CAROLINE TAKES TO THE SKY

LOCAL broadcaster Radio Caroline South will be available on the Sky Digital satellite service from this weekend.

Caroline South is produced on the Riviera and carried on Radio Caroline, the legendary pirate radio station, on Saturdays and Sundays between 19:00 and 01:00.

Listeners on the Côte d’Azur are promised traditional Caroline programming, with a Riviera twist.

“Our emphasis is on humans presenting programmes, and talking to them, not down to them”, Caroline South founder and presenter Mark Dezzani told The Riviera Gazette.

“Our music is 70 percent classic rock, good R&B, soul and reggae, with 30 percent being new music; rock and rock-oriented dance, latest releases from popular and alternative artists.

“We are not heavy with news, but will be providing news about music and music events, both in the UK and locally on the Riviera – such as MIDEM in Cannes this week.

“Following our popular roadshows last year we are planning more music events for the Riviera in 2003, with well known UK and local artists.”

Caroline South is still broadcast on local jazz station The Breeze 88.4 FM at weekends, but transmitter limits mean that the station is not easily tuned into in Nice and inland. This will soon change, according to Dezzani, “For those who are tuning in to us on The Breeze 88.4, the signal is currently best received from Marina Baie des Anges through to Théoule, and in Monaco. Nice listeners may have to wait until later in the year to pick us up, when a more powerful transmitter will be installed in Italy.”

Dezzani came to the Riviera twenty years ago to work on Radio Nova, and went on to launch Sunshine Radio in Antibes. A stint on Riviera Radio followed before he persuaded friend and veteran Radio Caroline presenter Tom Anderson to join him to establish Caroline’s Riviera outpost events for the Riviera in 2003, with well known UK and local artists.

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Dezzani came to the Riviera twenty years ago to work on Radio Nova, and went on to launch Sunshine Radio in Antibes. A stint on Riviera Radio followed before he persuaded friend and veteran Radio Caroline presenter Tom Anderson to join him to establish Caroline’s Riviera outpost in February 2001. Anderson is the DJ who famously continued to broadcast from the Mi Amigo as she foundered in March 1980.

Famous ex-Caroline presenters include Tony Blackburn, Tommy Vance, Dave Lee Travis, Johnny Walker — and Riviera Radio’s Rob Harrison. Radio Caroline was launched in 1964 by Irish music fanatic Ronan O’Rahilly.

Frustrated by tight broadcasting restrictions in the UK, O’Rahilly took advantage of the immunity of international waters by putting his whole operation on a boat anchored three miles off the British coast, outside UK jurisdiction. A long battle between government and the station followed, ending with raids on the ship and a law being passed that meant the armed forces could forcibly stop broadcasts from the ship and anyone injured would not be entitled to compensation. Later, as restrictions were loosened, Caroline moved to studios in Maidstone, Kent.

Radio Caroline’s official Sky Digital debut is set for one o’clock local time this Saturday afternoon.

How to find Radio Caroline on your digibox — see bottom of col 1, page 5
There’s no need to feel lonely on the Riviera – there are many clubs and associations, both formal and informal, devoted to particular interests or providing support for those in need.

20somethings
Get together with like-minded people in their 20s for a laugh, an evening at the pub or a day out on the ski slopes.

Aim Tennis Group
Informal, international ethnophone tennis group. Meets Sundays 11:00-13:00 at the Bongri Club, between Eze village and the Grand Corniche. All levels of player welcome.

New Bolt, 04 93 77 92 76

The Alpes Maritimes International Aperitif Club (AMAC)
Eat, drink and socialise with over 30 English-speaking members, monthly get-togethers at local restaurants.

Nick Ahmed, 06 99 80 02 72

American Club of the Riviera
Long-established Monaco-based social club with high-profile members and regular meetings.

Adri Raffatt, 04 93 02 02 18

Accueil des Villes Françaises (AVF)
National organisation helping people moving to a new area to settle in. The Sophia Antipolis branch has an international focus and actively welcomes people of all nationalities. Regular social programme and a Mums and Toddlers group meeting three times a week.

Adapt in France
Regular series of seminars plus information service for new arrivals in France.

Sylvia Bennis, 04 96 63 37 79

Auld Alliance
Franco-Scottish social group, fostering relations between the two countries. Regular social activities.

Jane McWhirter, 04 92 54 72 29

Australian Club
New social club for Australians, friends and partners.

Nick Ahmed, 04 93 42 00 17

Beryl Arnould Choir
Cagnes-sur-Mer based amateur choral group, new members are now being introduced.

Nick Riggs, 06 15 33 76 67

British Association of the Alps-Maritimes and the Var
Charitable and social association, branches in Nice, Cannes, Menton and the Var.

Jane McWhirter, 04 97 10 32 02

British Association of English-speakers
Charitable and social association.

Akselgale, 06 79 93 19 52

British Chamber of Commerce
Business support for new and established British-owned businesses on the Riviera, regular social and educational get-togethers.

Peter Johnson, 04 93 49 90 99

Cabris Cricket Club
Home pitch is at St Vallier, youth coaching. Sundays in Mouans.

Tennis Club 04 93 77 99 19

Cornerstone Mums & Toddlers
Weekly gathering for mothers with young children

Sylvie Kermin-Coffier, 04 93 65 33 79

Drama Group of Monaco
Amateur dramatic group with regular performances including an annual pantomime.

Artex, 04 93 18 46 31

Ensemble Vocal Syrinx
Cannes-sur-Var based amateur choral group, new members are always welcome.

Accueil, 06 91 26 86 94

Entrecasteaux Cricket Club
Family-oriented social cricket club, welcomes members of all ages.

Leo Tang, 06 64 09 72 72

France-Grande Bretagne
Association promoting French-Scottish relationships, with local branches in Cannes and Nice. Inexpensive language classes held every Saturday in Cannes.

McPetru, 04 93 54 72 28

The Forum
Informal social group with regular get-togethers in bars & restaurants. Kid’s version and Seniors’ version now being introduced.

enquiries@frfr.org, 06 32 12 13 16

Hash House Harriers
The local branch of the legendary athletics clubs meets every fortnight.

Nick Kedra, 06 82 60 03 13

International Women’s Club
Social, cultural and sporting club for women of all ages and nationalities. Weekly meetings for Tots, Toddlers and mum to mum.

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Lent Housing
Mainly English speakers. Meet Saturday evenings to try new and well-known plays, usually in Mouans.

Leo Tang, 06 64 09 72 72

Lotus Club
The local branch of the French car owners’ club, with English-speaking get-togeters.

Jean Krakow, 04 93 02 89 99

Monaco-USA
Not-for-profit, charitable organisation meets every first Thursday of the month.

Hedi Melk, 06 82 71 55 73

Monaco Catholic Club
Meets at the picturesque grounds in Leviez, with a social Sunday atmosphere.

Ari Scicluna, 06 77 93 11 07

Mums & Toddlers
Meetings take place except school holidays from 10:00-11:30 at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Sophia Antipolis.

12 Rue du Lavandou, Menton, 06 65 37 22 15

Nice
Calvary Chapel
Bilingual Evangelical Church, call for prayer times.

Calvary Chapel, 04 93 41 97 52

Royal British Legion
Cenotaph of war.

Brian Harries, 04 93 62 24 25

Sunnybank
Charitable association with plans to build a bilingual English-speaking retirement home.

Peter Deltanian, 04 99 80 02 72

US Navy League
Provides hospitality to United States Navy personnel visiting the Riviera.

20 rue de France, 06 64 38 40 70

VIA — Var International Aperitif Club
Drink, chat and socialise with over 30 English-speaking members, regular get-togethers at local restaurants in the Var.

Arrestement, 04 94 40 19 31

Churches

Monaco St John the Evangelist
Sunday at 10.30am.

Sophia Antipolis
Sundays at 10:00am.

Menton
St John the Evangelist
Sunday at 9:00am.

St Raphael
St John the Evangelist
Sunday at 9:00am.

South African Club
Sunnybank
Singles
Café Whiskers

Alphonse Daudet, 06 72 10 30 92

Beauvallon
Society Golf Society
Santa Paul de Vence
SAIN-AMAND\SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE
"MONACO-CANAL" RIVERA ADDRESS BOOK
2 The Riviera Gazette
Thursday 16 January 2003
Your Club or Association
If your club or association is not listed here, please contact The Riviera Gazette so we can include it next time!
Penguins born in Antibes

There were celebrations at a local wildlife park last week as eleven baby penguins hatched from eggs recently brought back from the Antarctic.

The diving birds are the latest addition to Marineland’s extensive sea life collection which already boasts killer whales, sharks and dolphins.

The penguins will form part of a new attraction to be opened in 2003, called ‘Penguin Encounter,’ where visitors will be able to experience twelve minutes in the Antarctic.

“We are working with a French scientific group called the CNRS,” Marineland boss Mike Riddel told The Riviera Gazette.

“Our penguin colony is now in its third generation, and we aim to increase the population to around 80. It is essential the penguins do not become too in-bred, so this year our project managers went to the Antarctic to obtain more eggs.

“King penguins lay two eggs, one of which is cast aside and usually does not survive – these are the eggs we collect” explained Mr Riddel.

Fifteen eggs were brought back to Antibes in a 16 day journey, culminating in a seven-hour ambulance trip from Paris Orly airport to Antibes.

Penguins are famously unable to fly, but one of the baby birds actually hatched on the plane journey. Under a rarely applicable Air France policy, it has now been granted free flights for life.

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More olives, less oil this year

The harvest at the Var’s olive-producing towns of Ollioules and le Castellet reached 350 tonnes this year, three times more than last year.

However, the olives produced less oil — some 14 litres per hundred kilos as against around 17 in the previous season.

“Younger olives yield less oil, but give the greener, more fruity flavour preferred by Provençal growers,” Alain Davat, President of local olive farmers’ association Les Amis de l’Oliviers d’Ollioules confirmed to The Riviera Gazette.

“Mild but rainy conditions, combined with a slightly longer pollenation period last spring resulted in the bumper crop this year:

“The trees were also relaxed because they had borne much less fruit the previous year,” he continued.

And British actress turned Cannes-based olive farmer Carol Drinkwater told The Gazette “We had a vast crop, almost 1500 kilos, but less oil because they were harvested early. The green fruit yields less, though exceptionally good, oil. For us it has been a tremendous year.”
Peyrat speaks out on trams

"LET me do the tramway and afterwards you’ll be rich," Nice mayor Jacques Peyrat this week told anti-tram shopkeepers, who are concerned their business will be hit during the four year, €305 million construction project.

Shops and businesses in Nice are concerned their trade will suffer badly whilst the tramway infrastructure is put into place. Some roads will be closed for up to a year, and traffic flow on others will be severely disrupted during lengthy roadworks.

Angry shopkeepers have had anti-tram slogans printed on the plastic bags they hand out to their customers, and are petitioning the Prefecture with thousands of protestor’s signatures.

Green light

Work on the controversial project is due to start this Spring, subject only to getting the final green light from the Prefecture before March 18. "I have never had any doubt over the necessity of the tramway," Peyrat says. "It’s urgent, as under new European laws we will have to do something about pollution. Therefore we have to be prepared. In time we will be obliged to close certain roads in the town centre.

"If we don’t get the go-ahead we will have to re-do the whole thing from scratch. We will have to have a new public enquiry," he warned.

"When the tramway has been built, everyone will be happy," Peyrat concluded.

Nice bus drivers have this week continued to demonstrate their support for the town’s planned tramway. Last week they painted slogans on their buses, and this week a large banner is hanging from the railway bridge across Avenue Jean Médecin proclaiming: "Yes to the tramway!"

Get robot man giggling to win 150,000 euros

THE Palm Beach casino in Cannes is offering €150,000 to anyone who can make ‘Mister John’ smile. It sounds simple, but the celebrated mime artist has made this kind of bet many times before and has never yet lost.

Known as the ‘human robot’, ‘Mister John’ first came up with the idea in the sixties. He learned how to hypnotize himself into not laughing, and over the years has heard many hilarious gags. So far all have failed to make him even smile.

Visit him between 18:00 and 20:00 every night until Sunday, and if you can make him laugh the €150,000 is yours!

A FREJUS pizza parlour owner was found beaten to death outside his restaurant last week. The 60 year-old man lived above his restaurant and was not known to have had any enemies.

Police say he had been hit on the head with ‘a very heavy object’ and are awaiting the autopsy report.

A 55 YEAR-OLD man set fire to his car and then shot himself dead in Juan les Pins’ Port Gallice on Sunday night.

A port worker raised the alarm after he heard an explosion and found the burning car. Investigators have ruled out foul play, concluding that the man committed suicide.

An expectant mother’s car was stolen in a violent attack in Mougins last week. The 28 year-old victim had advertised her car for sale. A woman claiming to be a potential buyer met with her, but said they must wait for her husband. She then distracted the mother-to-be, pushed her violently out of the car and drove off.

A CAGNES café owner has come up with an idea that allows high quality coffee to be served anywhere, in the form of a Smart car with an espresso machine in the back.

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A 28 YEAR-OLD woman who ‘had nothing to do’ is currently in police custody in Nice, suspected of suspicion of theft.

Restaurant owner killed

A FREJUS pizza parlour owner was found beaten to death outside his restaurant last week.

The 61 year-old man lived above his restaurant and was not known to have had any enemies.

Police say he had been hit on the head with ‘a very heavy object’ and are awaiting the autopsy report.

A woman, 46, was found dead on a beach in Cannes last week. She was last seen on Saturday, and friends say she had a history of depression.

A CAGNES café owner is being investigated by police after a 15 year-old girl was found dead in the toilet of a nearby supermarket. She was last seen on Friday, and friends said she had been depressed.

A woman, 28, was found dead in a hotel room in Cannes last week. She had been reported missing on Monday, and friends said she had been depressed.

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**Cop’s champagne in the neck**

AN elderly man has threatened a Calvados policeman with a bottle of champagne.

The 66-year-old pensioner became angry when police visited him to investigate a phone call the man had made threatening to settle a neighbourhood dispute with a gun.

The man also threatened to shoot the officer and was arrested.

**Ski rescue to cost**

CARELESS off-piste skiers and snowboarders are soon likely to be handed a bill if they have to be rescued.

Accidents on the pistes are usually underwritten by skiers’ insurance, but off-piste rescues are not covered.

Mayors in all French ski stations are asking for this proposed law to come into effect “as soon as possible”.

**It’s Nice at the top**

NICE has returned to the top of the first division after a 2-0 victory — the first in four matches — over Lille last Saturday.

They are due to play again at home this Saturday.

**Cannes-did cameras**

CANNES is to receive 23 more video surveillance cameras in March in addition to the 23 which already keep the town under watch.

Forty more will be installed by the end of this year.

**French against war**

MORE than three quarters of French people are opposed to any military action against Iraq, according to an opinion poll published last week in ‘Le Figaro’.

**Three killed in chopper crash**

THREE people died last weekend when the helicopter they had chartered smashed into a peak near the ski resort of Gréolières-les-Neiges.

Two men were found dead in the wreckage and their female companion died later in Grasse hospital.

They had hired the chopper from a private owner and had taken off from Cannes airport to go on a sight-seeing tour of the area.

Officials don’t know why the Robinson 44 helicopter crashed — experts say flying conditions were good at the time.

An inquiry has been opened and experts will be testing the helicopter thoroughly for safety flaws.

“It’s true that helicopters can be more dangerous than other aircraft as planes are obliged to have an escape slide. However, with both, if you crash, you crash”, a spokesperson from one Cannes-based helicopter charter company explained to The Riviera Gazette.

“That’s no accounting for human error or the aircraft breaking down. We usually only hear about helicopter accidents because, as in this case, they often involve someone famous, or well known.”

Those that died were a French businessman, 54-year-old Jose Fedida, his wife Aniss, 56, and Belgian journalist, Georges Hassel-Bergs.

Fedida, who piloted the helicopter, was the founder of Grasse-based Laboratoire Cosmetology France.

Fedida’s orphaned children met with their father’s employees on Monday to reassure them that they will not now be made redundant.

**How to tune in to Radio Caroline on your Sky Digibox**

● Press the ‘services’ button on your Sky Digital remote
  ● Scroll down to option four, ‘system setup’, then press ‘select’
  ● Scroll down to option four, ‘add channels’, then press ‘select’
  ● Enter these details – frequency: 11623 GHz, polarisation: horizontal, symbol rate: 27.5, FEC: 2/3
  ● Scroll to find channel then press ‘select’. You’ll see a list of channels. Scroll down to Radio Caroline and press your yellow button. A tick will appear on the screen. Press ‘select’
  ● Radio Caroline has now been stored in your digibox. To tune into ‘anytime press services, scroll to option six, then press ‘select’. You’ll see Radio Caroline listed. Scroll to it and press ‘select’ to listen...
Estate agent Keith Meredith tells Jenny Paul about favourite parts of the coast – and the country...

I CAME here at Christmas in 1975. I was teaching in the UK and playing first division rugby, and the opportunity to play in the Nice rugby team for a year came up. I’m very outdoory, so I liked it here and I liked the nature and the weather so I looked for ways to stay.

It’s hard to believe but I snow skied on New Year’s Eve this year and then watered the next day, which is fantastic.

After my first year I became interested in real estate and got a job with a local agency. I was unimpressed by the professionalism in the industry and decided I could do better, so in 1989 I started up ‘Coast & Country’.

It was difficult to get registered as a legitimate estate agent as I was English, but I threatened the authorities with court action before they would accept my qualifications.

We got up and running but then came a recession. We struggled until 1997, when we started to do well. In 1999 I persuaded Pauline Challoner, who was then the Nice rugby team for a year, to join me. I thought she could help ease the suspicion around our profession.

I love scuba diving in St. Tropez, where there are loads of fish, and Ancre de Chine restaurants are the nearest thing to an English pub. I go to Café de Provence rosé is the best in the world.

My idea of heaven would be professionalism in the industry and deciding I could do better, so in 1989 I started up ‘Coast & Country’.

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Thursday 16

- The 27th Festival International du Cirque de Monte Carlo starts tonight at 20:00 at the Big Top in Fontvieille, Monaco. Catch the world's most famous circus acts in this prestigious competition until Jan 23. Tickets start at €20. Tel: +377 92 05 37 54 for information.

- The 26th Lyceum Rendezvous is on at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco until tomorrow. 138 exhibitors show off the latest bathing suits, lingerie and sportswear. Tel: +377 99 99 2000

- The Bar in Beau in Antibes is hosting a Bossa Nova evening starting at 21:05. Tel: 04 93 74 10 98

Friday 17

- Starting today and running until January 22 is the 2nd Salon Professionnel du Syndicat des Artisans Porters at the Espace Grandjean in Vallauris. Pottery from 12 artists is on display. Entry is free. Tel: 04 93 63 82 58

- An exhibition of photos of pop stars and music industry bigwigs by the MIDEM awards which examines where free speech and political correctness meet head-on, at the Théâtre des Arts in Cannes tonight and tomorrow at 20:00. London’s The Times said “everybody should experience the shock of this play”! Starring Guy Masterson and Beth Fitzgerald. Tickets €23. Tel: +377 94 61 01 71

- Bulgarian soprano Ghena Dimitrova is being honoured tonight in an event at the Salle des Festivals, Antibes. Videos, interviews and a question and answer session are all part of the night. Tickets €16. Tel: +377 98 52 82 39

- Adapt in France is arranging two workshops for those new to France today, one on Accommodation from 9:30 to 10:30 and another on Insurance from 11:00 to 12:00. Both will be held on the 2nd floor of the Centre de Vie building in Garbeville, Sophia Antipolis. Book in advance on 04 93 65 33 79

- Continuing today is the 27th Festival International du Cirque de Monte Carlo

- Tonight at 21:00 The Baroque Bar, 25 rue de la Croix, in Old Nice has live music – Maru Buss on the violin and Mauro Righini on the alto viola. Entry is €15 and includes one drink. Tel: 04 93 80 07 74

- Aaron hosts a regional snowboarding competition today and tomorrow, starting at 13:00. Tel: 04 88 96 72 06

- The NRJ Music Awards are being held at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes at 20:30. The event isn’t open to the public, but will be broadcast on TF1. However, star spotters may want to watch the celebrities arrive...

- Oleanna ends its two night run at the Théâtre Antibes, Antibes tonight at 20:00. Tickets €23.00 Tel: 04 93 63 01 71 to book.

- A live DJ will mix techno and jazz tonight at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco, starting at 23:00. Entry is free. Tel: +377 99 99 30 00

- Continuing today is the 27th Festival International du Cirque de Monte Carlo

- Top in Fontvieille, Monaco. Catch the most talented circus acts from all around the world. Tel: 04 93 99 04 04

- Head along to the Hippodrome in Cagnes-sur-Mer today for the Prix de Monte Carlo and you’ll get two horse race meetings for the price of one. Galloping starts at 13:15, followed by a night trot meeting – all for just €4.50. Tel: 04 93 42 44 44

- The Red Fun Theatre Company present Olivier Dahan’s Mamiru, a contemporary play which examines where free speech and political correctness meet head-on, at the Theatre des Arts in Cannes tonight and tomorrow at 20:00. London’s The Times said “everybody should experience the shock of this play”! Starring Guy Masterson and Beth Fitzgerald. Tickets €23. Tel: +377 94 61 01 71

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Saturday 18

- The 12th Antibes Juan les Pins Festival d’Art Sacré starts today with a concert at the cathedral in Antibes. Two choirs perform the Stabat Mater by Bach and others at 21:00. Ticket price starts at €20 from the tourist office. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00

- Combine a night of jazz with a themed menu at Les Auberois restaurant on the lac de Saint Cassien where the Jackie Jazz Band will play from 20:30. The third set will be a jam session. Call Jim or Tina on 04 93 60 67 89 to reserve a table.

- The 26th Lyceum Rendezvous is on at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco until tomorrow. 138 exhibitors show off the latest bathing suits, lingerie and sportswear. Tel: +377 99 99 2000

- The Bar in Beau in Antibes is hosting a Bossa Nova evening starting at 21:05. Tel: 04 93 74 10 98

Monday 20

- Adapt in France continues its workshops for newcomers to the country with a session on Culture Shock from 9:30 to 11:30 in Garbeville, Sophia Antipolis. Book in advance on 04 93 65 33 79

- Continuing today is the 27th Festival International du Cirque de Monte Carlo

Tuesday 21

- Continuing today is the 27th Festival International du Cirque de Monte Carlo

Wednesday 22

- The World Rally Championship comes to Monaco for the world’s oldest rally event and all the top drivers can be seen around town from today until Sunday. The rally starts on Friday, see which action taking place around Gaps – about 20km away. A better bet for locals is to watch on Saturday or Sunday, where the competition is 30 to 60km from town and the cars return to Monaco’s port for servicing between stages. Sunday sees the cars streaming through the famous Col de Turini stage.

- Hardcore rally fans will want to stand on freezing mountain sides to watch the full-on competition, but armchair enthusiasts can drink in the atmosphere by simply visiting Monaco’s port, where the crowds are light and there’s plenty to be seen in the service area when the cars come in. Find more information on http://www.wrc.eu

- Nice hosts the struggling Paris Saint Germain tonight at the Stade du Ray in their latest French National Championship football match. Kick off at 20:00. Tickets start at €7, from 04 93 88 07 27. Monaco are also at home at the Stade Louis II at 20:00 against Lune – call +377 92 05 37 74 for information.

Riviera Weather

Call 09 99 79 11 11 for today’s weather in your town, or get a three-day forecast in English. Call cost €3.34 per minute.