

DUTCH PIRATE RADIO NEWS FROM Etherpiraten.com

(Radiowaves News Sunday Supplement)

Issue 1 – December 17th 2000

INTRODUCTION

My name is Lex van Dijken, 24 years old and living in the South-West corner of Holland. I've been involved in Pirate Radio for over 10 years now. I run my own Pirate Radio Station called Kiss FM 92.2, The Sound of the Underground, which broadcasts every Friday from 6pm until Monday at 9am. I'm also one of the people behind the #1 Dutch Pirate Radio site www.etherpiraten.com . I provide the latest news, interviews with pirate radio stations and some articles. At the moment we are working hard to get an English section online, which will happen in the very near future. I'm also a big collector when it comes to Pirate Radio. I collect audio, video, photos, news/magazine clips, etc, on Pirate Radio, so, if you have something and you're willing to trade/send it to me, please contact me and we will work something out. At this point I would like to thank some Irish radio stations who've helped me make my collection bigger and better. You know who you are!!

THE BEGINNINGS

Let me tell you a little bit about the Dutch Pirate Radio scene. As some of you know, it all started in the 60's, when Radio Veronica started to broadcast on a regular basis from a ship in the Northsea. In the 70's, landbased Pirate Radio started to pop up, which became very big in the 80's with names like Radio Decibel, Unique, Atlantis, Hofstad, Centraal, Keizerstad, Delta and many many more. Some of those DJ's have now made it big time on legal radio stations, such as Jeroen van Inkel, who's doing his afternoon show, Rinkeldekinkel, on Radio 538. Nowadays we have 2 different types of Pirate Radio. One, being a Top 40/House/Dance station, and the other playing polka's and music in our own language. You will find these kinds of radio stations especially in the North-East part of Holland, and you can listen to several stations at the same time, all day long. If somebody goes off the air, just flip the dial and you will find another station. The power they use starts at around 10 Watts, but the average power is 600-800 Watts at the moment, with stations also using 2 kW and up. Antenna towers are up to 70 meters, some in the middle of a town or village. At the moment, a lot of Pirate Radio Stations find their way to the internet and are making their own homepages. You can find alot of links on the website I'm working for. But please note, most of these pages are just in Dutch. Many of the sites contain photos of their equipment, so they're worth checking out.!

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THE AUTHORITIES

As for the Radio Authorities, I was surprised that in Ireland there hasn't been 1 Pirate Radio Station fined for illegal broadcasting in 10 years (if my information is correct). Here in Holland, they are operating on a different level. The Radio Authorities here are called the RDR and they bust several stations every single day. The normal way of operating was raiding a station, taking the transmitter (sometimes the whole studio and record collection) away, book the owner and giving them a fine. But since the beginning of 2000, they use a new law which means that the RDR doesn't have to raid a station. They only have to triangulate the stations signal, write down the address of the building where the signal is coming from and send them a letter with a fine attached, stating that if they find the station broadcasting from the same location again, the fine will go up to 100.000 Guilders. And they already start at 2500 Guilders. Many stations have received a letter like that over the year. A lot of stations stopped broadcasting or they broadcast on an unregular basis. Some of the stations who received those letters went to court to fight against this new law and what do you know ?? The law has a little error. Some stations stated that the RDR didn't have any hard proof that the station was broadcasting from the location where the RDR said the signal was coming from. They didn't take the transmitter away, right ?? So, prove it to the judge that the signal was coming from that location. Maybe the owner of the location didn't have any idea that there was a Pirate Radio Station broadcasting from his building. Maybe the Pirate Radio Station broke into the building, setting up the transmitter by stealing some electricity and using an uplink for their audio. So, why should the owner pay a fine for something he didn't know about. Some of those stations won their court-cases and didn't have to pay their fines. But up until the present day, the RDR continues to send out those letters and fines. Many stations just don't have the knowledge or the money to go to court. As for me, I've been busted twice now, in the old-fashioned way. RDR knocking on the door, showing their paperwork. When I showed them the transmitter, they booked me, took the transmitter away and a half hour later, they were on their way to the next Pirate Radio Station. I had to appear in court last summer for the last bust and I had to pay 1500 Guilders. But I will keep on broadcasting. Like many others, it's in my blood.

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FINALLY

So there you have it, a little introduction into the Dutch Pirate Radio scene. From now on, there will be a weekly update of what's happening in the Dutch scene. If you have any questions, reactions or comments, please send them to me and I will try to answer them as soon as possible. You can reach me at this Email address: dijken@etherpiraten.com I hope you've enjoyed this first issue and I hope I will see you again, next week on Radiowaves.FM.

Take care and all the best, Lex van Dijken!!