

RADIO WAVES INTERNATIONAL
1983-2018
by Peter HILLS & Philippe
"The Terrible Twins"

ed : 23 rd January 2020



" On The Highway To Freedom "
Since 1983 on the air.

<http://go.to/rwi>

- The origin

One of my oldest souvenir in relation with the radio is back on the 60's , at this time we didn't have a TV set at home , It was around an old wood box of a Radio Set that the whole family was taking place to listen news ,comedies And ,,,, .This receiver got the tree bands used in the past Long Waves ,medium Waves and Short Waves , I remember that my father likes to listen to all these bands specially the SW,it's surely him that gave me this Radio's virus

Comme dirait Obelix "je suis tombé dedans quand j'étais petit"

- First listening .

It's only in 1966 that a TV replace the Radio set in the lunch room and the Radio set took place in my bedroom, It's like this that I started to discover the wonderful world of Short Waves ,through All these atmospheric , time signals ,bip bip of the code Morse and strange noises Also the aeronautical & ship traffic without forget my good friends the HAMs.

- On the airwaves .

It's on the early 70's ,I get my amateur radio licence and get a F1 call sign ,it's with this great family of friends I learned the technical side of radio (thanks to F2YH & F6CRZ for their precious help) ,

As I get a F1 licence I only works on VHF on 144 , 432 MHZ and a few plumbing on 10 GHZ. At the end of the 70's I move in a flat in RUEIL and leave at the same time the amateur radio activities, But it was for me a good school ..

- Some other Radios .



[RVI studio 1989 (italy)]

In the end of 70's I made Dxing on the FM band (88-108 Mhz) ,it's always at this period the starting of free radios on this band in France .During some holidays I went in Italy to join some friends of RADIO VINTIMILLE International which broadcasted in the direction of the French Riviera to avoid the witch hunt of the French Riviera the French DTI or GPO authorities and, It's like this I did my debut in broadcasting making programs every nights later on for a longer period I joined an another local free radio station called RADIO CAROLINE FM , Yes indeed this one was influenced by the well know offshore station ..



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- Radio Offshore

I already had heard sometimes about RADIO CAROLINE and the president ROSKO , but it's only later I discovered the Radio Offshore 's world at the occasion of some meetings in LONDON with the CAROLINE MOUVEMENT , there was no ship on the high seas at this time, I met some British free radios :

Anchor Radio , Radio Apollo etc...

With their help I planned to start my own pirate station in France , an another story was on the way to start .

- The invisible transmitter .

In 1981 I was in contact with a guy Alan Reed to buy a Short Waves 's TX , at the previous date no TX was arriving, the parcel seemed to be on the way , lack of chance the French Post-office were on strike so I was waiting two months but nothing went ,I call a friend in London to make a investigation , we discover the fact that Mr Alan Reed had never built the transmitter and was surely thinking to keep the money for himself , after threats , pressures and negotiations I get my money back but all the job had to be done one more time.

In 1983 I'm in contact with Mr D from Ludlow to built the transmitter , I seize at the occasion of some holidays on early t November to travel to the United Kingdom to bring back home the TX.

- On board to the Ross Revenge.

As I was in LONDON I get the possibility to do a trip on the high sea , the home of RADIO CAROLINE the Ross Revenge was back on the airwaves since a few month ago . An appointment was taken At the dawn on the Thames 's estuary. It was Saturday on a fresh and foggy Autumn 's morning ,it's on board of a small fishing boat we leaved the jetty (all light switch off ,discretion obliged , Already at this epoch the DTI didn't Like these small trips). We are on the way to the Ross on a typical English Fog ,it's around mid-day That going out of the fog the huge mast Was just in from of us , Marvellous ! Great !



We have bring some material and food for the crew , it was not sure that we could come on board , lucky I was when I climbed the rope ladder , then the first operation was to discharge all our parcels , leaning over the rails Tom Anderson & Peter Clark are waiting us.



The sea is calm ,the ship didn't move. Tom Anderson welcome us ,we stay About two hours on board after a visit ; transmitters , generators , antennes kitchen

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,saloon , the News's room , the discothèque etc.. While a pause Peter Clark offered a cup of tea.

A last turn around the bridge and it's already the moment to leave the crew , after some handshakes we return on board of our small fishing boat. It's still a foggy weather , the engine starts we are on the way back home suddenly the tall mast disappear below the horizon de is still foggy , it's sure that our radio set was tuned on 963khz , on the airwaves Tom Anderson give us a last goodbye message . the dark night is falling when we are back at the harbour we left six hours ago .

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- The transmitter (continue)

The next morning on Saturday with some friends we are on the way to Ludlow (Shropshire) to get the transmitter .On the road we are listening to Radio Caroline of course and a few pirate stations ; Radio Jacky and locally when we arrived around Ludlow the well know "SUNSHINE RADIO" . After a short visit to Mr D we went back to the south east of London in the night.



| first studio in the early 80's]

- First day on the airwaves.

Only a few days following my jaunt in U.K , I've just the time to built and setup an antenna to be ready to switch on the TX on the weekend ,we're Sunday November 13 it's exactly 09h00 UTC When on 6250khz I launched R.W.I 's first program staring with a song by E.L.O "All Over The World" follow by A sonovox jingle of RWI .The transmitter is using a car battery , later on I built a power supply from the mains (more easier and increase the length of our programs).

Only a few days later the firsts listeners reports arrived .

- 1984

On March 1984 Radio Waves Int started début son "RELAY SERVICE" it's Radio Marabu Int which was at the origin of this service .it was for us an another way to be better know ,it's more than 50 stations from around the world were using this Relay Service Europe ,U.S.A , Australia & New Zealand , this service was closed ten years after .

- The untrue closedown

It's after a special program at 12h00 On the Easter's Monday 1994 that I decided to closedown RADIO WAVES INT.

For which reasons ?

You surely wants to know !

- The decreasing of the activity on the bands of the pirate stations.
- A pour propagation.
- The lack of listeners reports.

Following the reactions of our listeners and the other fact that I was still infected by the free radio virus I decided to restart the transmitters of the station on Easter 1995.

Why ,always this date of Easter ?

- It's a few mystique date ,isn't it on Easter (1964) that RADIO CAROLINE started her venture .

- Easter is always a high activity weekend for free radios and also a long weekend for listeners on the other side.

- The other reason is the fact we were always receiving Country Music's CD's for review and airplay since 1990 comming from Canada & U.S.A.

Wasn't it an another real pretext to get back on the air .

- 2003

It's a good year ,

20 years on the airwaves ,

Even if sometimes it's not easy to do all the job by lack of time .

We have several priorities ;

- Most of the time a personal answer to Our listener in a short delay.

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- Writing RWNNews our infos-sheet with our CD's review and news about the station.
- We listen to all the CDs of promo we are receiving and we answer to all the labels or artists writing to us.
- We also have to generate our play-lists And to prepare all the programs.

- The Website .

Before Internet born we had our own er BBS server "Waves & Co" during a few years then in July 1996 we opened our web-site available at <http://go.to/rwi> ou <http://www.rwi.ht.st> with our email : rwaves@imaginet.fr specially dedicated to the Country Music & The Free Radio's world . Most of the pages are in English but we try to add some information in French. It's an useful tool , easier & quicker with our contacts around the world .We also try to make it alive with regular updates and adding the "Page Of The Week", RWNNews once a month s & the play-lists every two weeks .

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- On the technical corner .

- 3 transmitters with about a 40 watts HF of output (valves EL84 et 807)
- 1 - 48 meters (6275,6305 etc)
- 1 - 41 meters (7373,7475,7484khz)
- 1 - 26 meters (11401khz)



The antennas are all home made :

- Inverted "V" Dipoles on 41 & 48 meters
- Horizontal Dipole on 26 meters

A the beginning we used a wheel tape recorder from REVOX , later on all programs were pre-recorded on tapes C60 ,C90 & C120.

- Detail of the recording studio :

- A mixer with 6 inputs (ETP).
- 2 mikes .
- 2 Double Tape deck (MEMOREX).

- 2 CD players (JVC & SONY).
- 2 Records players (GEMINI).
- 3 Wheel Tape records.



| Peter HILLS on Rueil 's studio 1983]

- The crew

There are Philippe & Peter HILLS , We also had in the past some guest DJs Andy TOP (Austria) , Nick Sharpe & Richard Graham (U.K)

We also used some pseudo to do programs for other station : Bruno sur Radio Canzoni ,Tom FM on a Swedish FM or Terry Banks for Radio Geronimo & Radio Argus.

The CD- library with more than 2100 CDS of Country Music , the others are with French music , international POP From the 80's ,some Rock & Roll. There are also a few hundred of vinyl 33 & 45 T/pm , We don't count all the tapes here and there about the programs we relayed from 1984 until 1994 , a special series of 12 tapes were produced to retrace this "Relay Service"

Anecdotes :

In 20 years we only get a few problems on our transmitters , one day a capacitor fully blow up , the other days Two modulator transformer burned in smoke .

An another day a stranger came through the private garden to stole a part of a dipole antenna the balun and the coaxial cable , only an expert could do that , surely not a HAM but perhaps a CB guy .

Un another burglary happened when I was on RADIO CAROLINE FM An unknown had stolen our FM transmitter , nothings else disappear ; no mixer , no vinyl , no CDs ; my personal opinion is that someone only wants to close our mouth , but we get back on the air the next evening with a spare TX .

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In the local newspaper I remember the Title of the article :
Who stole RADIO CAROLINE ? "

Radio Waves International France

We often get the occasion to meet our listeners when we join other operators at the DX Camp de Merchweiler in Germany



or at the France Radio Club & Offshore Echoes meetings in Calais, 10 years ago we used to have regular meetings in Paris, generally on Saturday lunch in a typical French "Bistrot" talking about our favourite hobby,
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Sometimes a dozen of people came; Frank, Francis who wrote in the review "Le petit Piratophile" & Michel Ravigneaux a well known Dxr who passed away, after we lost our good friend the meetings disappeared, we really spent some nice moments together.



some of Lazer's DJs (1985)
Charlie Wolf, Liz West & Tommy Reeves

Do you have some other souvenirs ?

Yes indeed, at this period where I did some programs on other FM stations: Radio Ici et Maintenant or Radio Ivre. It's on Radio Caroline FM I spent a lot of hours doing programs on the late evenings. On day on November my friend Alain decided to put on the airwaves some military music, we get this day a lot of phone calls from a local barracks.

The French "Garde Republicaine" people ask us to play more military songs, some guys join us in the studio to do a program with us in a funny atmosphere.

- Jamming on the tour de France !!!
It was in 1978 or 79 when most of free radios were using the FM band (104 - 108 Mhz) (This band was reserved to the army before allocated to FM broadcast a few years later) during the last stage of the "Tour de France" some official stations from the Netherlands used this band for the contact between mobile studios and reporters on their motos,

They get the wrong surprise to be jammed by TDF (Meudon) which were on the way on the stage from the valley of "la Chevreuse" & the final arrival in Paris on the "champs Elysés" I surely have somewhere some of those unforgettable recordings.

- I won't forget my stay in Moscow, when I met some people I only know by mail & emails. All over the frontiers the same passion for the free radio was there, I met some Russian stations, visiting their studios and transmitters, RWBI (Radio Without Border Int or Romantic Space Radio) & Andreas of Radio Central a legal radio broadcasting on the Medium Waves Band from Moscow, we did an international program in French, English & Russian.

What do you think about these 20 years of Radio?

- I personally think it was for me the occasion to meet so many friends, we are still in contact with most of them, for example 5 years ago I received an email from Tom De Wit (ex KBC Radio) this Dutch guy I lost 10 years ago surfing on the net went on our web-pages, like this we renew one's friendship, internet can make people

if they want , but a visual contact will stay the best way to stay humans.

- Some other interesting encounters were built through the Country Music on both sides artistes , DJs or people in the show biz as independent labels & records companies in U.S.A.

I get lucky to visit the mystique town NASHVILLE taking part of the CRS Country Radio Seminar www.crb.org

A three days seminar where about one thousand professionals, DJs, marketing program's directors, local radio and network are meeting in a friendly Atmosphere. It seems it's only on the Country Music' format we can find a such Powerful and constructive relationship Between the DJ & the show biz.

I also assist to a recording of some artists in one of Music Row 's studios

Iy was at the Bayou Recording Studio where Troy Cook Jr was making his new CD with Col Buster Doss , an another great person in the Country Music's World .

2003 the venture continue.....

During 2004 our activity on airwaves was reduce due of not enough times and some troubles with our 48 meters band 's dipole, Most of the time we operate on the 26 Meters band on 11401khz.As usual we didn't miss to be on the air during November to broadcast our special birthday's programs.

In summer 2005 I repaired the 48 meters's dipole and so we were back on this band Using different channels 6210, 6275, 6305 kHz depending of other pirates' activities.

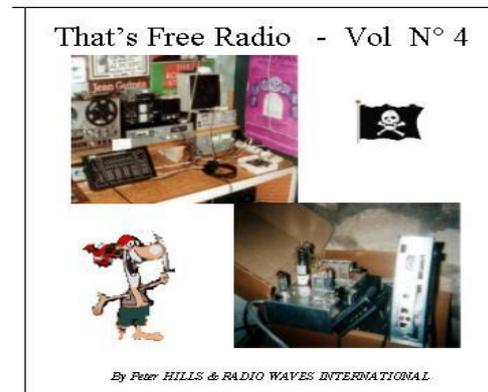
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As our tape recorder left us after a long life We make change of audio support using MP3 on CDs.

The other work was to produce some special CDs, the first pack of 6 CDS Were called "That's FREE RADIO ", In each volume you will find 2 hours of recording from the old series of tapes we did 10 years ago retracing the complete story of the station including his "relay service" which took place from 1984 until 1994, we added two more hours of recording taking from a lot of other stations

or other audio documents about the free radio scene.

Each volume has a special cover for example the Volume 4



There is also inside a copy of our web-site Also available at <http://go.to/rwi>

When I was working on this job , I discover that I have an enormous quantity of recordings so I decided to start an another series of CDs that I called "Airchecks" which contains about 4 hours of various recording ,most of them are taken from studio recording with some personnel airchecks already 4 CDs are in preparation ,I hope they will be available in a few weeks.

Country music CD's library is now over 3500 CD's .Every time we get double copies of CD's we're offering them to our listeners, an occasion for them to discover The music we like.



The time is still running very fast Back in November 2005 we were relay from Riga with a power of 100KW during 7 hours of programs to celebrate the 22nd birthday of the station, we get more than one hundred reports via email & snail mail coming from around the world from South America to Japan, every listener gets a special QSL Card & a country music CD.

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In 2006 we're relay once again for just for hours during Easter's weekend but propagation wasn't so good, then the relay facilities from Riga weren't available Since it get back on Early 2007 , so we decided to use one more time this service on Easter 2007 ,between these broadcasts we were using our own low power transmitters on the 48 & 26 meters band.



On February 2007 R.W.I' s was back in the music city of Nashville joining CRS the Country Radio seminar for the 6th or 7th time , once again our luggage were full of Country Music CD's .



On April 2007 we started some tests with broadcast through the internet, later we have project to setup a new computer server (for use it's not Radio it's just for fun and to use all the possible technology) .



<http://www.pirateradionetwork.com/>

In June 2007 we were back on the Dutch / Belgium 's border at the Summer meeting on a raining weekend ,the occasion to met free radio operators , listeners and DXers ,it's always a friendly atmosphere ; With a famous barbecue, and some bottles of beer.

I was looking for a short-waves transmitter To replace our old ones, I get some contacts but without result the materiel was already sold out when I decided to by the equipment.



A crowd waiting for the meeting's photos Just between two showers.

On October 2007 I went back in north of the Netherlands to pick up a new TX.



The SK010 (an old German army)

The first tests were made on the following weeks on the 48 meters band around 6325kHz with our 24th birthday's programs and around Christmas with special shows.

A new year is passing away but just at the corner a new one will start with another big project in our heads, 2008 will be the 25th birthday of the station an event nobody must miss.



- Country Music Show
We add 2 new shows:

- The Tall Pines radio, show via WFLO in Virginia is dedicated to bluegrass music.



- The CDTEX Radio show brings you're the sounds of pure Texas from the town of San Antonio in Texas .



We also become a Radio Partner of the Woodsongs "Old Time Radio Show" Through the sounds of folk music From Lexington in Kentucky.



2008 -2009 25th & 26th birthday on the air



Once again we used the Relay service pro Ubroka with a power of 100Kw, but the propagation was very bad and numbers of reports for more hours on the air than our first relay in Nov 2005, but for this special event we made a series of nice QSL cards And @QSL for our internet listeners.

What happened during 2010

- March

We were back in Nashville for CRS Country Radio seminar.



during our trip in the music city we get in contact Country Fastball 's people. We now were the only and first station in Europe relaying there great shows.



Choose Music then Country to access to the streaming or download the player.

It's amazing to know that people can listen to your station world-wide (it's not really radio but give people to listen to us.

You can also listen to the well-know station Radio England on Mixed Format.



- Summer Meeting 2010

This year we couldn't join the party as we got the Country music festival of Craponne "COUNTRY RENDEZ VOUS" at the same time

- RADIO WAVES 's Life



**Radio Waves
International**

We move our channel from 6325 kHz
to 7480 kHz from the 41 meters band.

- shows

The Tall Pine radio shows closed down

BLUEGRASSBILLY.COM
YOUR HOME FOR BLUEGRASS

RWI & WCS – 14th of July 2010.



WCS World Communication Service
During the 3rd & 4th of July we did a special
program dedicated to the Independence
Day. Operating on short-waves on 48 & 41
meters bands And also via internet.

Radio Waves International's birthday.



For our 27th birthday we have use a new
relay in Sitkunia from Lithuania, On every
Saturday of November 2010 from 21.30 to
22.30 UTC with a power of 100 Kwatts ,it
makes us receive through Europe with a
strong signal .

November 2010 -1983 -2010
The Relay from Lithuania



6055 kHz Power 100 000 Watts



The antennas

2011 RWI's lile.

March Nashville CRS2011

November 2011 -1983 -2011
We use once again relay facilities
From Lithuania

2012 RWI's lives continue.

March Nashville CRS2012

November 2012 -1983 -2012
We use once again relay facilities
From Lithuania, this time we get a lot of
listener's reports from Japan.
Conditions on the 49 (6055KHZ)
& 41 meters bands (7415KHZ)
Were not very good this time.



As usual life is running fast and faster
That's just life !



- 2014

On January during her European tour
Ashley Robertson went in Paris and visit
Radio Waves International small studio in
RUEIL located near Paris.



2012 RWI's lives continue.

December 2012
Return on 11401khz /26 meters band.
After many years we are back on this
channel as we have repaired the PA of this
transmitter using valve 807 with around
30 Watts output.

February it's once again the preparing of
CRS 2014, travel, contacts, interview etc...



Back to music city of Nashville for
CRS 2014



Another project is to rebuild the antennas
(dipole) used for 48 & 41 mb.
We are just waiting better weather
conditions.

- Shows on the airwaves

We add a new show produce by my friend
Fred Moreau, I met him several time at the
CRDV festival in Craponne (France)

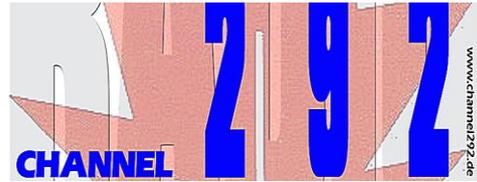
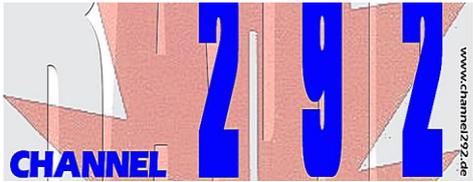
2013 the 30th birthday's year.



- Special relays via Channel 292

February it's once again the preparing of
CRS 2013, travel, contacts, interview etc...

We did some relays on 6070 khz from the
49 meters band on shortwaves.



We used once again relay on 6070khz

2014 the 31th birthday's



- 2015

Once again the 26 meters band TX is out of order!



- 2016

Once again the 26 meters band TX is out of order!



We change a Capacitor & one R100 shock, But a few months later it was once again Out of service.

- Back to France Radio Club
Mini meeting in Normandy on April 2nd
At Saint Jouin de Bruneval Near Etretat,
We took a lunch at the Belvedere's
Restaurant.

Back to music city of Nashville for
CRS 2015



November 2015 the 32nd birthday's



From Left to Right Beaudoin's wife, François & Robert.



**Philippe from Cerberes south of France
Listening to RWI relay via channel 292
On Saturday morning the sun was shining
Before rain came later in the afternoon.**

RADIO WAVES' Life.

**I didn't come to Nashville in February
Because I'm planning to go there on June
for the CMA Festival.**

**It was not possible to join the CMA festival
as my Nashville friends were not in the
music city at this period.**

Summer 2016.

**We repaired the 26mb transmitter ,
And get back on the airwaves.**

New QSL cards were available.



- November 2016

**It's our 33 th birthday on the air with
Special programs.**



**We were on the air on 49, 48 & 26 mb
The propagation was not very good,
We get reports from Belgium, Germany,
Poland, France, Italy & UK.**

- 2017

**Nothing special on the side of Radio,
But with my very good friend Charly I went
for two weeks in China, very hot weather on
July but a very nice trip.**

**On Easter & for our 34th birthday on
The 26mb TX once again fall down,
So we used the SK10 TX on 48 & 26mb.**

- July 2017



My friends & Me



**November arrived but we get a poor
propagation to celebrate our 34th birthday.**



**Stay tune on November 2017
Radio Waves International**

We have continued to be relay via radio Channel 292 on 6070 kHz.



Via Relay on 6070khz 49 mb

On December we made special Xmas programs and add relays on Dec 25th, 26th & 31st on 6070 khz.

- 2017 (the end)



Merry Christmas
Happy New Year 2018
With Peace and Joy

- 2018

-On February i return to Nashville for the CRS country Radio Seminar ,always the occasions to listen good music in Bars and also met some artist & some friends.



Southern Halo & Me



Broadway Avenue

- May 2018

I spent one weekend in Cambrai to see My very good friend Preston who came in France with the SLVR Tongues.



Preston with jean Agostini



Slvr Tongues on stage in france

- June 2018

For the first time I went back to Nashville for my first CMA Festival.



The Slvr Tongues at the Exit Inn in Nashville



The big Nisan Stadium, it was great !

- September 2018



**On the 1st of September during the afternoon after two hours on the air
The TX goes out of service.**

- 2019

RWI's Life.

We are closing our transmission site as we have sold my mum's house & garden.



Some views of dipoles & 6 meters mast used.
Located 35 KM North West of Paris city.



We continue to be relayed via Radio Channel 292
On Saturday morning from 07.00 to 08.00 utc
And on Sunday morning from 06.00 to 07.00 Utc
With Country music show, French service etc...

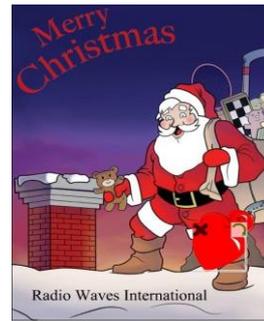
36th Birthday Relay in ISA.

On November 17th We were relayed in USA via
Our friends of Mix Radio International
Channel : 6928 khz Mode USB
First Reports arrived from MA ,WA, PA,OH
& Italy.



. RWI's life .

We are closing an another year,
We hope for you ;your friends & family
A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year 20220
With Love , Peace and good Music !!!



**Peter HILLS & Philippe
"The Terrible Twins"**

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