

# a breath of air

by Fabio Tagetti - A.I.R.

## 1. Sea Adventure

An Italian legend holds that in 1982 a ship in a northern dock got laden with long-distance listening tools and devices. From the four winds of Italy lovers of the electromagnetic sea urged one another to make for new waters, where listening individuals could share and spread their knowledge and tips.

'These chests of ours are no use if we don't gather our forces, mused Elio 'Salty Dog' Fior, the man who had got the idea. A Cold War was still going on then and the sailors could clearly hear the echoes tinkling through the loudspeakers of their little treasured chests. 'They are hard-won devices', said a mate or two, 'but let the world know we are no plunderers.'

'To sails tomorrow!', roared Elio hastily.

'Sorry, mate' interrupted Piero 'Layout' Castagnone who was soon to become a well-known magazine-designer, 'Let's call the ship a name first!'

## 2. What the Hell of a Name



Bruno 'Dobloons' Pecolatto

The crew agreed and began to chew out words: a 'Ship of Tools' by an ever-joking man ('A ship of *listening* tools, that is!') got heavily hissed, then a 'Radio Brotherhood of Cold War Listeners' sounded a bit callous to most. Then an 'Ass-o'-Sea-Ocean of e-Tall-Ian Radiolisseners' seemed to get instant success, but a sailor who was holding a book remarked that was bad spelling. 'Furthermore, - he added - I know

no lan here.'

After correction, the crew accepted an 'AIR - Association of Italian Radiolisters' which was promptly tagged onto the sails. A Treasurer was needed and a still-echoing hurray for Bruno 'Dobloons' Pecolatto was raised.

'To sails tomorrow!', repeated Elio. And so they did, while some onlookers from the dock started singing a leering tune which went 'TV will spoil you (leer)... computers are looming on the horizon (leer)...'



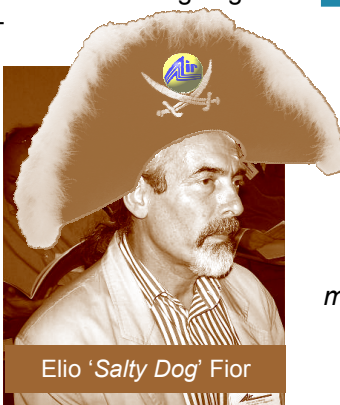
A MAN THOUGHT TO BE FABIO TAGETTI IN AN ANCIENT BOOK (Air rendering).

## 3. Radiorama is Born

They've been in numberless adventures since then, the most celebrated being the magazine Radiorama – the still-



shining gem of their daily passion. In the words of Fabio 'Dropaline' Tagetti 'it sums up all the shades of our radio interests, ranging from broadcast stations, to utility ones, military and number station sniffing, fax and weather maps, coast guard warnings and much, much more...'



Elio 'Salty Dog' Fior

## 4. Ports of Call

In many ports they stopped, sometimes to take up new members, sometimes - alas - to say farewell to long-time friends which had kept the ship on the fittest tide. New stories were carried on board, some in particular threatened: 'Digital winds will sweep the vessel'. The on-board Board of Commanders stated that it was time to listen to digital too, so laptop chests began to work side by side with analog chests.

The crew started to develop a weird jargon full of acronyms such as DRM, DSP, DAB Plus, SDR, and new stars to sail by appeared: but was Morphy-Richards a star or a bloody pirate? Wonderful stories are still being heard about the performances of Perseus and Elad, whose makers



Valerio 'Ambassador' Cavallo

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Angelo 'Fishin'rod' Brunero

regularly visit the deck . Obscure words such as 'software defined ' at first sounded like fog in high seas.

### 5. Updates

'Times are a changing', many a President of the Board thought while recalling a song and as years went by new seafarers came, notably Valerio 'Am-bassador' Cavallo, Angelo 'Fishin'rod' Brunero both skilfully dwelling in the Captain Room for years.

Frequent visits have been paid to strange ports since then, just to taste what listening in different conditions was like: a team lands in a Mosquito Land once every two months, pouring their adventures in four languages on [http://](http://www.mcdxt.it/)



Saverio 'The player' De Cian

[www.mcdxt.it/](http://www.mcdxt.it/)

Swedish Lapland listening sessions are also described in a special section on [www.air-radio.it](http://www.air-radio.it), while dozen members write in to Radiorama while on holiday just to test listening conditions. Locations are as varied as the world itself: reports flow from seaside resorts, mountain tops, huts in open fields, cars on the move. Tips and homemade antennas whet their radio appetite, new receivers are tested in depth, new aspects of hobby radio are explored: 500 guests live in the AIR ship and keep it sailing every day, while about 2,000 off-board enthusiasts keep a regular



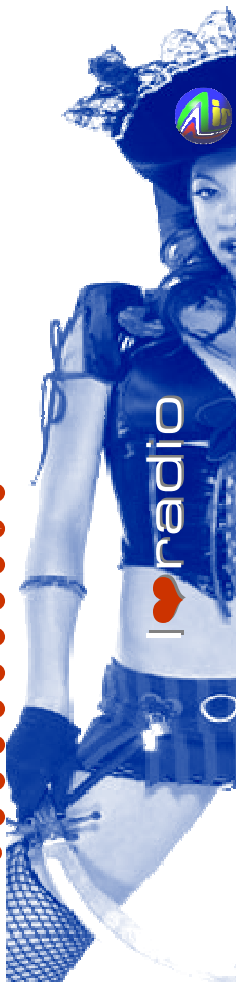
LIFE IS SO HARD FOR PRESIDENTS, ISN'T IT MR VENTURI? (Air)



SECOND-IN-COMMAND FIORENZO REPETTO BY HIS CHESTS.



Andrea 'Railwayman' Borgnino



eye on Radiorama.

An ever-different town – preferably with art, good restaurants and wine shops – welcomes a yearly convention of these not-so-rough electronic seamen in springtime.

The crew's achievements are being monitored and spread through their Radiorama Mailing List which is polished by Andrea 'Railwayman' Borgnino. The latest development is FaceBook where hundreds contacts are being made thanks to tireless Fiorenzo 'Rep' Repetto.

### 6. Latest News

And now to the new Board of AIR - Associazione Italiana Radioascolto, as per the polling session which took place in May 2009 in the city of Savona: Giancarlo Venturi (Captain, Rome), Fiorenzo Repetto (Second-in-Command, Savona), Bruno Pecolatto (Treasurer, Turin) and the Board Counsellors: Andrea Borgnino (Rome-Geneva), Giorgio Casu (Cagliari-Sardinia), Giancarlo Ceccarelli (Naples), Enrico Guindani (Milan), Andrea Russo (Venice), Fabio Tagetti (Verona).

Die-hard people they are, mate.

Design by Piero 'Layout' Castagnone.

