

# FRS NEWSLETTER

| Summer 2024 |

**Free Radio Service Holland is an International non political & non religious Shortwave Free Radio station broadcasting since August 1980.**

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## FRS NEWSLETTER: Summer Edition 2024

Please keep in mind: Unforeseen circumstances can cause an urgent necessity for a frequency change. In most cases FRS will move *to an alternative near by frequency*. And: in most cases we'll put a quick message on top of the FRS site (*latest news*). [www.frsholland.nl](http://www.frsholland.nl)

**F**ollowing each broadcast, FRS compiles this *Newsletter* for its listening audience. It contains information regarding the previous broadcast(s) plus informs about future activities. So...welcome in this third 2024 edition focusing on **FRS' Summer Splash broadcasts last July & August**. *On behalf of the FRS crew* thank you for your snail mails/e-mails. Usually a lot of preparation has to be done before FRS takes to the air. Much more than 'just' recording a show. Therefore we always *take a short break* before starting to reply. Just catching a breath. That's why it always takes a few weeks before getting a reply from us. Just for your information. In this edition we have also enclosed some radio news.

*Your comments are appreciated.*

### FRS Summer Splash 2023(edition #4): Successful

Following our April 28<sup>th</sup> broadcast (including a 13 MHz test → see our previous Spring Newsletter) we were determined and motivated to organize the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the FRS Summer Splash.

It is one of our well kept traditions: FRS-Holland's Summer evening broadcasts. Edition #1 started in 2020 and main idea was (in sense of one of our slogans) to do it 'Just a Bit Different'. Instead of the usual 4+ hour broadcast, lasting a whole evening, we opted for 3 successive Sunday evening broadcasts each lasting 2 hours between 21:00-23:00 CEST. That time slot usually provides good signals. Jan van Dijk came up with the idea to name it '**FRS Summer Splash**' and the rest is....history. The 2021 edition had to be skipped but 2022 we could announce the 2nd edition. Our Summer evening broadcasts are always thematic and this year's Summer Splash was no exception. See for yourself what you heard or missed...the schedules are included in this Newsletter.

Just like 2023, this year's Summer Splash too was successful. The shortwave conditions were excellent every Sunday evening, without exception. There were some frequency issues, but more on

that later. In terms of programming, we were able to offer a nicely varied selection with a sixties Sunday, a musical retrospective of 1980, our 'birth year', an hour of beautiful instrumentals, and a flashback to the 1970s. And last but certainly not least: a good response from many listeners all over the world.

### **Kick off: Sunday July 21st**

The 2024 edition started with a Sixties Sunday: Bert van Leer had the honour of being the first presenter on air. He played a nice mix of 60s oldies.

Peter V. provided a substantial retrospective on the famous Summer of '67, better known as 'the Summer of Love.' It featured not only a lot of great music but also plenty of information about that Summer (and Spring), including the most important facts from the months of May through August, divided into parts 1 and 2.

From the outset, it was planned to broadcast on 5940 and 9300 kHz. The frequency of 7700 kHz was uncertain, and it seemed that this would not happen. However, just a few days before the start, we received news that the 7700 transmitter could indeed be activated. This caused some confusion, as, for example, Peter V. mentioned in his show that 7700 was *nó*t on the air. Here, another factor comes into play: the power of rapid news dissemination through our website, [frsholland.nl]. In our '*Latest News*' section, we were able to announce that 7700 was, in fact, on the air. By the way: 7700 was on air with reduced power due to audio amp limitations

There was one discordant note that first Sunday: for a significant portion of the broadcast, we experienced a terrible heterodyne on 7700- a loud, heavy hum that was also very wide (extending beyond 7310!). We considered switching to 7685, but ultimately decided against it. Fortunately, 5940 was more than excellent that evening!

### **Part 2: Sunday July 28th**

This second Sunday FRS was heard on 5940, 9300 and...7685. Brian, our engineer, felt it would be better to move to 7685 kHz because 7700 was not clear. That evening all frequencies did (very) well. 7685 kHz provided (according to a number of listeners) best modulation while 5940 was mostly a bit stronger (not to wonder: it's simply more powerful). Remarkable: during the broadcast we received a message that 7405 was in parallel with 5940. For us unexpectedly...so unannounced in our shows. Programme wise it were nostalgic 1980s sounds, along with a fine selection of instrumentals, that provided the musical backdrop. Presenters were Jan van Dijk & Mike Taylor.

### **Part 3: August 4th**

The final part of our 2024 Summer Splash. Frequencies: 5940, 9300 & 7700 (this time without any interference). Once again fine signals. For a short period (approx. 10 minutes) 5940 suffered from a small technical problem. A special mention for 9300: this is the frequency/transmitter with by far the lowest power. Yet, 9300 was not without merit. The signal strength was sometimes quite surprising. Although the signal sounds noticeably less 'loud' than the other frequencies, 9300 has the advantage of being at a higher frequency, which can more easily cover greater distances.

Dave Scott presented a nice selection of 70s Summer sounds while Peter did part 2 of 'The 1967 Summer of Love Revisited'.

## Streams

Each Sunday shortwave broadcast was followed by no less than four streams, usually at set days/times for continuity: **Wednesday & Friday** (frsonline.ddns.net) and **Thursday & Sunday** (laut.fm). It's great to see that listeners regularly tune in from all corners of the world.

## Surprise!

The unexpected can sometimes be wonderful. A pleasant surprise was the offer we received just before the start of the 3-weekly Summer Splash. Each Sunday broadcast would be repeated on the following Wednesday at the same time as the [frsonline.ddns.net] stream (20:00–22:00 CEST) on a fixed frequency: 6275 kHz. To quote Jimmy Ruffin: "an offer you can't refuse." For three consecutive Wednesdays (July 24th & 31st, August 7th), listeners experienced powerful signals with a clear, loud modulation. Naturally, these bonus broadcasts were published on our website. What stood out, however, was that the interest during the weekdays was somewhat lower. Sunday remains the clear favorite for many shortwave listeners. Nonetheless, we are very pleased with the results on those Wednesdays.

## And then there's this...

What is the outcome of a 3-weekly Summer Splash? At the very least, a dedicated FRS crew that produced programs with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. Judging by the many responses, there was a lot of listening pleasure and strong signals. Also: some new listeners joined in, along with many loyal ones. Shortwave magic on summer Sunday evenings—it remains a beautiful experience!

The fact that there was indeed good reception is evident from the fact that we were *clearly received* in places that are not always taken for granted: Russia, Finland, Romania, Greece, and Morocco.

FRS-Holland 2024 Summer Splash Programme Schedukle--		
UTC	Sunday July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	CET
18:59	<b>Opening:</b> Theme Tune 'Theme from Close Encouters'+ TotHour pips/ Welcome	20:59
19:01	<b>FRS 60s Sunday - Bert van Leer</b> Bert van Leer plays 60 minutes of great 60s tracks.	21:01
20:00	<b>The 1967 Summer of Love Revisited (1) – Peter Verbruggen</b> Peter plays a nice mix of both popular & rare tracks from that memorable 1967 Spring & Summer. Including the US, UK & Dutch charts and news/ info relating that special period.	22:00
21:00-21:04	<b>Close down</b> (from a 'Double Dutch 'Sixties Sunday' evening!).	23:00-23:04
Sunday July 28 <sup>th</sup>		
18:59	<b>Opening:</b> Theme Tune 'Theme from Close Encouters'+ TotHour pips/ Welcome	20:59
19:01	<b>Instrumentals from 5 decades- Jan van Dijk.</b> An hour of instrumental tunes, some classic and some little known ones.	21:01
20:00	<b>Everything's 1980 - Mike Taylor.</b> Mike remains faithful to 'his 80s music.' However, this time the focus is solely on 1980, including some news facts from that memorable year FRS-Holland started.	22:00
21:00-21:04	<b>Close down</b>	23:00-23:04
Sunday August 6 <sup>th</sup>		
18:59	<b>Opening:</b> Theme Tune 'Theme from Close Encouters'+ TotHour pips/ Welcome	20:59

19:01	<a href="#">Summer Lovin' Seventies - Dave Scott.</a> An hour filled with 'Vintage Summer Grooves' including some rare ones.	21:01
20:00	<a href="#">The 1967 Summer of Love Revisited (2) – Peter Verbruggen</a> Peter continues with a nice mix of both popular & rare tracks from that memorable 1967 Summer. Including the US, UK & Dutch charts and news/ info relating that special period.	22:00

## STREAMING

Since 2022 FRS is able to set up its own audio streams. That offers some extra opportunities. Fact is we do not depend on others. Our stream can be found at: [frsonline.ddns.net](http://frsonline.ddns.net). Of course [Laut.fm](http://Laut.fm)'s facilities will be continued to use following shortwave broadcasts.

## QSL CARDS SUMMER SPLASH

Similar to previous editions we issue one QSL for the 3-week Summer Splash. So in case you have written in more than once, the QSL will simply contain more than one date. This year's eQSL is based on QSL #7 but in the end it's a different version. Thanks to Jan van Dijk who did another fine job.



## PRACTICAL TIP

A **good aerial** is of vital importance! In particular when not using an expensive top receiver. A **telescopic aerial** isn't as sensitive as an (outdoor) wire antenna. Even when not having enough space outside, you can try to connect a few metres of **wire** to your telescopic antenna inside the house. Just try and test for the best results. Reception could certainly improve. It's worth giving it a try...

There can be various reasons why reception at your QTH isn't satisfactory. For instance noise can be a very annoying trigger. But: there are a number of (partly) solutions.

Perhaps one of the points below applies to your situation, and you can benefit from it!

Here's an overview...

### 1. Identify and Eliminate Local

#### Interference

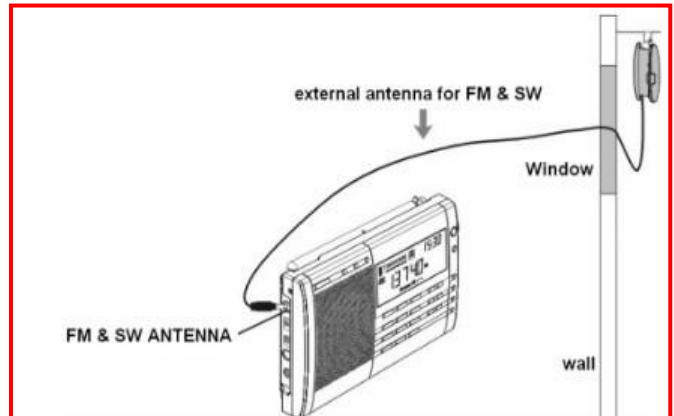
Local interference is often the biggest culprit in generating noise. Common sources include:

- Electronic devices: Computers, TVs, LED lights, chargers, and other electronic devices can produce significant interference.

- Power lines: Nearby power lines can introduce electrical noise.
- Appliances: Household appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners can also be sources of noise.

Actions:

- Turn off or unplug nearby electronic devices and appliances one by one to identify and eliminate the source of noise.
- Consider relocating your receiver to a different part of the house away from these potential sources.



## 2. Improve Grounding

Poor grounding can contribute to noise. Ensuring a good ground can significantly improve reception.

Actions:

- Use a dedicated ground rod driven into the earth as close as possible to the receiver.
- Connect the receiver's ground terminal to this ground rod using a thick copper wire.

## 3. Use a Noise-Reducing Antenna

Certain types of antennas are designed to be less susceptible to noise.

Options:

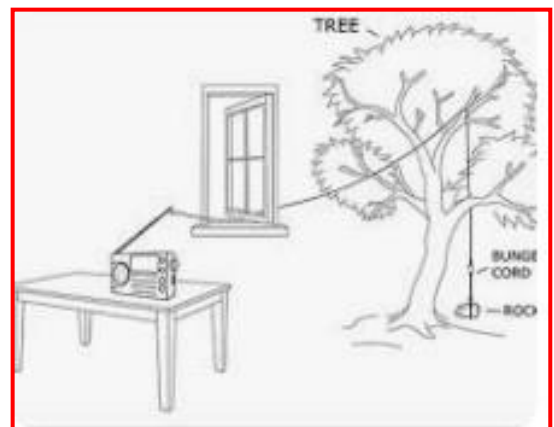
- Loop Antennas: Magnetic loop antennas are excellent for reducing noise as they are less sensitive to electric noise and more to magnetic signals.
- Active Antennas: These can amplify signals and sometimes include filters to reduce noise.
- End-Fed Wire Antenna with Balun: Using a balun can help balance the signal and reduce noise.

## 4. Use a Common Mode Choke

A common mode choke on the antenna feed line can help block unwanted noise coming through the feed line.

Actions:

- Wind a few turns of the antenna feed line (coaxial cable) around a ferrite core to create a choke.
- Alternatively, you can purchase a ready-made common mode choke for HF bands.



## 5. Employ Noise Filters

Noise filters can help eliminate specific types of noise that are hard to track down.

Options:

- High-pass or low-pass filters: These can be used to filter out unwanted frequencies.
- Notch filters: Useful for filtering out a specific frequency where interference is strongest.

## 6. Improve Antenna Placement

The location and height of your antenna can have a significant impact on noise levels.

Actions:

- Place the antenna as far from buildings and power lines as possible.

- Elevate the antenna to reduce ground noise and avoid reflections from the ground.
- Orient the antenna to minimize interference (e.g., a horizontal wire can be aligned perpendicular to power lines to reduce noise pickup).

### 7. Use a Shielded Feed Line

Unshielded lines can pick up noise.

#### Actions:

- Use coaxial cable to connect your antenna to the receiver as it provides shielding against interference.
- Ensure that the cable is properly grounded.

### 8. Adjust Receiver Settings

Your receiver may have settings or features to help combat noise

#### Actions:

- Use the noise blanker function if your receiver has one.
- Adjust the RF gain to reduce strong local interference.
- Experiment with different bandwidth settings to filter out unwanted noise.

### 9. Avoid Proximity to Metal Structures

Metal structures can reflect and distort signals, causing noise.

#### Actions:

- Position your antenna away from metal fences, gutters, and other large metallic objects.

### 10. Try Noise Cancellation Techniques

Some advanced techniques and devices can help with noise reduction.

#### Options:

- Noise canceling antennas: These use a secondary noise-sensing antenna to cancel out unwanted noise.
- Phasing units: These can be used with two antennas to phase out noise.

### Practical Example

A common setup might include:

1. A shielded coaxial cable from your antenna to the receiver.
2. A grounding rod near the receiver connected with a thick copper wire.
3. A common mode choke at the point where the coaxial cable enters your home.
4. A high-quality loop antenna placed in an area away from electronic devices and metal structures.

### Summary

By identifying sources of noise and implementing some or all of the above suggestions, you can significantly improve the performance of your Grundig Satellite shortwave receiver. Experiment with different combinations of solutions to find what works best for your specific situation. Happy listening!

Date	CET	kHz	SINPO	Memo
17.12.2023	09:57	7700,4	35333	Heard your
	10:04	6185	45434	Intro Peter Y
	10:10	9330		carrier seer
	10:11	6185	55444	"Drive you k Harvest, Fla Angel, Ever
	11:00			Jan van Dyk Kurzweille,
	11:45		45444	Dave Scott: Mlx,
	12:43		45434	Peter Verbr addictives,
	13:07			** sorry ** stream ne
	14:23		45423	back from l Peter Gabri
	15:00			closing dow

<b>Radio:</b>	Yaesu FRG-B800
<b>Antenna:</b>	Dipole: ZS6BKW   Direction: NNW to SSE
<b>Location:</b>	JO31eb   40 km west of Cologne   Germany
<b>Address:</b>	Klaus Erich Sieber Am Lievendahl 8a D-41812 Erkelenz kscloeb@tutlook.com

## RECEPTION REPORTS

When requiring a QSL card (=verification of your reception report) we expect the following items in your report: [details of the programming](#) (over a 15 min. period), **date and time** in UTC or CE(S)T, how well you heard our signal indicated by a **Sinpo code** and what **receiver/antenna** you were using. And not to forget your **location** as we are eager to know where you were listening to our broadcast.

We do issue QSLs for **SDR reports** but only if you are *including a Sinpo code* and sufficient details.

Every now and then we receive reports with **no details at all**. Result is a friendly but firm message in which we inform the listener he won't get any QSL card.

Talking of QSLs: you may make your own choice out of a total of 9 different cards from our 'FRS Through the Years' series. Make sure it is clearly mentioned in your e-mail or letter via P.O.Box 2702.

Tip: surf to [ [frsholland.nl/qsl-series/](http://frsholland.nl/qsl-series/) ].

Apart from this we sincerely look forward to **personal information** (age, job, family, hobbies etc.) and **programme comments**. It freshens up reading out listener's mails on air!

Apart from using our P.O.Box 2702 in Herten, an alternative for catching a hard copy QSL (much more desirable) is sending an e-mail report and paying 5 euro via Paypal. Simply use [ [frs@frsholland.nl](mailto:frs@frsholland.nl) ].

## WEBSITE

Always check our website [ [frsholland.nl](http://frsholland.nl) ] for latest news. This is van be useful... it can prevent unnecessary searching, particularly important when FRS-Holland is or will soon go on air: last minute frequency changes will most of the time be communicated through our website.

## NEW STICKER!



Since a while we have brand new stickers with our station logo. So...if you like to have one or two, you must use our postal Herten maildrop. The sticker is printed in full colour on quality paper, a must have for every FRS listener! Make sure you enclose 3 US dollar or 3 Euro. Combine it with sending in a written report to our Herten maildrop.

**FRS-Holland is dedicated to continue the sound of classic SW Free Radio**

## 1980 in the FRS history

A recurrent item in the 'FRS Magazine' show is the **Day Calendar** featuring interesting events on the broadcast's date in the past. This also includes a look back in the FRS history: does the broadcasting date match with a date in the FRS past? Of course this is not always the case but in July it was! Our Summer Splash kicked off on July 21<sup>st</sup> and in the FRS annals, there are two matches.

## 1985:

“Up till June, 1985 was a very annoying period. And the worst part of all was you were powerless. I'm pretty sure that those months reception conditions were the worst of the 1980's. It contrasted so enormously with 1980, 1981 & 1982 when only 10 little watts were enough to provide splendid reception in large areas.” (this quote comes from Peter V.)

**Sunday July 21st** for the first(!) time since December of 1984, a *solid signal* was to be received in also the areas nearby the transmitter location. By now power had increased to 1.3 kW. It was also the month in which Barry Stephens did his final programme on FRS-Holland after being exactly 5 years on the station. Without Barry's help, FRS would have never made it on the short wave airwaves for he was the one building our first 10W tx (and later also the second one).

## 1996:

**Sunday July 21st** FRS-Holland had planned a summery 3rd Sunday broadcast via Radio Free London which eventually was aired a week too late. Tapes were sent on Monday -sent by special messenger- but that was not a guarantee the package would arrive within 5 days... Shame on the British Royal Mail!! In actual fact the broadcast started Saturday evening at approx. 22:00 CEST. Programmes continued till the early Sunday evening and the 4-hour programme block was repeated a total of six times. Reception was varying between poor and good depending on the reception area. During the nightly hours FRSH was picked up in the USA; two reports were received. Nice indeed. All FRS jocks were involved with the July programmes: Joop, Tony, Stefan and Peter. Three weeks later a nightly North America test was conducted via FRS' own transmitter. Also this time FRS was lucky: reports came in from the USA, Ukraine and Russia.

## OFFSHORE EVENTS MID-LATE AUGUST

**11-08-1983:** After a short test with relatively low power on attempt is made. When they increase the power of the insulator, which is supposed to carry the signal through the mast, fails. Due to this setback, the planned start on

**11-08-1977: Libya:** The Silvretta ('Mebo II') and the tender port of Benghazi, 600 miles (965 km) from Tripoli. After a continues towards Derna. Given the tense political relations, state radio on AM 773 kHz. The ex-10 kW transmitter of broadcasting ship 'Mebo II' quickly proves no match for the 1000 kW power of the target in Cairo.

**13-08-1967:** Radio London welcomes fans, 'ITN News,' and program director Alan Keen aboard the 'MV Galaxy.' They decide to continue broadcasting until the final farewell.

**13-08-1985:** The 'Daily Mail' extensively reports on 'Eurosiege '85.' The cost to keep the 'Dioptric Surveyor' at sea is 50,000 pounds (55,262 euros).

**14-08-1977:** Radio Mi Amigo, with Herman de Graaf, Marc Jacobs, Roger Mathews, and Stuart Russell, commemorates the end of the English offshore stations on 14/08/1967. The interviews by Robbie Dale with the guests at the 'Offshore Radio

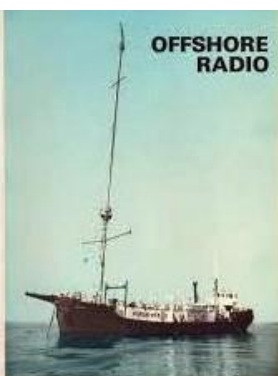
Convention Flashback '67' at the 'Centre Airport Hotel' near London's Heathrow Airport are immediately sent to the broadcasting ship for airing.

### 14-08-1967:

– Radio London on the 'MV Galaxy' stops at 3:00 PM after playing 'A Day In The Life' by The Beatles and the farewell



the 'Ross Revenge,' a new transmitter, the main deck to the 90-meter-high 14/08/1983 falls through. 'Angela' ('Mebo I') reach the one-hour break, the journey the goal is to jam the Egyptian Radio Veronica on the





message from Paul Kay: 'Radio London is now closing down.'

– The DJs of Radio London are greeted by thousands of fans upon their arrival at Liverpool Street Station at 6:40 PM. When the crowd hears that Dave Cash has signed a contract with the new BBC Radio 1, they react furiously. The staff flee in a taxi.

– Radio 270 and Radio Scotland end their broadcasts at midnight. The two Radio Caroline stations do not back down and open a new era with 'We Shall Overcome' by Pete Seeger. The offices are relocated from London to Amsterdam.

**14-08-1983:** The damaged main insulator on Radio Caroline's 'Ross Revenge' is replaced. The adjustments are then tested.

**14-08-1985:** Charlie Wolf gives a first report on 'Eurosiege '85' on Laser 558. To test the effectiveness of the blockade by the 'Dioptric Surveyor,' the newspaper 'Daily Star' sends reporter Neil Wallis to the 'MV Communicator' with a bottle of champagne and t-shirts. The newspaper faces the threat of prosecution by the 'DTI,' which could potentially result in a 2-year prison sentence for the journalist.

**14-08-1978:** Robin Adcroft and Prinz Holman broadcast a secret program from 5:00 AM to 6:00 AM local time on the radio ship 'El Fatah,' the former 'Mebo II,' in the harbor of the capital, Tripoli- just before the start of the programs dedicated to the Quran. The program focuses on the disappearance of the English offshore stations. It becomes the ultimate English-language broadcast, ending with 'Man Of Action' by Les Reed.

**17-08-1974:**

– Sylvain Tack and the staff of Radio Mi Amigo meet in the studio in Breda to discuss the future during the Strasbourg Treaty. Ad Petersen leaves due to his work at the 'TROS.' Norbert records a farewell spot in case the staff changes their decision, but it is never aired.

– Radio Atlantis announces that, due to the anti-offshore radio law, they will stop their Dutch-language service on August 25, 1974.

**17-08-1983:** A 10 kW transmitter is tested on the 'Ross Revenge.' The return of Radio Caroline is approaching.

**19-08-1983:** Continuous test broadcasts are carried out on the 'Ross Revenge.' The return of Radio Caroline draws closer.

**19-08-1989:** Armed police officers storm the 'Ross Revenge' of Radio Caroline and Radio 819 at 1:46 PM. The surprised crew manages to stay on air until 2:07 PM, allowing the boarding to be followed live. Until 8:30 PM, the authorities attempt to dismantle all transmitter components and the masts. However, technician Peter Chicago manages to hide some vital spare parts. (All times are in Central European Summer Time, CEST.)



The month of August is one in which many offshore radio memories are stored. Just think of the infamous British Marine Offences Act or its Dutch counterpart: the Strasbourg Treaty. In this edition we make a flashback to memories covering the second half of August. Sometimes wonderful.. sometimes exciting...and also so now and then very sad.

**20-08-1983:** After a three-year absence, Radio Caroline returns at 12:00 PM on AM 963 kHz. However, the planned oldies music doesn't materialize as Tom Anderson and Peter Chicago play LP music instead.

**21-08-1967:** – The 'MV Galaxy' of Radio London arrives in Hamburg after a two-day journey. The ship is bought for 1,000 pounds by the German company 'Gloria International,' owned by Norbert Gshwendt and Emile Luthle.

**August 23, 1970:** Radio Northsea International on the 'Mebo' returns on AM 1385 kHz, but they quickly move to 220 meters (AM 1367 kHz).

**August 23, 1971:** The former 10 kW AM transmitter of Radio 390 is brought on board the 'Mebo II' as a backup.

**August 23, 1985:** The 'MV Communicator' returns to its original position in Knock Deep at 1:00 PM. The 'Dioptic Surveyor' continues to closely follow the ship.

**Libya August 23, 1978:** The 'Amasira', the former supply ship 'Angela' ('Mebo I'), returns to the port of Tripoli.



**August 24, 1974:**

Radio Veronica begins its final week as an offshore station. All programs reflect on a turbulent 14-year period with clips from the past.

**August 24, 1978:** The authorities intercept the supply ship of Radio Delmare, 'Mathilde Simonne'. The tender is immediately towed to the Rotterdam customs harbor.

**August 24, 1985:** Due to the lack of program tapes, the DJs of Radio Monique on the 'Ross Revenge' have to broadcast live for 18 hours.

**August 24, 1987:** Radio Monique International is sold to new investors.

**August 24, 1970:** Radio Northsea International on the 'Mebo II' chooses 220 meters (AM 1367 kHz) as its new frequency to avoid interference with the broadcasts on FM (also from RNI).

**August 24, 1975:** Radio Caroline, in addition to airing Radio Mi Amigo's shows on 259 meters (AM 1187 kHz), plays non-stop music on 388 meters (AM 773 kHz). The experiment is stopped the next day around noon (25/8/1975).

**August 25, 1974:** The Dutch-language service of Radio Atlantis on the 'Jeanine' ends at 2:00 PM. Frank Van Leeuwen, Mister Galaxy, and owner Adriaan Van Landschoot bid an extensive farewell.

**August 25, 1981:** The Panama-based company 'Companie Naviera Panlieve SA' demands the return of the 'Magda Maria' in an injunction against the Dutch State at the Amsterdam court. The radio ship of Radio Paradijs was wrongfully seized by the police during a raid on 1/8/1981.

**August 25, 1973:** Robin Banks starts on the 'Mebo II' with the English service of Radio Northsea International.

**Libya August 25, 1978:** The 'El Fatah', formerly 'Mebo II', is located in Zwara near the Libyan border with Tunisia. Programs about the Quran on SW 6206 KHz and especially on AM 1610 KHz are picked up by a listener in Kristiansand, Norway.

**August 26, 1985:** Charlie Wolf reports twice on the 'MV Communicator' of Laser 558 about 'Eurosiege '85' (at 1:30 PM and 5:30 PM).

**August 27, 1982: United Kingdom** Due to financial, organizational, and legal issues, the 'Ross Revenge', the future radio ship of Radio Caroline, is still anchored in Santander.

**August 28, 1974:** Sylvain Tack of Radio Mi Amigo and Ronan O'Rahilly of Radio Caroline visit the 'MV Mi Amigo'.

**August 28, 1975:** Radio Caroline resumes broadcasting on AM 1187 kHz and AM 773 kHz.

**August 29, 1974:**

- Chiel Montagne hosts his last show on Radio Veronica between 11:00 PM and midnight.

- The 'MV Mi Amigo', the radio ship of Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Caroline, is towed by the 'Dolfijn' to international waters just off the Thames estuary in preparation to continue broadcasting after 31/8/1974. Both radio stations continue to broadcast during the towing.

- The DJs of Radio Northsea International in Naarden depart for the 'Mebo II' to broadcast live.

**August 30, 1974:** Lex Harding records his very last 'Lexjo' for Radio Veronica. The 'TROS' was in the



studio to film footage for the documentary 'Zenders in woelig water' ('Stations in Turbulent Waters').  
- After a long journey with the tugboat 'Dolfijn' from the coast of Scheveningen, the 'MV Mi Amigo', the radio ship of Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Caroline, ends up in 'Knock Deep', a spot in the Thames estuary. The radio ship will remain there until it sinks on 20/3/1980.

- The English service of Radio Northsea International with Don Allen, Roger Kent, Bob Noakes, and Brian McKenzie says goodbye.

**August 30, 1985:** The 'Dioptric Surveyor', which has been chasing Laser 558 and Radio Caroline, departs at 6:00 AM and is replaced by the ship 'Fame'.

**August 30, 1977:** Robin Banks tests one of the 10 kW transmitters of Radio Veronica on AM 773 kHz aboard the 'Mebo II'. Reception reports mostly come from Norway. However, reception decreases due to fading around 10:00 PM local time. Spanish and Egyptian listeners report interference from another station during 'Man of Action' by Les Reed.

**31-08-1974:**

– At 3:00 AM, Radio Veronica switches off the main transmitter on the 'Norderney' to set it to full power after a 17-minute adjustment.

Newsreader Cees Manintveldt informs the



listeners.

– Dutch and Flemish households use their handkerchiefs during the forced farewell of the offshore stations. At Radio Veronica, Rob Out's speech with the final station closure is completed by José van Groningen at 6:00 PM.

– At Radio Noordzee International on the 'Mebo II,' Ferry Maat and John de Mol Sr. bring an end to an exciting offshore radio era at 8:00 PM.

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## FRS Mailbox

*On this page an anthology of listener's response regarding our 2024 Summer Splash broadcasts. Each e-mail or letter via POBox 2702 is much appreciated. We'd love to hear from you. Not only the reception quality but also some personal info & comments on the broadcast. The many responses from listeners in a wide variety of countries were more than encouraging! Only a portion of them can be read in this bumper episode of 'Mailbox 2702'. Thanks a lot to all of you who responded to our Summer Splash 2024 broadcasts.*

"Reception on all dates was very good. The idea from Jan van Dijk to play one hour of entirely instrumentals was good. I love them. To all of FRS thank you very much for these 6 hours of fantastic music, this Summer Splash really was wonderful" **Thomas Becker, Bonn/ Germany.**

"Hello, my name is Börje and I live in Tibro, a small village in the province of Västergötland. Tibro is

called 'Sports Municipality' and is also centre for old rock records and shortwave listening. I worked at a local news paper, a freelance journalist. Nowadays I'm retired. My interests are DX-ing, music, nature, photo, internet & foreign countries." [Börje Sahlén, Tibro/ Sweden](#).

"Super signal and super programme. I was instantly transported 58 years back to my youth. Thank you for this music (FW revisited part 2-PV). 19:55 UTC, freq attached to mini [Fritz-Walter Adam, Bernburg-Saale/ Germany](#).



For already many Germany sends us no exception. To Radio Service "Happy birthday writes. And the much... See for

Adam heard *The Summer of Love 1967*  
Date/ time: August 7<sup>th</sup> 19:12-6275 kHz. Receiver NRD 525G whip antenna. Sinpo 45555"

years Michael Geisel from a birthday card in August. 2024 is clarify: August 31<sup>st</sup> is the Free Holland's official anniversary: dear Peter and FRSH-mates!" he card: beautiful !! Thanks so yourself...

And in a separate mail Michael writes: "it's high time to say thank you for this year's FRS' Summer Splash! Again three great summer evenings with skilfully presented musical programs! And not only that: the reception on all three occasions was at local station level on 5940 kHz. Brian's outlets on 7 MHz also did well, the 9 MHz frequencies here in southern Germany were significantly weaker. I'm already looking forward to what we'll hear from you on your 44th birthday..." [Michael Geisel, Pfullingen/ Germany](#).

"My name is Mikael and I'm a Dxr from Göteborg in Sweden. I heard your program on 7700 kHz July 21<sup>st</sup> between 19:00- 20:28 UTC. I'm not much into 60s music but what I heard was a good mix of great artists from that era. Nice jingles that make the program more professional than many of the other pirate radio stations. I'm 52 years old and work as an archivist. I have been a Dxr between 1985-1990 and with a small break until 2020. In the 80s I posted a lot of listener reports to various stations, mostly stations broadcasting in Swedish and also pirates on boats and in the Netherlands. My radio receiver and antenna are located a couple of miles from where I live: Lindome. My receiver is my own KiwiSDR2 connected to a Super KAZ antenna (30x6 metres)."

[Mikael Sjoberg, Göteborg/ Sweden](#)

"Hello, I very much liked the idea for playing music from the 1967 Summer of Love. Great memories of my youth. I particularly liked the infos about the Monterey festival. I was in Monterey in 2016, sadly I did not visit the County Fairground where the festival took place in June 1967. Reception of 5940 on my VEF 206 was fair." [Hans-Joachim Pellin, Lübz/ Germany](#).

"I hope to continue collecting your beautiful QSL series for many years to come."  
[Juan Carlos Pérez Montereio, Valladolid/ Spain](#).

"Dear Sirs, It is my great pleasure to send you the following reception report: Date of reception: 28th July, 2024 / 20:32 – 21:05 UTC. Frequency: 5940 kHz / Receiver: Kiwi SDR (Software Defined Radio) at OE3KDC Austria. SINPO 45444. The signal was fairly strong, and the reception condition was generally



well. It was unfortunate for me to forget to receive your previous broadcast on 28th April. So, this time I listened to your broadcast for the first time in 7 months. By the way, your station was born in 1980 when I was 18 years old, the third year of a high school student. I had to study hard to prepare for the entrance examination of college, but I devoted myself to the wonderful hobby of

listening to shortwave radio. I think shortwave broadcasts were at their peak at around 1980 since its beginning in early 20th century.

I particularly enjoyed listening to African radio stations. These stations were usually heard between 18:00 to 21:00 UTC in the summer and 20:00 to 23:00 UTC in the winter, so I had to wake up very early in Japan. Although it's now nearly impossible to find tropical stations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America on shortwave, I have collected many valuable QSL cards from these stations. I consider these cards to be precious historical assets and express a desire to donate them to a QSL museum in the future." [Nobuya Kato, Kanagawa/ Japan](#)

"THANK YOU for all the thought and hard work put into creating these special broadcasts. All very much appreciated. I have to say that I very much like the instrumentals collection that Jan van Dijk has put together. Excellent... [Albert Ford, West Camel, Yeovil, Somerset/ UK](#).

"Last Wednesday I was very pleased to also benefit from the very good reception on 6275 kHz to the extent that I could really enjoy listening to the whole two-hour programme, first Dave Scott and then Peter V. with all that very, very interesting review of events in the year 1967. I used the SONY 7600. Its telescope antenna provided good reception and listening. Thanks to you for the excellent programmes." [Joachim Trosch/ Germany](#).

On July 21st, there was a thunderstorm in the area in the evening, so even though the signal on 5940 kHz was strong, the reception wasn't very good. But the music today was excellent—more or less commercial oldies, which is completely my taste! It was also nice to hear Boudewijn de Groot again. Thanks in advance for the next QSL. I'm sending 5 Euros via PayPal, so please send me the printed version." [Thomas Drescher, Postmünster/ Germany](#)

"Hello FRSH, nice signal here in Eisenach in shortwave 6275 kHz. Im hearing you on a SONY ICF 2001D with buit in telescopic antenna .. FRSH was one of the first pirate stations when I started listening to the pirates in the early 90s .. Nice that you are still there !" [Martin Schöch, Eisenach/ Germany](#).

“First I would like to thank you for your email 16th May 2024 containing the verification of my reception report of 28th April with your E-QSL and your information. It was a pleasure to tune in to your 2024 ‘Summer Splash’ broadcasts. Especially I enjoyed your 1967 feature last Sunday evening. 1967 was an exciting and nice year in my life. I will listen again to this broadcast via one of your streams this week.”

[Christian Bergmann, Borna/ Germany](#)

“I was pleased to receive your broadcast on 5940 kHz so well. After many attempts, I finally managed to receive it. Thank you for the many great songs. I hope I can receive your station so well again.

04.08.2024 21.40- 22.15 CEST on 5940 Sinpo: 5 4 4 4 4.” [Reinhard Priese, Süptitz/ Germany](#)

“Yesterday I joined your SummerSplash 2024 and had a very nice late Sunday evening with two hours of interesting radiopresentation with good music . I must admit, that especially Peter Verbruggen took me on a journey through time back to my teenage-days in 1967, with news from yesteryear and music from the middle of the hit parades (not only from their top, as every radiostation does nowadays). So I decided to get myself a pint of beer, a bag of potato chips and to enjoy my last hour of the weekend before going to bed. I am looking forward to your next broadcast! [Klaus Erich Sieber, 40 km west of Cologne/ Germany](#)

In a different mail (for July 28<sup>th</sup>-PV) Klaus-Erich writes (about Jan van Dijk’s show): “a very pleasant composition of well known melodies. I really like listening to this kind of music - just the right thing for a late sunday evening - thank you for that!”

“I had a lot of fun over these three weeks, enjoying the nice music. I’m also glad that you have been gaining more and more Japanese listeners.” [Misayo Tanaka, St. Leonards-on-Sea/ UK.](#)

“First of all, I would like to thank you for sending me the Summer Splash announcement by email. And I enjoyed your extremely wonderful music selection. The reception was good. The signal was quite strong and I thought it suppressed noise and fading. Of course, there was no interference, so it was clear. When I considered the recent propagation conditions in Europe, I thought that 9300kHz would be superior. In fact, 9300kHz was great, so I did not receive 5940kHz. Sorry. I wish FRS Holland all the success in the future. Please do not forget that there are listeners in Japan who are interested in independent European broadcasts.



The valves from the original 10W transmitters: 807, E



" FRS Holland on 9300kHz 31mb at 18h59 - 21h00 on July 28, 2024 at Enschede, Holland with KiwiSDR and a mini whip antenna with Sinpo: 45444-45343 [Tooru Gouhara, Hamamatsu City/ Japan](#).

"I am Norbert F5202SWL, a 60 years old french SWL from Paris southern suburbia. My receiver is a Tecsun S2000 with an active loop antenna MLA30+, indoor set . I have picked up FRS today December 17th 2023 on 7700 kHz from 17:10 to 18:00 UTC. Reception difficult to follow: Signal strength fair to good , no interference, but a constant high e and a low fading that made the sound audible at time. The program was certainly very interesting. Thank you in advance, and congratulations for your efforts for free radio!" [Norbert Faynot, Saint Germain les Arpajon/ France](#)



"Dear friends from Holland, I was very happy to tune in to your radio station here in my city Vera Cruz RS Brasil. Very good and interesting your transmission, especially the beautiful songs, congratulations. The station signal arrived here very audible, via KIWI SDR. I send a RECEPTION REPORT and audio file. If it is correct send to me your QSL CARD by email? Thank you very much!

Peace health and happiness for all friends from FRS-Holland. Best regards your listener [Carlos Alberto Erdmann, Vera Cruz/ Brasil](#)."

"I am a SWL listener and love to search and listen to shortwave radio. Today 28.7.2024 from 20:25 UTC I listened for the first time to your "Free Radio Service Holland" on the frequency 5940 kHz. I use my own RTL-SDR receiver along with the MLA30+ antenna. I live in the city so I have to deal with interference. But your program was relatively clean and the signal strong. I wish for a strong signal and many listeners on shortwave. Best regards and thanks." [Beran David, Havirov/ Czech Republic](#).

"This is my New Reception Report, Summer Splash Program.... Date 21-7-24/ Time 19.00-19.40 UTC/ Frequency/ 5940 KHz/ SINPO 44444/ Receiver XH DATA D-808 with Telescopic Antenna. Reception in Hospitalet de L'Infant (Tarragona), small town in the Beach, 130 Km south of Barcelona. No QRM (In the Great City, for example Barcelona, it is very difficult to receive this frequency....)." [Francisco Rubio Cubo, Barcelona/ Spain](#).

"Hallo Peter, yes, I know, it's a long time of absence since my last report. But yesterday I was enthusiastic enough, to search for my old world receiver, hi.. Unbelievable, the FRSH is still on the air! Hope the listeners response is as good as in earlier times!? Hobbies and interests are changing, I am not sure if there are still many listeners on shortwave.. But it is always a pleasure to listen to your program. I do this now for 42 years, what a long time! My first QSL from you is from 1982.. I hope you, and all behind the FRSH are doing well and are still healthy! For this time all the best to you and the staff, 73s!" [Thorsten Brandenburg, Munich/ Germany](#)

“Dear friends of FRSH, it’s a great pleasure for me to report on the receipt of FRSH here at northern Frankfurt am Main, the nicknamed Mainhattan. Frankfurt is the most international city in Germany. I am living here at my own house in a green settlement and less noise to my antennas and shortwave receivers. I am 70 years old and a DXer and SWL since more than 54 years. Listening to the mediumwaves and shortwaves gives me a lot of fun, is a unique, wonderful door to the world of international radio and excellent informations from all parts of the world. Wishing you all the best at FRSH. . Thank you for the fine 60er FRSH summer flash, a lot of the hits I remember.  
[Siegbert Gerhard, Frankfurt am Main/ Germany.](#)

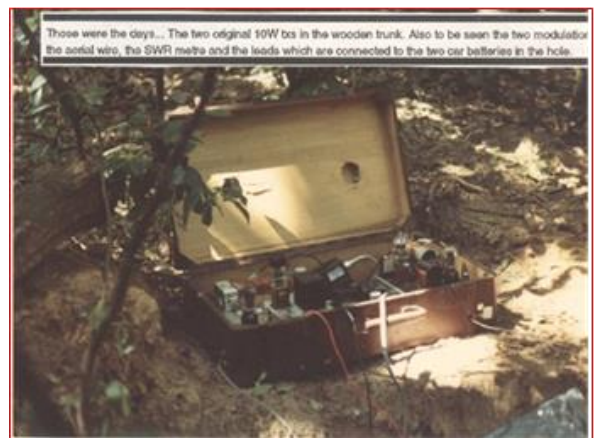
## FROM the FRS-HOLLAND ARCHIVES

In the past few years we’ve been welcoming many new listeners. At the same time we are proud knowing there are listeners out there who already tuned our way in the 1980s, the first years of the station.

In all those 40+ years FRS’s history became longer and richer: there are many stories to be told. In this column we dig up some of them...

*In this edition we go back in time to the Summer of 1982: Sunday August 15th 1982. FRS was transmitting from a small private piece of wood. We called it ‘the magic forest’. We used two 10W transmitters on 48 & 41 metres. The fact that FRS-Holland was responsible for putting out its own programmes could result in funny, strange, unexpected but also risky situations Read Peter Verbruggen's story about how he got out of a very tricky situation August 15th 1982 ....*

It was the first time I overslept myself. I picked up a friend who would help me that morning erecting aerials etc. We rushed to the location and at 10:35 CET. Some 40 minutes too late programmes commenced. Important to know is we had access to a piece of private ground from which the transmissions were coming already since the very beginning of FRS-Holland. This ground belonged to Bobby Speed's (our engineer) father and he knew about the transmissions, that was no problem of all for him. Coincident or not, precisely that day I had no key of the gate which gave access to the location. So there was no other choice than parking the car outside the forest of Mr. Speed Senior. It was surrounded by a large fence and I remember there was only one place we could make use of to enter the forest. The car was parked in front of this spot, near the road and at least 100 metres had to be lugged with the equipment to reach the fixed location. We returned at approx. 10:45 CET to the car keeping in mind to be careful at the moment we had to leave the wood because Sunday morning walkers, passing by, could get suspicious when seeing two men carrying a large plastic bag. They could think we were poachers. I said to my friend: have a look if the coast is safe. So he walked cautiously to the road where he was welcomed with open arms by.... the police. I myself wasn’t aware of the situation until he returned and told me so. At first I thought he was joking but within a minute I had to face up the reality. Already at 10:15 when we were busy installing the equipment and firing both transmitters, the police men were calling to my house. They found out my address and telephone





number via my car's number plate. My sister who took the telephone was asked what my car was doing there. Before she could reply she heard through the phone the policemen's walkie talky receiving a call from a 2nd person saying: *let go, he's coming out of the bushes!* The reason for the curiosity of the police could be simply explained: they found my car unlocked on that rather strange spot near the road. Because of the hurry we were in, both of us forgot to lock my car. Anyway, the police immediately started making inquiries and main question was what we were doing in the wood?! As I carried that large bag containing a receiver and a spare aerial I declared without a moment's thought, we were radio-amateurs trying to hang up the aerial to achieve good reception and I added the reception that morning was badly affected because of the rain forcing us to give up the experiment. To convince them I also told them the story about the key and the fact I had permission to set foot on that piece of wood 'cause I knew the owner. In one or another way my story wasn't believed and both of us were taken to the local police-office. In the mean time the transmission continued. Having arrived at the police-station at 11.00 one of the two officers called the owner and asked him if he knew me. Bobby Speed's father immediately reacted and said I was a friend of his son, having permission to set foot on his land. Believe it or not, within 2 minutes we again sat in the police-car and this time on our way back to my car. They dropped us without forgetting to warn me to lock the doors of my car from now on. Then they disappeared. The first thing I did was going back to the transmitters because in the mean time a cassette change had to be made .... I know I played for high stakes but I didn't have another choice. By the way: after the 11:00 call from the police, Bobby Speed who was at home undertook immediate action taking no risk at all. He called Frankie Fanatic who lived very close to my house and made sure that some spare transmitters were safely hidden.”

## ‘FRS goes DX’

Some time ago one of our loyal listeners suggested to include some of the ‘FRS goes DX’ items in this Newsletter. Particularly some of the mentioned web links aren't always easy to reproduce. As we didn't focus on DX News in our 3-week Summer Splash, this time no items.

## Hans Knot & Martin van de Ven: brand new website

Hans Knot streamlined his archives. In the history of radio, the 'adventures' of offshore radio stations continue to captivate the imagination. This is evident in the sustained interest in the phenomenon through hundreds of websites and streams that build upon that unique period. In December 1996, 'Offshore Radio Links' went online for the first time. A few years later, it became the Offshore Radio Guide. Over the past 27 years, hansknot.com, radioday.nl, seesender.de, radiocaroline.de, and broadcasting-fleet.com have gradually been added. As it was time for a more modern layout and, above all, a streamlining of the various pages, the new internet platform '**Offshore Radio Nostalgia – A kaleidoscope of the Watery Wireless era**' is now online. It features hundreds of articles by Hans Knot, news, contributions, links, and access to 30,000 photos and numerous vid Thanks Martin for this very time-consuming work produced this excellent new site.

All the best & 73s, *Peter V. (on behalf of Jan, Dave, Mike, Bert & Brian)*

*"FRS-Holland. not just a station but a tradition"*

We are curious if you like this style of FRS Newsletter. Your input is more than welcome!

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Of course the FRS Newsletter is free of charge.

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