
Christopher Moore - first voice on Radio Caroline has died

DATELINE January 2021



Christopher Moore - whose voice launched Radio Caroline in March 1964 - has died at the age of 80.

Chris was born in 1940 in Washington, DC into an Irish-American family. He moved to the UK with his American mother as a child, and attended an English boarding school.

By the early 1960s he had become a noted London club DJ, being resident at the very fashionable Crazy E club in London's West End. Chris was also a photographer, and very much part of the early 60's London in-crowd, or "Kings Road Cowboy" scene. His flatmate at that time, Ian Ross, describes him as always wearing the latest mod fashions, and being almost impossibly cool. With his good looks, 6 foot 7 inch frame and deep bass voice, he dominated almost every situation.

He founded Radio Caroline, together with Ian Ross and Ronan O'Rahilly, in 1964. Funds having been successfully raised through Ian's father, he was the one who was best thought to know about ships, as he had worked briefly as a steward on a cruise ship! He was sent by Ronan to Scandinavia with a suitcase full of cash in 1963 to purchase the former Danish passenger ferry, MV *Fredericia*, which was fitted out, in secrecy, as a radio ship in Greenore, Ireland. He was the first voice to be heard on Radio Caroline on March 28, 1964, introducing "Not Fade Away" by The Rolling Stones. He was reportedly

so nervous that his words had to be pre-recorded. He did not stay on the ship long, but moved ashore to become Caroline's first Programme Director.

Later, he took up residence at Barcot Manor in rural Oxfordshire and became a frequent visitor to Gomera in the Canaries, during which time he spent several months living in a cave by the Valle Gran Rey.

More recently, he became a frequent visitor to Wales, enjoying the summer months there swimming, and climbing up the cliffs into his mid-70s.

(Courtesy Radio Caroline)

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Former Caroline North DJ 'Ugli' Ray Teret has died

DATELINE 5th May 2021



Former Radio Caroline North DJ 'Ugli' Ray Teret has died at the age of 79.

Ray was born in Salisbury and previously worked as a warehouse clerk, apprentice heating engineer and waiter before joining Radio Caroline North in August 1965, where he became known on air as 'Ugli' Ray Teret.

Ray also opened a boutique on the Isle of Man which was run by his sister Janet who later famously married her brother's fellow Caroline North DJ, Mick Luvzit, in an on board ceremony conducted by the Captain of the MV *Caroline* in September 1966.

After leaving Caroline Ray was later heard on both BBC and commercial radio stations, including Piccadilly Radio in Manchester and Signal Radio in Stoke on Trent. He also worked as a chauffeur for disgraced DJ Jimmy Saville.

In December 2014 he was found guilty of seven counts of rape and eleven counts of indecent assault - offences carried out between 1962 and 1979. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison, where he died.

Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

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Former 80s Caroline DJ Brian Allen has died

DATELINE 14th May 2021



Former 80s Radio Caroline DJ, Brian Allen, has died at the age of 65.

Brian always wanted to be a DJ and after a brief appearance on land-based pirate station, Free Radio Colchester he became a a mobile DJ in Essex.

He later worked as a club DJ all over Europe then a friend, Carl Kingston put him in touch with Radio Caroline which had recently started broadcasting from a new ship, the *Ross Revenge*.

He joined Radio Caroline in January 1984 and stayed with the station until November of that year.

After leaving Radio Caroline he settled in Denmark, where he married a Norwegian girl and built a successful pub and restaurant business. He died in Denmark on 13th May 2021.

Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

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Former 80s Caroline and Laser Hot Hits Engineer and DJ, Mike Watts, has died

DATELINE Brighton 5th July 2021



Former Radio Caroline and Laser Hot Hits engineer and DJ, Mike Watts has died.

Mike was an engineer on Radio Caroline from 1985 to 1989 although his offshore career goes back much further.

In 1965 he broadcast on Radio City as 'The Castaway'. (at the time he was still at school, but took a boat from Whitstable beach and got stranded on Shivering Sands Fort for three days due to bad weather). As a result he was expelled from school and ended up doing the rest of his education on 'day release' while working, mainly in recording studios.

Mike was assistant to the Technical Director at Olympic Studios in Barnes, London, then he was employed at Maximum Sound Studio, recording bluebeat and ska. He worked for Tannoy, and helped build and run Chalk Farm Studios, again recording a lot of the reggae chart hits of the early seventies.

He was also involved in landbased pirate radio, starting a London AM station called Radio Free Caroline, as well as many early London FM pirates.

He joined Radio Caroline on the *Ross Revenge* as an engineer in 1985 and was occasionally also heard on air - the first time in the early hours of Boxing Day 1986. On 11th January 1987 he presented a blues programme on Caroline Overdrive.

Following his time with Caroline he worked in studio and transmitter installation for Alice Soundtech and Virgin Radio, and operated his own engineering consultancy firm.

On the radio transmission front he was involved with the early DAB experimental broadcasts and set up a new set of studios for Radio Reverb, the local community station in Brighton.

Mike had suffered from spells of ill health and died on 4th July 2021, aged 71.

Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

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Former Caroline North DJ, Wally Meehan, has died

DATELINE 6th July 2021



Former Radio Caroline North DJ, Wally Meehan has died.

Wally worked for a short period on Radio Caroline North, but he did not stay long due to

the introduction of the Marine etc Broadcasting (Offences) Act in August 1967.

Before joining Radio Caroline North, he was a guitarist and vocalist with the 'Nevada Showband' in Ireland and toured all over the world. Wally left the band after a tour of the U.S.A and tried to get another band together in Dublin but it didn't work out.

Wally then moved to London, where he joined a trio and during this time became a fan of Radio Caroline. Wally decided to contact the station and after three interviews he met station founder Ronan O'Rahilly who remembered him from the showband days in Ireland.

Shortly afterwards a letter arrived asking him to collect flight tickets to the Isle of Man to join Radio Caroline North.

After leaving Radio Caroline North he joined another band and also became an international DJ.

Wally came with the idea of an in-store radio station and suggested it to the Tesco branch in Northampton, who agreed it was a good idea. Wally was one of the first in-store radio DJs in the U.K and stayed with Tesco for 20 years.

Then Wally and his wife Juliana decided to move to Spain, where he was asked to join a new radio station, TKO-FM, which had just started on the Costa Blanca, where he was known on the air as Tony Moore.

Wally died on 6th July, after suffering from Parkinson's Disease for a long time.

Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

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Former Radio England and Britain Radio DJ, Brian Curtis, has died

DATELINE 10th July 2021



One of the 'boss jocks' on Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio, Jack Curtis, has died.

Jack Curtiss was born on 16th June 1943 in San Francisco, California. He worked for the UPI news agency before joining stations KMPX, KWG and KONG, in California and WROV in Roanoke, Virginia.

He joined the twin offshore stations Britain Radio / Radio England in July 1966. Initially broadcasting on Radio England he later transferred to Britain Radio and was promoted to General Manager in November that year.

When Radio England closed down in November 1966 , he helped set up and launched the Dutch language station, Radio Dolfijn, which replaced it.

In early 1967 Britain Radio itself was taken over and new Managing Director, Ted Allbeury, from Radio 390 re launched the station as Radio 355.

There was little love lost between the two men and Jack, who had been quoted in the press making derogatory remarks about Radio 390's "stone age" format, resigned.

He returned to San Francisco and became programme director of KFOG-FM radio and did a similar job for two other San Francisco radio stations before moving to Puerto Rico in December 1968. He stayed on the island for five years, working in radio, TV, magazines and newspapers.

In 1974 he moved to France to work as a radio correspondent for CBS news and was also heard on Radio Netherlands and the Voice of America. In 1978 he joined VOA full-time as Latin America Bureau Chief. This led to Jack becoming Latin America correspondent for ABC News.

In 1982 he returned to the USA and settled in Florida. He was Health and Science Editor for WTVJ-TV in Miami before helping set up a public television bureau in Broward County, Fort Lauderdale for WPBT-Channel 2. He then worked as a writer and media consultant in south Florida.

In 2004 he moved to Australia, where he lived in Adelaide, but returned to the United States.

Jack died unexpectedly of natural causes at the age of 78.

Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

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Former Radio Caroline and Laser Hot Hits engineer and DJ, Dennis Jason, has died

DATELINE 10th July 2021



Former Radio Caroline and Laser Hot Hits engineer and DJ Dennis Jason has died.

Dennis had been a radio enthusiast for many years, having participated with land based pirates South East Sound and Radio Jackie.

In May 1986, Dennis was first heard on Radio Caroline from the *Ross Revenge* and appeared on the station again later in the year.

In March 1987 he joined the engineering team on board the MV *Communicator*, which by then was used by Laser Hot Hits 576 where he also presented several programmes.

Later, Dennis worked at ILR station Mellow 1557 in Essex and participated in the RNI revival broadcasts from former lightship, LV 18, in 1999 and 2000. He was also a presenter on the Frinton based tribute station, Big L.

Dennis owned a disco equipment supply shop and a window/conservatory company in Reigate.

He died on 9th July 2021 after a long battle with cancer.

Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

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Former Radio Caroline South and Radio Veronica DJ, 'The Admiral' Robbie Dale, has died

DATELINE 1st September 2021



Legendary Caroline South and Radio Veronica DJ 'The Admiral' Robbie Dale has died.

Robbie (Robinson) Dale was born in Littleborough, Lancashire, on 21st April 1940. He worked as an antiques dealer, press agent, salesman, bellboy and served in the Army, before becoming a disco DJ in London, where he was spotted by Radio Caroline DJ Gerry Duncan.

At Gerry's suggestion Robbie successfully auditioned for Radio Caroline and joined Caroline South in April 1966. He presented the evening Caroline Club Request Show, which became known as Robbie Dale's Diary.

Robbie founded the "Beat Fleet" - an organisation which doubled as a fan club and a free radio supporters' association and appointed himself "The Admiral".

When the Marine Etc Broadcasting (Offences) Act came into force in August 1967 Robbie chose to defy the Act and stay with Radio Caroline. He famously co-presented (with Johnnie Walker) the first hours of Caroline continuing into a new era.

He was joint Programme Controller and Senior DJ for the South ship with Johnnie Walker and presented the morning show until illness forced him to leave in January 1968, although he continued to work for the station on shore.

After Radio Caroline was closed in March 1968 he joined Dutch offshore station, Radio Veronica, and later moved to Hilversum (TROS) radio and TV.

He returned to the UK in 1973 and ran an office-cleaning company and was involved in a failed bid for the Belfast ILR commercial radio franchise. Robbie later moved to Dublin and operated the very successful land-based pirate Sunshine Radio until Irish Government legislation closed it at the end of 1988.

He then moved to Lanzarote in the Canary Islands with his wife Stella, where they bought and managed a holiday complex.

Robbie died on 1st September 2021.

Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame

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Former Radio London MD, Philip Birch, has died

DATELINE California, 8th December 2021



The former Managing Director of Radio London, Philip Birch, has died at the age of 94.

Philip Birch was born in 1927 and after completing his education he served in the Royal West Kent regiment of the British Army. When he left the Army in 1949 he started working for the J Walter Thompson advertising agency in London, then moved to America when he became their TV and radio media director.

He returned to London in 1960, still working for JWT until mid 1964 when he was approached by the American based team planning to launch Radio London. Philip established offices for Radio London in Curzon Street, London and registered a British-based airtime sales organisation for the new station- Radlon (Sales) Ltd.

In 1974 he was instrumental in establishing the Manchester Independent Local Radio (ILR)

station - Piccadilly Radio - which he continued to manage until his retirement in 1984. He also ran Air Services - a national advertising sales agency for ILR stations across the UK

After his retirement Philip moved to California where he died on 7th December 2021.

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Former Laser 558 DJ, Jonell, has died

DATELINE 15th December 2021



Former Laser 558 DJ Jonell has died

Jonell (Pernula) was a summer relief presenter on Laser 558 from July to September 1985.

She grew up in Minnetonka, Minnesota and graduated from the Brown Institute for Broadcasting in 1980. Jonell worked at KRSI/KFMX with Tommy Rivers who was instrumental in helping her join the Laser 558 team as a summer relief DJ.

After leaving Laser 558 Jonell returned to Minneapolis, joining local station The Cities 97 (KTCZ 97.1). In early 1995, when Cities 97 fired many of its on air staff, Jonell found work for a few months as a bartender and a shop security officer.

In 1996 she joined a new station - Smooth Jazz - where she stayed until 1998 when the new owners made staff (including Jonell) redundant. She then joined Metro Traffic Control providing traffic reports for various stations throughout the Greater Twin Cities area.

In November 2002 she was told she would lose her full-time position with Metro Traffic Control, and sued the station for gender discrimination, a case she won in 2005, but her career was ruined and she decided to retire from broadcasting.

Jonell died in December 2021.

(Additional information courtesy Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)

(Photo: Offshore Echos Magazine)

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