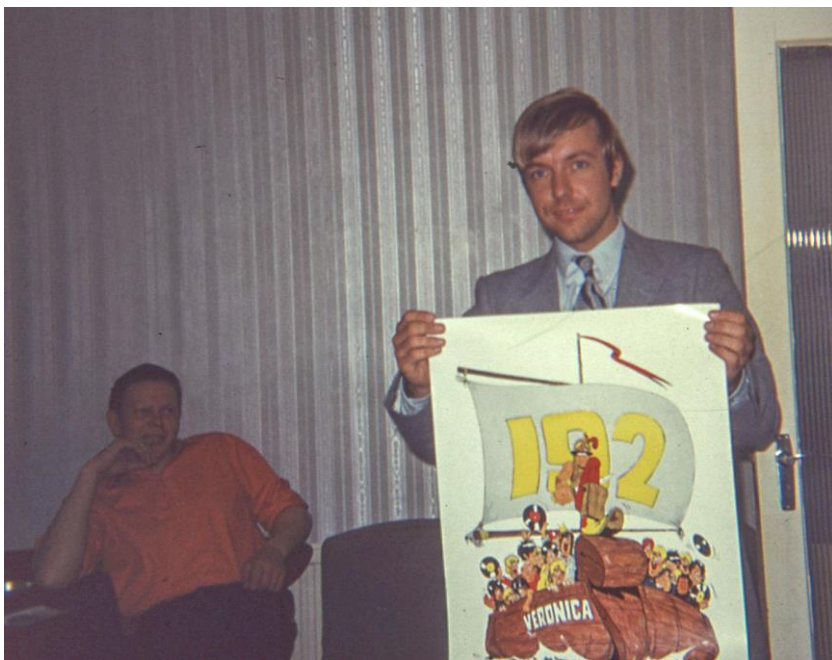
Rosko, the genius. Photo collection: Emperor Rosko

Two more documentaries are on the way. One will be made on the activities of Ronan and one is on the history of 208 as a member of the Luxemburg group I will be interviewed too. Radio Caroline I saw was not one of your favorite Stations? Perhaps you can amplify on that next newsletter! They were the harbinger of the pirate radio

storm. Look forward to your next production. EMP.'

Thanks a lot Rosko. I was writing last time about the stations which were on the Laissez Faire and mentioned which one was the best of those. Nothing to do with my listening habits to other stations. Sixties I found London better than Carolien, seventies were for Caroline as well as RNI and eighties Caroline again with Laser 558 as second one.

Pamela Gaines is next: 'Here is a picture you may not have, of Klaas Vaak when he visited FRA 31st of May 1969. So in the very early days of his career in radio. Bob Craig, the Branch Coordinator, is seated in the background. Photo taken by Lyn Strang. Kind Regards, Pam.'



Next again memories to Paul Jackson his time on the Voice of Peace

Leaving Ashdod Port - Or Trying To!

Ashdod Port was our regular destination for taking on water, fuel and anything too big for the supply boats to carry. Usually we

managed to enter and leave without problems. One memorable visit in 1992-3 was an exception. Entering and mooring went just fine. Whilst we were at the dock, I took a stroll around the deck and looked at the anchor chain where it emerged from below. A thin, short length of steel wire had been threaded through the chain, perpendicular to it, so that the ends of the wire were pressed against the opening in the deck. This wire looked insubstantial compared to the heavy chain. Although the brake on the anchor windlass had obviously been set, there seemed to be some pressure applied to the steel wire. It was bending!

We cast off and left the dock. I was with Captain Parvia on the Bridge, to offer any help I could. We exited the port and had just turned on to our initial heading, when there was a loud thumping vibration from the foredeck. It was as if a deck-mounted machine gun were being fired. There were shouts of alarm from forward and a cloud of smoke. The anchor chain had broken through the thin steel wire and was burning up the remains of the brake. The anchor itself, of course, was rapidly heading for the seabed.



Dry dock in Ashdod

Captain Parvia instantly realised what had happened and the danger we were in. If the anchor were to reach the seabed whilst we were

under way, the chain could easily become stretched out along the hull and foul the propeller. He telegraphed Stop and backed up this order with an urgent message via intercom to the Engine Room.

There was no acknowledgment. The engine continued running. The Captain returned to the intercom and frantically repeated the order. No reply again. The engine still ran.

Clearly, there was a serious problem in the Engine Room as well as on the foredeck. Captain Parvia gave me the wheel and told me to prevent the ship from swinging around and fouling the propeller with the anchor chain. He then ran off the Bridge towards the Engine Room.

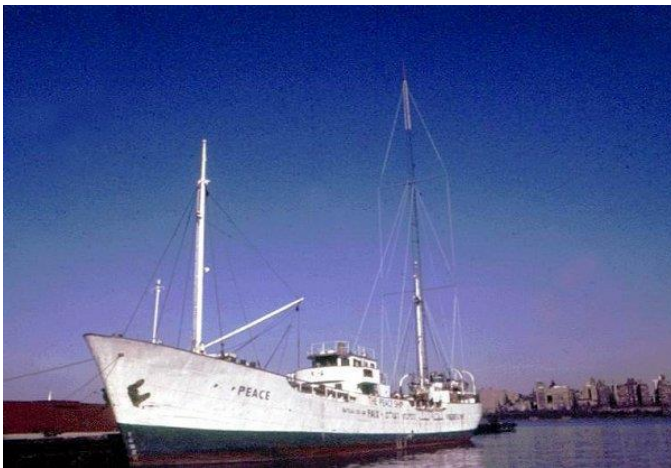
I had only ever had the wheel a few times; always under supervision and in benign circumstances. I somehow managed to prevent the ship from swinging dangerously; I could feel her trying to! Such a swing had just begun when Captain Parvia returned and grabbed the wheel. Also around that time, the engine stopped.

Out of breath and in shock, he told me that he had found the Engine Room unmanned. He had then gone in search of the crewmember who should have been on duty there; he found him sitting in the messroom, chatting and enjoying light refreshment! Disaster averted, we raised the anchor and set what remained of the windlass brake. We set off again or tried to. The vibrations from the engine were probably sufficient to defeat the brake, because the anchor once again headed for the seabed!

Captain Parvia again telegraphed Stop and gave the order via intercom. This time, the acknowledgment and compliance were immediate. During all of this, we were effectively blocking the entrance to the port. Neither Captain Parvia or I had told the Port Control Operator about our situation; he hadn't had time and I had no orders to do so. The marine VHF set remained silent. The Control

Operator was probably watching events and thinking 'It's the Peace Ship. What can you do?'

We again raised the anchor, 'secured' it and got under way. On the next event, my memory may be unreliable but I think we lost the anchor yet again. I do remember that at some point, the stress on Captain Parvia caused him to vomit. Finally, we managed to secure the raised anchor and get clear of Ashdod Port. Captain Parvia steered us to our anchorage off Tel Aviv and life on the MV Peace returned to normal.



Peace ship in the harbour of Ashdod VOP Collection SMC Archive

A Storm In Ashdod Port

I forget the year in which this happened, but I clearly remember the event! On one of our regular runs down to Ashdod Port, the marine VHF was busy with storm warnings and instructions to other approaching vessels to anchor away from the port. The sky and sea were 'moody'; that particular state which clearly presages trouble. We were not told to wait, so we sailed to the port entrance as usual. Thanks to our smaller size and hence greater maneuverability compared to the huge cargo ships waiting to enter, we were allowed straight in. We entered, docked and the port was closed for the duration of the storm.

We had barely finished tying up when the storm hit. Gale force wind and biting, driving rain. Even the port waters were whipped up. The ship was repeatedly being flung to the limit of the mooring ropes and then hurled back against the dockside fenders. It transpired that we had not moored closely enough to the dock. There was too much rope length between the ship and the dock's mooring bollards.

Crewmembers and station staff scrambled around on deck, untying ropes and re-mooring. This was hazardous, because not all our ropes were able to withstand the strain being applied. All but the newest ropes were being weakened every time the ship was flung away from the dockside. I vividly recall seeing the fibres of a weakening rope 'exploding away' from its core, as its tensile strength ebbed.

There were frequent shouts to 'get down', as a rope neared breaking point. There would be a vicious crack, not unlike a gunshot, and the freed ends would whip apart with enough force to kill. Meanwhile, damage was being done below. Each time the ship hit the dockside fenders, the side would be pressed inwards. This put great stress on the metal braces between the ship's ribs and the lower deck levels. These steel braces were being snapped like cardboard. The structural integrity of the ship was being reduced, we were taking on water and starting to list to port.

Abie was standing on the dockside, seeing and hearing the damage being done. He looked shocked and pale. As I slid around the soaking wet deck in this chaos, I felt as though I were in an action-adventure movie. It was surreal, but very real.

Eventually, we finished re-mooring and the whipcracking of ropes ceased. Pumping out began below and we avoided becoming the first active offshore radio ship to sink whilst in port! The necessary repairs were completed and we re-supplied as necessary. Also, the storm passed!



The wheel on the Peace Ship

Emergency At Night

This occurred in 1989. The day had passed much like most others did - nothing remarkable, just routine offshore radio. I had finished whichever daytime or evening programmes for which I was rostered and had gone to bed. Late that night, I was woken by another presenter and told that Kenny Page was very ill and needed to be taken to hospital as soon as possible. McLellan Hackney had found Kenny crawling along the corridor, in agony, when he left the studio after his programme.

Kenny had been taken up on deck, just forward of the Bridge area. The Captain had made a distress call to the Israeli Navy and we were waiting for help to arrive. The problem was, politics was delaying that help. The Voice of Peace was officially classified as subversive. Basically, we were tolerated but not especially welcomed by the Israeli Government. This meant that emergency aid could not be sent straight away, as it would have been if an Israeli fishing vessel were in distress, for example. The Navy staff who were in contact with our Captain did not have the authority to send a vessel out to help us. That authority was held by staff further up the chain of command. At this time of night, they were all asleep!

Kenny was still partly conscious and clearly in great discomfort. I and other station staff tried to comfort him, saying that help was

coming. The Captain kept up his urgent calls for help via the marine VHF radio.



Kenny Page Photo OEM Archive

Thankfully, before official approval of help was obtained, a Navy patrol ship arrived about 150m to Starboard and dropped anchor. This greatly reduced the total time Kenny had to endure before being taken to hospital. But still, we had to wait another half hour or so before the Navy ship was allowed to come alongside and take Kenny off.

I well recall that sight. Two ships, one in need of aid and the other ready to give it but held back by politics. Like something from the Cold War. I would like to emphasize here that the Navy personnel who came to help us and the staff in contact with our Captain showed no reluctance at all to help. The crew from the patrol vessel were really apologetic about the delay, explaining that it was not of their doing.

Kenny was taken to hospital and made a steady, full recovery. I forget the precise nature of his illness; it was gastrointestinal.

I remain grateful to the Israeli Navy for the help they rendered to us that night - and on other occasions. Whatever the official policy concerns 'higher up', the Navy were true friends.'

Thanks a lot Paul for sharing your memories with us.



Gali and Vered Kravitski who both reported to Offshore Echos Magazine in the eighties and nineties of last century

Next a response on last report and the Paul Jackson memories

Gavin McCoy: 'Hi Hans, Thank you so much for the latest issue of your brilliant Radio Report and the many interesting stories! One story that particularly resonated with me concerns the VOP. I can vividly remember with some disgust, the many cockroach visitors in the galley and eating area.

Within a couple of days of arriving onboard (1976), I opened a cupboard door and witnessed dozens of them sitting on and then running away from a loaf of bread. Needless to say, my desire for a freshly made sandwich was off the menu that day! At the time the 'chef' on the ship was American pony tailed hippy Monte. He

confessed that eradicating the pests was near impossible. "You kill 'em and they keep coming back"

My co-crew member (the late) Phil Marshall/Mitchell (Caroline and VOP) and I took it upon ourselves to hunt down every single cockroach and evict it. Armed with two big cans of roach spray, we blitzed every place we had seen them run to, and there was one location in particular that appeared most popular. It was right in the middle of the kitchen.

When we sprayed under the cooker, literally hundreds ran out. We had hit the mother load. After they fell under the spell of the toxic mist, we swept them up with a dustpan and brush. We then threw them over the side of the MV Peace, to be washed away by the waves or become fish food.

When looking over the side, we were horrified to see the strongest survivors swimming and then climbing back onboard again. No wonder they have flourished for millions of years! I later learned that when a pregnant mother cockroach is under peril of death, it actually ejects the fully laden egg case to save the evil babies. Over the next few weeks, Phil and I mounted regular cockroach hunts. Gradually, the numbers dropped to zero and food hygiene onboard soared dramatically.



Some VOP Food

However, new stocks of food always brought more unwelcome mini stowaways. We never saw rats, but there were always flies on deck. Did they take a 5 mile flight from Tel Aviv/Jaffa over open water just to annoy us?

Speaking of food on the VOP. Before sailing from the New York a whole storage area had been stocked up with American dry foods. There were all kinds of exotic packets and bottles of ordinary and exotic stuff. We'd often knock up a batch of midnight pancakes using those ingredients (Betty Crocker pancake mix). The best part was poured from a big bottle that came in the shape of a woman... it was called Mrs Butterworth's maple syrup.



Happy, crazy days "from somewhere in the Mediterranean"
Kindest regards, Gav (McCoy).

All Voice of Peace Photos are collected for the 2006 publication
Voice of Peace Memories and Abie Nathan's work, edited by Hans
Knot.

Next is Robb Eden who reflects on the passing from Paul May, which I wrote about in last report: 'I meant to write to you earlier about Paul as we kept in touch with him. Paul was a bit of an enigma as he brought an American boss jock sound to RNI at a time where many of us were more interested in new music rather than music from the

charts. Paul was like a whirlwind, as was Larry Tremaine, bringing American style radio to our shores. That said, Paul was good fun, a great friend and colleague and will be remembered by all of us who worked with him. Robb Eden

Thanks Paul for your words regarding the passing of Paul, In my memory I was very excited hearing him for the very first time as it brought memories back to the short lived Swinging Radio Engeland. One long promo spot I never forgot as one of the best 'RNI goes 24 hours a day, this weekend and every weekend...' Yes he told me on the RadioDay 2014, when he handed over his photo albums for our archive, how he had very sad circumstances have lost his wife and son.



The Day Of The Offshore Radio Stations, as reported, was on NPO Radio 5 on 31st of August. The day was dedicated to the fact that that Saturday marked the 50th anniversary of the end of the glory days of stations like Radio Veronica, Radio Noordzee and Radio Atlantis, through an amendment to Dutch law. Stations like Mi Amigo and Caroline decided to break the law and remained on air for years to come.

On Saturday 31st of August, all hours until 6pm were focused on the sound of the offshore stations of yesteryear. For instance, Bart van Leeuwen had Lex Harding visiting him in his programme

between 16:00 and 18:00. But there was also be a focus on the wave of offshore stations in the 1960s and, for example, Felix Meurders payed attention to his favourite station of the time, Wonderful Radio London. Jingleweb (Benno Roozen and Jelle Boonstra) provided the design.

Hans Schiffers on the special event on Radio 5: "During the week of 26-30 August, we also refered to Saturday in Arbeidsvitaminen (9:00-12:00). I spoke to Leo van der Goot, Tineke, Ad Bouman, Ad Roland and Ferry Maat. We maked short portraits of them that could be heard during Arbeidsvitaminen. Moreover, I asked them about their favourite music from the years they were active at the time. Roland was -as you know- Ad Petersen and presented the Joepie hitlist in 1974 on Radio Mi Amigo. Van der Goot and Maat presented at Radio Noordzee. Tineke and Ad Bouman for Radio Veronica."

Clearly, after half a century, the subject of "offshore radio stations" is still in the spotlight.

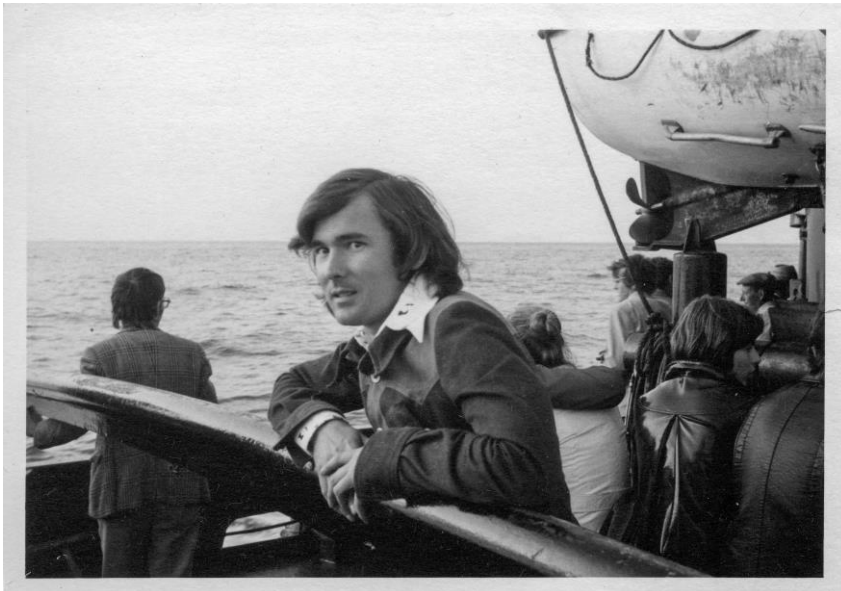
Ian Biggar is next with a memory to half a century ago: 'In search of Atlantis - was it really 50 years ago? Christmas 1973 was an exciting time for me as a 12 year old listener in the west of Scotland who had just discovered offshore radio during that year. There was still a certain amount of mystery for me around these stations that were broadcasting from boats.

I was aware that Radio Atlantis had hired airtime from the Radio Caroline ship Mi Amigo during 1973 and was intent on getting their own ship out to sea. I had read in Record Mirror that they had purchased a ship from Radio Condor. This station, although anchored off the Netherlands coast for several months, had never broadcast.



Early seventies photo from the Condor, Collection Rob Olthof

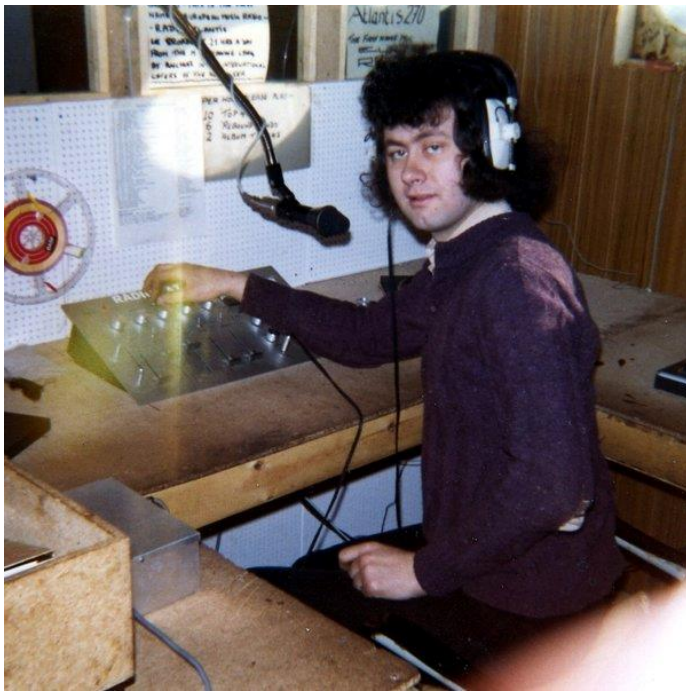
Then, listening to RNI one night in mid November 1973, I heard a news report that the Atlantis ship had broken her anchor and was drifting off the Dutch coast. There followed several weeks of not knowing what had happened, until when tuned in to Northsea goes DX on Christmas Day. AJ Beirens announced that Belgian radio reported that Atlantis returned to the air on Christmas Eve.



AJ Beirens from his heritage I received

And so the search began, but to no avail! That is until one late December night around 22.30 local time when I was trying to locate

Atlantis' frequency of 1115 kHz and noticed current chart music being played in that vicinity. At that time my receiver was a Grundig Music Boy, a good portable but certainly not known for its selectivity. It's funny that more than 40 years later I can remember the songs being played, namely "I love you, love me love" by Gary Glitter and "Lamplight" by David Essex. An English announcer confirmed the station name and that he was called Andy Anderson. Then it was gone as soon as it was there!



Andy Anderson collection Steve England

In those days I didn't tend to sit on a channel and wait for the signal to fade in again. On reading Record Mirror the following week they confirmed that Radio Atlantis was indeed on 270 metres and that the power was very low, maybe less than 1 kilowatt. That coupled with the fact I was living on the west coast of Scotland made this one difficult to catch. Record Mirror also confirmed that English programmes were being broadcast at night and one of the deejays was indeed Andy Anderson.

It was to be several weeks before I heard Atlantis again. In fact it was towards the end of February 1974 when, on tuning around 1115

kHz, the station was coming through. Maybe some work on the transmitter and/or aerial had been carried out, but the signal was better. Due to heavy interference on the channel, BBC Radio Derby for example was on 1115 kHz, the station was now signing on at 2200 with the International Service. This then ran until 0600 when programmes were in Flemish mainly aimed at listeners in the Flanders region of Belgium and the south of the Netherlands. The station then signed off at 1900 for three hours. I assume this time off air was used for technical work to improve the signal.

It's funny how daft things stick in your memory! I remember one night sitting on the channel around 21.55 and hearing the Atlantis carrier switch on and the anticipation of waiting for the theme tune to start. By then the team had been joined by a name I remembered from Radio Caroline earlier in the summer, Steve England. He was to be the main player in forming the sound of the station.



Steve England on the Atlantis radio ship. Collection: Steve England

Now I can't remember how I knew that Radio Atlantis were to change to 227 metres. It might have been in the Record Mirror in

advance, or maybe AJ Beirens announced it on NSGDX. However on the night of Sunday March 3rd 1974 I was enjoying listening to a test transmission and a much better signal on 1331 kHz, announced as 227 metres.

This was really my favourite time listening to the station. It was still winter, so I was able to enjoy some sky wave until past 0900 local time, hearing the Flemish service for the first time. At night the English service was back to a 1900 start and I spent many a late evening enjoying "Starshine" with Andy Anderson and "The Midnight Special" with Dave Rogers. This continued until mid April when one night they were gone!



AJ, Vonnie, Dave Rogers, Gerry van de Akker 1974 collection heritage AJ Beirens in the SMC Archive

The search was on again and I found them on 962 kHz. The reason for moving was that the 300 kilowatt Italian station in Rome, which used 1331, were apparently broadcasting a jamming signal after they closed for the night at 23.00. To be honest I don't remember being that annoyed by this in Scotland, but obviously it was causing problems. I still find it hard to believe that RAI would be bothered by a station running 1 kilowatt at most. However it did seem to be the case.

During this period Atlantis briefly tried 1322 kHz, but the signal was obliterated by the Radio Moscow relay from Leipzig, East Germany on the same frequency. For me, reception on 962 was fairly good, but suffered a heterodyne from an off channel transmitter in Tunisia, supposedly running 100 kilowatts. I listened pretty regularly for the next few months and like a lot of people, really enjoyed the energy and enthusiasm of the programmes.

I clearly remember listening on the evening of 26th July when they announced a short wave transmitter had been activated on 6225 kHz. I tried to tune in, but heard nothing. In my naivety I believed that if I could hear RNI on 6209 kHz, then Atlantis should also be there. What I didn't understand then was that RNI used a professional 10 kw transmitter, whereas Radio Atlantis was using a homebrew unit of a couple of hundred watts at best.



Radio Atlantis ship July 15th 1974 Photo: Paul de Haan

At the very start of August they were missing again and the search was back on. Due to a problem with the 962 kHz crystal another move was necessary. This time I managed to find them sandwiched between the 100 kilowatt station located at Stavanger, Norway on

1313 kHz and the 150 kilowatts Radio Moscow relay from Leipzig, East Germany on 1322 kHz. Reception in the early evening on "229" was difficult to say the least, but improved a bit after 23.00 when both these powerhouses signed off. In terms of the actual frequency used, well a government paper at the time states the monitoring station at Baldock logged them on 1318.806 kHz.

This off channel frequency was in use until August 10th, when that crystal became faulty and a move was made to 1313 kHz. This obviously made evening reception difficult due to Norway, so the next day they were back on 1331. However on the night of the 12th at 2326 the Italian "jamming" resumed, resulting on the 13th with a return to what Baldock measured as 1312.992 kHz. This frequency was used for the remainder of the stations life.

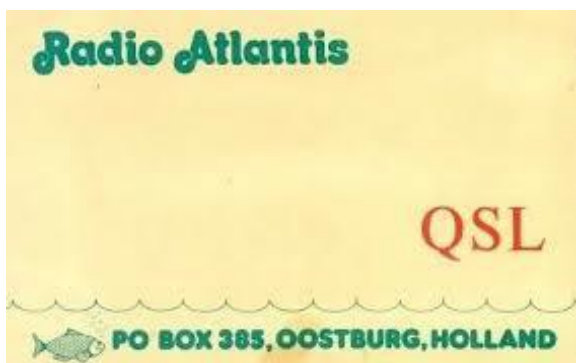
By then it had been announced that the Dutch Marine Offences Act was to come into force just at midnight on August 31st 1974. I remember hearing Radio Atlantis on several nights leading up to the final day, albeit at times with some difficulty. From 1400 on the 25th all programmes were in English, but obviously daytime reception was non-existent for me. I was not able to listen to the final hour, as late summer reception conditions meant that the station would still be inaudible on August 31st between 1800-1900. I had to be content with listening to the final hours of the short wave service of RNI, which was a fine consolation.

So that was the end of my search. For several weeks leading up to the closedown there had been rumours that the station would try to continue. It would seem that was not going to happen. However I remember being tuned into a short wave pirate on 6225 kHz called Radio Copernicus on Sunday morning in November 1974. They ran a format of radio news and carried a story that Radio Atlantis was to return. Reception was poor and I did not catch all the details, but could this be true???

As we now know it was true. The plan was to re-start the station from the dis-used Gunfleet Lighthouse in the Thames Estuary. This structure was believed to be in International Waters at the time and much work was carried out preparing for the return of Radio Atlantis on Christmas Day 1974 on 244 metres, 1232 kHz. Flemish programs were recorded at secret studios in Belgium to be broadcast daily from 0900-1600 with live English (as Radio Dolphin?) programmes at other times. Sadly it did not happen as the lighthouse was raided by British Government officials just before Christmas.



Equipment seized from Gunfleet Lighthouse in 1974 Photo: Offshore Echos Magazine/Public Records Office



So Radio Atlantis was to fade into the history of offshore radio. Funnily enough I have short recordings that I made of all the offshore stations of the time, apart from Atlantis! I did record a good quality 30 minutes during the time on 227 metres with Andy Anderson and can even remember him playing "Rock n Roll baby" by the Stylistics. However in those days of pocket money I only had three cassette tapes and recorded over it!

Similarly I remember trying to stay awake one morning during school holidays and recorded an American dj calling himself Rick Rock around 03.30, but again it was recorded over. I did write to them at PO Box 385, Oostburg and received two stickers back displaying the 385 metres wavelength that was never used! I did manage to get an original QSL card kindly sent to me by Steve England a few years later. Nice souvenirs. Where have 50 years gone since the sound of Atlantis was last heard on the medium wave?'

Thanks Ian for this very detailed memories to a great station regarding the international service.

Next a short piece from myself: 'A relic in memory of a broadcasting ship that still exists, after its closedown in August 1974. The Norderney called at many ports in the Netherlands and Flanders during which it was exploited as a disco and event ship. It was Jan Groeneweg who at the time had the ship converted in Zoutkamp and later twice more in Groningen.

In 2008, one of his employees came up with the idea of sawing the former mast of the Norderney into pieces and selling it. Which also included an official document regarding authenticity and a photo of the work. Smart move by employee Wout van der Meer from Friesland, who is also known as deejay Peter de Vries on Radio Caroline in 1979-1980. My relic, as can be seen, was provided in 2008.





Martin van der Ven has made an updated version from his article about the early radio project from international waters, called the Faithfull Friend. <https://offshoreradio.info/an-offshore-radio-station-against-hitler/>



Another interesting story Martin wrote is about the SS Catalina:

KBIG AM 740 began broadcasting around June 1952 and became a notable station in Southern California's radio history, particularly due to its broadcasts from the S.S. Catalina in the early 1950s. The station aired its programs while en route to the port of Avalon and was also known as Radio Catalina. The exact dates of these offshore broadcasts are not comprehensively documented in available historical records. However, it is known that the station's founder, Carl Bailey, used the ship to establish a distinctive presence for KBIG in the early days of its operation in the Southern California radio market. The S.S. Catalina, a popular passenger ferry since 1924, became an unforgettable part of its history as a floating radio station. Read more about this project: <https://offshoreradio.info/s-s-catalina/>

Ben Meijering brought good news on August 10th: 'Recently I digitised a number of color slides and prints of B&W photo's of Pieter Damave.

Pieter Damave worked as Chief Engineer in the Hofstede "Oud Bussum" early seventies, when Radio Northsea International landstudio's were based at that location. This album contains the pictures, that Pieter made at his worklocation and during visits to the MEBO II.

Pieter also made photo's when the MV Norderney was stranded in April 1973, these can be found in the photo-album after the RNI color pictures. The last 34 photo's in the album are scans of prints of Black and White pictures that Pieter made, predominantly at sea.

Amongst others, you can see pictures of Pieter himself, Don Allen, Marc van Amstel, Wil Ardsens. Tony Berk, Ted Bouwens, Leo van der Goot, Peter Holland, Peter Jager, Rudi Kagon, Ferry Maat, Brian McKenzie, John de Mol Sr, Bob Noakes, Erik Post, Piet Römer, Jan de Ruiter, Gerard Smit and Gerrit de Winter.

A number of these pictures have been published before on the Flickr account of "The Offshore Radio Archive".

I'd like to thank Pieter Damave for making all these beautiful pictures available to share.

This is the link to the photo album : <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBBCDF>

Kind regards

Ben Meijering

Paul Bailey reflected on the Emperor Rosko comments in last radio report about the 1967 Stax Tour: 'Hello Hans, in your radio report you mention the Stax tour of the UK in 1967 on which some dates (not all of them) were compered by Rosko. The story about the performers being surprised when they found that black and white people were able to use the same entrance is not true according to the singer Eddie Floyd, who was on the tour. He repeats the denial and gives an account in his biography "Knock On Wood". Even in America's southern states, black and white people were able to use the same entrances at many hotels, especially Holiday Inns. The book about Curtis Mayfield by his son, "Traveling Soul", goes into more detail.

And again some lovely updates in the Offshore Radio Photo Archive from Martin van der Ven and Hans Knot

There's a special page related to the 'Spirit of the Seventies' long weekend where seventies deejays from Radio Caroline came together on the Rosss Revenge to present some excellent programs filled with memories

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720319502506>

In the first weekend of August there was again a special broadcast. On the Isle of Man it was 'Caroline North 60 years' from which also an excellent series of photographs are here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720319338468>

50 years ago during the last week from RNI Peter and Werner Hartwig and Theo Dencker from the Free Radio Campaign Germany were also on the MEBO II and made a terrific series of photographs which can be seen now for the very first time versus the next link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720319399342/>



Peter and Werner Hartwig Photo: Theo Dencker

Now news from Florida August 15th: Update on live streaming show from Florida USA. First Show now history. Planning only Sunday Night episodes for now and expecting to add Friday evenings soon. Show features original music by local artists exclusively and promotes their local live events while playing one of their tracks

from my extensive library started almost 20 years ago. Fun Fact: My jingles were recorded at Steve England's S2Blue Studio during Radio England Reunion in London in 2006.

Sunday nights for 3 hours beginning at 9pm Eastern. 2am UK time.
Rick Randell



www.MusicTampaBay.com

Dutch former radio producer Cees van Zijtveld died Friday, 16 August, at the age of 81. Van Zijtveld started his radio career in 1961 at Radio Veronica, first as 'Flip van de flipside', because of his love for b-sides, but later simply under his own name with programmes like 'Ook Goeiemorgen', the 'Seven O'Clock Show' and 'Afspraak met Kees'.



[AVRO Sticker with thanks to Wilfred de Jong](#)

In 1966, he switched to public broadcaster AVRO, where he would stay for 40 years, first 16 years at Hilversum 3, from 1985 at Hilversum 2/Radio 2 and Radio 5. He retired from radio on 14th of June 2006. Van Zijtveld could also be heard for many years as voice-over in the TV programme AVRO's Toppop and as AVRO's broadcasting voice on television. In addition, Cees was also active as a jingle maker for a while in the 1980s. For instance, as a representative of TM Productions, he had the WBZ jingles ('Count on us') sung for the AVRO Monday.

Mattie van der Valk went on holiday this year to the Isle Man, which of course was known as Radio Caroline North's Fredericia was anchored in international waters there and was very popular. As it was 60 years ago that Radio Caroline North started of the Isle Man some celebrations took place and versus some photos Mattie shares it with our readers.



This photo was made in Downtown Ramsey with Radio Caroline North fest banner. August 3rd, 2024.

I saw this Billboard in downtown Ramsey during the 3 days Radio Caroline North fest in Ramsey, August 3rd, 2024.

RAMSEY FEST 2024

RADIO CAROLINE

1960s DISCO

£5

Friday 2nd August 2024
MASONIC HALL
RAMSEY
7.30 - LATE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
JASON BYRNE HAIRDRESSERS OR FURNITURELAND

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

TO *M.J. v.d. Valk*

Reporting QSO on *1.52* Mc/s

Date *22.2.66* Time.....GMT

CW/PHONE/SSB..... RST.....

Wkg/Clg..... QRM.....

RX *10KW Continental Flex*

ANT *50m Mast*

REMARKS—

**MANY THANKS
FOR REPORT**

Enschede

HOLLAND

RADIO CAROLINE

P.O. Box 3
Ramsey, Isle Of Man
England

Radio Caroline North, QSL card, sent to me in 1966. Reception was good in the East of the Netherlands.



Radio Caroline sticker in the rear window of a car that took part in the Radio Caroline North event in Ramsey.



Radio Caroline North had his office in this hotel in Ramsey during their stay in Ramsey. Ramsey, 3rd of August 2024.



A competition took place at the Radio Caroline North fest in Ramsey, August 3rd 2024. I don't know who won the competition but all in all nice Oldtimers turned up that Saturday afternoon. A small event took place in Mooragh Park with two guitarists play backing Beatle songs. I met Johnny Wilson, DJ of Caroline 557 ? and another DJ of Radio Caroline North but don't know any more who he was. Also a radio reporter of Manx radio made recordings that afternoon.

I did not attend the fest held in a hotel in Ramsey that night, unveiling the Radio Caroline North bell.

Anyway, I had a nice two weeks holiday in the Isle of Man. I even saw the transmitter masts in Foxdale, transmitting on 1368 khz AM which I can pick up in the evening / night hours in Enschede, NL.

A lot have been published about the events in RockArt Hoek van Holland, Veronica Vessel Amsterdam and Special programs on NPO5 on August 31st. In Harlingen Radio 74, playing music for 8 days from before the closedown of the main offshore stations in 1974 was heard. Martin van der Ven and I went to the harbour where the programs were presented from the lightship Jenny Baynton. Here a link to the photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720319959691>

August 31 st.: Hi, I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. New this month:

- For three days in August some of the DJs who worked on Radio Caroline in the late 70s came together on mv Ross Revenge to recreate the sound of the station from that era. The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame was there too;
- John Harding has sent us some wonderful photos he took on Radio Atlantis in 1974. We have the first page of them with more to come next month;
- there is news of a Radio Caroline 80s revival weekend;

- and we have added another old RNI chart. This time it is the Super Hit 50 from 11th July 1971. My thanks to everyone who has contributed. All the best, Jon The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame
www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Walter Galle sent us photos of special broadcasts on Radio Waddensee in 2014 that have been added to an already existing album in our photo archive

<https://www.flickr.com/.../offs.../albums/72157646796008771/>

Very interesting is the special page added with photographs from Roger Kent known from Radio Northsea International:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720320271755/with/53990622954>

Well that end the longest ever International Hans Knot Radio Report. I will be back in December. In the meantime best wishes and sharing of memories, photos, questions and more is possible versus HKnot@home.nl

Hans Knot September 2024.