

about

RADIO CAROLINE





RADIO CAROLINE

an introduction to your all day music station

RADIO CAROLINE is a commercial radio station which is based aboard a ship. The ship is called MV Caroline and is anchored in international waters five miles from the east coast of England. It is actually at a point off Felixstowe in Essex.

Caroline was fitted out for broadcasting in Ireland. It sailed from a port called Greenore, half way between Belfast and Dublin, and took up its position on Good Friday 1964. That night it began test broadcasts. The following day news of Caroline's existence was released to the press. By Easter Sunday Radio Caroline had started broadcasting from six in the morning until six at night.

The sea was calm, but a political storm followed. Radio Caroline weathered the storm. In fact within three weeks it gathered nearly seven million listeners. That figure was supplied by the Gallop Polls and did not include people under the age of sixteen. Radio Caroline seemed to supply a need for non-stop music.

who hears Caroline

Caroline's music was heard in London, the Home Counties, the South of England and East Anglia. Reports of strong reception were received from all over England. Since then the equipment has been improved and the signal strengthened still further. Radio Caroline has a very large following on the continent too, particularly in Holland, France, Denmark and the Scandinavian countries.

the music

The policy of Radio Caroline is to supply musical entertainment with a minimum of announcement. The disc jockeys introduce their records simply and without too much dialogue. This means that there is a flow of music without distraction. The programmes were planned so that every taste in popular music is catered for. The records were planned not as timefillers but as music to listen to.

An arrangement was made in May that a percentage of any income earned by Caroline should be paid to the Performing Rights Society. This society looks after the interests of composers and publishers of music.

commercial radio

Radio Caroline became the third commercial radio station currently operating at sea in Europe. Before her there was only Radio Sud off Sweden and Radio Veronica off Holland.

In fact the world's first commercial radio station started in America over a quarter of a century ago. Australia and then other Commonwealth countries followed soon after.

the Club

Over two thousand letters a day were received at Radio Caroline's London offices. Many asked for information, most wanted request records played. The Caroline club was formed as a service to listeners. It was decided to try to condense the answers to the most frequently asked questions and to start a programme especially for member's requests. Plans were also made for other benefits for Caroline Club members.

From all of us at Radio Caroline, thank you very much for your wonderful support.



RADIO CAROLINE

Some of the people involved

RONAN O'RAHILLY. Ronan is the young man responsible for Radio Caroline. He is 24, born in Dublin the son of an Irish father and an American mother. His father, Aodogan O'Rahilly is an Irish industrialist who owns the port of Greenore where Caroline was fitted out for broadcasting. Ronan has been in England since 1960 and has always been closely connected with the world of music. He founded the Scene Club in London, now acknowledged as the country's Mecca of rhythm and blues.

Ronan started the mammoth task of creating Radio Caroline over a year and a half ago. He controlled the operation from its beginning and has been the man 'at the helm' ever since.



THE FIRST

CAROLINE DJs



CHRIS MOORE

Programme Director

Chris is chief disc jockey and is in charge of programme planning. It is he who decides what sort of records are played on Radio Caroline as well as the format of feature programmes, like the Caroline Club hour.

Born in Washington 23 years ago Chris first came to Europe when he was eight and went to school in England. When he was 18 he travelled the world in the Merchant Navy and on his return to England joined an advertising agency. He moved from there into the music business.



SIMON DEE

Simon Dee was born in Ottawa, Canada, and is 28. He is married, and has a son Simon Junior. He has lived in England since he was eleven, except for the five years he spent in Cyprus (where he was shot at) and the Far East. When he was demobbed he became a fashion photographer, working with Anthony Armstrong Jones at one stage.

Simon met Ronan O'Rahilly at the Scene Club. They realised they had similar tastes in music. Ronan told him he was starting a floating radio station and asked if Simon would be interested in a job as a disc jockey. Simon said yes. More than a year later Ronan phoned and confirmed the offer.



CARL CONWAY

A well known television, radio and film actor Carl has run the gamut of show-business. He was born in Ramsgate and is 35. He attended St Lawrence College and when he left went into a local repertory company. For some years he travelled around England with various companies, playing in a large variety of plays and revues.

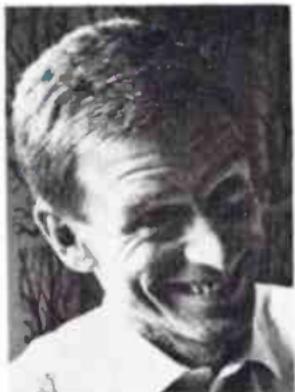
Carl then entered the advertising world and appeared in film and television advertisements. He graduated into acting in drama and comedy both on the large and small screen. Then came the day he decided to become a disc jockey. A freelance first and then a full time job aboard MV Caroline.



DOUG KERR

Dark haired and brown eyed, Doug Kerr is a five foot ten inch Canadian from Stampede City, Calgary, Alberta. When he left Alberta and Utah universities Doug began his D.J. career with the Canadian Broadcasting Company. But in 1957 he upped and came to England. There followed seven years of theatre and film work, including a part in "The Victors", before he joined Caroline.

In his spare hours Doug likes to paint abstracts—really big ones. He also devotes a lot of time to all kinds of music, show business, books, Chinese food, swimming, tennis and skiing. Doug is especially amiable towards dogs, cats and girls. But as yet he is unmarried. "A good gal", says Doug, "is hard to find".



TOM LODGE

Tom was born in Forest Green, Surrey, in 1936. He was taken to Virginia, USA when he was 4 and his father took up a professorship in the university there. Tom returned to England when he was 10 and went to Bedales School. Back across the Atlantic when he was 17 and Tom became a cowboy on a ranch in Alberta. After a year he went North as an explorer in the Arctic. He returned to England via the West Indies and wrote a book about his two years in the Arctic called 'Beyond the Great Slave Lake' which was a success in England and America.

Tom joined CBC as an announcer and after a year became station manager at a new Canadian radio station in Fort Smith. He returned to England as a freelance broadcaster, doing documentaries and record programmes. He heard Radio Caroline one day, phoned Chris Moore for a disc jockey audition and shortly after boarded the boat. Tom's grandfather, Sir Oliver Lodge, was one of the inventors of wireless telegraphy.



GERRY DUNCAN

Programme Producer

Gerry runs the production side of the programmes. He is the man who coordinates the disc jockeys, the records, the time checks, commercial spots and generally keeps an eye on the running of Caroline's programmes. In nautical terms, programme planner Chris Moore is the captain of the boat, and Gerry steers. Sometimes he acts as a disc jockey and has an occasional programme on Radio Caroline.

Gerry was born in 1937 in London. He was educated at Dulwich and Harlow College. After service with the RAF in Germany where he was in the photographic section he became assistant to film director Lewis Gilbert. With Gilbert he worked on 'Light up the Sky' and 'Sink the Bismarck'. After one year in the film world Gerry became a television cameraman. Having served with ATV for 4 years Gerry left to start producing programmes for Radio Caroline.

MV CAROLINE

about the ship

MV (Merchant Vessel) Caroline is 763 tons and used to be a passenger ship which served the Danish Islands. Her length is 188ft. with a beam of 32ft. The boat is propelled by a thousand horse power diesel engine with a single screw and is capable of 14 knots. MV Caroline is in very good shape, and although her engines are now rarely used she could have many more active years of normal seagoing service.

the special anchor

When MV Caroline arrived in Greencore in Southern Ireland where she was fitted out for broadcasting a very important and unusual piece of equipment was installed. It was a specially constructed heavy anchor with a forty hundredweight chain. This special anchor is effective in keeping the ship steady in bad weather. An important use is to stop the stylus from slipping across the records in the studio during a storm.

servicing Caroline

A trolley boat from Harwich services MV Caroline three times a week, supplying her with food, fuel and other living necessities. It also transports the crew and the engineers to and from shore after their spells of duty.





the crew

There is normally a crew of ten seamen, two radio engineers and two disc jockeys on board Caroline. But there is no time to laze about in the sun. Maintenance of MV Caroline is of the utmost importance, and the disc jockeys spend their hours away from the microphone planning their programmes. Although stationary, MV Caroline is a hive of industry.

It is a very involved process travelling to and from Radio Caroline because officially everyone and everything carried out and brought ashore is being exported or imported. Anglia Marine Agencies Ltd of Harwich headed by 28 year old Don Murrison are the experts in this. Every time his tender boats go to MV Caroline Don has to organise the paperwork. This includes passing through HM Customs, Excise, HM Waterguard, HM Immigration, the Special Branch of the CID, also involved are British Railways, Trinity House, Board of Trade, Ministry of Transport, and Harwich Harbour Board and Port Health Authority! This is why at present no private trips to the boat can possibly be organised.

MV CAROLINE

The broadcasting equipment aboard M.V. Caroline

The broadcasting equipment which has been installed on MV Caroline is the best. In order to be competitive in the field of commercial radio a high quality signal is essential. An enormous amount of time and planning went into the selection of the equipment. The signal transmitted by Radio Caroline is of the highest possible quality.

If you receive Radio Caroline far away in an area where the signal may be weak, take your radio to your dealer and he will make a very minor adjustment which will improve the reception.

MV Caroline is fitted out as a completely self-contained broadcasting unit. The equipment was installed by Arthur Carrington who was responsible for Britain's first aerial and first undersea television transmissions. He also worked on the installation of equipment into the Manchester studios of ABC Television and has worked for the BBC, The Marconi Company and for the British Government on radar. The equipment he installed is as follows:



generators

There are two generating sets, made by Mercedes-Benz, each capable of delivering 80 kilowatts at 220 volts (3 phase). A control panel regulates the voltage with a complicated switch gear.

transmitters and combining unit

Radio Caroline has two transmitters and a combining unit all manufactured by American Continental Electrics. Each of the transmitters can transmit 10 kilowatts and with the combining unit a total of 20 kilowatts is obtained. The combining unit was put into operation at the end of May, eight weeks after broadcasting started. This unit increased the power of the signal and extended Radio Caroline's reception area.

aerial

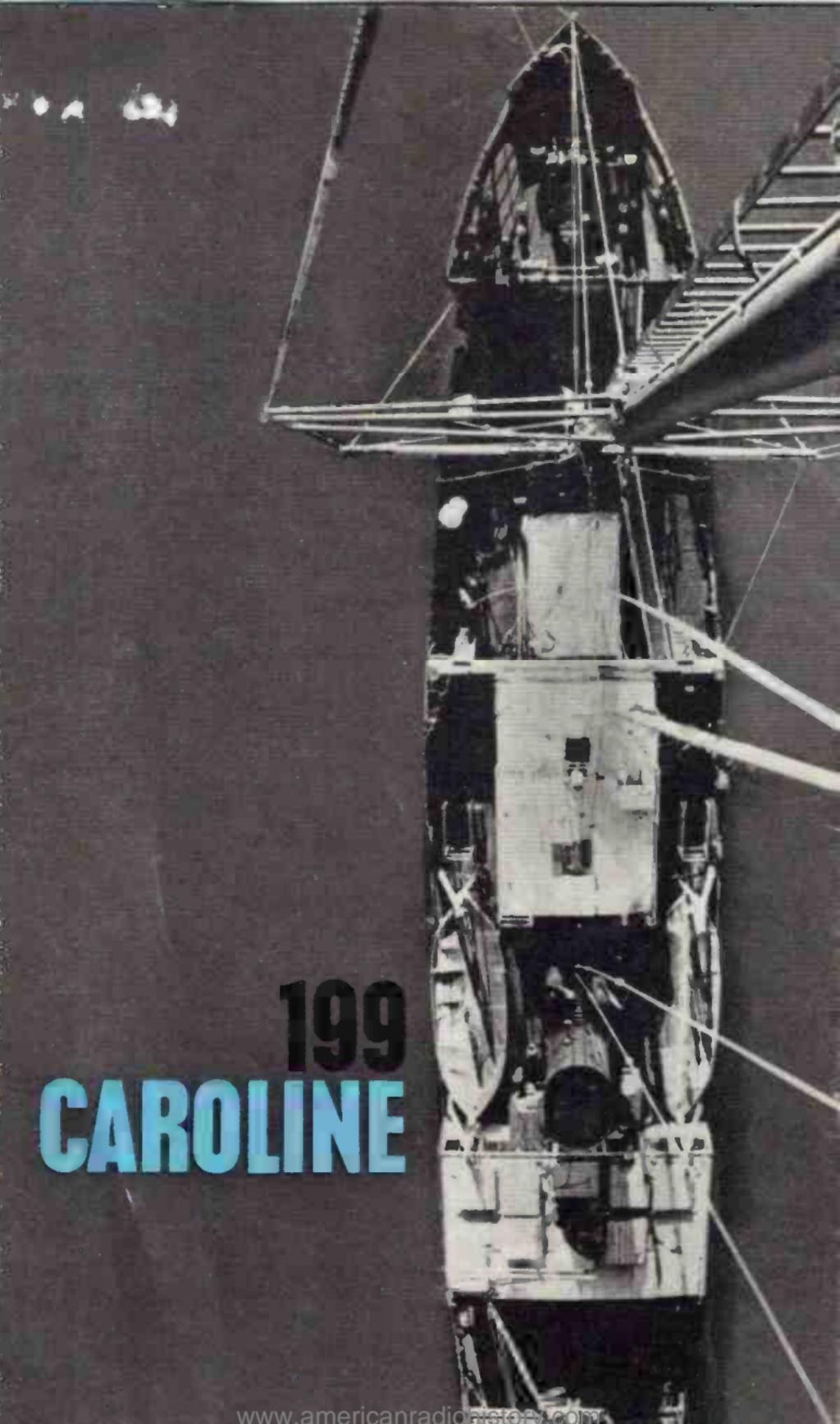
The aerial or antenna of Radio Caroline is unique because it consists of a folded dipole of which the mast is one leg and a sausage aerial the other. It is 168 feet above deck level. The aerial was designed and manufactured in Southampton and rigged in Cowes in the Isle of Wight.

sound control room and studio

The completely self-contained sound control room of Radio Caroline contains three Ampex tape machines. The two transcription turntables (as the radio engineers call their complicated gramophone turntables) were made by Gates Incorporated. In this room sits the radio engineer who controls the music which is transmitted from Radio Caroline.

The sound control room is connected to a studio where the disc jockey sits. He signals his record 'cues' to the engineers through the interconnecting window.

Written by David Block



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