

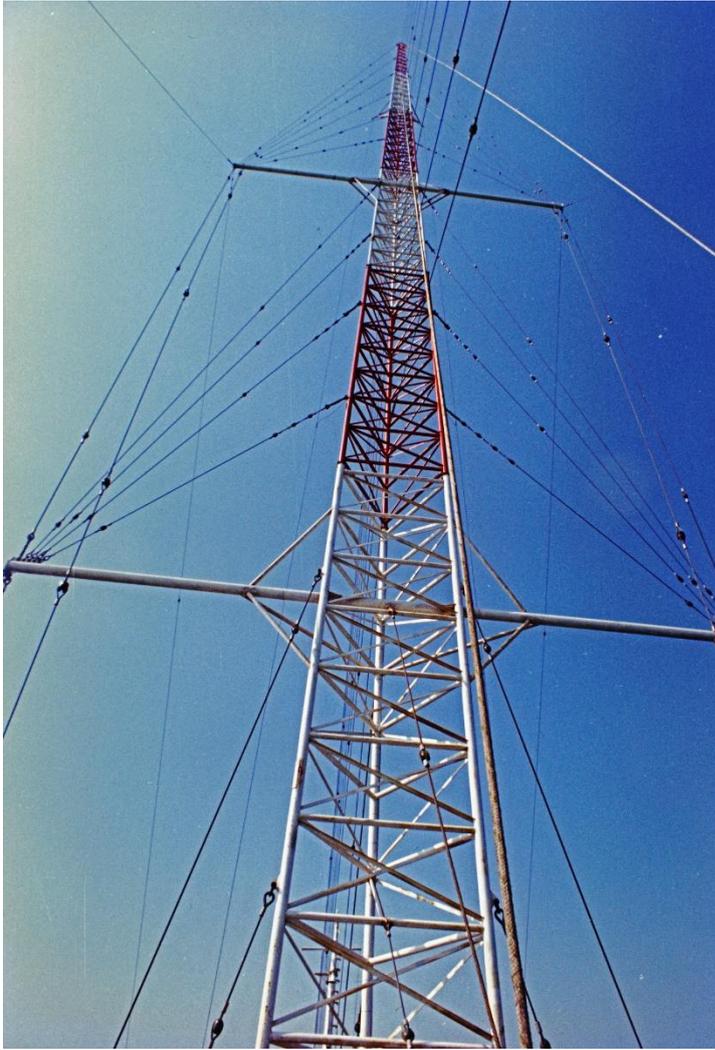
Hans Knot International Report October/November 2024

Once again another edition of the International Radio report. Thanks for all the questions, e mails, memories and more. Last issue was again a bumper edition and I had a lot of items which could not be published. So let's go first to an e mail I got on August 30th: Handover of an original insulator from the first transmission mast of the MV Ross Revenge to Frank Leonhardt from the 'Temopolis' Museum in Offenburg on 24th of August 2024 by the donor Jan Sundermann on the occasion of the Radio Revival 2024.



Jan Sundermann had won this ceramic insulator around 15 years previously at an auction organised by the 'Ross Revenge Support Group'. The breakage of this mast was the cause of the visible damage to the ceramic body.

Ceramic insulators in the bracing of transmission masts (on ships these are called stays or shrouds) prevent the transmission energy of the central mast from being dissipated via the ship's hull into the sea or the earth. At the same time, the distances between these insulators should be much smaller than the wavelength of the transmitter in order to avoid 'parasitic (electrical) vibrations' from these pieces of wire.



Original transmission mast Ross Revenge Photo: Theo Dencker



Next an e mail we received in August too from Paul Krooshof in the Netherlands: 'It's been a few years since I sent you a 1967 holiday photo showing my brother Fredo wearing his Big L t-shirt. On the above photo: Paul, Marco, Fredo and mother Krooshof, Celle Ligure, Italy, 1967.

As it turned out, Fredo still had the shirt in the attic. I now have it at my house, where one of my dolls is wearing it (yes, all kinds of dolls keep me company).



You can tell from the wear in the sleeve that this is indeed an old shirt. My father was regularly in London, and shortly before the banning of English offshore radio stations in mid August 1967, he bought three t-shirts for me and my brothers at Big L in Curzon

Street. On entering the Big L building, he was immediately asked if Radio Veronica was still broadcasting.

Pity and strange that Big L did not move to the Dutch coast, otherwise the station could have broadcast for years to come.'



Of course I shared this new item with Mary Payne from the Wonderful Radio London site and she wrote back: Thank you for sharing Paul's photo of the 1965 shirt. It's nice to know that someone else besides me still has an original Big L t-shirt and Paul's looks in better condition than mine.

'I recently added a photo of one to the site sent by Rob Brondsema, so I wonder if maybe there are more of those old shirts still existing in the Netherlands than in the UK?

[Radio London - Lil's Sixties Mini-memories Page 18](#)

This is me in 1997, wearing the replica shirt I had made specially to replace my original. I always liked to wear mine with Big L at the front.



Mary Payne 1997 collection Mary Payne

In the September issue of the International Radio Report was the second part of the Voice of Peace Memories as written by Paul Fraser. However I made, during editing the report, a mistake. Fraser tells us more: 'There's an interesting VOP DJ name change included...Fraser becomes Jackson! There is some logic to it, as Jay Jackson, working as Howard Rose, gave me the go-ahead to join the station in 1987. All The Best, Paul Fraser'.



It was September 2nd 1967 the Principality of Sealand was founded as a sovereign Principality on a military fortress, seven miles from the eastern shores of Britain. Sealand's history and adventure has

been defined by armed invasion attempts, the fighting of legal battles, countering a coup d'etat and surviving natural disaster while remaining fiercely independent. That same day Hans Knot became 18 years of age. In 1988 the book 'The dream of Sealand' , as written by Hans Knot was published and from that point on he kept following all what was happening on the Principality of Sealand.

2nd September 2024 The Principality of Sealand became 57 years of age and at the same day Hans Knot became 75 years of age. And through the intervention of very good radio friend Martin van der Ven, Hans Knot became that same day Lord of the smallest micro nation in the world.



Roger Kent has written his memories about the time he worked for RNI in the seventies of last century. You can find it on our offshore pages with many photos included: <https://offshoreradio.info/roger-kent/>

E mail time again starting with Robert A. James: 'Hope that you are doing well. Over the past few months Robb Eden has kindly shared much information about Radio Caroline in the late 70s and the search for the replacement ship for the Mi. Amigo. It is good to see much

of this on the Offshoreradio.info website including the photos of the Ross in Cairnryan.

As you know Robb has also been interviewed a couple of times on Caroline and in the most recent of these back in August, he mentioned the amazing news that the reason Radio Caroline was off the air from October 1978 to April 1979 was because someone had paid Ronan a large sum of money to keep the station off the air. I had never heard this before. I guess the identity of the person doesn't matter (I think it might have been Willem van Kooten but, I am just guessing!) I am more interested in why the person wanted the station off the air and what happened for it to eventually come back on.

I remember the stories about Radio Hollandia. Marc Jacobs mentioned it a few times on Baken 16. I guess if Van Kooten planned to start Radio Hollandia it doesn't make sense for him to pay Ronan to keep the ship silent. So, perhaps it was someone else who paid Ronan but to what end? The person must have had a reason. Chicago told me a few years ago that the ship could have been on the air that Winter using the 10kw transmitter but, no fuel was ever delivered. I expect Ronan made sure of that!



Radio Hollandia team Will Luikinga, Jan van Veen, Joost de Draaijer and Tony Berk

Noord-Hollands Archief, collectie Fotopersbureau De Boer

Hopefully, Robb can explain more for the next report.

Kind Regards Robert A. James.'

Well within 10 minutes after mailing Robb Eden he came back with the answer: 'It's interesting that Robert has been asking about this as Peter Moore has been asking the same question. Anyway, to cut a long story short, Ronan was hedging his bets, playing one group off against another. The person/group who paid the money was/were not able to give a starting date, I believe because of political pressure, but eventually Ronan made the decision to go with another group. Sadly, it was the guys on the ship who suffered and things were left to drift at a time when money should have been used to improve things. Eventually things did start to improve once a new generator was installed.

I remember there were lots of meetings. I tried desperately to get Ronan to make a decision and even arranged a meeting with Fred Bolland. It was a real shame because I had been building up lots of contacts and had negotiated a big advertising deal which fell by the wayside when we went off the air. Robb Eden.'

And of course I informed Robert A. James with the answer, who wrote back: Many thanks for the quick info from Robb. It is really appreciated. All sounds like typical Ronan! It were the poor guys who spent a miserable winter on the ship that suffered. Bob Lawrence (who I know) knew nothing about this, and I expect of the people on the Mi Amigo only Peter Chicago became aware and then only when he came off the ship in early January 1979. I think the Mi. Amigo was pretty much on its last legs by this time but, it might have stayed afloat longer if money had been spent on it sooner. We will never know! Kind Regards Robert A. James.'

Of course Rosko reflected too on the last report: 'Hi Hans, nice piece! Thanks for flying the Emp's flag! Those of us who started "

radio flying" in the early 60's and are still active are not to numerous anymore. Look at those still working and keep the plugs flying, thank you. I thank the stations that have been loyal to my brand since the mid 70's and I promise to meet my maker at the mic in the studio one day, it will be a "Rosko classic exit"

Until that day long live rock and roll and the Hans Knot Radio Report Radio's historic bible! EMP.'

Martin van der Ven is next: 'It all began in the late autumn of 1996 with Martin van der Ven's "Offshore Radio Links" page, which was gradually extended into an complete website with countless photos, articles and sound files under the name "Offshore Radio Guide".

Hans Knot soon got his own website, and the German-Caroline site, the Broadcasting Fleet, the German-language Seesender site and the Dutch Radio Day website followed. Thousands of visitors made us quite proud and encouraged us to constantly expand our ever more extensive (and also more confusing) offering. A new start was overdue.

Our new website "Offshore Radio Nostalgia", published for the first time in November 2023, is a summary and modernization of our previous long-standing websites.

Despite many congratulations and encouraging comments, some visitors miss our "old-fashioned" pages with their colorful outfits. Here you can take another nostalgic look at them. Please note, however, that some content will be incomplete and no longer up to date:

<https://offshoreradio.info/a-retrospective-view/>

Marc Jacobs spent more than three years aboard the radio ship MV Mi Amigo. During the period from June 1976 to the fall of 1979, he became particularly well-known for his lunchtime show "Baken 16" on Radio Mi Amigo International, which he also presented on Radio Caroline in 1979. As a result, he became very popular with a large audience, primarily in the Benelux countries, but also in England and Germany. The lively broadcasts, which frequently included detailed

accounts of life on board, became a highlight for offshore radio fans, whose numbers at the time reached into the millions. In recent decades, many of the photos he took have appeared on the internet, most of them in rather poor quality and low resolution. That's about to change. Marc Jacobs (whose real name is Rob van Dam) has re-scanned his numerous photos.

They were then digitally enhanced by Martin van der Ven using modern software, and in some cases further improved by Ben Meijering. Rob, Martin, and Hans Knot have also identified the colleagues seen in the photos and are now publishing a collection of 217 photos. The images serve as a historical testimony, vividly capturing the unique atmosphere on board a radio ship in the 1970s. It was an international crew who not only shared fun but also experienced many adventures together. Many stories tell themselves through the photos. Read more versus the link and see the photos.



Hans Knot, Martin van der Ven en Marc Jacobs (Rob van Dam).

<https://offshoreradio.info/marc-jacobs-my-mi-amigo-time-1976-79/>

E mail time with Steve Ball: 'Sad to report that ex Radio Sutch Pirate Radio DJ Colin Charles Baron Dale passed away on Monday September 30th. RIP. I'm totally gutted. Without these pioneers you

would have still been listening to Jim Reeves. They were the first to play US Soul music etc. on the radio.'

The Pirate Hall of Fame tells us about his career: Colin Dale was brought up in Kilburn, north London, where he was a neighbor of Screaming Lord Sutch. Both the Dale and Sutch families later moved to Harrow in Middlesex and the two became good friends. When he was 22 years old, Colin started working with Sutch's band in a rôle he describes as "general factotum" - basically he did whatever jobs needed doing. Sometimes he was a singer, sometimes roadie, sometimes Master of Ceremonies, etc.. When Sutch started planning his radio station, it was natural that he should ask his old friend to get involved and Colin agreed. He was there on day one as the DJs posed for press photographers on the trawler Cornucopia. Read more: <https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djsd.htm#cdale>

On October 9th the very sad news came in that Bill Rollins is no longer with us. He passed away in the afternoon. I first got in contact with Bill by sharing recordings and writing proper letters as well as spoken letters by tape. Of course, for those who did know him first what the Pirate Hall of Fame has about him: 'Bill Rollins was first heard during test broadcasts for Tower Radio / Radio Tower, the short-lived - and ultimately unsuccessful - station which broadcast intermittently from Sunk Head Tower off the Essex coast in late 1965 and early 1966.



Dave Simser and Bill Rollins 1966

Photo Martin Stevens, from the collection Bob LeRoi

Bill was then 17 years old. Tower never achieved a full broadcast service. After his time at sea, Bill became an electrical engineer, later joining East Anglian Productions in Frinton-on-Sea, a company that released a number of offshore radio nostalgia products. Bill produced the acclaimed Radio Caroline album box and the Laser 558 story. He became involved with Radio Caroline during the late seventies, often working with the disco version of the Caroline Roadshow, the Radio Roadshow, alongside the likes of Brian Martin and Roger Mathews.

During the eighties Bill was involved in the shore-based support for Caroline and was heard on air, in pre-recorded form, during the 'Viewpoint-963' service where he provided continuity for the sponsored religious programmes. During the nineties he was a DJ on Mellow 1557 and its successor Dream 100. When retired from full-time broadcasting, he could still be heard on the internet station Caroline Flashback.

Johnny Lewis remembers: What a wonderful guy, and someone I've known in radio circles since 1977. His help with our messages being passed from ship to shore talking to him via CB during the 80's on the Ross Revenge for no small part helped keep us on air and during Euro Siege 85 kept us ahead of the game. Thank you Bill for everything you were a shining star, and now that star will shine brightly in the heavens. RIP Bill. Herdsman down and gone, good buddy till next time.'

Also Ray Anderson wrote his memories: 'I am very saddened to hear of the death of Bill Rollins. I first met Bill in the mid 1970's and we had a lot in common and shared many interests - mainly Radio (of course).

In 1977 he was best man at my wedding and by January 1980, he was working full time at my studios in Frinton-on-Sea (East Anglian

Productions). In fact he stayed for 10 years and during that time we managed to build the business into a formidable Radio & TV Production Company. Apart from assisting in making some amazing documentaries about 'Pirate Radio' (Jumbo Records), Bill was also involved in helping me with many of the TV Commercials that we were making for Anglia Television in Norwich, plus thousands of Radio Ads for ILR and a steady amount of Corporate Videos for Industry. Often we'd be filming away on location and recording voice-overs in studios in London.

We both spent a night on the Ross Revenge in 1983 making our best selling production 'A Day in the life of Radio Caroline' video (now on DVD). Bill also did the voice-over for it. They were very busy times for the business, probably our peak times, and Bill covered a multitude of tasks from studio engineering, sound recording, operating our video duplication bank and dealing with many of the mail and telephone orders which would come in daily.

Bill's knowledge and contacts in the industry brought a great deal of additional friends to the business and I've always regarded the 10 years that Bill spent at EAP as our best years. He was honest, always called 'A spade, a spade', funny and very loyal.



Ray Anderson and Bill Rollins

Photo: Felixstowe and Offshore Radio

In conclusion, Bill assisted me greatly and I'll always remember that. He was a work colleague, a friend and will be sorely missed by many of the radio fraternity, family and friends.

William John Rollins - Rest in Peace.

Ray Anderson' EAP STUDIOS



Bill also attended several radio events like the RadioDays organized by SMC.

Left to right: Paul Freeman, Bill Rollins, Chris / John Stewart, Dick Dixon, Roger Scott, Guy Hamilton and John Ross-Barnard.

Photo: Mary and Chris Payne

Also memories came in from Bob LeRoi: 'I was so saddened to hear of the passing of my dear old friend Bill Rollins. We'd known one another for over fifty years. He in his Radio Shack, a refuse to communicate across the world's airwaves under the Amateur Radio Call sign G1WJR, useful in maintaining contact with ships at sea!

With a bank of tape recorders he monitored and recorded the Offshore Pirate Stations, and like me as a young lad became involved

with Radio on the Forts, he with Tower Radio me Radio City. Tower was a 'spoof' TV channel and 'wanna be' radio station that operated from the Sunk Head Naval Tower off the Essex coast with an office at Trinity Street, Chelmsford but gave Bill the first taste for broadcasting.

1966 ARCHIVES: <http://www.offshoreechos.com>

NEW PIRATE FOR THE WAVELENGTHS

Radio Tower, Britain's seventh and newest "pirate" radio station, will go on the air on April 21.

The station will operate from a war-time fort off Harwich, Essex.

From the early 60's Bill had accrued loads of recordings, we'd get together normally in Holland-on-Sea, to swap collection tapes. Ever the anorak Bill joined EAP (East Anglia Productions) initially concentrating on the Jumbo Records, Offshore Sales Merchandise, then more serious commercial output

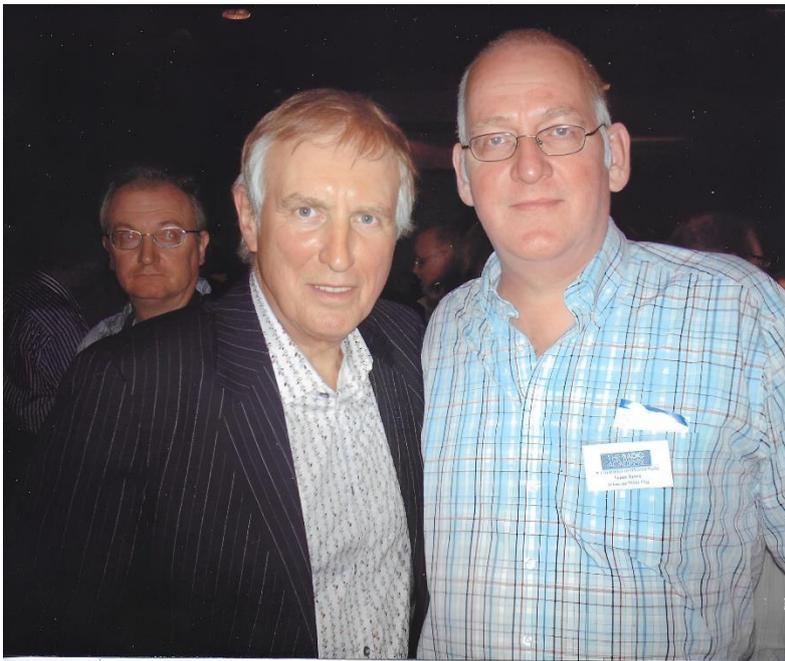
Bill returned to his profession working as a contract electrician for holiday caravan sites in and around Clacton. Keeping his hand in as a DJ from 1989 with Mellow 1557, later Dream 100, and making a few commercials for me at Medway FM and Calypso FM

When I began programming Red Sands Radio, I asked Bill to contribute a weekly programme, which was always delivered on schedule over the years we operated

I'm thankful more recently to have spent a day with Bill on one of the regular trips I make out into the Thames Estuary for guests to see the remaining WWII Maunsell, Naval and Army Forts, and share their history and the experience of living and working aboard when Offshore Radio Forts. I was heartened when Bill said 'it was the best Fort trip he'd ever had'

Sometimes acidic, cynical, even damn right rude, Bill was amusing and always good company. Happy memories of an old pal, my sympathies with Sue and Family, RiP Bill.'

27th of October: There are moments in life that can make you immensely sad. The realisation that after today there will never again be the opportunity to listen to a new radio programme by Johnny Walker. From 1966, this was one of the main presenters who came to us through the microphones of Swinging Radio England, Radio Caroline, BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2, American radio, among others, but also through the microphones of the RadioDays organised by Martin van der Ven, Rob Olthof and me. I had the honour of meeting Johnny Walker many times during radio meetings and reunions. BBC Radio 2 provided this weekend's broadcast of the last Rock Programme of Johnny, who is terminally ill. It is, via radio, saying goodbye to a great radio legend.



Johnny Walker and Hans Knot in London at the Sugar Reef. Photo Martin van der Ven.

Restoration Laser 558 Gateway Mixer

Roy Balls was a massive fan from Laser 558, the American style offshore station from the mid-eighties. He's busy restoring the Gateway Mixer which went on fire on the LV 18 in the harbour of Harwich in early 2024. Roy tells us more about himself and the restoration project.

'I received the mixer from Ray Anderson who collected it from the Lv18 as you can see it was heavily fire damaged it was also missing some parts. I agreed with Ray to restore it to a display condition but I might try to get it working. This if I can locate a power supply unit also a vu meter as the original one was melted. The one in there at the moment is a broken one I had in my parts bin.

I was fortunate that some contacts in the USA kindly sent me some parts for the front pannel but I am still looking for one fader knob if anyone has some spare parts that can be off use please contact me versus Hans at HKnot@home.nl

I worked on the Laser ship Communicator when it was in Lowestoft a few years ago. I also did two stints on board the Ross Revenge in 1990 while it was off air. I also worked on the Lpb mixing consoles that are on board the light ship in Harlingen. So offshore radio is a big hobby of mine.'



the attached pictures: the one of the desk badly burnt is how I first saw it and it still smells of fumes from the fire.



The picture of the desk has an original knob on the far right and you can see how badly damaged it is its badly warped and of line.



I am bidding on two replacement knobs on eBay and will know in the morning if I have won them afterwards it's finding all the other stuff the desk needs finding all the parts is one thing getting it running is another and making it reliable is a small miracle !!

Thanks for all your help on this.'



During the 22nd Erkrather Radio Day in Hilden I was interviewed by Martin van der Ven with some additional questions by Jan Sundermann



Martin: You've written so many books on the subject of the offshore radio stations, and by now 277 International Reports have been published online. Are there still "untold stories"?

Hans: Well when an international radio report is published in several fb groups on our common site Offshore Radio Nostalgia and Mediapages as well as RadioVisie response is coming in the same day. At the moment there is more material direct available for three thick issues of the report. So yes there are untold stories, questions from readers and memories to share.

Martin: How many interested people do you send the International Report to, and how many members does the SMC Newsgroup have on Facebook? How would you estimate the number of people interested in the topic across Europe?

Hans: Next to the mentioned way of promoting the international radio report goes out to about 3000 readers by e mail. I'm running currently the SMC Group as well as the Mi Amigo 1974-1978 group on FB. The first one is a younger one and has almost 2000 followers, the Mi Amigo group has more than 2800 members. Also I have my own pages where also radio related issues are mentioned and where 3.700 followers are. The number of people outside Europe is difficult to count but surely a few hundred. Whereby USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East Asia have members in the SMC Group.



Martin: Recently, I've read several reports from you about failed offshore projects. Which ones do you find the most interesting?

Hans: Without going into details I want to mention a few like the failed project Radio Center, which was planned for Swedish listeners. Very interesting to explore was Radex Radio and TV in 1965 which was planned for the Midlands, East Anglia, West Country. Of course I never thought a tv project from a ship would be successful. As third one I want to mention the OTERM, Onafhankelijke Televisie Exploitatie en Radio Maatschappij. It was around 1970 a lot of information was in the newspapers but the planned station never came on the air. All full details can be found on our Offshore Radio Nostalgia info Radio Pages

Martin: Only a few offshore stations were primarily political or religious in nature (Arutz Sheva, Radio Brod, Radio Free America). How do you explain their limited success compared to the commercial pop stations? Déesse de la Démocratie failed before broadcasts even started.

Hans: Of course there's a total difference between the pop stations and those mentioned. Commercial pop stations focused on popular music and entertainment, which had broad appeal to mass audiences, especially younger listeners looking for alternatives to state-controlled media or mainstream programming.

Political and religious stations, however, typically catered to niche audiences with specific ideological, political, or religious views. The limited audience size naturally constrained their reach and potential popularity. For example, people who were not interested in the specific political or religious messages of a station had no reason to tune in.

Martin: Despite the many books that have been written about offshore radio stations, there is still no biography of Ronan O'Rahilly. We are hearing more and more critical, sometimes even damning, comments about this controversial figure. In particular, Peter Moore has brought some anecdotes to light that do not paint him in a good light. What is your view of him, and do you think such a book will ever be published?

Hans: Ronan O'Rahilly's life and legacy are rich with both inspiration and controversy, it will be important for such a biography to balance the romanticized version of O'Rahilly as a visionary with the more critical accounts of his behavior. Of course there are many stories from which you can conclude that O'Rahilly was not only a complex figure but had also a very black side. There are many former deejays who can tell about where the money, for instance from the many religious programs in the late seventies, went to. Indeed not for tendering the radio ship *Mi Amigo*. Personally I think we must do with all those books which have been written and decide to the readers what to believe or not to believe.

Martin: Thirty-four years after the end of Radio Caroline, the legendary station is still on the air, now online and via DAB. Many former offshore radio DJs are still enthusiastically involved, especially with the monthly broadcasts live from the radio ship. How do you assess the current broadcasts? Do the medium-wave broadcasts on 648 kHz make sense?

Hans: I must admit that I almost never listen to the internet version or the AM service. The only times I enjoyed listening when there is a special weekend like earlier this year from the seventies and eighties. And listening is then when received the links from radio friends, who recorded the shows. For the rest radio listening in these days is when there are live broadcasts from my favorite Football team. For the rest there are many historic radio shows still to explore.



Martin: The MV *Ross Revenge*, *Jenni Baynton*, and *Norderney* are the last remaining radio ships that can still be visited in Western Europe. What do you see as the future of these ships? Was an opportunity missed in the past decades, or would a museum ship have had little chance of survival?

Hans: Of course maintaining these ships in good condition is costly. Preservation efforts require ongoing funding, technical upkeep, and logistical planning. The success of any future efforts would depend heavily on support from enthusiasts, radio history buffs, and potentially government or cultural grants for historic preservation. But we must not forget that, look around in this room, we all are getting older and I don't see the next generation stepping in to save those radio ships against high costs

Martin: Why did the 192 Museum in Nijkerk fail after such a short time? What do you think is the future of Museum RockArt?

I don't think the 192 museum failed and in my opinion it was for the organizing team from the beginning clear they only wanted to be open for a short period. Also Museum RockArt is depending on people

who do it free of payment. Mostly older people and I hope that Rock Art will get a good place as a Museum in the Hague or Scheveningen with good grants from the government. However with the new plans for cultural grants I doubt this will happen.

Martin: What do you advise us older folks: how should we handle our "treasures" when we are no longer here one day?

Hans: When we are no longer here we can't do anything. But in my case I have a huge archive and have made it clear by a document which parts of the archive has to be preserved and where these have to go. I hope it will take a very long period before this will happen.

Martin: Looking back on the past 60 years: what do the offshore radio stations mean to you in retrospect? Have they become a central theme in your life?

Hans: Radio surely is one of the central themes in my life with a special heart for the offshore stations, but the most central theme is the love for my wife Jana and the rest of our family. And at 75 I'm still a bit active for the university in Groningen so I do enjoy life a lot.

Questions from Jan Sundermann:

In some viewpoint, offshore radio attracted strange characters to do business there. In other viewpoint, it was also a mirror of society. In case, some shipmates never got their feet back on the ground when again on shore. Some lived on with unemployment and social welfare. And some just became millionaires.

Hans: You can compare offshore radio to any other form of business. In every business, there are the executives who are often prevented by circumstances from being promoted or eventually dismissed and do not have the success of other colleagues who have special strengths that allow us to make great strides forward and eventually become financially independent.

Recently (July 8th, 2024) was a small article in German newspaper Rheinische Post mentioning 60th birthday of Linda de Mol. Mentioning her father as a former Schlager singer, and her brother as the known successful media company owner (not mentioning RNI). So John de Mol jr., had he ever taken notice of events like the Amsterdam Radioday? The 'rich kid in town', does he remember where at least some of the families success did come from?

Hans: When it comes to the organization of RadioDays in the Netherlands, I can state that the thought never occurred to Rob, Martin and me to ask John de Mol Jr. to contribute. There is no reason for this, perhaps it has to do with the fact that he played a minor role within the Radio North Sea organization and was seen more as the director's son,

As for John de Mol sr., I myself had some less friendly contact in the period before Jacob van Kokswijk and I got permission in 1972 to engage in the production of the RNI double Lp, which saw the light of day 51 years ago. On the one hand, he was of the opinion that we were spreading too much information about the station in Pirate Radio News. A magazine that could actually be seen as the forerunner of the International Radio Report. But he also sent nasty comments about the fact that we showed our faces too often in the studio complex, although this was not the case.

So later, partly in view of the activities concerning the LP, things became more convivial. Many do not know, for example, that preparations for the Abominable Top 2000, the predecessor of the Dick voor Mekaar Show, were done in Jacob Kokswijk's studio in Leiden.

Over the years I have seen De Mol sr. appear only once after 1974 at a radio related event and that was a special RNI broadcast of 192 Radio in Hilversum .



John de Mol sr. Studio 192 Radio SMC Archive

Tony Allan: during the birthday event at Southend in 2004, he made a very engaged speech, claiming that he never met Tony Benn. Nobody of various governments ever was looking to speak with the offshore radio people?

Hans: It was, of course, a political struggle by various governments against and regarding the activities of the offshore broadcasters. Benn and many other leaders have always expressed their dissatisfaction through the media. In the vast SMC newspaper clipping archive, there are countless statements made in which particularly the gentlemen politicians strongly opposed the activities of the offshore broadcasters. This is also evident when film footage from that time is viewed, in which government spokespersons were questioned. In the Netherlands, April 18th, 1973 is certainly a clear exception when the then-government under Prime Minister Den Uyl did allow people involved with offshore broadcasters—whether directly or indirectly—to express their opinions during an event in Parliament.

The Panama Papers: did somebody find there any notices related to offshore radio companies? Probably these documents are all too young to cover any such information?

Hans: In the archives of the British government, there are numerous documents that reference contacts with Panamanian governmental agencies as well as those from other countries. Additionally, in the archive containing newspaper clippings, compiled in collaboration with Offshore Echos, many articles can be found regarding the registration or lack thereof of certain broadcasting ships.



Edwin Bollier during speech at the Erkrath RadioTag

Photo: Jana Knot-Dickscheit

This message by Edwin Bollier, owner of the MEBO Ltd in Zurich/Switzerland, was broadcasted by several Dutch Radio Stations and he also brought the same message to the attenders at the Erkrath Radio Day on October 5th. It was Victor Pelli who asked me to publish the message in the International Radio Report:

'It's amazing that 50 years after the shutdown, so many people are still interested in Radio Noordzee International.

It was probably the most exciting and adventurous time of my life. If you think back to those years, there were no mobile phones, no notebooks and no Compact Discs back then. Today's download or streaming technology for music via the Internet did not yet exist.

All new vinyl records and broadcast tapes had to be transported to the radio ship via Scheveningen by a tender boat. Back then, fans

were busy writing their letters and cards to the DJs. I was always amazed when the postman brought a basket full of fan mail every day. As there were no text messages, WhatsApp, emails or Facebook, the deejays replied to their fans with greetings on their radio show or wrote by hand or typewriter.

Our station motto RNI - The Sound of Young Europe inspired listeners. There were hundreds of thousands in Holland, millions in England and also many in other countries. We also reached other continents with our shortwave programmes. It is clear to me that Radio Nordsee would never have become successful without the many listeners and the good staff. Personally, I would never have made it without my friend and business partner Erwin Meister!



We are proud that many big hits were launched by RNI. The music scene in Holland and England had golden times. Unfortunately, many obstacles were always put in our way. We only really made good money when we launched the Dutch programme. The collaboration with Strengtholt brought the turnaround. For us, the English programme was always an important part of the RNI success story and was part of our passion as radio producers.

The closure - 50 years ago - was a sad moment for all of us, but the memories of an interesting and turbulent time remain.

Victor Pelli, our RNI Production Director, said it well on the 'Radio Day' in Amsterdam: "We had a uniquely colourful radio ship, a unique team and a unique sound. Thank you all for continuing to preserve the idea and spirit of Radio Nordsee International."

And at the end of my message I want to thank everyone who has worked for RNI and made it a tremendous success story.

Yours truly Edwin Bollier.

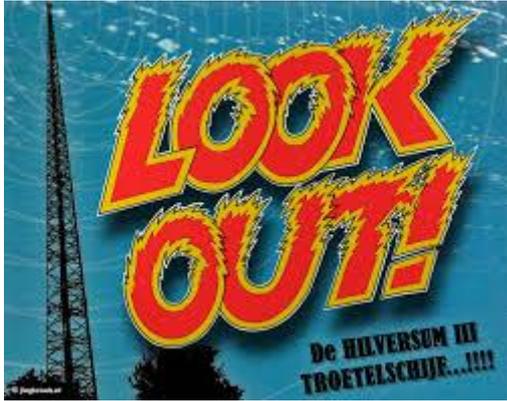


And finishing the information on that sunny day Martin van der Ven wrote: 'The 22nd Erkrath Radio Day on 5th of October 2024 was a complete success. The focus was on 'RNI - The Final Jambouree' with numerous employees of the legendary offshore radio station. Here is a detailed report as well as 216 photos and 2 videos:

<https://offshoreradio.info/erkrath/>

With the following item, I take you back to more than half a century ago and yet the memories clearly come flooding back from my brain. On Wednesday 27 February 1974, at the request of an employee of Hilversum 3, a 'link up' was made with Radio Caroline aboard the radio ship Mi Amigo and this was to discuss the difference in reception quality of the two radio stations, active via medium wave.

Radio Caroline used the 259 metres while Hilversum 3 distributed a signal via the 240 metres, among others. Hilversum 3's signal was picked up on the MV Mi Amigo using a transistor radio and routed to its own mixing desk, while in Hilversum the Caroline signal was simultaneously sent to the air. On Hilversum 3, the NOS programme 'Heeeee.... Ton van Duinhoven' was on, from seven in the evening until midnight.



It was Ton who interviewed Caroline's deejay Brian Anderson and engineer Peter Chicago, complaining, among other things, about the strength of the transmitter used by Radio Caroline. Ton: 'We got complaints here that Caroline is so loud. What are you trying to do, kill us? You are overpowering Hilversum III during daytimes'. To which Peter Chicago grinningly remarked, 'Well, of course we are aiming at a pretty wide audience'. The atmosphere among the radio colleagues became extremely jolly. Van Duinhoven even inquired whether Caroline felt to be bribed and records were played together.

'It almost seemed as if Hilversum had accepted us,' Radio Caroline's other station engineer Bob Noakes later wrote about the event. By the way, Ton van Duinhoven did not have to worry very much. In the summer of 1974, when offshore radio stations were also declared illegal in the Netherlands, Caroline left for the English coast.

Norman Barrington recalled this link earlier in 2024 on FB SMC Group. 'We rebroadcast Hilversum III (and they rebroadcast us) although this was a few months before the Dutch MOA.

I patched a portable radio directly into the desk, and recorded the conversation with Hilversum III on left channel and Radio Caroline on right channel. That is why Tom says 'Brian Anderson, Norman Barrington, Peter Chicago? Hello'. In fact I worked the levels trying to prevent feedback but didn't say anything. I had done the same thing the previous year with the Veronica link up on April 18th 1973. But that were two Veronicas for a short while.'

Martin also sent two links to interesting videos about our beloved subject:

<https://www.youtube.com/@davidbullock7546/search?query=Laser>

<https://www.youtube.com/@davidbullock7546/search?query=Caroline>

Radio London Site Update

In the October Radio London website update, Duke Anthony reports on a Radio Mi Amigo scoop, where Johnnie Walker made an on-air call to Keith Skues. Duke has also contributed a full photo report of the recent trip to the Thames estuary forts on paddle steamer Waverley, where Cardboard Shoes and Tom Edwards were two of the VIP guests. There's news of Waverley's sister ship, Balmoral, a new Joe Meek documentary and an album by The Tony Currie Orchestra. Busy Keith Skues also made a VIP appearance at the Radio Hallam 50th Anniversary reunion.

All good wishes to our site visitors, Mary and Chris



Mary Payne, Director
Radio London Ltd

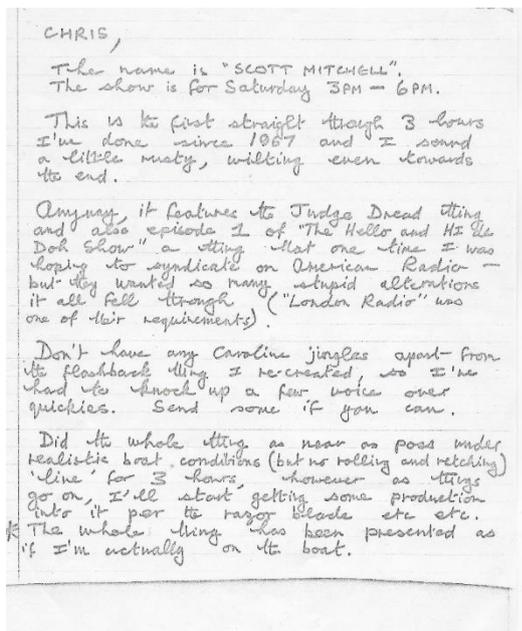
www.radiolondon.co.uk

The SMC archive contains not only many thousands of photos, collected since 1969, but also countless documents. They are archived either by radio station, by year or by event. One such event took place in 1973 when it turned out that one of the many anoraks, who had visited the Caroline House at Van Hoogendorpstraat in The Hague, had at some point stolen a pile of documents from Andy Archer's desk and put them in his bag.

Unwise and even more stupid to tell this to one Hans Knot, who did find it interesting to see these documents and be allowed to duplicate them on a Rank Xerox. Among them were documents that could come in handy in a lawsuit brought by the BUMA/Stemra, responsible for music rights. Caroline had not paid the rights and after telephone consultation I sent duplicates to Andy Archer who was very grateful and, on my next visit to the office in The Hague, had a surprise for me in the form of a recorder tape on which was a copy of the master tape with jingles from a yet-to-be-started station, namely Radio Mi Amigo.

Returning to the documents, which had thus been stolen, are remarkable documents, some of which I will share after more than half a century. Avid listeners of Radio Atlantis will know that for several weeks at the weekend in 1974 there was a programme by Leon Tippler: Scott Mitchell and the Nightmare Affair. One document shows that this programme was initially offered to Chris Cary for broadcast on Radio Caroline.

You will get a better view if you enlarge the enclosed documents



CHRIS,

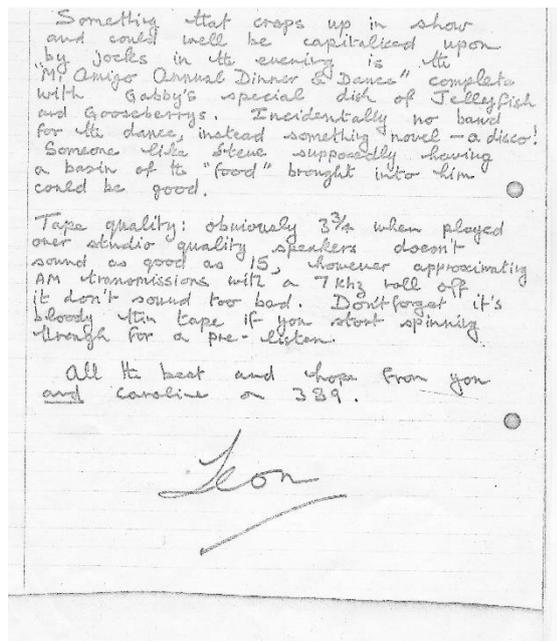
The name is "SCOTT MITCHELL".
The show is for Saturday 3PM - 6PM.

This is the first straight through 3 hours I've done since 1967 and I sound a little nutty, wilting even towards the end.

Anyway, it features the Judge Dread thing and also episode 1 of "The Hello and Ho Ho Doh Show" a thing that one time I was hoping to syndicate on American Radio - but they wanted so many stupid alterations it all fell through ("London Radio" was one of their requirements).

Don't have any Caroline jingles apart from the flashback thing I re-created, so I've had to knock up a few voice over quickies. Send some if you can.

Did the whole thing as near as possible under realistic boat conditions (but no rolling and retching) 'live' for 3 hours, however as things go on, I'll about getting some production into it per the razor blades etc etc. The whole thing has been presented as if I'm actually on the boat.



And then a page with very sad photos from the Veronica vessel Norderney taken at the Van Marel shipbrokers yard in the seventies. The damage you will see is not made at the mentioned yard but on an earlier site where the Norderney was for a longer period.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720321412146/>

Martin van der Ven has done more excellent work by editing information, photos and more about the very first RadioDays as organized by SMC in the late seventies, eighties and nineties of last century. He also coloured several black and white photographs. A must to see: The Dutch Radio Day - the very first years (1979-93)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720321480052>

It was radio friend since 1970, Ingo Paternoster from Bavaria, who sent the link to an exclusive short documentary about the REM island from Radio and TV Noordzee, filmed in August 1964 by the German WDR TV

<https://tinyurl.com/yc8ruc9s>

Well that ends this edition of the International Radio Report. It was planned for the month of December but so much material came in

that I decided to bring it earlier. Keep sending questions, memories, photos and more so I can publish another edition before Christmas.

With best wishes from Groningen in the Netherlands HKnot@home.nl