

**OFFSHORE**



**ONE**

# OFFSHORE ONE

Hello and welcome to OFFSHORE Magazine! I can guarantee more success with this one than I did with my last effort, FORCE Bulletin, with which I almost got sued for libel by the G.P.O.! OFFSHORE Mag is here not only because so many free radio publications have 'disappeared' from the scene lately, but also because there is an increasing number of 'free radio freaks' around these days, with the re-opening of Radio Caroline, and the rumours of more stations in the near future. So we aim to give as complete and up-to-date coverage as possible to all offshore listeners, new and old alike. Please write in to me, Tony Jackson, at 142 Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middx. TW14 0BA and let me know what you think. Happy reading and happy listening, and don't forget to send for Issue 2, out in April, only 6p plus S.A.E. (large).

## CONTENTS

- Page 4. Mebo 3 soon?
- Page 5. 4 bells ring - it's Caroline.
- Page 6. Veronica v. I.B.A. - no battle.
- Page 7. Pirate No. 4 ready to go.
- Page 8. Light-headed!
- Page 9. Offshore History; the '50's.
- Page 13. Robbie Holland speaks!
- Page 14. Programme Schedules; R.N.I.
- Page 16. Jolly Roger Stevens Page.
- Page 17. Tony Jackson - again!
- Page 18. Stop Press News.....

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## RNI NEWS

MEBO 3?

By the end of June this year, a new offshore station should be broadcasting from the Mediterranean Sea. Providing equipment for the latest sea 'pirate' are Mebo Ltd. of Zurich - owners of Radio Nordsee International. It is now almost certain that R.N.I.'s Messrs. Meister and Bollier are the owners of this new offshore enterprise, which will broadcast mainly religious programmes, and will be equipped as a hospital station for emergency use in storms, etc.

The name of the vessel to be used is not yet known, however, there is a strong possibility of the M.V. Galaxy being used (the old home of Radio London). You may remember that the Galaxy was originally going to be the home of R.N.I., and a lot of money was spent on equipping her. The boat will be tendered from Monaco.

As for the Mebo 2, the medium wave transmitter is to be taken off the air any time now, for a complete overhaul. The work will take two days, and during this time their stand-by m.w. transmitter will be on the air. When the main tx is ready, it will be on a full 105kw for the first time ever. Reports say that the stand-by will be re-tuned to 390 metres "for use later on". Meanwhile, R.N.I.'s 31 metre tx has been testing, and a new generator has been recently installed.

Rob Eden and Terry Davis, who were due to work in London for Mebo Ltd., are not now with the station, presumably because Rob recently did a broadcast from Radio Caroline, R.N.I.'s rivals. Future of the London office is uncertain.  
(stop press news - page 19...) R.H.

# caroline news

5

## 4 bells ring - it's CAROLINE

Radio Caroline, from the M.V. Mi Amigo, will really be getting things together very soon. The 470-ton vessel has been recently re-painted and carries the Bell insignia. The studios are on deck, unlike those on the Mebo 2 and the Nordeney. The English Service is to broadcast on another frequency simultaneously with the Dutch Service, which will continue on 259m. At present Caroline broadcasts 24 hours a day, but the new services will go out only 20 hours a day.

At the moment all programmes are live from the ship, but Dutch shows will eventually be taped on land, from the five new studios being built for Caroline in the Hague. British D.J. line-up is :- Tony Allen, Norman Barrington-Smythe, Steve England, Andy Archer and newcomer Robin Atcroft. Graham Gill and Alan Clark will be joining the team later. Crispian St. John, formerly top RNI deejay in 1971, has now resigned from Caroline. He complained about bad food, lack of format, and poor advertising, apart from not getting paid.

Station Manager Spangles Muldoon, has since stated that these faults have been rectified. The format has now been changed to a basic top Forty one (at last all those lp tracks are gone!). They have realised, sensibly, that they must be more commercial.

Caroline's new 100kw transmitter is now ready to go on the air, but bad weather has prevented this; as they are waiting to install a new aerial mast. The original mast was broken in a force-10 gale last November.

(stop press news - page 18...) R.H.

# 6 Veronica

## Veronica and the I.B.A. - No Battle

Rumours that were circulating in the British press recently that Radio Veronica was going to jam the B.B.C. after the I.B.A. started test transmissions on 539 metres, have proved unfounded.

The tests make reception of Radio Veronica impossible in the London area, although the unofficial I.B.A. tests cannot normally be heard in the Netherlands.

Some newspapers, one of them the Daily Mirror, said that Veronica was planning to counter-attack by jamming the B.B.C. However, one of the directors of the station described these reports as "insane". He added that it had never been the stations policy to cause interference to any other broadcasting station.

And so Veronica continues on 538 metres, and the I.B.A., using a Radio 3 type format, tests for several days of the week on 539 metres.

## Lucky Thirteen for VRON?

April 21st marks the beginning of a possibly lucky thirteenth year for the station, for if the Dutch Government decides to ratify the Marine Offences Act (its third reading is in March), Veronica's directors are hoping to receive an "official pardon" as it were, and be able to operate legally, on land. This is probably why they intend to take no action against the I.B.A., and also why Veronica is remaining very quiet lately, whilst the other offshore stations are deciding how to beat the M.O.A. in order to survive.

# Voice of Peace

7

As there has not been much news coverage (even in the F.R. Mags) of the Voice of Peace station, I will give a brief history of the venture. Jewish Abie Nathan, peace missionary extraordinary, has spent three years raising the money to buy and equip a ship. No ordinary ship though, in fact not even an ordinary 'pirate' radio ship. For this one, along with its owner, has a tough and dangerous mission; to bring peace to the trouble-torn middle-east. Now Nathan and his peace ship are ready to head for their moorage, four miles off Suez.

The ship, called simply 'Peace', has been fully equipped with the latest studio and transmitting equipment, paid for mainly by donations from the Dutch churches and Dutch sympathisers. Nathan has aquired a frequency for broadcasting, but will not disclose it "for fear we will be jammed". However, the station is likely to use the medium wave, which is the most commonly used band in the Arab countries. Power output will be 50kw., and the programmes will consist mainly of "the popular music of the countries concerned, to attract particularly the attention of young people. Theme tune? Give Peace a Chance.

Latest news is that Mebo Ltd. of Zurich (the owners of R.N.I.) undertook to finish equipping the boat at their own expense, and have in return secured the rights to relay the station's broadcasts to Europe via the short wave transmitters of Radio Nordsee International. Provided all goes well, the Voice of Peace should be on the air any day now. So let's wish the peaceful pirate luck. I think he'll need some!

# LIGHT-HEADED!

Crispian St. John gets into the 1973 edition of the Guinness book of Records after claiming to have consumed 472 tins of meatballs on Radio Caroline in four months.....Stevi Merike, on the other hand says he wants more time on B.B.C. Radio Brighton and gets a £2 per week job cleaning out the studios.....!

'Morning Cloud' has been sold to Mark Stuart, who uses it to broadcast pop music three miles off Cowes, Isle of Wight. Mark, however, had to close the station owing to lack of funds, and is now using the boat as a girls' boarding school. Only comment from Mark :- "Business is brisk. I'm very happy".....

A Pan-Am Jumbo is hijacked by Ronan O'Rahilly over London. Ronan persuades the Captain to let him transmit Caroline TV. for two hours. Pan-Am decide to employ Ronan, and commence daily transmissions of PAK-TV.....

Rumour going around that Radio 2 is now broadcasting from the M.V. Laissez Faire, five miles off the coast of Harwich. Certainly those jingles sound familiar.....

Cases of meatballs (yes, meatballs) sent to R.F.I. from the Caroline organization, caused a scare last week, when the meatballs were found to contain explosives. However, no-one was hurt except 'Daffy' Don Allen, who swallowed one by mistake; reports say that he belched and lost three teeth, then passed wind and lost the seat of his trousers!.....

(If you believe anything on this page, you're as crazy as the OFFSHORE Magazine staff!) R.H.

# FLASHBACK: 1958's

On the eleventh day of July, 1958, a small fishing boat dropped anchor in the Baltic Sea five miles from Copenhagen, capital of Denmark. Why was it there? What were the intentions of the people on board? Little did they know it then, but the people of Denmark were about to hear the beginning of a revolution in sound broadcasting; a revolution that was to have the Governments of Europe screaming with rage; a revolution that would change the lives of millions of people all over the world.

On the second of August, the men on board the vessel, called 'Cheetah I', became the very first "pop pirates", as they played tapes of the latest records and relayed them through a transmitter, into the homes of the people of Denmark and South Sweden. The response was tremendous. Everyone grew to love the station, Radio Mercur (88MHz FM, 14kw), and its format, which was mainly music, with some local programmes in selected time-slots. Everyone, that is, except the Danish Government and the Danish Broadcasting System, who were both angry and embarrassed by the remarkable popularity and quality of the new station.

If we were to go back some twenty years or so, and listen to the Danish Broadcasting System (indeed, to any European broadcasts), we would be left in little doubt as to why the 'Cheetah I' dropped its anchor on the day in 1958. In fact, it is not even worth mentioning any stations. Nearly all the European stations held a monopoly position in their own reception areas, broken only by good old Radio Luxembourg, which even then provided little real competition for the monopolists.



I think it would be true to say that in every country there was a group of people who were determined to improve the state of radio, by "fair means or foul", even in those early days. Most people knew that the newly-formed system in America was proving immensely popular with the Americans, both young and old. In Denmark a group of businessmen knew this too; they had been informed of the fact by an American business colleague, who suggested that he should help them to campaign for a better radio system; namely commercial radio. The government, however were not interested, and regarded the plans submitted by the two men as an insult to their own broadcasting system.

The only thing to do, suggested the American, was to go ahead by themselves. And so, traditionally, the Danes took to the sea! It was no secret that once outside the three mile territorial limit, they could broadcast freely without a licence, as no country can enforce its laws outside its own boundaries. Every country recognises this 'Maritime Law', whereby each nation 'owns' three miles of sea around its coastline, called Territorial Waters. All water outside three miles of a coastline is called International Waters.

Within a matter of weeks of Radio Mercur's first broadcasts (Radio Mercur was the station's identification name), the Danish Government set its "legal boys" the task of silencing the station and to making sure that no-one else would start planning a similar venture. On the face of it, this would seem to be no easy task, as about 90% of the population was against the Government's intentions; we must not forget that a democratic government must always bear in mind the views of its voters. Never-the-less, governments usually find ways of doing things without too much difficulty!

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It happened that there was to be a new European Convention - set up by the International Telecommunications Union - in Geneva in 1959. This was to be a lucky break for the Danish Government, and they immediately prepared a proposal that the Convention enact a clause to prohibit broadcasting from ships in International Waters. This move was to lead to a classic case of misleading the public.

Article 422, as the proposal was termed, was pushed by the Danes, with the help of its Scandinavian neighbours, and was passed and written into the Convention, although there was considerable opposition by some countries, who argued that Article 422 was a breach of one of the basic human rights; the freedom of speech. After Article 422 was passed, the Danish Government started to talk of the "International Duties" of the European Nations to act against all offshore stations, and attempts to make it appear that the members of the I.T.U. had forced Denmark to act against Radio Mercur, when in fact it was the other way round. A brilliant piece of deception!

Meanwhile, Radio Mercur was gaining in popularity. It had become so popular in Sweden too, that in 1959 Mercur started broadcasting for two hours daily in Swedish, sponsored by one of Sweden's top businesswomen, Mrs. Britt Wagner. Later that year, the Swedish programmes were broadcast on a different channel, which was named Radio Syd (85.3MHz FM, 10kw). Both stations went on the air on the FM (VHF) band, as the medium wave band was deemed unsuitable in that area.

Nobody was particularly worried about the Geneva Convention's Article 422 as the Government's main concern was to devise a suitable Bill to pass through the Danish Parliament. The Swedish Government was also busy with legislation against the 'pirates', with the coming of Radio Syd, in Swed-

/continued.....

ish. Meanwhile, Radios Denmark and Sweden's national networks were frantically reorganising their schedules, in an effort to get their listeners back!

And so, as the 1950's drew to a close, the 'pirate war' was really hotting up. Had all the Governments of Europe ratified the notorious Article 422 in 1959, they might have been spared a lot of trouble. Little did they know how many headaches that mistake was going to cause them in the 1960's!

Tony Jackson

\* Next ish: Flashback  
looks at 1960, and  
the coming of Radio  
Veronica.

THE FLASHBACK SERIES

In compiling my own particular version of the history of offshore radio stations (spotlighting one year per issue, chronologically), I have endeavoured to paint as accurate a picture as possible, with my limited sources of information and ready cash! However, much of the information I have collected over the years, with reference to the Scandinavian offshore stations in particular, is worthless, as the articles, cuttings, etc., often conflict with each other.

Therefore, in cases of conflict I have taken the majority view, or the most popular view, of the various writers concerned.

If you think that anything I have written in this series is wrong, please let me know, giving the source of information to which you are referring, and if your information is correct, I will correct my error in a future issue.

T.J.

# ROBBIE WHO?

Well here I am putting pen to paper on a Saturday night listening to Arnold Layne. Rob Holland - where have I heard that name before? That's what you're all saying aren't you? No? Oh. Mr. Holland is a professional disc jockey, mate. By the way, I'll send you a show if you want one. Just send me a tape and I'll do the rest.

You lot out there (yes you sir!) who have just ordered this mag for a laugh and something to read in the French lesson should definitely take offshore radio seriously - and Rob Holland!

Since the introduction of the Marine Offences Act in 1967, nobody has been prosecuted. Its purpose was to deprive the ever-increasing stations off the British coast of the two things they needed the most; supplies and advertising. It also took away our right to listen to what we want to. The B.B.C. introduced Radio 1 and thrust it upon us. No choice was offered to us.

It is like going into a restaurant and finding there is only one set meal with no menu. I say thank goodness for R.N.I., Veronica and Caroline. Nobody should be able to tell us what we should listen to and what is good for us. We should have the right to our own choice. Why should we have to pay for something which we do not want to hear (licence fees)?

I definitely believe we have a case for these wonderful ship-bourne stations. So stand by. Turn up your radios full blast and show the people of the United Kingdom that there is something else apart from the noise of 247 and 208! Right then, that's it. Bye for now. See you in issue 2.

Robbie Holland.

## RNI SCHEDULES

MON-FRI(Times C.E.T. -1 for GMT)

- 6-9am Gerard Smit, alternating weekly with Mark van Amstel, live from Mebo II.
- 9-10 Branding; Non-stop music.
- 10-12 Peter Holland Show; Doorsnee Noordsee.
- 12-2pm Tony Berk in Action.
- 2-4 Hairy with Ferry Maat.
- 4-6 Driemaster live from Mebo II, with Leo van der Goot and Alfred Lagarde.
- 6-8 Nico Steenbergen Show.
- 8-10 Mike Ross Show (Thursday - Around Europe, (Friday - International Top Thirty Show)
- 10-1 'Daffy' Don Allen Show. (Not Friday)
- 1-4am Brian McKenzie Show (Friday 12-2 - Don Allen with Country & Western Jamboree)

SATURDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- 10-12am Sport Programme with Nico Steenbergen.
- 12-3pm Super-Top-Fifty Show with Ferry Maat.
- 3-5 Dutch DeeJay Hitpicks with Tony Berk.
- 4-6am Skyline Show with Mark Slate.

SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- 12-2am Rock & Roll Show with Brian McKenzie.
- 4-7am Skyline Show with Mark Slate.
- 8-10pm Hitback Show with Mike Ross.
- 10-8pm World Service (short wave 6.205MHz only), including, 10-11am, Nordsee Goes D.X., with A.J. Beirens.

NEWS & WEATHER on the hour, 7am-2am.

Newsreaders and Stand-in deejays; Hans Morna, Hans ten Hooge, Mark Slate and Arnold Layne.

HMMMM!

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 \* NEXT FANTASTIC ISSUE!!! Hon. Edward Heath, \*  
 \* Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, Mike Ross, Don Allen, \*  
 \* Lord Harlech, Lord Sutch, Elvis Presley, \*  
 \* John Lennon and the Pope. We will be featur- \*  
 \* ing none of these next issue, but we're \*  
 \*\* working on some of them! However, there will \*\*  
 \* be lots of goodies in OFFSHORE Two, including \*  
 \* part two of our offshore radio history, inter- \*  
 \* esting and humorous articles by the OFFSHORE \*  
 \* team, and of course all the latest news on the \*  
 \* pirate front. Order OFFSHORE Two now, only 6p \*  
 \* plus large SAE from, 134 Eastworth Road, Chert- \*  
 \* sey, Surrey, KT16 8DT. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

As an offshore radio enthusiast, there must be something that you've always wanted to lay your hands on (not you Madam), whether its a book on offshore radio, old press cuttings, tapes, records, stickers, etc. From next issue, we are starting a WANTED column. Just send in your needs and we'll print them, absolutely free, for a limited time only. So watch out for the wanted column next issue! (send needs to the Feltham address please)

OFFSHORE SMALL ADS. If you have something to sell, and you want to sell it to the 'offshore population', then this magazine is where you should place an advertisement! Our rates are very reasonable indeed! Just two pence per word, maximum of 50 words (£1). We will advertise anything and everything (even you Madam), so why not give OFFSHORE Magazine SMALL ADS a try now!

# JOLLY ROGER....

A new offshore station is about to be launched, called 'Radio Rubbish', which at this moment lies at anchor six miles off the north bank of the River Mole. The boat, six feet long, has stabilisers or pontoons at the sides for riding out the rough weather. An interesting factor is that the aerial is quite revolutionary with its gas-filled balloon and its attached wire, which not only helps in sending a good signal, but also keeps the boat afloat.

Rumour has it that full transmissions will begin as soon as the owners fork out enough money for a new nine volt battery and a disc jockey. The station has already hired two record decks and a pickup arm. Programmes are at the moment being planned, at will include 'In Concert' featuring one hour with Gracie Fields, also planned is a three-hour programme called 'Single of the Week'. For the time being though, the station is relaying a station called Radio One, just to test its 2 watt transmitter.

Station owner Roman Twicenightly and his Station Manager Dangles Coldspoon commented, "at the moment we have plenty of seventy-eight rpm records, but we hope to be getting some forty-fives soon. The news, unfortunately will be a day late, as our d.j. can't type very well, and we have a tape of the weather forecast, so that he won't have to read it or change it for about a week".

Yes this station is without a doubt one of the most uninteresting and unexciting that I have yet come across. So tune in and turn off.

Roger Stevens.

# T.J. AGAIN

In my Editorial I omitted to mention the qualities of DeeJay and Radio Monthly. I did this in order that I might go into greater depth on this page, as I feel the magazine warrants closer examination. Ben Cree has done for us freaks what no person has done for five years or so; dedicated several pages of a glossy magazine specifically to free radio organizations. This does three things; it promotes the various societies concerned about the radio situation in Europe; it provides information about the existing stations and gives fairly up-to-date news coverage.

Only fairly up-to-date because unfortunately, owing to publishing, printing and distribution schedules, etc., a national monthly cannot provide the latest news. However, this is not the fault of DJRM. Apart from this, the only other detrimental factor is its lack of offshore deejay interviews/articles, etc., but hopefully this situation will be rectified when Ben Cree runs out of Radios One, Two and Luxembourg deejays to interview! Anyway, its great to have the magazine, and its a step in the right direction. Well done Ben. We're on your side!

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My wife never did like the offshore stations. Funny girl, my wife. I think it started when we got married. I chose the Grand Hotel, Scheveningen, as I'd always wanted to hear RNI on VHF. She didn't seem to like it when, on our wedding night, I stayed up all night listening to 100MHz. Still, wives are funny like that. You see she likes Radio 2. Only the other day she told me that they had some new jingles. Know what? The swine had pinched Britain Radios jingles and re-hashed them! My wife doesn't like the jingles now. Funny things, wives.

T.J.



stop press

DATELINE...23rd FEBRUARY, 1973...Marine Offences Act, Netherlands...reliable sources state that third reading of MOA will not now be passed by Dutch Government during this Parliamentary session...not now expected to be passed before 1975...more details Issue 2....

.....Radio Nordsee International...two recent additions to staff of English-speaking services are Steve King (deejay) and Ian Anderson (news service)...it was rumoured that Steve King was replacement for Mark Slate who was reportedly sacked but this was not true...Mark is back on Mebo II after one weeks leave....

.....Radio Nordsee International...have once again stated that there is no all-day English Service planned for the future...rumours to this effect started after RNI announced that they would be using their spare medium wave transmitter to relay the Voice of Peace station for two days at the end of March...speculators then spread the rumour that RNI would keep the spare tx on the air, and split the present programmes into two, one on 220metres, one on 390metres...

ALL NEWS ON THIS PAGE COMES FROM RELIABLE SOURCES IN THE NETHERLANDS. HOWEVER, AS IT IS LATE NEWS, THE EDITOR CANNOT GUARANTEE THE COMPLETE ACCURACY OF THE REPORTS. T.J.

RADIO  
MERCUR

