LPAM IN THE NETHERLANDS - part 1

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In July there is Flevoland Fair. Radio Emmeloord has set up an outdoor studio for the occasion.

A country filled with extremely interesting mediumwave stations. Unique brand names such as Radio TPOT or Radio de Vliegende Hollander. Small hobby stations that come on air only now and then. Weekend stations offering authentic Dutch folk music for the holidays. Music specialty stations broadcasting 24/7. Or stations that serve a single town with a stubbornly personal touch. A country full of big, friendly radio personalities.

This is the Netherlands. Europe's, and perhaps the world's, most fascinating country for mediumwave radio.

Licensed low-power AM stations (LPAM) have been permitted since 2016. There are now well over a hundred of them. Most operate at 100 watts, while the stations on 1485 kHz use just 1 watt. The aim of this article is to go through the stations frequency by frequency. I am writing from the perspective of southwestern Finland, where I use a 500-meter longwire antenna aimed at the Netherlands.

Naturally, at my listening location in Bromarv, stations from the northern Netherlands are heard best. For DX listeners in southern Europe, the situation is surely different, favoring stations from the southern parts of the country.

But all stations can be heard. I have logged more than a hundred over the past nine years, and I am still chasing the rest with determination.

Welcome along on a journey across the Dutch LPAM band.

675 kHz

The first Dutch frequency is 675 kHz, which for a long time was dominated in Bromarv by Radio Calypso (Oostwald). Through Calypso, many different program producers were on air, and Dutch music was heard exceptionally well in Finland.

Calypso is no longer on the air, and today the frequency is occupied by Unique Gold (Wijchen). Its golden oldies format is also excellent, and the station often plays wonderful "lost and found" tracks.

The latest information suggests that Hanzestad Radio is also starting here. It is always a joy to hear about new LPAM arrivals. A very warm welcome!

Some years ago, Schalkhaar Radio (Schalkhaar) transmitted on 675 kHz, and in the previous decade Radio Nostalgie (Kollumerzwaag) was occasionally heard in Finland, too.

Jan Werkman, Radio Calypso.

By the way, an excellent and up-to-date list of Dutch LPAM stations can be found at: babylona.home.xs4all.nl/pe9mj/indexLPAM.htm. It includes all stations currently holding LPAM licenses: those on air, frequency reservations, and newcomers preparing to launch.

Interlude

It is worth noting at this early stage that reception conditions for Dutch AM stations in southwestern Finland vary greatly. I am writing this in early January, and in mid-winter many stations are audible around the clock. Reception is often at its best late in the morning or early in the afternoon, when interfering stations from elsewhere in Europe have not yet appeared.

In spring and autumn, the best moments are just after sunrise and just before sunset. At those times, the reception peak can be surprisingly sharp.

Summer, on the other hand, is challenging. Around Midsummer, mediumwave signals may be audible only for a few hours around midnight, and even then Spanish, Romanian, or Middle Eastern stations usually dominate the band.

Overall, the seasons bring remarkable variation to listening for the Netherlands. In mid-winter, even the very low-power stations on 1485 kHz can be heard cleanly on this frequency for four to five hours in broad daylight. In midsummer, by contrast, even the strongest station may be difficult to hear briefly at midnight.

747 kHz

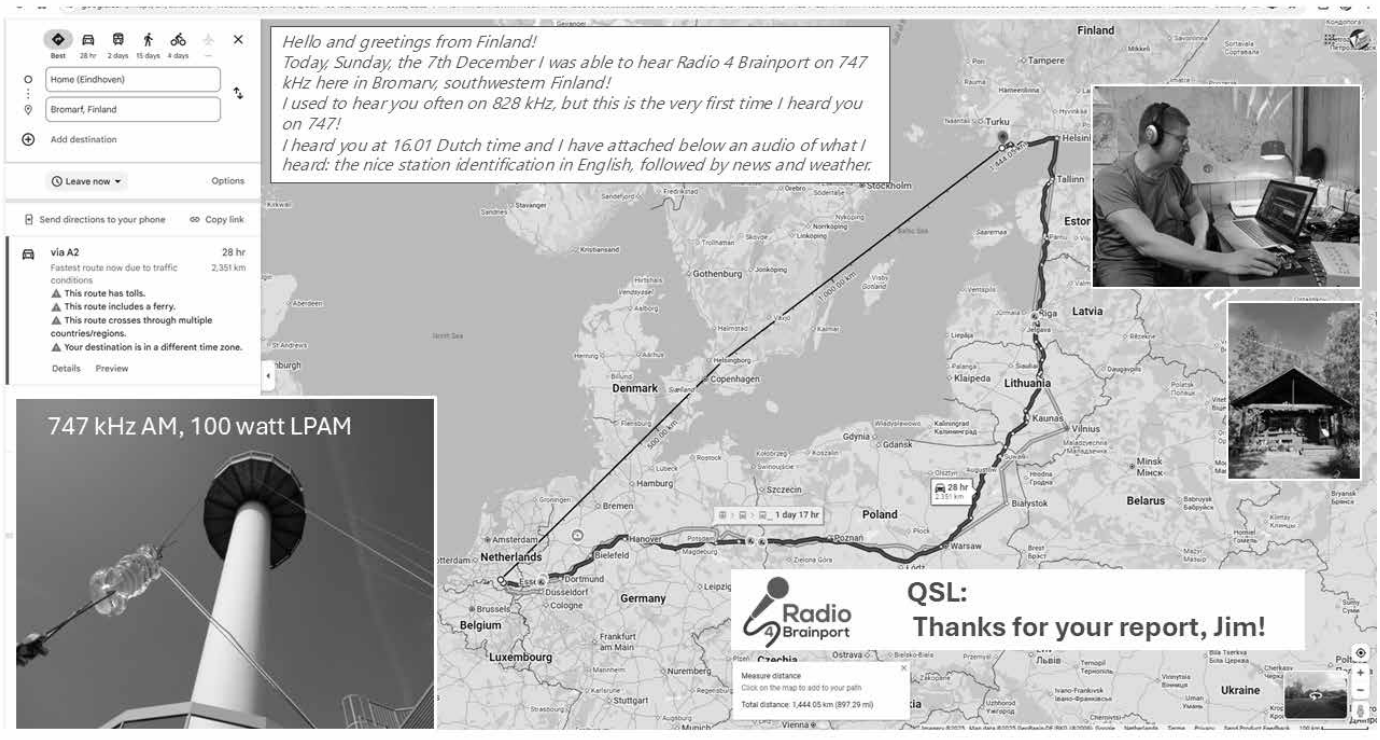
But back to the frequencies. The next Dutch channel is 747 kHz. Today it is very strongly dominated by Radio Emmeloord (Pietersbierum). From the same transmitter, Radio Seagull is broadcasting at night. At the turn of the year, Spain's RNE stations shut down their mediumwave transmissions, including RNE Cádiz on 747 kHz, which has further improved Dutch reception.

The second easiest Dutch station to hear here is Radio 4 Brainport (Eindhoven). It is a highly unique English-language station aimed at expats from the City of Light, Eindhoven - home of Philips, founded in 1891. The nickname itself dates back even further, to the Netherlands' first match factory in 1870.

Cupra Radio (Emmer-Compascuum) also transmits on 747 kHz. I have managed to hear it only twice, so it is not easy in Finland. Cupra is known for joint test transmissions and technical experiments with Radio TPOT on 918 kHz.

I have never managed to hear Impact AM on this frequency, although earlier it was quite easy on 1008 kHz.

A new arrival is also expected soon: Radio Zuidkamp (Onna). Their stream is already online, and 'Zuidkamp music,' as they call it, is excellent.



Unfortunately, many stations have already left 747 kHz and stopped broadcasting completely on AM. Different Radio (Nijkerk) was often heard in 2017 and is remembered for its superb jingles and announcements. Groeistad Radio (Wassenaar) was also active at that time and sounded very professional. Radio Overland (Maastricht) was run by the Maastricht Hells Angels motorcycle club, very difficult to hear and logged only once, on the night before Christmas Eve in 2017. They even invited me to visit. That would have been super interesting!

MCB Radio also transmitted here, but we will return to it under 846 kHz. Radio 0511 (Harlingen) was very strong here, and Radio Babylona—discussed later under 1008 kHz—was also active. One more gem deserves mention: Radio Vrij Zwolle (Zwolle). The Voice of Free Zwolle, playing Dutch folk music, was heard well in spring 2020 but sadly did not remain on air for long.

801 kHz

Next comes 801 kHz. This frequency was somewhat difficult because of Spanish RNE stations, but after their shutdown at the turn of the year, it has opened up for the Dutch. The strongest station now is Bimbam Radio (Heerde), which began in September 2025. Bimbam plays Dutch music and identifies frequently. It is not on air continuously, but announces its schedules clearly online.

BPM Radio (Oijen) is also expected to start here this spring. Hopefully, it will be on air soon. Radio 7000 (Beilen) is listed for this frequency, but unfortunately transmits very rarely, and I have not managed to hear them.

Earlier in the decade, Radio Jong Europa (Alphen aan den Rijn) was active here and was regularly heard in Finland. The station is

Radio Groeistad weer uit de lucht

Zoetermeer – Voor de tweede maal werd vorige week vrijdag de radiopiraat Radio Groeistad uit de lucht gehaald. De politie nam aan het Hoevenbos de zendinstallatie in beslag.

now active on shortwave. In 2020 and 2021, Stem van Drenthe (Hoogeveen) also transmitted occasionally, with a very strong signal and enjoyable rock classics.

Radio City International (Zeeland) also operated here. It originally started on 891 kHz in 2018 and was heard once in Finland. In April 2020, I organized a DX test with the station, during which Radio City transmitted its identification not only in speech but also in Morse code. BBC Radio Devon and Spanish stations were strong, yet the Morse cut through and was positively identified in Bromarv. The test was also heard in Belgium, Germany, and the Czech Republic. Such tests are rare in Europe, but highly valued among DX listeners.

819 kHz

Radio Zanussi / Radio Hercules (Zwolle) is the current ruler of 819 kHz. The brothers behind these stations have been active in pirate radio since the age of seven! Good reception is partly due to careful grounding in peat soil. Stories from their pirate days are legendary, such as releasing dogs into the yard instead of opening the door to inspectors.

On weekends, especially earlier in the decade, Keukenduin (Wassenaar) was often on air, sometimes relaying Impact AM. Reception in Finland has never been easy, but success does come now and then.

Before that, 819 kHz was dominated by Studio Denakker / Lomp Radio (Klazienaveen). Even earlier, Studio Denakker transmitted on 1395 kHz with excellent reception in Finland.

828 kHz

828 kHz has always been difficult in Finland. Previously, a religious station from St. Petersburg was broadcasting here and sounded almost local in southern Finland. Digging Dutch stations out from underneath it was hard, and the presence of many British stations, coming from the same direction as the Netherlands, made it even harder. BBC Asian Network is still a major obstacle.

Currently, two stations operate here. Ellen AM (Hensbroek) plays older Western pop and is named after the operator's wife - surely one of the finest ways of showing love! The other is Radio Aktief (Tilburg), which plays alternative music and is easy to distinguish. Aktief's identifications are often highly unusual, sometimes bordering on sound art.

Around the turn of the decade, Radio 4 Brainport Nederwetten transmitted here, airing a unique local identification at the top of every hour. The operator, Paul, later moved to Bonaire and plans to launch a new mediumwave station in the Caribbean in summer 2026: starting at 50 watts, then 500, and perhaps eventually 1000 watts. It would be historic to see a Dutch LPAM station continue its story on another continent. Let us hope bureaucracy does not stand in the way.

Hotradio Hits (Huissen) and Wereldstad (Rotterdam) have also transmitted here. Wereldstad was heard only once in Finland, in late 2016, at the very dawn of LPAM licensing. I never managed to hear it myself - if only they had stayed on air longer.

846 kHz

MCB Radio (Alphen aan den Rijn) is the undisputed master of 846 kHz, with excellent reception in Finland. Our editor Jari Lehtinen covers MCB Radio in more detail elsewhere in this magazine.

Previously, Album AM (Uden) dominated the frequency before closing some years ago. Album AM was a pioneer of LPAM, including a truly unique DX test where poems were transmitted in Morse code. I doubt anything like it has ever been done before, or since. A DX listener's dream.

Fryskeheide (Twijzelerheide) ceased operations on December 31, 2020. After hundreds of attempts, I finally heard it on November 20, just eleven days before shutdown, during a church service. The station was rarely on air, but persistence paid off at the very last moment. There are very few religious LPAM stations in the Netherlands, perhaps Fryskeheide was the only one. Hopefully, more will appear.

Radio Mebo 2 (Westerlee) and Radio Nostalgie (Kollumerzwaag) have also transmitted here. Nostalgie is rarely on air, but when it is, reception is good.

891 kHz

On 891 kHz, KBC Radio (Huissen) can be heard. The Huissen transmitter previously operated as Hotradio Hits and Rivierenland Radio. Reception in Finland is very good, with little interference. As mentioned earlier, City Radio (Zeeland) transmitted here in the previous decade but was heard only once.

900 kHz

Zender Variant (Coevorden) is the newest arrival on 900 kHz and has a pleasant signal here in mid-winter evenings. Studio 900 (Terneuzen) is also often heard and relays various stations - including, at times, Nashville's Country Super Station WSM.

Recently, Radio Mebo 2 (Westerlee) has been on air frequently, with very good reception.

Previously, Theonex AM (Hoogeveen) operated here, back when Milan's high-power transmitter with 600 kW was active. Hearing Theonex required serious effort, but success did come now and then. The station transmitted only on Sundays.

Sitara FM (Houten), serving the Surinamese and Hindustani community in Utrecht, began here in autumn 2021 before moving to 918 kHz. It has never been easy to hear, but occasionally reception is quite good. It is one of the few ethnic LPAM stations in the Netherlands. More of them would be very welcome.

918 kHz

Radio TPOT (Gasselternijveen) is one of the very first LPAM stations. It has transmitted on several frequencies before settling here. Reception is usually strong, with excellent audio quality. The operator, Theo Postma, is a true LPAM pioneer and has helped me countless times with station details for reception reports. There is only one question he has never been able to answer: how to reach the operator of Spaghetti Radio International on 1485 kHz ;) Otherwise, Theo knows everything.

In Sundays Radio TPOT relays the German amateur radio show Radio DARC. By the way, the name TPOT is a parody from the name iPod.

Citrus AM (Emst) broadcasts on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. It used to be easier to hear but is now more difficult. The station has used Morse identification, sending "CITRUSAM" to the delight of many DX listeners. Another lovely station name by the way.

Radio Monique International (Velsen-Noord) and Radio President / Golden Oldies Radio (Hoogvliet) have also been heard here, but we will return to them later, as they now operate on higher frequencies.

This concludes the first part of the article on Dutch LPAM stations. We will continue in the next issue, moving on to the range 1008–1602 kHz. More fascinating stations and special cases await, including a Finnish-language program dedicated to 1940s Finnish music on a station specializing in that era. In the Netherlands, anything is possible! In part two, we will also take a closer look at the micro-stations on 1485 kHz. See you soon again! **RM**