

FRS NEWSLETTER

| Autumn 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: Autumn 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

Following 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 second to last 2024 edition focusing on **FRS' 44th Anniversary broadcasts November 3rd.**

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 44th Anniversary broadcast

Following our Summer Splash broadcasts FRS-Holland 44th Anniversary took to the air on Sunday November 3rd. The weeks before we sent out mails to inform about the broadcast.

Transmissions ran from 09:52- 14:45 CET (winter time) on 7700//9300 and 5940 kHz.

Band conditions were okay that day. 7700 did well, 5940 was not as good as hoped for but still satisfactory. Both 7700 & 9300 were getting stronger in the afternoon hours.

Not long before signing off, it was our engineer Brian who (unexpectedly) offered a 2nd run. That means that the complete programming was repeated on 7700//9300 between 14:52- 19:45 CET.

A pity that most listeners weren't aware of that repeat because during this 2nd run both 7700//9300 did very well (read: better than the first run). From Scandinavia to Italy: particularly 7700 kHz provided solid reception.

Due to circumstances, this is an abbreviated version of the FRS Newsletter.

On Friday November 8th the 44th Anniversary shows were aired between 17:52- 22:45 CET (announced on our website). This time on 5840 kHz with a very strong signal. Not only good reception in Europe with also outside. FRS-Holland was received in the whole of Europe. The most notable locations were the following: Greece, Cyprus, Russia, Hungary, Italy (Sardinia), Shrewsbury- (Vermont) USA, Newton (New Hampshire) USA, Anchorage (Alaska)- USA, Canary Islands (Spain) & Fernando de Noronha (island) in Brasil.



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.

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.

Of course [Laut.fm's](http://Laut.fm) facilities will be continued to use following shortwave broadcasts.

FRS-HOLLAND Programme-Schedule for Sunday November 3 rd 2024		
UTC Time	Programme Schedule	CET Time
08:52	Station-opening: ID's & Theme tune	09:52
09:02	FRS Magazine- <i>Peter Verbruggen</i> with the best music from the past decades. Including the Day Calendar for November 3 rd .	10:02
10:00	German Show- <i>Jan van Dijk</i> . Jan mainly focuses on...new indie rock and wave music and features a couple of radio items such as 'Dijk's DX'.	11:00
10:45	Dave Scott's Radiowaves featuring classic rock, modern progressive rock, radio chat and reminiscences about landbased free radio.	11:45
11:30	FRS Goes DX - <i>Peter Verbruggen</i> with News from around the World & shortwave news.	12:30
12:00	Musical Express- <i>Bert van Leer</i> in the 6 th gear!	13:00
12:45	ILLS - <i>Mike Taylor</i> . Mike handles the majority of mails from the Summer Splash.	13:45
13:45	Close down	14:45

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... In the [FRS Newsletter Summer 2024 edition](#) you can read a comprehensive article improving reception.

QSL CARD 44th Anniversary

Jan van Dijk produced once again a good looking anniversary eQSL showing the main FRS studio from 5 years ago.



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/].

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].

44th ANNIVERSARY: FRS FLASHBACKS & MORE

During the 44th anniversary broadcast we looked back on our rich history with a number of flashbacks: archive sound bytes from different periods in the life of FRSH.

August 31st is the official date of our Anniversary and this year we turned into 44 years: 40+4! Four years ago we had an extended celebration paying attention to many aspects of our rich broadcasting life. During our November broadcast we ofcourse paid attention to our Anniversary, even though on a relatively small scale. Realizing we have a comprehensive programme archive it was decided to chose a number of FRS archive sound bytes. Each one dating back to a particular FRS decade. And each presenter provided specific information related to the archive extract. During the broadcast we flashed back to **April 17th 1988, October 20th 1991, May 1st 2005 plus two mixes from FRS deejays between 1980- 1998.**

WEBSITE

Always check our website [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.

If you want to learn more about our history, our website is an excellent resource.

We have a complete renewed FRSH website with lots of photos & audio extracts and moreover: a very detailed history starting in 1980.

To help offset our costs a little, voluntary donations are more than welcome and greatly appreciated. You can donate via Paypal (on top of our our website) or via our POBox 2702 in 6049 ZG Herten, the Neherlands. Thanks in advance!

If you are a new listener and would like to be informed about our activities ahead of a broadcast, please let us know by sending a mail to frs@frsholland.nl. We will add your e-mail address to our Address book.

And: in case you missed our November announcement via e-mail: let us know!

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.

NEXT BROADCASTS: DECEMBER 22nd & 25th

FRS-Holland will return to the airwaves with its annual Seasonal December broadcast on Sunday December 22nd. That broadcast will last 5 hours: from 09:52- 15:00 CET. You will be informed by e-mail well in advance . Christmas day Wednesday December 25th will see a double repeat of the

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complete Seasonal broadcast. That will be between 17:52- 23:00 and 23:00- 04:00 CET: frequency will be 5830 kHz or alternatively 5840 kHz.. As the chances for transatlantic reception (for example, in North and South America) increase later in the evening, it has been decided to repeat the entire broadcast as from approx. 23:00 CET onwards. This means

we will continue broadcasting until about 04:00 AM on the morning of Boxing Day. And of course we do hope to hear (also) from listeners outside Europe.

‘FRS goes DX’

Since a while we include some of the ‘FRS goes DX’ items in this Newsletter.

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.

Obituaries

DJ **Paul May**, known from his time at Radio Northsea Int. and as Paul Dean on Laser 558, passed away on July 8 after a long battle with cancer. He was 74. During his youth, he frequently traveled between the US and the UK, where he became fascinated by Radio Caroline and Radio London

Radio Caroline presenter Dave Foster passed away on Sunday August 25, at the age of just 63. Dave began as the night owl for the station in April 1987 aboard the Ross Revenge. He will be especially remembered as a crucial figure in the station's survival.

Carl Kingston began his radio career in 1974 with BBC Radio Humberside. Over the years, he worked in many countries, including Switzerland, Germany, and the USA, and appeared on stations like the Voice of Peace and Radio Mi Amigo. After his ‘Mediterranean cruise’, Carl found himself at a long list of radio stations, including Radio Caroline in 1983 and Viking Radio in Hull and Radio Aire in Leeds. On September 7, 2024, he returned to Radio Caroline for an 80s reunion broadcast but sadly passed away days later after returning home.

Radio Caroline Flashback presenter **Bill Rollins** passed away at the beginning of October 2014.

Beginning his offshore radio career on Tower Radio & TV on Sunk Head Fort in 1965, he later worked for East Anglian Productions, and was a Radio Caroline ‘link man’ on shore during the 1980’s, supplying the ‘Lotto 649’ results to the Ross Revenge, while his voice could often be heard on tape in between the ‘Viewpoint 963’ programmes.

Atlantic 252

Atlantic 252 revived as digital radio. At least...the name! The new radio station launched on DAB at 8 am on June 24 under the 'historic' name Atlantic 252, after the former Irish commercial longwave station. The new logo is a modern version of the original Atlantic 252 logo. Atlantic 252 is targeting

the 40+ audience. Presenters will be added next year. Of course the station is also online. Go to [atlantic252classics.com].

Johnnie Walker retired from radio

British radio icon Johnnie Walker (79) ended his career just under a week ago after 58 years in broadcasting. He shared the news during his 'Sounds of the 70s' show on BBC Radio 2, explaining his struggle with a terminal lung disease. Johnnie said it has become increasingly difficult to maintain the professional standard required. His final 'Rock Show' was aired on October 25, and his last 'Sounds of the 70s' on October 27. Johnnie, who has been mostly recording from home due to his illness, received a prognosis of a few weeks to six months to live.

Radio Free Europe

Radio Free Europe is contemplating a return to Slovakia, driven by concerns over private media pressure and state media dominance. The station has a historical role since 1951, providing 'free news' during the Cold War, with broadcasts in Slovakia halting in 2004 as democracy improved. Current political developments prompt this reconsideration. In 2020, the station resumed broadcasts in Hungary due to declining media freedom under Viktor Orbán. Funded by the U.S. Congress, Radio Free Europe seeks to deliver objective information in authoritarian regimes.

Trella Hart

July 4, Trella Hart, the singer behind some of the most famous American station jingles from the 1960s and 1970s, passed away. Trella signed with PAMS after moving to Dallas in 1966. She soon became heard on national and international radio. Her unique voice and laugh became the trademark of numerous radio stations using PAMS' Top 40 packages 'Swizle' and 'Fun Vibrations.' The latter package became most well-known through 77 WABC in New York City. Later, she expanded her work to commercial jingles and other production companies, including JAM, Alfasound, Gwinsound & TM. An excellent audio tribute can be heard at [soundcloud.com/norman-barrington]. See also <https://radiovisie.eu/blad-2182-nrj-am-fm-in-vs-trella-hart/>

Flickr website

A very impressive and comprehensive collection of photos from the Offshore Radio days is to be seen on the Flickr website which is aimed at sharing photo & video material. The site shows many different sets. A nice series of RNI photographs taken 52 years ago is now on line. These photos come from the late Paul May aka Paul Dean, former RNI & Laser 558 deejay.

And Ian Biggar added a series of photos from the failed MV Manor Park project. The ship would become the home of offshore radio stations Radio Ventura / Radio Free England in 1979/80.

Kees Pronk made some trips to the Ross Revenge and the Communicator in the mid 80s and 145 photos of his visits are now in our Flickr Archive. Also a very interesting special page with photographs from 50 years ago during the last week from RNI Peter and Werner Hartwig and Theo Dencker from the Free Radio Campaign Germany were also on the MEBO II and made a terrific series of photographs which can now be seen for the very first time.

Go to: [flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums].

Radio Jupiter

Radio Jupiter is the internet's premier music station for original, high-quality content 24/7 mixed seamlessly with the all-time greatest rock and pop hits. It's a mutual project by two Caroline jocks: Peter Philips and Johnny Lewis, the two who created the sound of Radio Caroline 558 in the 1980's. [<https://www.radiojupiter.studio/>]. There's also a Jupiter app.

Shortwave archive

[shortwavearchive.com/archive/] offers a collection of shortwave radio recordings that you can download or listen to as a podcast. The collection grows every day and includes both historic recordings and current recordings from the shortwave radio spectrum.

Offshore radio 1958- 1970

[www.sixtiescity.net/Radio/PirateRadio.shtm] is an excellent site dedicated to tell the short, but dramatic, story of offshore 'pirate' radio from 1958 to 1970.

WMR Scotland

One of the longest serving FR stations, Scottish Weekend Music Radio made a remarkable come back last year . Looking into their long history, their first successful transmission took place on April 27th, 1980, just a few months before FRS-Holland took off. Since May 2023- that's for or about 18 months- WMR has been enjoying weekly relays over a mystery station on 6290 kHz as well as airplay on Shortwaveradio from Germany on 3975 & 6160 kHz including a slot Sundays and Mondays on 3975 kHz. Web add: [www.wmrscotland.de] / email: [wrsotland@mail.com].

Radio Activity International

Radio Activity International is a new station that was first monitored late September and has been heard many times on 5055 and 5065 kHz with electronic music and canned IDs in English and Russian. The station is believed to transmit from Eastern Europe, maybe Poland.

Mystery 21

Mystery 21 from Germany has made a comeback to the 60 metre band in October and has been heard testing a lot at nighttime, mostly on 4875 or 4895 kHz.

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!

[frs@frsholland.nl] or P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, The Netherlands.

Of course the FRS Newsletter is free of charge.

Any **small donation** is welcome via Paypal [use frs@frsholland.nl] or of course via our POBox.