

DUTCH PIRATE RADIO NEWS FROM Etherpiraten.com

(Radiowaves News Sunday Supplement)

Issue 7 – January 28th 2001

INTRODUCTION

Hello Folks, in front of you is Issue #7 of Dutch Pirate Radio News From Etherpiraten.com. In this week's issue: Stations off the air, Dutch Pirate Radio Site of the week and big news about the RDR. So, enjoy reading.

STATIONS OFF THE AIR

January 16th was one of those busy days for the RDR. Radio Moreno was taken off the air around 14:55h. The Pirate Radio operator was allowed to say goodbye to his listeners and to tell everybody that he was busted by the RDR. Around 18:30h it was time for Kanon uit Twente to be taken off the air by the RDR. The station had just started their program when the RDR were knocking at their door. In both cases the transmitters were taken. Also Radio Moby Dick from Elburg was forced to close down his station. And finally Radio Jagermeister from Dinxperlo was taken off the air, after a one hour program. The RDR were in the neighbourhood to track down a transmitter, who was interfering with other radio signals. During their quest they found the signal of Radio Jagermeister and of course, it's better to go home with something rather than nothing.

These were busts in the old-fashioned way. But reports came in this week that also a lot of stations have received a letter with the well known fine. The Osaka Team from Weiteveen, Digitaal from Zwartemeer, Hilly Billy also from Weiteveen and the Daltons from Nw. Amsterdam all received one of these letters. The stations are looking into the possibility of coming back on air without having to deal with those kind of letters. We'll keep you posted.

RDR VS PIRATE RADIO

In one of the newspapers this week there was an article about the RDR and their plan to close down more illegal stations. I've tried to translate the most important stuff of this news item, but if I made a writing mistake, please forgive me, ok?

DUTCH PIRATE RADIO NEWS FROM Etherpiraten.com

(Radiowaves News Sunday Supplement)

Issue 7 – January 28th 2001

More work for the guard dogs of the airwaves

Coming up real soon is the re-scheduling of the Dutch FM dial. In order to do this right, with the overcrowding and interference sensitive radioband, the RDR is the centre of attention. More work for the guard dogs of the airwaves. It's time to get rid of all those illegal broadcasters, no matter how good their programs may be. 'Fact is that the illegal broadcaster doesn't pay any license fee and that they can cause serious interference with other radiobands like the police and airflight band', according to Kees Nijdam, one of the directors of the RDR. As soon as the safety of the people is in danger, the illegal broadcaster has to be closed down as soon as possible. But the RDR also responds to calls of the common people like interference of TV signals. The RDR gets thousands of these sort of calls a year. The Pirate Radio Stations have a major part in this, but first the RDR will do an investigation to see if the interference is really coming from a Pirate Radio Station. The RDR goes hunting when they've made sure it's the fault of a Pirate Radio Station.

Tracking down illegal broadcasters has become a Nr. 1 priority because of the upcoming re-scheduling of the FM dial. The RDR has two tools to bust Pirate Radio Stations. The first is the old-fashioned way, they arrive at the location where the signal is coming from, they take the station off the air, take the transmitter away and the owner gets a 500 Guilder fine. The second is more drastic, the RDR sends letters to the location where the signal is coming from, without taking the station off the air, stating that if they find the station again, the station can get a fine of 5000 Guilders minimum. The amount of money can go up to several ten thousands of Guilders. 'We have some stations who refuse to leave the air', says Nijdam. In North-East Holland alone, there are 10 RDR people active, driving around in their cars, getting proof of the illegal transmissions. The antenna towers of the Pirate Radio Stations are found in no time. Besides this, the RDR has a whole network of based stations who are listening the whole day, to hear if they can pick up an illegal signal.

But, although the RDR can make tracking down Pirate Radio Stations a Nr. 1 priority, Nijdam knows it's impossible to close down the Pirate Radio scene for good. That's just an illusion. Pirate Radio is dangerous but it is mostly made up of people who want to identify themselves with a certain group.

The reactions of Pirate Radio operators to this article were mostly the same. The RDR is just doing it's job, we as Pirate Radio Stations are the ones who are breaking the law. Too bad it has to come this way, with all those high fines, which can give the owner financial problems sometimes.

DUTCH PIRATE RADIO NEWS FROM Etherpiraten.com

(Radiowaves News Sunday Supplement)

Issue 7 – January 28th 2001

DUTCH PIRATE RADIO SITE OF THE WEEK

This week's site is that of a station who started in the 80's, FreeWave Radio. FreeWave was a 24h/day station in the 80's and a weekend radio station in the 90's. They have been busted a lot of times, but every time they have managed to get back on the air. These days, FreeWave Radio is only on the air during holiday periods like Xmas and Easter. But still, it's well known by the people and they seem to check their dial from time to time to see if FreeWave has returned. On their site you will find their history, some audioclips, photo's and information about their equipment. The whole site is written in English, so have a looksy at: www.freewaveradio.com

FINALLY

Ok, that was Issue #7 of Dutch Pirate Radio News From Etherpiraten.com. I hope you've enjoyed yourself reading this.

If you're bored, you still can check out our photo album, we've put some new ones online, even one with my face on it. Try to figure out who I am ;-)) Hint, I'm the one with the grey sweater.
www.etherpiraten.com/fotoboek/fotos.htm

As for now, I hope you will have a great week and I will be back next week with more news about the Dutch Pirate Radio scene and maybe an update of heavy duty work of the RDR. Any comments or questions are welcome at dijken@etherpiraten.com and I will try to answer them asap. See you next week.

Lex van Dijken