

# HANS KNOT INTERNATIONAL RADIO REPORT DECEMBER 2011

Welcome dear radio friends to the December edition of the report and thank you so much for the response I got on last issue. This month I will bring you part two from the Carl Mitchell files and a lot of other memories send in by several readers. Also in name of Martin van der Ven, Rob Olthof and me a big thank you to all those who visited our RadioDay in Amsterdam on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Around 400 people came over from Australia up till Finland and from Ireland up till Hungarian. All this in perfect harmony and the organizing team wants to express that we're very thankful for that. Next years even will be on Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> as the Casa 400 in Amsterdam again. So put that date into your agenda. Around April we will inform you about the program. Since November 18<sup>th</sup> many pages with photos from this year's event can be seen on our special internet pages as well as the whole program of the day in audio. Also a rundown is given of this years winners of the RadioDasy Awards: [www.radioday.nl](http://www.radioday.nl)



So let's now start the report with a copy of a newspapercut, which came in months and months ago from Kevin Crown, who wondered what came from the mentioned '60's revival. Well first I've to declare that no date or year of the newspapercut can be mentioned as it's not mentioned on the attachment. I suggest, concerning the contents, that it is from July 1983, but I can be wrong. In the section 'Light entertainment news' the newspaper wrote about 'Groovy tribute to swinging sixties at the Lyceum': 'Fans of the sixties lifestyle will get a chance to indulge themselves beyond their wildest fantasies in August when a unique tribute to the era gets under way to the Capital'. So there you, a happening held in the Lyceum in London. But what did I learn more, so fare? It was mentioned that it would be organised by the London-based Contemporary Music Consultants under the name 'Radio Caroline Sixties Revival Night' on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Promised performances were: Gerry and the Pacemakers, Wayne

Fontana and the Mindbenders and the Hollies would be available. It was also mentioned that Paul McCartney was approached to do a performance. In the article was also mentioned that 'luminaries such as Dave Lee Travis, Emperor Rosko, Kenny Everett and Simon Dee would be approached to create a complete musical documentary of the time. The idea for the show came from the success of CMC's Radio Caroline Roadshow which has played to audiences up to 1600 during its five year existence.

Now 32 years later one of the readership wants to know if the show went on and if so were there any problems with the authorities as the name 'Caroline' was used. Also he wants to know if the show was a success. Hopefully one of the readers has been to the happening in the Lyceum or one of the people of the organisation can tell us more. And therefore I asked Robb Eden, who was responsible for CMC and if it was a success.

Within 10 minutes of me writing the e mail he came back with a very short, but certainly very clear answer: 'Hi Hans, It was a day or two before the Ross Revenge started broadcasting in 1983. The lack of support from Ronan O'Rahilly ensured that it was a mediocre event. Shame because it had the potential to put Radio Caroline back on the map. Surely it was a lost opportunity.'

Thank you Robb for the answer and didn't we hear it more that Ronan gave a lack of support? Next we go to the Riviera and Mark: 'Hi Sir Hans, many thanks for the great monthly reports. I always take time out to read through them thoroughly with a pot of tea and indulge in some hard core anorak.

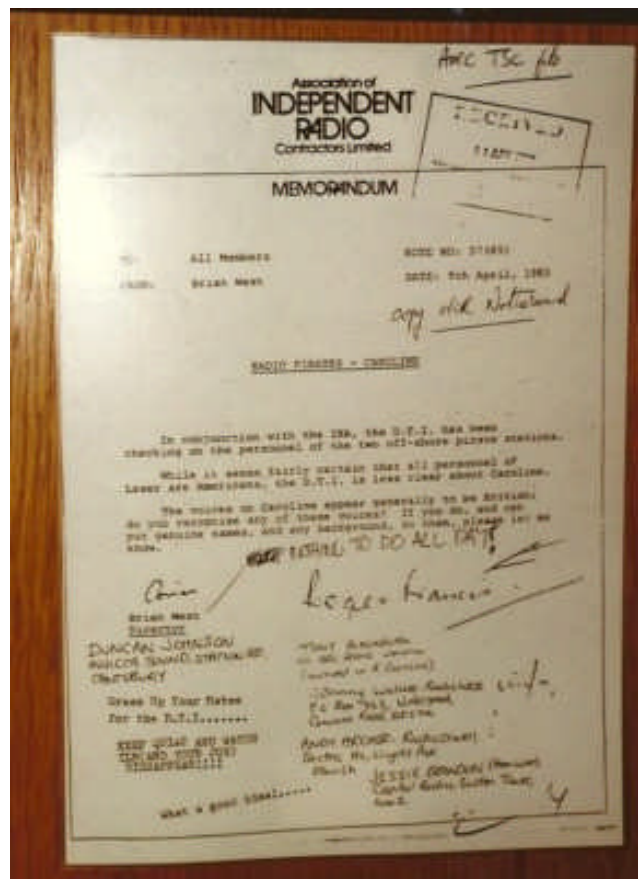
Congratulations on the publication of the Laser 558 book. I am looking forward to purchasing a copy. It looks like I may be doing a weekly programme for Radio Caroline again soon. I am very much looking forward to that. I am sending you a link to a documentary that Chris Bent and I have produced about the short lived, but very interesting Radio Geronimo project. The documentary is called 'Radio Geronimo - Monte Carlo & Bust'. Although Radio Geronimo was not an offshore station, it had links to Radio Seagull and I hope that many of your readers may find it interesting:

[http://www.rivieralife.tv/movies\\_angels\\_10\\_geronimo.htm](http://www.rivieralife.tv/movies_angels_10_geronimo.htm)

The documentary won two awards at the Angel Film Awards in Monte Carlo last December, Best Short Film Documentary and Independent Spirit Award. Coincidentally, where the event took place (Novotel Hotel) was on the same site as the old Radio Monte Carlo building, where 40 years previously, the Radio Geronimo programs (recorded in London), were played out. Keep up the sterling work. Best wishes, Mark Dezzani.'

Well Mark well done, amazing production although the music was heavy for those days the total product of this short documentary gives a very relaxing feeling for watching it. And what would have happened when Branson had stepped in? congratulations on the awards and have fun playing Radio again on Caroline.

Through the years many strange items were sent to me for publication in the report. For instance: T-shirts, caps, cars, artists and more, all promoting - in one or another way - offshore radio. This time I bring you a photograph taken aboard the MV Ross Revenge in 1985. Officially it was forbidden for visitors to the ship to make photographs of the deejays cabins. But it was Rob Olthof who did take the next shot of one of the cabins doors. It shows a poster of which the contents speak for it. Any comments can be given to me at: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)



Brother Jelle Knot, an avid licensed amateur radio broadcaster, informed me about a vintage movie featuring famous actor from the sixties, Dick van Dyke about amateur radio:

[http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2011/vintage\\_film\\_the\\_world\\_of\\_a\\_mateur\\_radio.htm](http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2011/vintage_film_the_world_of_a_mateur_radio.htm)

Fans of Roger 'Twiggy' Day's BBC Kent show which, like all BBC local radio evening output, is in danger of being replaced by a networked programme, have launched a campaign to save the show. Anyone wishing to express their views about the loss of the popular show, with its variety of interviews and its tagline, 'Playing the music you love and talking to the people who made it', should respond to the BBC Consultation at:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/consult/local\\_radio.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/consult/local_radio.shtml)

Next a message from Stewart Ross from London who wrote: I hope you're doing well. I have a question as I'm wondering if you or anyone in the readership remember a song that Radio Mi Amigo used to play called 'Frankie'. It started with the lyrics 'Frankie was a rebel, always kind off wild'. So my question is if anyone knows the title of the song and who sung it. Thanks a lot, Stuart. Well Stuart, anyone with an answer can answer me at: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

October 25<sup>th</sup> the next message came in from Radio Waddenzee / Radio Seagull: Thursday evening at 8pm CET the transmitter was switched off in Harlingen harbour. The first part of our test period has ended. We have learned a great deal, thanks to the numerous reports you sent in. Thank you for that. We are now preparing for the trip to our next location, about a half a mile out at sea. Because the official storm season has started we need to use extra heavy anchoring gear. Also we need to do adjustments to the antenna and the transmitter. Finally a spare generator will have to be hoisted on board to be on the safe side. Reports came in from all over Holland, Belgium, Germany and the UK. From places like Liverpool, Braintree, Ipswich and even one from London. We were surprised by reports from Wicklow in Ireland and Furnes in Norway! We expect to resume broadcasts in a few days once we're safely anchored. Watch our internet site for news and do listen to 1395 from time to time. Don't hesitate to send in a new report when you hear us, it will be from another location and again we like to know! Sietse Brouwer.

<http://www.radioseagull.nl/news.html>



Radio Waddenzee during recent tests  
Photo Theo Bakker

More of Theo's photos can be found on [www.offshore-radio.de](http://www.offshore-radio.de)

We're more than a month further and the test transmissions went on at other locations and the ship is now safe in Harlingen harbour again. Like always people are guessing where to these tests should bring us. It's up to the organisation to bring news as it happens, which is far much better than to read the gossip and spread those around.

Two months ago we started with personal deejay Top 8 and here's one from Oeds Jan Koster in the Netherlands:

1. Brian McKenzie - RNI
2. Kenny Everett - Big L
3. Paul Kaye - Big L
4. Ed Stewart - Big L
5. Don Allen - RNI
6. Joost de Draayer - Veronica/RNI
7. Tony Windsor - Big L
8. Tony Allen - RNI

A high influence of Radio London deejays as well Oeds Jan must have been an avid listener to RNI in the seventies.

Now we go to Mike Terry: 'Thank you Hans, so much news after all the years from so many years ago! Great, the memories are so strong, its as if the years don't happen! Mike Terry.'

A Top 8 with deejays which came in from Germany:

- 1 Dave Lee Travis Caroline
- 2 Johnnie Walker Caroline
- 3 Leo van der Goot RNI
- 4 Wolfman Jack AFN and various stations
- 5 Emperor Rosko Caroline and various stations
- 6 Ferry Maat RNI
- 7 Crispian St. John RNI, Caroline, Atlantis, VOP
- 8 Andy Archer RNI and Caroline

Greetings Peter Tegethoff.' And from the German list we go to Spain:

'Hi Hans. Thank you for the continued so interesting monthly reports. My Top 8 DJ's is:

- 1 Johnnie Walker Caroline
- 2 Keith Skues Caroline and London
- 3 Ed Stewart London
- 4 Dave Lee Travis Caroline
- 5 Tony Blackburn Caroline and London
- 6 Andy Archer Caroline
- 7 Roger Day Caroline
- 8 Spangles Maldoon Caroline and RNI

As you can see mostly Radio Caroline as from 1964 only really listened to them. Funny thing is I enjoyed all the various "music stages" the station went through. As I live in Spain I now listen via Sky. Cheers and keep up the good work. Tony Burns.'

Cornelia van den Berg is living in London but originates from the Netherlands and Caroline followers know she worked at the Caroline office in the Hague in the seventies. Het DeeJay Top 8 is as follows:

- 1 Tony Allan Caroline and RNI
- 2 Andy Archer Caroline
- 3 Dick Palmer Caroline
- 4 Johnny Jason Caroline
- 5 Barry Everitt Seagull
- 6 Johnny Walker Caroline
- 7 Mickey Mercer Caroline
- 8 Kenny Everett London



Johnny Jason Photo: Don Stevens

As you can see most of them are from the area Caroline and Seagull in the early seventies. More lists further on in the report.

Now we go to John in Sheffield who wrote: 'Hi Hans. Thanks as always for the latest report which arrived in the mail box today, it is always such a highlight to catch up, but today was special hearing about your new book, it was only last night I watched the OEM DVD for the first time of Laser 558, issue 17. RNI was the start of my offshore era and while still a teen I asked my parents if I could have a week in London to visit some museums and instead we went over to Holland to stay in Scheveningen and make several trips out to the Mebo II. Careers teachers used to tell me I was a dreamer when I said I wanted to work in radio, but I did go into UK commercial radio full time and have done so for 21 years. Laser was my Real Era and a Joy when it came along, even though now I was young and in commercial radio, it was everything I wanted from a radio station, I have visited the USA several times and sent friends crazy turning the dial constantly while driving to listen to all the many stations and formats. The MV Communicator will always remain a special ship to me. Of course I have read Paul Rusling's book but it will be great to be able now to read your views. Sadly I am no longer working in radio after heart surgery and a few other problems, but it is no longer the radio I once loved sat in bed with my radio under my pillow listening to RNI and then Laser 558! Kind Regards, John B. Sheffield.

Well John what a story telling your parent that you want a museum weekend in London and then going to the international waters to visit the MEBO II. What a naughty boy! Lucky enough there were no mobiles with special apps to follow other persons. But it's a very nice memory. Hope you like the book with best wishes till next time.

Another Top 8 brings us to Israel: 'Hi Hans, my Top 8 deejays are as follows:

- 1 Kenny Page - Voice of Peace / Caroline
  - 2 Stevie Merrick - Caroline/RNI
  - 3 Dave Rogers - RNI
  - 4 Kenny Everett - London
  - 5 Dave Owen - Atlantis
  - 6 Arnold Layne - RNI
  - 7 Crispian St John - Caroline/RNI/ Voice of Peace
  - 8 Tony Allan - too many stations to mention
- Thanks, Mike Brand. Israel.

Thanks a lot Mike and more are coming but for all readers it's possible to send their favorite Top 8 of deejays to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) and in time to come all lists

will become a massive long list, whereby number 8 of each list will become 1 point and number 1 of each list will become 8 point. So don't forget to send your own list. Now we go to Leeds and Colin Wilkins, a regular visitor to the RadioDays since the mid eighties of last century: 'Hi Hans. Many thanks for another superb edition of the Radio Report, many memories come flooding back after reading some of the stories. As for the Top 8 of deejays there were so many good ones and it's very hard to get down to 8 should be the top 10 any way here are my favorite 8 deejays from the 60's offshore radio days

- 1 Don Allen Caroline and RNI
  - 2 Ugli Ray Teret Caroline
  - 3 Bob Stewart Caroline and Luxembourg
  - 4 Mike Ahern Caroline
  - 5 Tony Prince Caroline and Luxembourg
  - 6 Mick Luvzit Caroline
  - 7 Roger Twiggy Day SRE and Caroline as well as RNI
  - 8 Keith Skues Caroline and London
- There are many more I could mention like Dave Cash, Johnny Walker, Kenny Everett and Rosko of course.'

Thanks a lot for your list Colin and very nice to see names of those who were not in the other lists. Then we have the Emperor Rosko, from which we first heard this month when he wrote that he first had to listen to a few old tapes to hear other deejays sounded way back then but after some days he came back with: 'Hi, here is my list for Top 8 deejays based on my preference:

- 8 Johnny Walker Caroline
- 7 Kenny and Cash London and Capital Radio
- 6 Mike Read BBC
- 5 Wolfman Jack several stations
- 4 Tommy Vance Caroline and London
- 3 Paul Burnett 270 and Luxembourg
- 2 Emperor Rosko all over the air everywhere
- 1 Michael Ahearn Caroline

If one is not allowed to enter ones own name Dave Lee Travis at #8 Inadmissible.'

Well Rosko in my mind only the Emperor could put himself in the personal list and I was really wondering why you're not at number 1! If you give me permission I won't give you any points for this second place and put DLT at number 8! Think

it's time for a new manager in Europe to get you realised you're not always at the top positions.

Well we have another nickname I heard while listening to an old program from 1986 when Ria Valk was one of the female presenters at Radio Monique. She was called 'koningin van de lach' which is 'queen of the laugh'.



Ria Valk Archive: Freewave media magazine

Then news from our friends at Offshore Echos:

Offshore Echo's story continues through 1985, with Caroline celebrating her 21st birthday. Offshore radio was enjoying a popular revival, since Laser 558 had arrived the previous year. The UK authorities and UK commercial stations were unhappy with the situation, and summer 1985 saw a siege against the offshore stations. By the end of the year, Laser had lost the battle, but Radio Caroline survived and continued. Twenty four more pages have been added to the story, complete with photos, press reports, audio and video, in what was an eventful year for offshore radio. Read the Caroline Story at:

<http://www.offshoreechos.com/Main%20page.html>

And Steve Conway remembers the night from 19 up till 20<sup>th</sup> of November in 1991 at his internet blog: <http://steveconway.wordpress.com/2011/11/20/facing-death-at-dawn-and-life-afterwards/>

Mel Bowden remembers a few things about the trips made to the Mi Amigo for the people of the hospital radio, we mentioned in last issue. Sadly I only remember eight things about the trips from Brightlingsea. The owner was a fantastic guy with a huge beard called Arthur Ord. The boat did 5 knots and the tide against us was 4 knots so it took hours and hours to arrive near the radio ship. The short cut was always risky and we kept running aground on a sand bank. The electrics sometimes cut out and I seemed to spend some time below fixing them while drifting in the middle of nowhere. The Ships compass had two brass balls one either side of the compass to stop magnetic interference but they were hollow when you took the lid off the port side one, inside, was a glass and inside the starboard one a bottle of whisky. Ships Medical supplies I recall! The 'Hard' (Landing Slip) at Brightlingsea had a pub on it where all sorts of folk met some I remember keeping "an eye on things". Oh yes, the guy who always liked to drink with us turned out to be working for a government agency - strange that. And the eighth memory: They Were Very Happy Days.'

Well Mell thanks a lot for sharing your memories. One day I will recall the 90 hours to get to the Ross Revenge way back in 1985. And for anyone who wants to share their memories and/or photos, please send them to HKnot@home.nl

Former DJ, TV presenter and charity fundraiser Sir Jimmy Savile died aged 84, on October 29th. Several of our readers did sent me bits and pieces they found in their newspaper as well as comments I got versus internet. So here we go: 'Jimmy Savile, who was one of the most famous names on British TV and radio in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, died on Saturday October 29th. Police said they were called to his home in Leeds, but that there was nothing suspicious about his death. His family programme, Jim'll Fix It, drew in huge audiences and the programme received 20,000 letters a week at the height of its popularity. A West Yorkshire Police spokesman said officers were called to the house in Roundhay at 12:10 BST. Details of how he died were not yet known, but he was recently in hospital with pneumonia.



Jimmy Saville  
Archive Freewave Media Magazine

Showbusiness friends and colleagues of Sir Jimmy have described him as a 'larger than life' character, which worked tirelessly for various charity causes and made the nation smile along the way.

Ex-Radio 1 DJ Blackburn said his former radio colleague was embraced by everybody, and was "always just Jimmy Saville". "He was just a complete one-off. I think he was a bit of a lonely character as well. In the privacy of his own life I don't think he had very many friends," he told BBC News: "I've never known anyone quite like him. He was a blunt speaking Northerner, but also kind and very respectful."

Sir Jimmy raised £20m for the creation of the National Spinal Injuries Centre at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, in 1983, following damage caused by severe weather to the old pre-fab wooden huts which had housed spinal cord injury patients. A spokeswoman for Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, said everyone was "incredibly saddened" by Sir Jimmy's death. He had been a volunteer at the hospital and ran more than 200 marathons for various charitable organisations. "Sir Jimmy has been a great supporter of Stoke Mandeville Hospital for a number of decades. He was tireless in his attempts to fundraise for the hospital and was integral in the creation of the National Spinal Injuries Centre that we have today. Sir Jimmy will be sorely missed by staff and patients alike."

David Hamilton said that Sir Jimmy, who was knighted for his services to charity, worked tirelessly to raise funds for various causes. "He was a very energetic character, But most of all, I remember him as just a totally flamboyant, over the top, larger than life character and as he was on the air, he was just the same off." Paul Burnett said that Sir Jimmy's charity work was a "two-way street", adding: "He didn't have a family as such and so when he took on a charity that became his family. He did a lot of work as a porter in the hospital that he collected money for. He would go there at night and work as a porter and I think he loved the people that he worked with, it wasn't just for the publicity, but he knew the charities were doing well out of it as well. He was capable of acts of great kindness. He was one of those guys who was so super fit, I thought he would go on forever to be honest. You didn't really ever get to know 'the man' because he was a showman, and like so many showmen that's it that's their main thing in life and he did it brilliantly."

Dave Lee Travis told Sky News that Sir Jimmy was a "larger than life" character, adding: "We are all going to be worse off without him around."

Former manager from Rosko for decades and Journalist Cherry added: "He was such a lovely guy. He helped me tremendously when I was starting as a journalist. He may not have been a pirate but all his great shows were done for Radio Luxembourg from studios in Hertford Street in London and I often got taken to lunch. "

Having started playing records in dance halls in the early 1940s, Savile claimed to be the first ever DJ; according to his autobiography, the first person to use two turntables and a microphone, which he did at the Grand Records Ball at the Guardbridge Hotel in 1947. Savile is widely acknowledged as being one of the first in England and the world to use twin turntables for continuous play of music, thus pioneering the concept of Deejaying as we know it today, though this claim has been disputed: twin turntables were illustrated in the BBC Handbook in 1929, and were advertised for sale in Gramophone magazine as early as 1931. Savile started his radio career working as a Radio Luxembourg DJ from 1958 to 1967. In 1968 he joined BBC Radio 1, where he initially presented Savile's Travels and the discussion show Speakeasy. His best-remembered contribution to Radio 1, however, is the Sunday lunchtime show Jimmy Savile's Old Record Club, where entire top tens from years gone by were played. This was the very first show to feature old charts. Over a period of time, you could hear every record that ever made the BBC Charts. It began in 1973 (initially called The Double Top Ten Show) and ended in 1987 as (The Triple Top Ten Show) at which point he left Radio 1 after 19 years. Although, he could be heard presenting (The

Vintage Chart Show) on BBC World Service between March 1987 to October 1989 playing top tens from 1957-87.

From March 1989 to August 1997 he was heard on various stations around the UK (mostly taking the Gold format, such as the West Midlands' Xtra AM and the original Classic Gold network in Yorkshire) where he revived his Radio 1 shows.

On 25 December 2005, and 1 January 2007, Savile presented shows on the Real Radio network. The Christmas 2005 show counted down the festive Top 10s of 10, 20 and 30 years previously, while the New Year 2007 show (also taken by Century Radio following its acquisition by GMG) featured Savile recounting anecdotes from his past and playing associated records, mostly from the 1960s although some were from the 1970s.

More at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy\\_Savile](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Savile)

Here another Top 8 (10), this time from the author of 'Selling the Sixties', Rob Chapman:

1. Kenny Everett (Radio London)
2. Johnny Walker (Caroline after August 14th)
3. John Peel (Radio London)
4. Boom Boom Brannigan (SRE)
5. Gary Stevens (SRE)
6. Rosko (Caroline South)
7. Tony Allan (Caroline 70s)
8. Andy Archer (RNI)
9. Mike Raven (Atlanta.)
10. Charlie Wolf (Laser 558)

Thanks Rob and good to see Mike Raven in your list too!

Patrick Ambergen advice everyone to google on the name Ron Sedaille and next find his YouTube channels. He presents a very good form of retro radio and plays a lot of jingles we remember from the high days of radio.

In last issue I've mentioned Mike Hayes, former Radio 270 and more, and his new paintings. However something was wrong as he came back with: 'Apparently there was a problem in my last mail. The link is: <http://www.mikesgallery.info> Btw. Yesterday I got a thank you letter from Paris together with a signed photo

from M. Le President. In November this year, I presented M. Sarkozy with my portrait of him. If you'd like to see how he reacted go to:

[http://www.mikesgallery.info/2010/28\\_sarkozy.php](http://www.mikesgallery.info/2010/28_sarkozy.php)

Mike has made a special Christmas song and for the readers of the Hans Knot International Radio Report there's a special low price to download it. Just go for more info to: <http://www.ifellinlovewithasnowgirl.com/2011/>

Well Mike thanks a lot for the info and see it like a treasure to get the letter from the current president of France.

Regular sender of info on the internet is Herman in Gent and this time he has send a link to a page about an Italian project whereby it was suggested that also an offshore radio station would be part of the project, although that was never realized: <http://www.cifr.it/forumarticolo1.html#roseancora>

Tom Polderman is active in radio in a place called Huizen which is in the provence of North Holland and is a bit unhappy that the RadioDay is always organized on the same Saturday as St. Nicolas arrives in the Netherlands to make all the children a bit happy in the period up till December 6<sup>th</sup>. As he reports every years about this festivity on the radio he never can go to our yearly event. Well Tom good news as the RadioDay 2012 will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> and so weeks later in the month than you're used to. Tom is now working as program director at Radio Marina and before this he worked 7 years in a row for nowadays Radio 227. [www.radiomarina.nl](http://www.radiomarina.nl)

Next an e mail from Belgium: 'Hello Hans, I've just been reading your as ever very exciting international radio report and I've found this on Stevie Gee at <http://sydenhamradio.co.uk/presenters/stevie-gee/> so nowadays he's a presenter for a online community radiostation in Sydenham (London SE26 5SE). In his profile he clearly refers to his time on Radio Caroline and you can enjoy some of his previous shows too. You can listen to his 2 hours show called the "Sunday Night at the Sydenham Palladium" on Sunday evening between eight and ten. Cheerio Philip Taghon Jabbeke - Belgium'.

Well that's very good news Philip thanks for that. And anyone who has news or memories let it coming at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Now we go to Jan Sundermann in Germany who wrote: 'Hallo Hans, in one of the last issues of the Report was mentioned the raid of a British landbased pirate in 1934. Well, in Berlin was one even before the start of public broadcasting from Vox-Haus! In 1923 a 16 year old pupil named Manfred made his own

broadcastings, with his sister playing the piano, on wavelength 400 metres. Following this, after a while, his parents' home was raided, the equipment was taken away, and a financial penalty followed. But this event did not prevent him from becoming very soon professionally involved in the actual technical development of broadcasting and communication. Prof. Manfred von Ardenne, born 1907, became a famous scientist and especially in the second half of the last century he was a very popular person in DDR. So your wife Jana will know his story. I found his autobiography early this year at a Düsseldorf flea market for books.



Prof. Manfred von Ardenne  
Photo: Soundscapes Archive

Offshore Radio in contemporary literature, yes that is also reality! In the book "The Buddha of Suburbia" of 1989, the main person is said at one time "did not go to bed, but stayed awake and listened to Radio Caroline". I do have the German version here, named "Der Buddha aus der Vorstadt", and this scene is on page 31, shortly before the end of chapter 1. The author Hanif Kureishi told the story of a young London man living in the tension with his Pakistani based community and the metropolitan life. Hanif Kureishi to the most might be known as author of the movie script "Mein wunderbarer Waschsalon" some years earlier.'

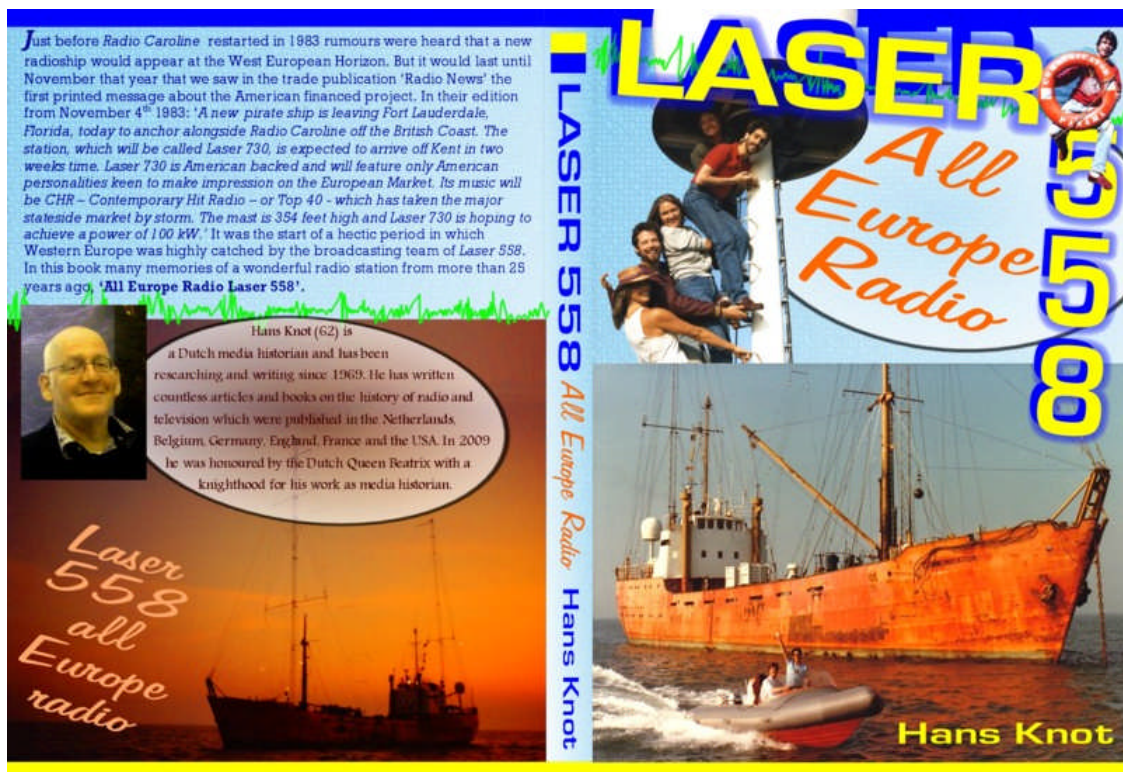
Well Jan wonderful this information for our readers. Thanks a lot for that. Next an e mail from someone who ordered my new book: 'I was so pleased when my copy of your new book "LASER 558 ALL EUROPE RADIO" arrived today, just can't wait to start reading tonight! It would be great one day if I could send a

book plate to an address for you to sign please! I have so much respect for your dedication to radio and especially Offshore Radio. Kind Regards,  
John B Sheffield.'

Well John just sent the plate and the signature will be made. The book had his official presentation on the Radioday, which can be heard on [www.radioday.nl](http://www.radioday.nl)

And to those who haven't ordered their own copy, here more information on the book:

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It did not mean a big surprise as the Radio Caroline radio vessel MV Ross Revenge arrived in the Thames Estuary to seek for an anchorage and to start broadcasting programs for the new Radio Caroline. It was August 1983 and after 42 months the station was back on the air. Some years earlier it had to stop transmissions (March 1980), when their former radioship MV Mi Amigo sunk in a heavy storm.

The new sound of Radio Caroline was for many avid listeners very boring as less talk and too much nonstop music tracks were played. It wasn't the family station we were so fond of. In those days I wrote for Buster Pearson's Monitor Magazine and the Freewave Media Magazine. A third person I have to mention is the late Tom de Munck, who also wrote for the Freewave Media Magazine and

incognito as John Wendale for the Free Radio Magazine. Along with others we followed the offshore scene to bring reports for the readers. The three of us worked closely together in the eighties and succeeded in presenting our work not only to the readers of our magazines but also to several newspapers, magazines and radio stations, who were interested in the intensive work we put into the Laser scene. Now after more than a quarter of a century I dived into our archives to edit this 'All Europe Radio, Laser 558'.

Just before Radio Caroline restarted we already heard rumors' that a new radioship would appear at the West European Horizon. But it would last until November that year that we saw in the trade publication 'Radio News' the first printed message. In their edition from November 4<sup>th</sup> 1983: 'A new pirate ship is leaving Fort Lauderdale, Florida, today to anchor alongside Radio Caroline off the British Coast. The station, which will be called Laser 730, is expected to arrive off Kent in two weeks time. Laser 730 is American backed and will feature only American personalities keen to make impression on the European Market. Its music will be CHR - Contemporary Hit Radio - or Top 40 - which has taken the major stateside market by storm. The mast is 354 feet high and Laser 730 is hoping to achieve a power of 100 kW." I hope this book will bring back a lot of memories to you with the happenings of a wonderful radio station from more than 25 years ago, 'All Europe Radio Laser 558'.

Groningen, Hans Knot, October 2011.

So, there it's the introduction to my new publication, which just came from the printer and is now for sale. It's a 192 pages book, with also many photographs, including 8 in full colour, many not published before. How to order the book: **The Price is 21 Euro, including package and postage. For people from the Netherlands payment can be done at account number 4065700 or 988940301 on the name of Mediacommunicatie, Amsterdam.**

**For ordering from outside the Netherlands you can use either 4065700 or 988940301 adding IBAN NL85INGB0004065700 BIC INGBNL2A**

**Or you can use paypal: [rob@mediacommunicatie.nl](mailto:rob@mediacommunicatie.nl)**

Please inform also the author when ordering the book and giving your complete address where the book can be send to at **[HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)**

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**Offshore Radio**  
An app for your Apple iPhone, iPad or iPod touch.

Special edition for the attendees of the  
Radio Day 2011 in Amsterdam.

Gerd Klawitter known for his many books on radio and television has produced an App for Iphones and Ipods. It can be bought on the Apple Website for only € 2.39. For the complete information the flyer is now on our site at:

<http://www.radioday.nl/2011/Offshore%20Radio.pdf>

From Gerd in Germany we go to Graham in England who wrote: 'Hello Hans. Thanks for continuing to send me the monthly Radio Report which is always read, although I don't have anything to contribute these days. However, I do have a question for Jack Spector aficionados. Do you remember when he used to say "Time for Two in a Row on the Jack Spector Show" (and usually sound his horn with a spot of reverb!). Do any of your readers remember the title of the piece of music he used to use as a backing track to that intro? I believe the artist was Dave 'Baby' Cortez, but having scanned all seven pages of Cortez' entries on YouTube still haven't been able to hear that particular tune since the halcyon days. Sorry I don't have any tapes of Jack Spector which feature this - only his show openings and closures. This is specifically the piece of music under "It's time for two in a row on the Jack Spector show" with a nice blast of the horn on reverb. Hoping somebody can come up with a solution! All the best  
Graham L Newman.'

Thanks Graham, well I can't remember myself so the question to the readers: who knows the answer or has an idea? Answers can be send to: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next a reader from Scotland: 'This morning's Daily Telegraph carried an article about BBC Archives. Might be of use for the international report? Best way to see it is to go to their website [www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk) and in the search box put in the title 'BBC releases more of its audio archive'. Cheers! Graeme Stevenson.'

Radioday 2011 brought also memories to many radio stations, including Radio London. Big L was not only popular by millions of listeners but also brought an

exclusive sound to Europe which wasn't heard here before. From late 1964 up till August 1967 the station was wonderful but had to close down due to the introduction of the Marine Offences Act. Those who listened to their Final Hour couldn't believe that 44 years after the closedown of Big L still hundreds of fans of the station would get together in 2011 to listen to the stories of their heroes from the sixties. Just before the Radioday I got an e mail which made me very happy. Ron Bunninga, son of captain Bunninga, scanned his dia archive and came up with wonderful pictures from the Galaxy in colour, which are not published before. So have a look and enjoy these pictures taken in Hamburg harbour, probably early 1968. Photo: Archive Ron Bunninga. All the other photos from Ron can be found [at www.hansknot.com](http://www.hansknot.com)



Very good news from Mike in Israel: 'Hi Hans, I am sure Noam Tal has written to you about this, but just in case he hasn't... Next week, on Monday 21st November at 16.30, the Hertzlia Municipality is going to honor Abie Nathan by naming a street after him. Well done to Hertzlia for recognizing Abie's contribution to peace! Enclosed is the invitation to the event. All the best, Mike Brand.



Time for a nickname and this time we go back to early 1968 and a recording from Caroline International in which Stevie Merike called himself 'Filly' Stevie.

Compliments to Alex van der Hoek who made two short movies about the RadioDay which are on the internet:

<http://youtu.be/cA0HFP4DVE0?hd=1>

<http://youtu.be/Aq-NVQgBPMM?hd=1>

Have we been in France during this report? Well Paul Ciesielski wrote me an e mail: 'Hi, Hans. Please find here photos, of the model of the Communicator. It's now ready. This model was built at scale 1/100:58cm. Friendly greetings. Paul Ciesielski.'

Thanks Paul and enclosed is one of the photos of the wonderful model. For those who want to get more information on the models of radio ships, built by Paul, can write him at [vanafdenoordzee@gmail.com](mailto:vanafdenoordzee@gmail.com)



Well as promised we now go to the second episode of the Carl Mitchell Files

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## THE CARL MITCHELL FILES

### Part 2

#### **Interference mentioned on television**

But not everyone was happy about the signal. A girl called Margaret was writing in at the end of that month from Leeds: 'It's great to hear a decent radio station again, after two years of enforced monopoly. The least said about that the better! There seems to be quite a bit about RNI in the papers and on telly at the moment, something about your frequency causing interference. I know it's not directly to do with you, but my friend Carole and I have the idea it has something to do with the boat leaving the Dutch coast for the British and so heading for troubles.'

#### **Advice**

After she wrote that the arrival of Britain hadn't improved too much the signal, in the surroundings where she lives, she gave us an advice: 'I've just a great idea about how to improve reception up here in Yorkshire. What about anchoring the MEBO II five miles of Scarborough coast? Another thing: hurry up and start some Frinton Flashing for all the passion wagon people. A pity you don't have jobs for girls out there. I told Caroline I would buy her a pair of waterrings for her birthday, but she didn't seem to keen on a five mile swim. Are there any car stickers and other promotional stuff going yet! I know it's illegal, but who cares. If I get put in jail I don't have to go to school.'

#### **The news on the station**

Following the methods used by the offshore stations in the past, RNI received all of its news by monitoring the BBC. We usually recorded their news broadcasts on Radio 2 and sometimes Radio 4, The Home Service, for more comprehensive information. All of our news was prepared on the bridge where we used a large communication receiver and a tape recorder so that we could play it back slowly to type it out. When we first started broadcasting, this type of news, it was read from the large production studio. Later the on-air studio was rewired by Spangles Muldoon and Michael Lindsay, with also another microphone so that all the continuity with jingles and records could be done from there. In the communication room there was a receiver and teleprinters. If RNI had continued, in 1970, there were plans to put this equipment in working order so that we could have received information for news from one of the international wire services. There were also plans to hire a full time news reader if the teletype machine were to be used. However we never received the necessary parts. In the last few months of operation in 1970, as the station was slowly being organised. Alan was given the title of News Director.

### **Also complaints from France**

Very soon after a series of test programming had stopped, and normal programs started, a lot of mail came in, not only from Great Britain but also from other countries. And this went on in the months to come. Like the one from Alain Cockenpot from Lomme in France, written during the time RNI was on 244 metres. 'Here in France some of my friends have trouble to get RNI on 244 metres because there is a French station 'France Culture Broadcasting' from Carenbou in the North of France. As for me the reception is audible. As France Culture stops at 12 pm after 'Le Marseillaise', the French hymn, please could you broadcast some announcements at this time in French. For example: 'Vous écoutez Radio Nordsee International sur 244 metres ondes moyenes. Radio Nordsee International, premiere station pop Européene. RNI Boxe Postale 113 Zürich 8047 Suisse !' If you don't have a French deejay on board let me know, I will record some announcements in French for RNI.' Nice French letter and as you know we got later in 1970 a special program for listeners abroad and world wide, presented by AJ Beirens, who was multi lingual.

### **On and off**

When off the British coast the authorities thought that we were illegal, although in international waters, and as we were accused of breaking the Marine Offences Act from August 1967, we had to be jammed! Strong transmitters were used to blow our signal on several frequencies away. The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT) commenced the jamming, starting April 15<sup>th</sup>, from a station in Rochester and using a 9880 c/s tine. So we were one day on 217 metres and the other day on 244 metres. But also we were off the air for a few days. Of course our listeners were not happy with this and wrote several letters.

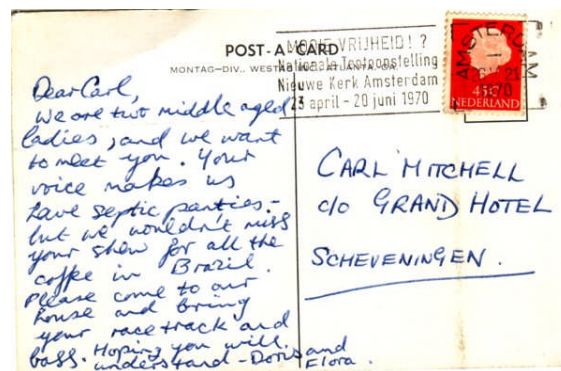
### **Ellainna Sweeney in Kent**

She wrote on May 14<sup>th</sup>: 'I shall be glad when Nordsee comes on the air again. I was just going to listen to Duncan Johnson when off she went. I expect you can just guess what I would like to do this government, because they are taking our freedom from us. I may be getting on in years, but I have still plenty of fight in me yet, to fight for our rights. I am sending you a photo of the boys that were on Caroline. The four boys at the other end away from the poodle were on the North ship as well the two boys below. The middle one was Steve Young and the other two photos are of Keefers. He was a lovely boy and so thoughtful. He always remembered to play a record for me on my birthday. I'm no 68 years old. If you ever should come to England and not far from my place do try and come to see me. You would be most welcome. Well take care, and I hope you will be soon on the air again. I suppose you will have to get another new frequency. You

were not interfering with anyone on 217 metres. Let me tell you one thing Carl: the Englishman is his own worst enemy!

### **In Holland the postman had a high IQ**

One day I got a card from two ladies, Doris and Elora. They addressed it to Carl Mitchell c/o Grand Hotel in Scheveningen. We did mention on the air - now and then - that our directors stayed in this Hotel and those two ladies just sent the past card off to the Hotel. It arrived safely, but that was not all as they wrote: 'Dear Carl, we are two middle aged ladies, and we want to meet you. Your voice makes us have septic panties, but we wouldn't miss your show for all the coffee in Brazil. Please come to our house and bring your racetrack and boss. Hoping you will understand.'



### **Not only the middle aged ladies**

Next to cards and letters as mentioned above also young ladies wrote in, sometimes with very long letters. For instant Judi Simson, a late night listener from Hertfordshire who made '11 pages' as very normal in 'deejay writing': 'I don't really know what I'm going to write. I think I just feel overemotional. Carl, why is that, that my little dreams collapse when you're on the air. It can't be the lateness of the hour. John Peel's Perfumed Garden never affected me like this, in fact quite the opposite. I never really wrote poetry before I started listening to him. I like my dream you know, it's nice to be famous and brilliant, especially when life seems one dull mess all day every day. So, I ask again, what is that you do to me that collapses my castles in the air so drastically? Please tell me. I don't enjoy spending time without them and yet, I cannot just switch off RNI. In fact I strain to hear your words above the German station next door and the morse code which threaten to swamp you. And just the simple statement of 'don't forget to switch off your radio sets' has me groping half-blinded for a handkerchief.' And that was just one of the 11 pages Judi sent in to RNI.

### **On the search**

Fans from the station could do several things to get a good idea from us like Michael Hind from Manor Park, who wrote one day about his trial to make photos of our radio ship: 'You sure did sound disappointed last Friday when you had to close down on the medium wave. My fiancée and I were sitting in the car on Clacton sea front when you went off. We had driven down hoping that we would be able to see the MEBO II. I had taken my pair of binoculars with us, and we could see the ship. I also took a camera with me, the trouble we had trying to take a picture of the ship through the binoculars, whether it will come out or not is another matter. In the end I finished up by jamming the glasses in between the car window and the top of the car, and then I got the ship in focus and then put the lens of the camera up to one of the eye pieces and took a shoot. A bit weird you might say. Anyway I hope it comes out.'

### **Election week in England**

After six weeks of jamming, election week became another crucial point in the continuation of the station. The attitude of everyone who worked for RNI and our listeners in England was that the Labour Government was directly responsible for this extreme measure to keep us from being heard in England. Consequently, Bollier and Meister reached an agreement with ex Caroline figure Ronan O'Rahilly to head a campaign throughout the country to attempt to turn the election in favour of the Conservatives. The station changed its name to Radio Caroline for one week prior to the election in order to capitalize on old memories. Our link with shore was used to keep us in touch with what was going on. This was especially helpful for the rally held in Hyde Park in London on Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **On the air reporting**

We were able to say over the air exactly how the rally was going, where it was moving and how many people were there. Following the rally we were given instructions by one of Ronan's men who stayed on the ship as to what election districts to concentrate on. Several days before the election Bollier and Meister had passed the word on to us that should the Labour Government retain its power, RNI would either be closed down or go back off the Dutch coast. Thus, feelings and emotions were running quite high between all the deejays and Larry Tremaine, the American program director.

### **Conservatives did win**

Most of us believed that the conservatives would lose the election, putting us all out of a job. The public opinion polls favoured Labour painted a glum picture;

however we believed that it just couldn't be possible for that party to gain so fast in the public favour. Often we alluded over the air to the idea that the polls had been rigged to force an election. How knead or far from the truth we were, who knows? Election night was quite a hassle as we were monitoring the results of the television and relaying these figures via a hastily rigged telephone system to the studios below.

### **Early in the morning**

By one o'clock in the morning, everyone felt that the Conservatives would win, the feelings on the boat changed drastically from extreme pessimism to joyous optimism. The ironic part of the whole affair was that we honestly believed the Conservatives Government would cease jamming the station and finally we had a future. The party we had that Friday night with many of our regular visitors from shore was a suburb example of our belief, listener's letters flowed in after that.

### **Listeners sometimes went too far**

Someday we had a good laugh on letters coming in, but it could go too far. Some of the listeners adored us and hated others. Eileen from Finchley in London wrote a very nice letter but ended with some drawing: 'Dear Saints, I just had to write and tell you that I think you're beautiful. I know you'll stay on the air as long as you can. Don't let them stop you. In England, since London and Caroline counted out we have been brainwashed by the BBC. We have been forced to listen to scripted deejays and rubbishy music especially picked for our entertainment. I don't think the brainwashing worked too well on most average intelligence teenagers.'

### **Great music**

'You're music is really great and so are your deejays and your adverts. If there are any records or anything that you are unable to get, please write me and let me know and I will try to get them for you. Also, if any of you are ever in England and you are stuck for someone to stay please feel free to call on me and I am sure we could put you up. Lots of love, and luck, from Eileen.' Nice isn't? Well she did some drawing which I thought broke down all the nice words



### **Relaxing tension and easing boredom**

Imagine 14 - 15 people living together on a boat many of them are non sailors. We aren't used to such little space to move around in and so few things to do to let our excess energy. Although we often feel like picking a fight with someone, because of this tension, when we had to continue to live closely with that person, fights weren't the best way to get the adrenalin flowing in our blood. We did find other ways to relieve that tension. Although it might sound silly and childish, we often felt the better for it afterwards. Take for instance the time when we were all sitting down to dinner and Andy Archer, for no apparent reason, decided to calmly place a bowl of ice-cream upside down Mark Wesley's head. Mark just calmly and deliberately picked up the butter dish and placed it squarely on Andy's face. And so it continued. Before long, the dining room was in complete turmoil with food flying in every direction until there was virtually nothing left to throw.

### **Water for the cleaning**

You can't help but laugh when you see someone covered from head to food with anything that stuck. Then, like a bunch of naughty kids, we hastily cleaned up before the captain came in who wasn't very keen on such activity. Just when you think well, that's all over with and didn't every one look silly with great globs of rice and apple mouse, sticking to their hair, I just couldn't resist the urge to pour a large bucket of water we were using to clean up over Kurt, the Swiss engineer. And it all happens over again. Lucky enough water is much easier to clean. By that time, we had split up roughly into two teams. One was using a lancet in the toilet on the deck and the other one putting buckets over the side of the ship, hauling them back up full, on ropes. No one escapes a drenching. Even the captain, mistakenly on purpose, was soaked when he came out of the bridge and Steve Ladd was waiting up on the roof with a couple of full buckets.

### **Alcohol**

It was a good laugh all around and everyone felt a bit better for it. After it was all over and cleaned the dining room was cleaner than when we mostly begun. After walking into the showers with all of our clothes on to wash off the mess,

everyone could go back to their routines with something to talk about feeling slightly better by having some good clean fun. Sometime everyone was feeling quite merry and it restarted when someone spoiled a drink over someone else. Instead of leading to a fight, the alcohol really started to flow. Over people, over furniture, the walls and the floor. Koos, the cook, sought refuge in the kitchen where he found a large supply of eggs. He came back into the captain's lounge with a handful and just threw them in any direction. Others soon found out where the eggs were stored and before long the ship looked totally like a giant egg had exploded over and in it.

### **Even between the sheets**

Some clever sailor had even planned for the future, for when I went to bed that night. I distinctly heard a crunching sound when I lay down. Eggs between the sheets and that was not a very comfortable feeling either. Steve Ladd was rudely awakened when the chief machinist came into his cabin and broke two eggs over his head as expertly he was just about to make an omelette. Even we did run short of eggs later on, it was good fun while it lasted. Even more, it released a lot of the tension between us all, even bringing us closer together.

### **Name check**

At one stage I got a letter from a guy in Southwick, near Brighton, who wrote: 'This is a genuine 'weird beard' here, so you can see by my signature, and I must say that, I'm really proud to know that the best Pirate Radio Station on the air, has a deejay associated with my name!' Well the letter was indeed signed by Mr., S. Beard.

### **Sneaking into England in a rubber boat**

In the summer of 1970, when we were off the British Coast, a large rubber boat with an outboard motor was sent out to the ship. It was to be used in case of emergency. Should anyone become extremely sick, they could be taken off to land immediately. As it turned out we often went for 'joy rides', over to the Barrow Deep light vessel located 2 miles away or just to get away from the MEBO for a while. One warm day, late in June, we had been making arrangements to discuss with Larry Tremaine (in England) over the ship-to-shore link, some new programming ideas. He was to come down to Frinton where the band receiver was located. Being a nice day and feeling somewhat adventures, we decided to go ashore to talk with him. I went along with the captain, the chief machinist and Kurt, the only engineer on the ship at the time.

### **Loss of a motor boat**

As often happened on nice days, boats would come out from shore to pay us a visit. Some lads from Frinton, who were regulars, came out one day in a small speed boat. While they were on the MEBO II, the weather worsened and it became impossible for them to return. The crew decided it was the best to hail their boat up on deck but while doing this, the rope snapped and off the speed boat drifted into the distance. By this time, the sea had become quite rough. All the same, the captain decided to put a lifeboat over the side to go off in pursuit of the other craft. Three Dutch crewmembers, including the chief and steward, were hurriedly joined by Larry Tremaine, who was on the spot with his camera and Bermuda shorts.

### **Never seen the photos**

Larry was urged to join the others - 'there might be some good photo's in it for you Larry.' - It's quite possible that some of us were secretly thinking he might fall overboard. Those thoughts were not far from what actually happened. From the moment the boat was lowered into the water, they had to fight against large waves and a strong current. It was also starting to get dark as this took place in the evening. We watched them row like mad until they passed beyond the site of our binocularly. It was then that we thought they wouldn't be able to return to the radio ship as the current was very strong. Our beliefs were confirmed when a red flare lit the sky about 3 or 4 miles south our position. There was not much we could do as they had the only lifeboat. Some had the brilliant idea of setting off our own flare to acknowledge that we had seen theirs. One was sent off and fell into the sea before the flare exploded. It was quite a sight to see a red fire burning under the sea, but hardly helpful for the stranded lads in the lifeboat.

### **Coastguard**

As a last resort, we contacted the coast guard who sounded quite perturbed about the whole situation. To complicate matters a German freighter in the area had been observing this whole episode and turned from its course towards Harwich to give chase. As it happened they reached the life boat and attempted to tow it back to the MEBO II. Apparently, it was like trying to tow a half drowned duck as our lifeboat had been mysteriously taking in water. Some water was washing in over the sides from the High Sea, but most of it was flowing in from a bungles bung hole. Somebody had obviously forgotten to replace it when the lifeboat had last been drained.

### **Official warning**

And the comedy-farce continued. The German vessel, seeing that they were obviously drowning the poor buggers by towing them and at the same time half

pulling the boat under the sea, stopped to haul them aboard. While they were drying out and gulping down stiff drinks, the lifeboat from Walton on the Naze arrived on the scene, took the lads back on board and proceeded to take them and the lifeboat back to the MEBO II. Such a sight you would not believe. Four bedraggled, half naked creatures were handed over to us with a stern warning from the Lifeboat Institute men not to let it happen again.

Well more next month in the third and last episode of the Carl Mitchell Files.

Finally don't forget to have a look on the next internet sites for recent updates

too: <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/>

<http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/>

[www.bobleroi.co.uk](http://www.bobleroi.co.uk)

[www.offshore-radio.de](http://www.offshore-radio.de)

And as we're heading to the end of this year I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and don't forget to send your memories or your personal Top 8 of deejays to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)