

FRS NEWSLETTER

| Winter 2025 |

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

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P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, The Netherlands



FRS NEWSLETTER: Winter Edition 2025

A few weeks following a FRS-Holland broadcast this FRS Newsletter is published for free on our website frsholland.nl.

You can download it as a PDF-file:

frsholland.nl/downloads/.

Important news is often announced using a so called 'pop up': please realize that this is not visible on all smartphones. Better use a PC or tablet!

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 final 2024 edition* (published early 2025!) focusing on **FRS' Seasonal December broadcasts**.

On behalf of the FRS crew **thank you for your snail mails/e-mails for December but also for your support over 2024.**

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 a number of radio news items. *As always your comments are appreciated.*

FRS Seasonal December broadcasts

The final months of a year are mostly the busiest ones... Following our 44th Anniversary broadcast early November, the traditional Holiday Season broadcast was scheduled for Sunday December 22nd. Apart from this main broadcast, there were repeats on Christmas Day (ending on Boxing Day early in the morning) & December 29th.

Sunday December 22nd

The festive December transmission ran from 09:52- 15:05 CET (winter time) on 7700//9300 , 5940 and 5840 kHz. The latter frequency was a generous offer from Mike Radio.

Band conditions were okay that day but certainly not the best. There was quite some noise and fading. 7700 & 5940 were fair/good. 5840's output was the best. Not long before close down, it was decided to repeat the complete broadcast on 7700 & 9300 and result was (much) better signals in the afternoon hours. Where there was little to hear in the morning in Finland, that was not the case in

the later afternoon and evening: on various web SDRs, there were excellent signals on 7700, but also (to a lesser extent) on 9300. The broadcast ended not long before 21:00 CET (including a part of FRS Magazine which was repeated for the 2nd time that afternoon).

A message was put on the FRS website [frsholland.nl] informing about the afternoon/ evening repeat on 7700//9300. Remember: we always try to put last minute changes on our website (Latets News).

Xmas Day Wednesday December 25th

This broadcast was already announced in advance in the information email that is typically sent out in the lead-up to a scheduled broadcast. This time not a day time activity but an evening/ night time one (partly) focusing on long distance reception. The start was at 17:52 and the broadcast was aired twice

(!): part 1 ended at 23:05 CET and close down was at approx. 04:20 CET on Boxing Day. Although 5840 kHz was announced, the broadcast took place 5 kHz lower on 5835 kHz. Disadvantage was that in the course of the evening, the signal skipped areas in Central & Western Europe. But that was taken into account. Every disadvantage has its advantage, as in areas where it is normally not heard or barely audible, there was now (sometimes good) reception. Examples: Romania, Greece, Cyprus & a number of US locations (Ohio, Massachusetts).

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

As a surprise there was another (unforeseen) repeat on Xmas Day which ran on 7700 kHz. That one started at just before 16:00 CET and ended just after 21:00 CET. And once again 7700 did very well in large areas of

Europe. A brief announcement on our website made mention of this *unscheduled* broadcast.

Sunday December 29th

And finally, we come to yet another unscheduled broadcast: on this very final 2024 Sunday, FRS-Holland was once again on air. You could say that the year was truly and definitively seen off.

However, this time at an *unusual time and frequency*. The latter was out of our control, but to be honest: what we had envisioned for our festive December broadcast (on December 22 & 25) had already become history by then. Nevertheless, a strong signal was heard from 06:00 (!)- 11:00 CET on... 6040 kHz.

When we strike the December balance, we can look back with satisfaction. More than 30 hours of broadcasts received in almost every European country, several countries beyond that, and of course worldwide through six streams in the last 9 days of December.

Streams

Each Sunday shortwave broadcast is (usually) followed by no less than 6 streams, usually at set days/times for continuity: **Monday, Wednesday & Friday** starting at 17:52 CET (frsonline.ddns.net) and on **Thursday & Saturday & Sunday** (laut.fm; different times). It's great to see that listeners regularly tune in from literally 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* facilities will be continued to use following shortwave broadcasts. We'd like to thank Lau.fm for all FRSH streams which they carried out over 2024. And: txs to Mike Taylor as well!

FRS-HOLLAND Schedule for Sunday December 22 nd 2024 (BC #218)		
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 December 22 nd .	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
11:45	FRS Goes DXmas - <i>Peter Verbruggen</i> with News from around the World & SW news	12:45
12:15	Musical Express- <i>Bert van Leer</i> . Music from 70s/80s plus radio related item.	13:15
13:15	Everything 80s- <i>Mike Taylor</i> . Mike concentrates on 1980s tracks including those <i>forgotten ones</i> . Plus radio related item.	14:15
14:00-14:05	Close down	15:00- 5:05

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...

Another good alternative is an (indoor) magnetic loop aerial. Not cheap but of high quality (if you make the right choice – make use of the Internet!).

In the FRS Newsletter Summer 2024 edition you can read a comprehensive article improving reception.



QSL CARDS

As a listener going for a QSL card you have two main choices. Either you require a so called **eQSL** card which is a simple version of our hard copy QSL. Or you go for a **beautiful hard copy QSL** which is (without exaggeration) much more attractive). Moreover, if you send a report to P.O. Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, Netherlands, you can choose from no less than 9 different QSL cards that together form a series: **FRS-Holland Through the Years**. When making your selection, we'll lend you a helping hand: all the cards are displayed on our website. Go to: [<https://frsholland.nl/qsl-series/>]. And by clicking on them, you can bring up a nice large image on your screen! If you include a 5-euro note in the envelope, you will receive a full-color QSL card in A5 size, printed on glossy, heavy-quality (200-gram) paper. And our full coloured sticker with our station logo. Well worth it! Some listeners send their report via e-mail and pay via Payal. In such way they save the costs for postage & packing.

RECEPTION REPORT - Empfangsbericht

RX / ANT: AOR AR 7030 plus EMF (Electric Magnetic Field) Antenne von RF-Systems

Date	Time (UTC)	kHz	SINFO	Transmitter	Power	Language
2024-12-22	08:50-10:00	5940	35433	Piepzender, HOL	1 kW	English

Opening; IS; music; IS; music; IS; music; ID and ann: Have a good time. Broadcasting from the heart of Europe this is FRSH, independent free radio on Sunday; Jingle FRSH on shortwave; TS; Jingle; music; TA; This is FRSH, review, stay tune, join us; Rockmusic; ID; FRSH December bc; Popsong by Lady; So far away by Dire Straits; 1989 Berlin wall open; 2003 Tsunami; more remember of singer songwriter; Rockpop; Xmas song and much more; letter box; ID; some FRSH bc; FRSH Jingle; this is FRSH bc on shortwave in the 48m band; FRSH Jingle; flashbacks; Beach Boys.

Date	Time (UTC)	kHz	SINFO	Transmitter	Power	Language
2024-12-22	10:00-10:45	5940	35433	Piepzender, HOL	1 kW	German

Have a merry christmas; Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh Rocksong; ID Jan van Dijk, aus 44 Jahren FRSH Programmen; Rocksong; ID; FRSH Dezember bc on 5940, 7700 und 9300 kHz; Rocksong; FRSH on shortwave Jingle; DX-Tipp; Rockmusik; ID; DX-Tipp DARC Abschied von ORS Moosbrunn; SMRD via ORS zum Abschied; FRSH Jingle; Rockmusik; ID, FRSH music Jingle; FRSH the sound of Europe; flashback Radio Atlantis; Beatles and more; Grüsse an u.a. Siebert Gerhard, Yigal Bengier; Music Blueboy; Audio Bernd Seiser, Weihnachts-Neujahrs-Grüsse; DX-Treffen Nr. 44 in Gaggenau, Schwarzwald, Black Forrest, am / on Saturday 2025-05-17.

Date	Time (UTC)	kHz	SINFO	Transmitter	Power	Language
2024-12-22	10:45-11:15	5940	35433	Piepzender, HOL	1 kW	English

Thanks to Jan for the German bc; FRSH Jingle; ID; Radio Waves; Xmas; Pop by Lady; FRSH Jingle; radiowaves; ID; postal address; mail address; FRSH homepage; Rockmusic; Jingle FRSH across Europe on shortwave

Condition: you must have your personal Paypal account (very easy to create). For payments just use [frs@frsholland.nl].

RECEPTION REPORTS:

what requirements must they meet?

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** or **no location**. Result is a friendly but firm message in which we inform the listener he won't get a QSL card. 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]. *The image above is a good example of a quality reception report.*

We wish you all the best for 2025. First and foremost, a good health. We continue to count on your support.

WEBSITE

Always check our website [frsholland.nl] for latest news. This can 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 (*POBox, website, printing costs, relays*) voluntary donations are more than welcome and greatly appreciated. You can donate via Paypal (on top of 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 December 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 sufficient return postage. Combine it with sending in a written report to our Herten maildrop.

NEXT BROADCASTS ?

FRS-Holland will return to the airwaves with its first 2025 broadcast next March or April 2025. You will be informed by e-mail well in advance .

You are looking for that special recording or memory?

FRS Sales Productions offers **thousands of recordings** from **Sea to Satellite!**
Offshore...landbased Free
Radio...jingles...documentaries ... shortwave ...
Tunes...USA radio....Commercial....RSL *and much much more.*

A DIVE INTO THE HISTORY of FRSH

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 last December it was! Our Seasonal broadcast was on December 22nd and in the

FRS annals, there are two matches.

December 22nd 1991 the 12th annual X-mas broadcast took place. After drawing lots our then German presenter JB was the one who had to climb into the tall and wet antenna tower to erect the inverted V. FRS was heard on 6225 with its very own 150W transmitter and 150W modulator. That same evening at 20:00 CET almost the complete broadcast was repeated on 3883 from a different site. For the record: Joop ter Zee was absent in the FRS' programming while there was a double German Service. Rather unique!

Also on this day the 1996 X-Mas broadcast- 6 hours - took place. Aired on 6243.

OFFSHORE HAPPENINGS on DECEMBER 22nd

1973: The Radio Atlantis broadcast ship, the 'Jeanine,' drops anchor off the coast of Knokke. The vessel had arrived from Cuxhaven, Germany..

1964: – The test broadcasts of Radio London aboard the 'MV Galaxy' come to an end. The station is set to launch on 264 meters or 266 meters (AM 1133 kHz).

1972: Radio Caroline returns at 6:00 AM aboard the 'MV Mi Amigo.'

1983: The 'MV Communicator' arrives in the Thames Estuary and drops anchor.

2017: Radio Caroline, which ceased offshore broadcasting in 1990, officially returns to the AM band. The station receives a license to legally broadcast on AM 648 kHz with a power of one kilowatt. The official relaunch includes a live broadcast from the Ross Revenge.

FRS Mailbox

On this page an anthology of listener's response regarding our Holiday Season broadcasts. Each e-mail or letter via POBox 2702 is much appreciated. We'd love to hear from you. Not only the reception quality counts 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 December 2024 broadcasts.

“Hello Peter and FRSH-mates, first of all, I wish you all the best for 2025! And 2024 ended well: Thanks for continuing the tradition of FRS-Holland's annual Holiday Season broadcast and the effort you put in for us listeners.” [Michael Geisel- Pfullingen/ Germany](#)

“I am pleased to confirm though that I did download/copy and have enjoyed the whole from your streaming service (FRSONLINE Monday 23rd December). Thank You to Dave Scott for the detailed name-check and for playing the interesting BRI clip (from 1966 was it). I used to listen to a Britain Radio Int. but in the late 1980's/early 1990's and am looking at my BRI souvenir keyring (in our wall display cabinet) as I type these very words. I was, however, pleased to hear FRSH on Sunday 29th December but only for a very short while though. Pity, as reception of FRSH from approx. 0755 to 0810UTC on 6040 kHz was excellent. Very strong and clear audio. Hardly any noise. In fact I would easily award a SINPO of 45444 as it was that good.” [Albert Ford- Yeovil, Somerset/ UK](#)

“I thought I'd write to you, albeit belatedly, to thank you for your broadcasts over the Christmas period and if it is not too late, to send you a reception report. I hope it is of use to you, even though I used a remote receiver as opposed to a traditional radio. Listening through headphones, you sounded near perfect at a SINPO rating of 55444, with reception being of consistently good quality throughout. It was lovely to hear your shows once again, which I enjoyed a great deal. Hopefully I will be able to tune in with regularity in 2025. Wishing you every success.”

[Paul Bundy- Snettisham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk/ UK](#)

“Dear FRSH, first and foremost, my best wishes and a Happy New Year to everyone for 2025. Here is a summary of the broadcast from Sunday, December 22. Four frequencies were provided: 5840 – 55940 – 7700 – 9300 kHz. I tested all four, and the best for me was the 5840 kHz. Reception on this frequency was very good. SINPO code: 43444. A very enjoyable broadcast.”

[Jean Eggerickx, Hoeilaart/ Belgium](#)

“Hi Peter, well another year of frustration , sadness and some joy has come to end and here's wishing you and your family all the very best for 2025. Thank you for all you do to keep FRS Holland going , sorry I haven't been that active in the past years. Best 73's.”

[Nick Sharpe- Laleham, Staines, Middlesex/ UK](#)

“Dear Free Radio Service Holland, your show was very nice. It was a pleasure to listen - especially the cool DX tipp show and the very professional moderation. I will of course try and write again in 2025.

My radio was a JRC NRD 545DSP communications receiver. I use an external active antenna of the type Wellbrook ALA1530LN Magnetic Loop - rotatable. QSL would be nice. Happy 2025! Best wishes from the Black Forest region." [Helmut Matt, Herbolzheim/ Germany](#)

"I was glad to at hear a tiny bit of your broadcast to the USA on 25-26/12/2024 on 5835 Khz AM into Massillon, Ohio USA (NE Ohio). Your signal was a S1-2 at peaks, SIO 212 SINPO 15331, most of the time just able to barely make out the music but I could hear your carrier when I switch to USB. As you can see I listened two different times, same signal strength. I hope this report is helpful for this broadcast, and your EQSL would be greatly appreciated! My equipment is a Yaesu FT1000MP Mark V Field with a OCD Dipole 81.4 Meters long and 11.3 meters high strung NE/SW."

[Chuck Kirkpatrick, Massillon, Ohio/USA](#)

"Yesterday there was the opportunity to follow your program for two hours! As usual I enjoyed listening to your well produced shows in German and English! The signal was quite good the entire time! I have a few days off at the weekend, maybe there will be more time for "pirate radio"-listening again. Hope to hear from you and the FRSH-staff again soon! All the best 73s from the South of Germany." [Thorsten Brandenburg, Munich/ Germany](#)

"I have very great pleasure in sending you the following reception report on a transmission in English language of your station operating on 5835 kHz and I trust that you will be able to verify. Your broadcast was heard here on the 25th december 2024 at 1707 UTC. Sinpo: 44444. I'm one of the DX editor of Radiorama, the monthly magazine of A.I.R. the italian DX association with more than 200 members." [Bruno Pecolatto, Pont Canavese \(TO\)/ Italy](#)

"Dear friends from FRS-Holland, I was very happy to tune into your station once again here in my city. As always, your programming was very good, especially the beautiful songs. It was great to have the company of your station in 2024, and I hope that next year we can continue to listen to your beautiful Shortwave station." [Carlos Alberto Erdmann, Vera Cruz/ Brasil.](#)

"I am 70 years old and a DXer and SWL since 55 years. Listening to the medium waves 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 very much for your fine year end FRSH Xmas December broadcast. *Danke an Jan van Dijk für seine Grüsse im deutschen FRSH-Programm.*" [Siegbert Gerhard, Frankfurt/ Germany](#)

"Date: December 25, 2024. Time: 17:25 - 17:48 UTC. Frequency: 5835 kHz. Remote receiver site: KiwiSDR set in Wepion, Namur, Belgium. Antenna on the site of remote receiver: Wellbrook ALA-1530LN. Reception location: at home in Amagasaki City, Hyogo, Japan. Condition: SINPO 45444. Comments: I listened to your program at home in Japan. Reception frequency was 5Hz different from published one. Your Christmas program was very good as well as the music selection. I enjoyed Christmas songs at hour night time." [Hitoshi Sugio, Amagasaki-shi, Hyogo/ Japan](#)

"Thank you for the wonderful show on December 22nd. I listened on 7700kHz and 5940kHz. I use the SDR in Enschede, and 7700kHz was in good condition from start to finish.

The reception conditions on 5940kHz varied depending on the time of day, but it was at least SINPO 35333. Here I would like to say "Thank you for the Christmas present". You played my requested song, Belinda Carlisle's "Leave a Light on"! As a fan of shortwave music radio, this is the best present I could wish for." [Tooru Gouhara, Hamamatsu City/ Japan.](#)

"My name is Jordan Alcolea Perez and I am an amateur radio listener and diexist, I live in Spain and I have been able to tune the signal of FRSH at different times of the day, it took a long time since I sent you reception report in 2022. Receiver: Philips D-2999, antenna: 20 meter wire. Overall very good signals for the time it was, the best arriving was the 41 meter band 7700 KHz. Very good music and programming, a pity not to have been able to listen to it longer, I will be looking forward to your next transmissions." [Jordan Alcolea Perez, Santa María de los Llanos \(Cuenca\)/ Spain](#)

"Hello Radio Friends, this email is to report reception of your station in central Massachusetts USA, today, 25 December 2024, on 5835 kHz, starting at 2253 UTC and going past 2359 UTC. Reception overall is fair, SINPO about 35443. I am using a vintage Collins R-388 receiver connected to a 75 meter dipole antenna. I first heard FRSH in the 1980s. In fact, though I haven't found the QSL, I have a handwritten note from Peter V. for your "7th X-mas Dec. broadcast since Dec. 1980" so maybe 1987 (?)." [Gregg Bares, Oxford, Massachusetts/ USA](#)

"Dear Peter, dear FRSH Crew, thanks a lot for another year of fantastic musical entertainment and information. Yesterday I tuned in to your Holiday Season broadcast on 5840 kHz. The reception on 5840 kHz was better in comparison to 5940 kHz." [Christian Bergmann, Borna/ Germany](#)

"Hello FRSH team and greetings from Germany, I have heard your December show on December 22nd, 2024. Listening many times to your great station. But in the early years of my 40 years of SWL your station was one of the first Dutch stations I have listened to. It was a great pleasure to receive your station again just before Christmas time. Receiver: JRC NRD 535 DG with loop antenna. SINPO: 54444." [Dieter Grundt, Hamburg/ Germany](#)



"Yesterday I was Happy to listen to your Christmas New year show despite a bad reception quality may be due to heavy local rain. All signals were weak except on 9300 kHz . Nevertheless I spent a good time with Free Radio Service Holland. Despite poor reception, I enjoyed the FRSH shows which were entertaining for the listeners with good rock music and songs in a friendly atmosphere."

[Jacques Augustin, Rosny-sous-Bois/ France](#)

“Happy New Year to all of you from India. I am pleased to report you that I discovered FRS Holland transmission on 5940 kHz on 22 December 2024 afternoon here at my place by using web SDR Twente NL. I shall be eagerly waiting for your kind QSL which will be my first FRS-Holland confirmation, With regards and best wishes.”

[Pradip Chandra Kundu, Indian DX Club International, Kolkata/ India.](#)

“Hello, I listened to FRS Holland today. I could not hear the signals with my small shortwave receiver, which only has a whip antenna. So, I used a KiwiSDR receiver instead. I chose one that is located in Hamar, a city north of Oslo (my location). Your frequency 7700 kHz gave the strongest signals, but I could also hear you on 9300 kHz. The two frequencies in the 49 meter band were very weak. I enjoyed listening to your programme, but the signal was not very strong. I will try to find a remote received closer to the Netherlands for better signals later today.” [Hallvard Gjerde, Oslo/ Norway](#)

“At the end of the year I listened to the annual FRSH Holiday Season broadcast. It was another great show with a very nice mix of music, various Free Radio Flashbacks and of course ‘FRS goes DX’ full of current interesting information. Thank you for bringing this traditionally popular and cherished program on the air again. Thanks to all FRSH presenters- I really enjoyed listening ! I wish the whole team a peaceful, healthy and Happy New Year 2025. ” [Horst Cersovsky, Sangerhausen/ Germany](#)



‘FRS goes DX’

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

Radio Caroline

Caroline News

Francis Rossi, best known as the lead singer of Status Quo, has been named the new ambassador of the Ross Revenge Charity, which raises funds for the restoration of the historic Radio Caroline ship, Ross Revenge. Caroline station-manager Peter Moore describes Rossi's support as crucial for preserving and protecting the ship for future generations as a symbol of British music history. Irish singer-songwriter Chris de Burgh has become the second official musical patron of the charity supporting urgent repairs to the MV Ross Revenge. His 1986 hit The Lady in Red was once used by Caroline DJs to send secret codes. The restoration fund has raised £310,000. Behind the scenes, work is ongoing to prepare the 1,000-ton ship for drydock on the UK's east coast. More information can be found at [rossrevengeofficial.com]. As 2024 nearly comes to an end, it's also the end of a special year for Radio Caroline because of its 60th anniversary.

Kenny Everett 80

BBC Radio 4 Extra paid extensive tribute to Kenny Everett during the Christmas week, marking what would have been his 80th birthday on December 25. It was also 60 years since Everett made his debut on the offshore station Radio London (Christmas Eve, 1964). Journalist Paul Rowley has digitized and remastered original recordings of Everett, including ‘lost’ tapes from his time at BBC Local Radio. These recordings, which sat on a shelf for decades, were broadcasted in full for the first time since their original airing.

On Monday, December 23rd the series began on with Rowley's documentary Kenny Everett: The BBC Local Radio Years (2001). On Christmas Eve, Kenny's first program on Radio Bristol from June 1971 followed. On Christmas Day, the documentary Happy Birthday Maurice Cole (2009) was aired, and on Boxing Day, a special from 1971. The series concluded on December 27 with a Radio Bristol program in which Everett interviewed his close friend John Lennon. According to the BBC, this conversation hadn't been heard since 1971.

Additionally, the British station Boom Radio broadcasted a two-hour special about Kenny Everett on Christmas Day, curated by former colleague Nicky Horne. Kenny passed away on April 4, 1995, at the age of 50, due to complications from AIDS.



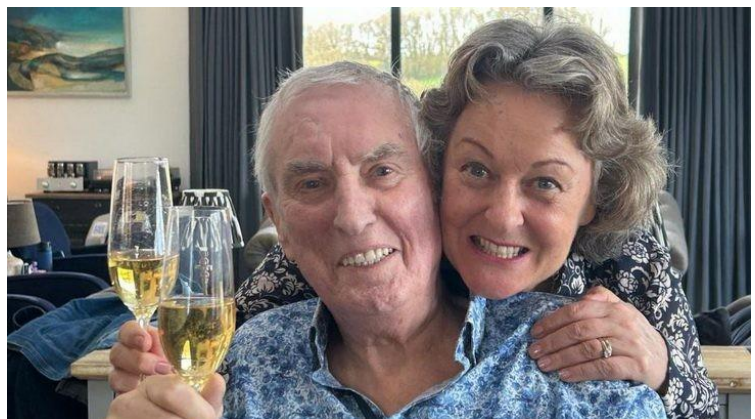
Johnnie Walker RIP

In our Autumn edition we informed about Johnny Walker's final broadcast on BBC Radio 2.

On New Year's Eve, Johnnie Walker, an icon in British radio, passed away at the age of 79 due to pulmonary fibrosis. Walker ended his 58-year career in October 2024 due to health issues. He was best known for presenting the popular programs *Sounds of the 70s* and *The Rock Show* on BBC Radio 2. Johnnie Walker, born Peter Dingley, began his radio career in 1966 at the offshore station **Swinging Radio England** but soon moved to **Radio Caroline**. He remained with the

station even after the *Marine Offences Act*, which prohibited collaboration with offshore broadcasters, came into effect on August 14, 1967. However, Radio Caroline went off the air eight months later due to financial troubles.

Walker joined BBC Radio 1 in 1969. After spending several years in the United States, he transitioned to BBC Radio 2 in 1997, where he remained until October 2024. Known for his relaxed and personal style, Walker stood out from the polished approach of other DJs. His passion for music often clashed with the preferences of his bosses, as he championed album tracks and alternative songs. Despite this, he played a pivotal role in the breakthrough of artists like Lou Reed and bands such as Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles.



New book Radio Monique

Perhaps you are familiar with the book 'Mi Amigo –The Flemish Tack of Offshore Radio- which dedicated a significant focus to the radio ship MV Mi Amigo. Author Ferry Eden is set to release a sequel in the spring of 2025. In the same style and with similar design, the focus now shifts to *Radio Monique*. This project was less known in Flanders but certainly reached a substantial audience in the Netherlands. It would also become the last major offshore radio station broadcasting to the Low

Countries. In *'Radio Monique, the Voice of the North Sea,'* the spotlight is on the offshore radio stations that were active in the 1980s, with Radio Monique, of course, playing the starring role. To make this new book possible, pre-orders can be placed on the website [miamigoboek.eu] until March 2025.

Willem van Kooten aka Joost den Draaijer RIP

On Friday January 10th, Willem van Kooten passed away, the man who, as "Joost den Draaijer," sparked a radio revolution in the Low Countries during the 1960s and later became an influential name in the Dutch media and music industries as a businessman. As a DJ, entrepreneur, language purist, and bon vivant, he was unique in the Netherlands. He passed away just four days before his 84th birthday.

Willem van Kooten began his radio career as **Joost den Draaijer** at offshore station **Radio Veronica** while still a student. His smooth, collegiate presenting style, infused with inimitable humor, was revolutionary in an era of "formal" broadcast voices. In 1965, with the Veronica Top 40, he introduced radio hit charts to the Netherlands and, as a program director, was also the first in the country to implement "horizontal programming": fixed DJs and music genres at the same times every day. After a conflict, he left Veronica in 1968, only to give the station a tough competitor three years later with **Radio Noordzee Int**. In the early months of 1971, he hosted both the Nationale Hitparade on NOS and the Noordzee Top 50 on Radio Noordzee. Ultimately, he chose Noordzee, but he left that station just a year later.

From 1974 to 1978, he hosted Joost mag niet eten daily from 6 to 7 PM on **Hilversum III**, the first horizontal program on public broadcasting in the Netherlands. That venture also ended due to a conflict of interest. In the mid-1980s, Joost returned to make programs for the Dutch offshore station Radio Monique. In the 1990s, he was behind the launch of Arrow Classic Rock Radio on cable and, when commercial radio was finally allowed in the Netherlands, Holland FM.

The recurring conflicts of interest were linked to the fact that Van Kooten was also actively involved in the music industry during his radio career. He scored global successes as a music publisher with Dutch bands such as Golden Earring, Shocking Blue, Tee Set, George Baker Selection, and Stars on 45. Joost is also credited with coining the term "Palingsound" .



Radio Jupiter

Radio Jupiter is an Internet 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.

[www.radiojupiter.studio/]. There's also a Jupiter app.

International SW & AM related news

US: Wolfman Jack Returns to California 'Border Blaster'

The iconic Mexican radio station 1090 AM XEPRS in Tijuana is returning to its roots with an oldies format, bringing Wolfman Jack back to the frequency that made him famous in the 1960s. Originally known as XERB, this is where Wolfman Jack began his career. This time, his unmistakable voice will feature in the afternoon, alongside remastered broadcasts from legendary DJs such as Charlie Tuna, MG Kelly, and The Real Don Steele. The format change coincides with the station's 85th anniversary.



Broadcasting from Baja California, the station reaches audiences as far as Southern

California, including San Diego and Los Angeles. Station manager Marc Paskin expressed his excitement about reviving these iconic voices and timeless oldies, describing it as “radio the way it’s meant to be.” In recent months, the Mexican frequency had been home to a Spanish-language religious broadcaster.

Alfa Media Group

A Christian media organization called Alfa Media Group has applied to start radio broadcasts targeting Russia on 963 kHz using the old transmitter facility in Pori, Finland. The 600 kW transmitter at the site is still operational. Alfa Media Group is the successor to Finnish Christian Alfa TV, which went bankrupt in 2022. In an interview, director Hannu Haukka stated that the station plans to air not only religious broadcasts but also talk shows addressing current affairs, produced in collaboration with Western broadcasters. If the 600 kW transmitter is indeed utilized, the broadcasts would reach major cities in the western part of Russia.

KBC Radio

Due to its headquarters being located outside the EU, The Mighty KBC was denied a license renewal, despite having broadcast on DAB+ for 10 years and paying all its taxes within the EU.

Starting last December 1st, KBC Radio is to be heard on 891 kHz via a transmitter in Huisse, the Netherlands. For updates, visit their website page: [www.kbcradio.eu].

WCBS New York



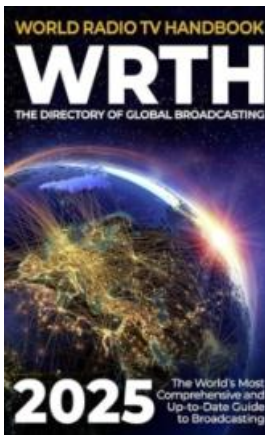
WCBS New York on 880 kHz has ended its all-news format after 57 years. They swapped formats with WEPN FM on 98.7 MHz and now broadcasts all-sports programming as ESPN New York. The station's call letters have been changed to WHSQ. *Reported by Dave Kenny via BDXC-UK.*

'Europe on SW'

Europe on SW is an informative guide compiled and edited by Tony Rogers. All European countries are included in this guide providing info about the public broadcasters. You can download the guide via [

www.bdx.org.uk/europe.pdf].

WRTH



The WRTH 2024 is now available as an e-book. (wrth.info/e-book/). The WRTH e-book is compatible with most e-readers. It offers searchable content, an interactive table of contents, adjustable text size and font, and features for bookmarking and making notes. The WRTH is available for purchase at the webshop: WRTH 2024 e-book.

SM Radio Dessau

SM Radio Dessau celebrated its 8th anniversary on Nov. 24th 12-14 UTC on 6095 kHz via the Nauen TX. Boxing day December 26th from 09- 15 UTC sees the (most likely) final 100 kW marathon broadcast from Moosbrunn, Austria. Stations involved are SM Radio Dessau, Radio DARC, Jake FM, Radio Little Paris, FM Kompakt, Decade AM & Radio Power Rumpel. The add for reports: [100kwqsl@jake-fm.de].

In 2022 the 300 kW Moosbrunn tx was permanently switched off and upcoming December 31st the final trm via the 100 kW outlet is scheduled. As from January 2025 SM Radio Dessau new schedule commences: every 2nd Sun the station can be heard on 6095 via a 100 kW tx from the Nauen transmitting facility in Germany. In addition the station can be heard on 6070 with 10 kW via Rohrbach. Website: [www.sradio-dessau.de/]. *Txs to Thomas Becker!*

New legal shortwave stations from Finland

Again two new legal shortwave stations from Finland have been in the news. Radio Ambience from the South East of Finland has commenced transmissions on 6095 kHz with 20 watts. Lyhytaaltoradio from Central Finland has obtained a temporary licence for the period until mid January 2025 to broadcast on 7400 kHz with 50 watts.

Mystery 21 from Germany

Mystery 21 made a comeback to the 60 metre band in October, continues with nighttime broadcasts on the 60 metre band, usually around 4950 or 4970 kHz. Apart from its own nonstop music stream Mystery has relayed another German station called Hit FM. Meanwhile, yet another Radio Mystery has appeared on shortwave but this one seems to be from Greece and has been heard playing nonstop dance mixes with very few IDs. Frequencies used include 5780 and most recently 5830 kHz.

Radio Northern Star



Radio Northern Star from Norway is currently running just 30 watts into an inverted V aerial on 5895 kHz. However, the station has plans to increase power to 400 watts soon. Northern Star has been received early on Sunday mornings with weak signals. But more power will certainly boost reception in Western Europe.

Radio Onda

Radio Onda is currently transmitting on 6140 kHz from a site in the Eastern part of the Netherlands, mostly on Sundays. Reports say the station whose

headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium, is now applying for a licence in Luxembourg to broadcast on shortwave with 1 kW. Radio Onda usually plays Brazilian and French but also classical music.

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].

Channel 292

Recently we received a newsletter from German station Channel 292. Future new stations to be received via their frequencies are: Radio London International, Little Emperors, Kölsch in die Welt, In The Groove & from February onwards Nordic Wave. Over the Holiday Season numerous special broadcasts were aired by a number of stations: Radio Six, Gary Gordon Radio, Radio Marabu, SM Radio Dessau, Radio Waves International and Superclan Radio.



On the technical side there's also news: Channel 292 have completely converted their transmitters and spare units to solid state transistorized ones, which was not without some problems. These amplifiers are much more sensitive to problems than tube amplifiers.

Anyone who has sent us reception reports recently will certainly have noticed that currently no QSL cards are being sent. The reason is simply lack of time, and when there are technical jobs, they get priority. It should also be known that their broadcasting partner in Vienna / Moosbrunn- the ORS- ceased broadcasting and was on air for the last time on December 31st . On this occasion, the DARC transmitted its last broadcast on December 29 from Moosbrunn as a double hour from 1000 UTC. From January 5, the DARC broadcasts are subject to change: Sunday broadcast on 6070 kHz will then run via Channel 292's transmitter at 10 kW. These broadcasts will also run on high power- 125 kW- on 9670 kHz via Woofferton in the UK. Repeats on Mondays on 6070 and 9670 kHz will be broadcast at different times, which can be found in the transmission schedules on Channel 292's homepage: [www.channel292]. It is uncertain whether a follow-up company will be able to resume broadcasting via Moosbrunn at a later date.

Weekend Music Radio

Weekend Music Radio has had another very exciting year of broadcasting..... After a number of years of silence, the first new show was aired in mid May 2023. The station has continued each and every weekend since then, being aired on various frequencies on SW.

The so called primary service from over the water has been on the air around 6285 in recent months, but of course due to the very nature of SW,



frequencies can vary. This station is on air usually on Sundays, but sometimes a Saturday as well... The winter schedule via Shortwave Radio / Shortwave Gold in Germany reads as follows.

Fridays: 21:00 UTC 3975; Saturday: 16:00 UTC and 21:00 UTC 3975; Sunday: 11.00 UTC on 6160, 16:00 UTC & 23:00 UTC on 3975; Monday: 23:00 UTC on 3975. *For latest updates check WMR's website!*

On Sunday 27th October, 6160 closed down at 1600UTC. And WMR was heard 16/1800 on 3975 only. So maybe there are some time changes to consider now winter is upon us....

At the end of 2023 when the main service was off air for a few weeks, a surprise relay appeared from the transmitters of KISS AM in Ireland. This station has of late been very active again around 6300 usually, and also includes airing of WMR shows in their output. KISS has also been heard with their own style of 80s music some weekdays...

And yet another relay has taken place very

intermittently from another unidentified source, around 5843kHz. This was heard a few times as a single play on a Sunday mainly. This transmitter has also been heard carrying Laser.

The other transmitter that has been taking the shows intermittently comes on around 6940khz. The broadcast in the early hours of 6th October from around 0400 / 0600 took the WMR OP by surprise with the absolute huge signal on the Canadian West coast, in fact off the coast on the former Queen Charlotte Islands. Also getting into Alaska. There was also a rather good recording sent from Guatemala, included



with the first report from that country. But there were also a couple of audio reports came in from DXers in New Zealand... A truly amazing signal. This was the day before the aurora, showing again that sometimes there is fantastic band conditions just before a blow out.... During the early summer the old [WMR.com] domain stopped working, when the original company demanded photo IDs etc. Jack refused to partake in this for obvious reasons, so despite the URL being paid up to the end of 2024, it was removed in May!! Obviously the company was not fit for purpose. No compensation has been offered. A new domain was taken, [wmrscotland.de], and a new email address not tied to a domain was also taken: [wmrscotland@mail.com]. Jack says it is great being back on SW after all these years and even more so on this weekly schedule. And a huge thank you to both the technical guys putting out the signal, and the

multitude of listeners out there. Many of the listeners from the past have emailed and been in touch again which is nice.

New media

The France Radio Club (FRC) and its Offshore Echos Magazine (OEM) have turned 50 years old this year, extraordinary! For this occasion, Francois Lhote has been working for months on a 4-hour double DVD, which is also available as a Blu-Ray version. This four-hour masterpiece fascinates from the first minute to the last, proving itself



to be a fireworks display of historical events spanning five decades of radio history. The well-known milestones, especially from the offshore broadcasting era (featuring impressive photos and film footage!), serve not only as chronological guides but also as triggers for personal memories, often including poignant (paunjent) moments (consider, for example the raid by Dutch authorities in August 1989, the sinking of the Mi Amigo, and the gradual demise of the broadcasting ship Ross Revenge). The film represents a kind of completed life story, from which one senses at the end: there is not much new coming, only sadness. It is an impressive, often emotionally stirring documentary of the highest quality.



Feature on *Radio Andorra*

When visiting the mini state of Andorra one notices two tall masts, red and white, on top of a mountain. Strange but true: Andorra does not have AM transmitters at all, and these masts are not used for FM either. It appears these were the radio towers of the late Radio Andorra. The station closed down its SW operations in 1983, but the masts remained standing. The location is near a huge lake which was a deliberate choice at the time, as the water in the lake helped improving the radio wave propagation.

Remarkable: Radio Andorra once had the most powerful transmission facility in Europe, broadcasting at 300 kW in the late 1960s.

Radio Andorra has a unique history. It was often at odds with France, continued broadcasting during World War II, and was tolerated by both the Germans and the Allies. At the time, it also had the strongest medium-wave



transmitter in Europe. The founder was a French businessman who owned several stations in southern France. In 1935, he bought a license from a resident of Andorra to start a station there, as the regulations in France had become so strict that his stations would have to shut down.

Initially, the station played music and broadcasted in French, Spanish, and Catalan. It transmitted on 823 kHz and shortwave 5976 kHz. The transmitter was located in Encamp, about two kilometers from the masts. In the 1970s, Radio Andorra moved to 701 kHz and shortwave 6230 kHz. During World War II, Radio Andorra continued broadcasting and was tolerated by both the warring parties. Andorra was neutral, and the station played only music, which made it very popular across Europe. The station avoided political content and remained neutral, not taking sides.



However, it did play requests, and refugees used the station to let their families know they had safely crossed the Pyrenees.

The golden years for Radio Andorra were in the 1950s, particularly in southern France, where it was the go-to station, as Radio Luxembourg and the newly established Europe1 in 1955 were not available. However, France always tried to obstruct the station. In 1948, jammers were placed in Paris, but they were quickly banned by the court. In 1968, with support from the French government, SUD Radio was founded, and the Andorran government was pressured to ban Radio Andorra.

Ultimately, on June 26, 1981, Radio Andorra's license was not renewed, and the station was forced to cease its broadcasts immediately. In the early 80s Scandinavia Radio leased air time via Andorra's SW outlet on Sunday evenings.



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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Txs in advance!



10W 41 mb transmitter 1980