FRS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

Free Radio Service Holland is an International non political & non religious Shortwave Free Radio station broadcasting since August 1980.

Website: [frsholland.nl] e-Mail: [frs@frsholland.nl]

Postal address: P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten,

The Netherlands



FRS NEWSLETTER: Summer Edition 2023

Following each broadcast, FRS compiles this *Newsletter* for its

listening audience. It contains information regarding the previous broadcast(s) plus informs about future activities.

So...welcome in this bumper2023 **Summer edition** focusing on FRS' **Summer Splash** broadcasts. *On behalf of the FRS crew* thank you for your snail mails/e-mails.

Please keep in mind:
Unforeseen circumstances can cause an urgent necessity for a frequency change. In most cases
FRS will move to an alternative near by frequency. And: in most cases we'll put a quick message on top of the FRS site (latest news).
www.frsholland.nl

Misfortune

In the past period we were dogged by a number of problems. In the end it resulted in cancelling a planned April/May broadcast and it took (too) long before returning to the shortwave airwaves. The move to a new website hosting service caused problems not to talkabout the

rebuilding of PV's studio. On top of that all Summer Splash e-mails were lost (!) but luckilt the eQSLs had alreay been produced. A mail to all 'victims' went out on Tuesday August 22nd. Already one day later the majority had **resent** their July/ August report(s)...great. Positive. And: a good number of letters via good old P.O.Box 2702 reached us. Also positive.

Apologies for the **belated replies** on the Summer Splash reports/ letters. It's our habit starting with replies following the end of the 3 week Summer Splash. This year it took one week extra (read it elsewhere in this edition). In addition the problem with lost mails and a two week holiday. But the good news is this Newsletter is **extra long**.

FRS Summer Splash 2023(edition #3): Successful

Following our December 18th/25th 2022 (!) broadcasts, we were happy to announce & organize the 3rd edition of the FRS Summer Splash.

It is one of our well kept traditions: FRS-Holland's Summer evening broadcasts. Edition #1 started in

2020 and main idea was (in sense of one of our slogans) to do it 'Just a Bit Different'. Instead of the usual 4+ hour broadcast, lasting a whole evening, we opted for 3 successive Sunday evening broadcasts each lasting 2 hours between 21:00-23:00 CEST. That time slot usually provides good signals. Jan van Dijk came up with the idea to name it 'FRS Summer Splash' and the rest is....history. The 2021 edition had to be skipped but 2022 we could announce the 2nd edition. Our Summer evening broadcasts are always *thematic* and this year's Summer Splash was no exception. See for yourself what you heard or missed...the schedules are included in this Newsletter.

To get to the point: similar to 2022, this year's Summer Splash was successful. In general solid signals during all 3 weeks and positive response from many listeners all over the world.

This Summer Splash was the start of our 2023 activities...after 210 days a welcome return on the airwaves. Mind you: we already planned a broadcast in April/May 2023 but sometimes private circumstances play the spoilsport.

FRS' Summer Splash took place on *Sunday July 23th*, *30th and August 6th*. And perhaps as a surprise also on *August 13th*. Below our complete schedules for all 3 consecutive Sundays including the streaming details. August 13th was a copy of the week before but this time only on 6185 kHz.

FRS-Holland 2023 Summer Splash				
Programme-Schedule for Sunday July 23rd, 30 th & August 6 th (13 th)				
UTC	Sunday July 23 rd	CET		
18:59	Opening: Theme Tune 'Theme from Close Encouters"+ TotHour pips/ Welcome	20:59		
19:01	FRS 60s evening - Bert van Leer	21:01		
	Bert van Leer playes 60 minutes of great 60s tracks.			
20:00	The 1970s Revisited (1) – Peter Verbruggen	22:00		
	Peter plays a nice selection of (mostly) rare 1970s tracks. Including a few DX & 1970s news items.			
21:00-	Close down (from a 'Double Dutch' evening!).	23:00-		
21:04		23:04		
	Sunday July 30 th			
18:59	Opening: Theme Tune 'Theme from Close Encouters"+ TotHour pips/ Welcome	20:59		
19:01	Dave Scott playing typical Summer Hits	21:01		
20:00	Nighttime Nineties- Mike Taylor. For a change Mike concentrates on songs from the 1990s.	22:00		
	Including a radio related sound byte from that era.			
21:00-	Close down	23:00-		
21:04		23:04		
	Sunday August 6 th			
18:59	Opening: Theme Tune 'Theme from Close Encouters"+ TotHour pips/ Welcome	20:59		
19:01	The 1970s Revisited (2) – Peter Verbruggen	21:01		
	Peter plays a nice selection of (mostly) rare 1970s tracks. Including a few DX items and 1970s news			
	items.			
20:00	Jan van Dijk will go for playing a "late night radio format". So quite the opposite to the heavy	22:00		
	stuff of last year! Including a few DX items and a sound byte.			
21:00-	Close down	23:00-		
21:04		23:04		

STREAMING

Since 2022 FRS is able to set up its own audio streams. That offers some extra opportunities. Fact is we do <u>not</u> depend on others. Our stream can be found at: **frsonline.ddns.net**.

Of course **Laut.fm's** facilities will be continued to use following shortwave broadcasts.

	Streaming service	Dates	Time
1	frsonline.ddns.net	Broadcast from Sun July 23rd:	
		Wednesday July 26th	20:00-22:00 CEST
		Friday July 28th	20:00-22:00
2	frsonline.ddns.net	Broadcast from Sun July 30th::	
		Tuesday August 1st	20:00-22:00 CEST
		Friday August 4th	20:00-22:00
3	frsonline.ddns.net	Broadcast from Sun August 6th:	
		Wednesday August 9th	20:00-22:00 CEST
		Friday August 11th	20:00-22:00
4	[http://laut.fm/jukebox]	Broadcast from Sun July 23rd:	
		Thursday July 27th	18:00-20:00 CEST
		Sunday July 30st	12:00-14:00
5	[http://laut.fm/jukebox]	Broadcast from Sun July 30th:	
		Thursday August 3rd	18:00-20:00 CEST
		Sunday August 6th	12:00-14:00
6	[http://laut.fm/jukebox]	Broadcast from Sun August 6th:	
		Thursday August 10th	18:00-20:00 CEST
		Sunday August 13th	12:00-14:00

Summer Splash 2023

Kick off was on Sunday July 23rd just before 21:00 CEST. Bert van Leer opened up playing a wide variety of *60s classics*. Full speed! Peter Verbruggen followed with 60 minutes of 1970s tracks. The evening programmes went out on 7700//5790 and 6185 kHz. These frequencies were mentioned in a mail a few weeks prior to the start of the Summer Splash. As 5800 was occupied, we moved to 5790 10 KHz below; that was the next best frequency to use. In fact just like 2022's edition. Conclusion: nice signals on 7700 and 6185 while 5790 did surprisingly well (despite relatively low power).

Exactly one week later, according to schedule, part 2 of our Summer Splash went out. Once again on 5790 and 6185. But quoting our dedicated engineer Brian-"7700 is mush"- we moved 5 kHz on the upper side: 7705 kHz. Sunday July 30th Dave Scott opened up programming with Summer songs through the decades. The second hour was filled with 'Night Time 90s'. Programmes ran till 00:00 CEST, one hour later than scheduled as the first hour was repeated after close down. Signals went out very well.

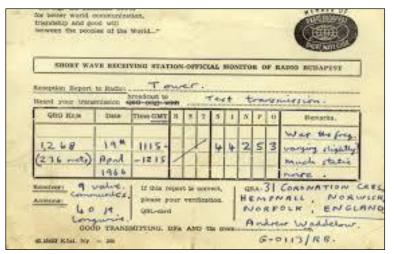
During the 3-week Summer Splash FRS was received on at least one frequency in: Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Uruguay & USA.

The final part took place on Sunday August 6th. On 5790//7700 but: 6185 lacked. It appeared programme files didn't arrive for some odd reason. Better communication would have 'saved the day'. But as you already understand: that wasn't the case! Peter Verbruggen opened 'the 70s Revisted' part 2. Some familiar but also some rare tracks from one of the most exiting musical eras. Jan van Dijk closed down the 3 week Summer Splash with a typical late night radio format. After close down the first hour was repeated making it a 3 hour broadcast ending at 00:00 CEST. Well, that wasn't the end of the FRS Summer Splash as we agreed that 6185 kHz would go out on August 13th making up for the non appearance on the 6th, eventually resulting in a 4 week event! We'd like to thank each & everyone contributing to this year's Summersplash! Despite or thanks to the (too) long silence, many listeners tuned in and responded.

PRACTICAL TIP

A **good aerial** is of vital importance! In particular when <u>not</u> using an expensive top receiver. A **telescopic aerial** isn't as senstitive as an (outdoor) wire antenna. Even when not having enough space outside, you can try to connect a few metres of **wire** to your telescopic antenna inside the house. Just try and test for the best results. Reception could certainly improve. It's worth giving it a try...

RECEPTION REPORTS



When requiring a QSL card (=verification of your reception report) we expext the following items in your report: details of the programming (over a 15 min. period), date and time in UTC or CE(S)T, how well you heard our signal indicated by a Sinpo code and what receiver/antenna you were using. And not to forget your location as we are eager to know where you were listening to our broadcast.

We do issue QSLs for **SDR reports** but <u>only</u> if you are *including* a Sinpo code and sufficient details. Every now and then we receive reports with no details at all. Result is a friendly but firm message in which we inform the listener he won't get any QSL card.

Talking of QSLs: you may make your own choice out of a total of 9 different cards from our 'FRS Through the Years' series. Make sure it is clearly mentioned in your e-mail or letter via P.O.Box 2702.

Apart from this we sincerely look forward to personal information (age, job, family, hobbies etc.) and programme comments. It freshens up on air reading out listener's mails!

Apart from using our P.P.Box 2702 in Herten, an alternative for catching a hard copy QSL (much more desirable) is sending an e-mail report and paying 5 euro via Paypal. Simply use [frs@frsholland.nl].

WEBSITE

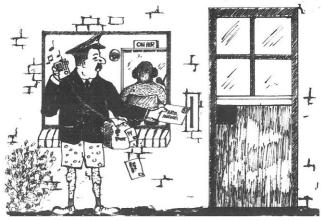
At this very moment (August/September), the FRS-Holland website is under construction! That will take some time. Our e-mail address remains frs@frsholland.nl which implies that this is our main means of communication.

New Stickers!

Since a while we have brand new stickers with our station logo. So...if you's like to have one, you must use our postal Herten maildrop. The sticker is printed in full colour on quality paper, a must have for every FRS listener! Make sure you enclose 3 US dollar or 3 Euro. Combine it



with sending in a written report to our Herten maildrop.



Broadcasting on S.W. gives us the chance to strive for: Friendship, Freedom and a better communication between the people of the world. Why not?
Free Radio Service Holland: The gentlemen on S.W.

FRS-Holland: 43 years young!

Thursday August 31st saw the official anniversary of FRS-Holland! 31-08-1980 – 31-08-2023: 43 years!

Certainly a moment of *joy and pride*. And remembering many ups and a few downs in our rich history.

The majority of our current listenership has no idea how FRS-Holland once started. Therefore in this Newsletter a story about our first period including the official 'maiden broadcast'. We go back in time to 1980....

The story of FRSH begins in the second half of

the 70's. Peter Verbruggen takes up the story:

"I was getting more and more interested in radio, mainly offshore & landbased pirate radio. In 1976 I became a member of a very popular Dutch/Belgian radio magazine called 'Baffle'. Strangely enough I wasn't aware at all of the existence of SW pirates until I read about it in 'RadioVisie', a new magazine which was replacing 'Baffle' and paid regurlarly attention to the SW scene in those days. That was at the end of 1977. In August 1978 I acquired a SW receiver (Kentec BCL aka Weiland) and a new world opened up for me hearing stations such as Radio Viking, Radio Sunshine, Radio Corsair, Skyport Radio, ABC Europe and E.M.R. among others. I remember very well I was impressed by the programme standard of some of the stations but at the same time also by the oppertunities the SW bands were offering covering wide areas with relatively low-powered transmitters. Especially E.M.R. attracted my attention: the station offered a very professional programme alternative to the government-controlled radio stations and succeeded in putting out a marvellous signal despite only using 10W of power."

Peter got more and more interested in the SW scene on Sundays and this eventually resulted in presenting the Dutch service on E.M.R. That was in August 1979, the same period in which the first idea of starting his own SW station was born. The beginning of FRS-Holland's life was at the same time the end of an era in which several well known stations put their mark on the SW scene of the late

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70's.
Stations
such as
ABC
Europe,
Viking,
Corsair,
ABC
England

, FRBC and E.M.R. had already closed down or would soon be closing down. They had domina-ted the 48 metre band for several years and disappeared from the scene for various reasons. The German heydays had already passed with the closure of stations such as Radio Valentine, Channel 292, Radio Partisan and Radio Gloria. It was the beginning of a new era with new stations and new ideas: Atlanta Radio, Britain Radio Int., Weekend Music Radio, ABC Radio, Radio Mercury and FRS-Holland took over where the others left. Peter V. about his first step into the world of SW radio:

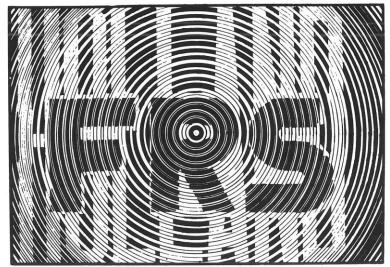
"Well, I thought to myself: why not give it a try yourself? You can provide the same standard as some of the popular stations. Very important in those early days was the support given by Barry Stephens of E.M.R. I guess he was some kind of master for me. He learned me a lot about SW, not only in technical respect but also programme wise. First thing I did was to find a suitable name. And so the *FREE RADIO SERVICE HOLLAND* was born."

Work on the very first transmitter started in September 1979 when Barry Stephens visited Peter in Holland. Bobby Speed completed the little 10W transmitter and it was February 24th 1980 when a first test on SW was planned. The frequency was 6265 within the 48 mb. The test was a **complete failure**. Everything which could go wrong went wrong: the transmitter couldn't be tuned up properly, the aerial wasn't hanging higher than a clothesline and to make matters even worse, Peter and his mate Bobby Speed got an unwanted visit in the person of the *mayor of their town* who went for a walk with his dog. All transmitting gear was lying on the ground and he approached them, looked on the ground and mumbled: "a radio-electric installation." Then he turned his back and disappeared together with his dog. Bobby Speed shouted "pack up and go" and both Peter and Bobby Speed never left the location faster than on that memorable Sunday. In the following months work continued to set up a serious shortwave radio station.

Main problem was the transmitter which didn't work at all. There was close contact with E.M.R.'s Barry Stephens and this resulted in the problem being solved: it appeared there was a wrong wire-connection to the PA 807 valve thus making it impossible to put out any reasonable signal. Sunday June 22nd a new attempt was made between 11.00- 13.30 CET on 6265 kHz. Two letters were received, not to wonder when knowing the actual SWR was 1:5 meaning only very little power was radiated by the aerial. Wrongdoer was the coax feeder. A new aerial was constructed and on **Sunday July 27th** the first real successful FRS-Holland test was carried out between 11.00- 12.30 CET on 6250 although 6265 was announced in the show. 23 letters were received from a total of 5 countries.

The success of this test was a kind of stimulant for the people behind the station and immediate preparations started to commence regular monthly transmissions. It was indespensable to use a reliable Post Office Box. Through Barry Stephens Peter got in touch with **Michael Burden** who ran the in those days famous **Kent Place address**. To this day former FRS deejays still know that address like

the back of their hand: Kent Place/ Norwell/ Newark/ Notts in England. Another important task was to forma team of broadcasting staff. Peter was already involved in a local radio station called ABC Music Radio and that made things rather easy. Fred van Es and Frankie Fanatic were approached. In a local pub he met Joop ter Zee and within a few days Joop joined the FRS team. Bobby Speed was already involved because of his technical skills and via local hospital radio Chris was approached. The same applies to Barry Stephens



FREE RADIO ON SHORTWAVE FROM HOLLAND TO EUROPE

completing the line up. Things were treated very seriously: Joop & Peter recorded the very first FRS jingle package, a QSL card was designed and printed as well as a sticker. And most important: a

broadcasting schedule was put together.

There were a number of reasons for starting up FRS-Holland: offering people in countries like East and West Germany, where the radio-situation wasn't particularly satisfactory, a real alternative was one reason. FRS felt it was the right moment for a Dutch station on SW among all the British ones and wanted to maintain the people's interest in **free radio**. The main idea however was to bring entertainment to the audience based on a wide variety of musical and informative programmes. Only music was in the opinion of the FRS people not enough to satisfy the SW audience because most of the listeners were real radio enthusiasts interested in more than only playing top 40 records. For that reason a DX & Mailbag Show were included in the programming right from the beginning.

August 31st 1980 will always be remembered as the 1st official FRS-Holland broadcasting day. Already two weeks earlier- Sun August 17th- Barry Stephens announced it in his popular DX Spot on E.M.R. At 09.45 CET the 10W rig was switched on and 4 hours and 15 minutes later FRS-Holland closed down. It was decided 6250 kHz would become the fixed 48 mb frequency, not only a good choice but also an easy one because in those days none of the colleague hobby pirates used 6250 on a regular basis. As already mentioned: FRS provided an International flavour of music and information, presented in (mainly) English, German and Dutch. The introduction of a German Service was an appropriate choice because in the course of the years it became more than obvious that the majority of FRS listeners was to be found in East and West Germany although the UK also brought quite a number of listeners. The following programme schedule was to be heard in the first months of FRS's broadcasting life:

10:00	English Service	Barry Stephens
10:30	German Service	Chris
11:00	Musical Express	Fred van Es
11:45	FRS goes DX	Peter Verbruggen
12:15	Album Show	Frankie Fanatic
12:45	FRS Golden Show	Joop ter Zee
13:15	Int. Listeners'Letter Show	Joop & Peter
14:00	Close Down	
	All times mentioned in CET.	

A satisfactory signal was noted in large areas of Europe resulting in more than 40 letters from a total of 7 European countries. What a start !This gave a good indication of the transmitting range. The 4th Sunday of each month was chosen as FRS-Holland's fixed broadcasting day.



NEXT BROADCAST

The Free Radio Service Holland will return to the airwaves with a day time broadcast late October or early November. Of course you will be informed via e-mail prior to the broadcast. We will celebrate our 43rd anniversary in a small way.

For Sale *** For S

Interested? Drop us a line via [frs@frsholland.nl] and we will send a detailed list.



Available on CD, cassette, MD, mp3: **10 Years in the Life f FRS-Holland.** The first 10 years 1980- 1990, an exciting 270 min. documentary produced by PV & Joop ter Zee. **From Pro7 to MD**: 20 years of great jingling on CD. Including an informative 8-page booklet!

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RADIO DIARY: looking back in the history of (offshore) radio

FRS Mailbox

this page an anthology of listener's response regarding the FRS Summer Splash on 3 consecutive Sunday evening s in July & August.

is my great pleasure to send you the following reception report once again. This is my third, and last reception report of this year's "Summer Splash" broadcast. This time, I received your broadcast until over 21:30UTC, well

after your scheduled ending time of 21hours UTC. Anyway, I could enjoy your "Summer Splash" programmes in three consecutive weeks. " Nobuya Kato (61 years old), Tsujido Fujisawa-city Kanagawa/ Japan".

Another Japanese listener writes: "Hello Peter, I am Tooru Gouhara. The broadcast on August 13th was in the early morning in Japan, so I was a little sleepy, but your music program woke me up completely. Thank you for your nice show with a lot of nice music. I enjoyed a variety of music, including up-tempo rock and slow ballads." Tooru Gouhara, Hamamatsu City/ Japan. "Hello, nice music program again with a lot of interesting informations, among others about the good old offshore stations. I was was a faithful listener of Radio Northsea Int. up to the last second in the night to the 1. September 1974. Very beautiful memory!" Klaus Weber, Zeitz /Germany Eugene Kornykhin lives in Moscow/ Russia: "Greetings from Moscow! I listen to shortwave for 3 years, my interests are DXing and collecting of (e)QSL cards. It was my first time of successful copying your broadcast. Wow! I live in a heavy urban area of the city and so I can't deploy a full-length antenna. Instead I walk to the park with a portable receiver using telescopic antennas. I think it is important to using shortwaves for broadcasting. Radio is my passion, my hobby, and source of energy. Only radio can transmit real souls and real voices. And shortwaves are important way to long distance transmission. Magic! Yes, it is right that you was on air and you continue to be on air! Thank you!" "Hello FRS-H, I was informed by email, that the failed transmission on 6185 last Sunday will be repeated on August 13th, but unfortunately, I had an engagement as a babysitter. So I took my old SONY ICF-SW55 transistor with me and as a pleasant surprise, even indoors and with its little telescopic antenna, your signal was strong enough to have a nice evening with good music (only temporarily affected by a deep fading). Thank You for repeating your transmission and I'll be back straight after your next announcement..... Kind regards, Klaus Erich Sieber, Erkelenz/Germany.

On

"It

WE cross the Atlantic heading for North America. "Hello to the whole team at FRS. I hope everything is well in your part of the world. Finally getting around to sending you this report on your Summer Splash show on the 23rd. I was gone so I had set up the CD recorder and got an excellent recording via the Twente SDR in the Netherlands on the computer. The recording lasted about 70 minutes and sounds really good. The show was fantastic! Very upbeat and a great selection of songs played throughout the 70 minute recording." Steve Olson, Minnesota/ USA.

Back to Europe to Denmark. "Hello FRSH! Just tuned in to your program on my portable radio here in Denmark. Being young in the 70ties it is nice songs to hear again. I just send you this report, and hope it is useful to know how you are heard and will ofcourse be happy to have reply.(QSL). You are one of the free radio stations, that I heard very early in my DX hobby. Dates for my QSL from you 08.09.1990. Many years ago! Wishing you all the best. Hans Verner Lollike, Hedehusene/Denmark.

"Hi Peter, just to let you know that the third show of the FRS Summer Splash was heard in Sangerhausen, after I returned from Berlin. The Summer Splash was not on the air on 6185KHz. Reception on 41meters could have been better. But for all I could join the broadcast. The reception was changeable but fair in general. I was happy to hear your show with nice music from the past and free radio memories. My favourites were Rainbow and Bob Seeger. I also enjoyed Jan's music selection (especially Rio Reiser and Del Amitri)." Horst Cersovsky, Sangerhausen/ Germany.

"Receiver: Grundig Satellit 300 (my bedside receiver). Reception quality: fair strength with some fading (SINPO 34333). I certainly look forward to receiving your QSL-card or whatever else you want to forward to me. I write a monthly column for QTC Magazine here in Sweden and if your card looks good I'll very probably use it in a future column. I have been doing this for more than 12 years now but sadly much of the news is about stations or services closing down." Christer Brunström, Halmstad Sweden (Halmstad is located on the West Coast of Sweden).

"Dear Peter and staff, thanks for bringing FRS-Holland back on the air. Today (August 6th) unfortunately the Piepzender seems not to relay FRSH but instead 7705 can be heard with a solid signal. The previous two Sundays 6185 offered armchair listening quality of the FRS Summer Splash 2023, 7700 was fair to good, 5790 not readable. Thanks for the fine moonlight entertainment the last three Sundays... once more FRSH a class of its own...!" Michael Geisel, Pfullingen/ Germany
"I am Norbert, a french SWL from Paris southern suburbia. My receiver is a Tecsun S2000 with a MLA30+ active loop. Thanks to your email, I was able to listen on 6185 kHz on Sunday August 13th

Free Radio Service Holland
1980 40th Anniversary CD 2020



14 Decades Free Radio on Shortwave

2023 from 20:24 to 21:31 UTC. Very comfortable reception : Strong signal with light level of noise, light fading and no interference (Sinpo 44444)." Norbert Faynot, Saint Germain les Arpajon/ France.

"Dear FRS-team, thank you for organising another event prompting short wave listeners to tune in on shortwave. If you look at [www.biener-media.de/biener-rundfunk.htm#rundfunk] you will see that I try to advertise as much info on these operations that I can. Being a really early bird, 2100 h local starts my bed time routines, but I see that many others have no problemwith evening activities. On the next mornings, I compile my receptions reports." Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Biener, Nürnberg/ Germany.

"FRS-Holland, not just a station but a tradition