

Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ

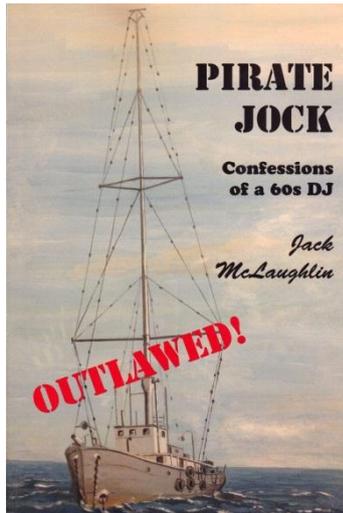
By: Jack McLaughlin

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Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ starts with how a 20 year old student is working during a summer holiday with young offenders whereby rainy days are partly filled with listening to pop music, which isn't brought the way we know so good from the pirates. But 20 years old Jack starts to earn good money when working in a brand new Bingo Hall as a caller, which gets on fire the day before opening. A heavy start of a book, in which 42 chapters brings us the fictional story of several events in the high days of the sixties of last century. Some of the names are changed to protect the real persons. The nice thing about: '**Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ**' is that it brings us first the story of how a youngster of 20 years is living in the sixties, with work, having fun with girls, boys and drinking before he heard for the first time about plans for a radio station planned for Scotland, after he had a unexpected romp! It's only on page 39 that 'radio' is really becoming a topic. Compared by other books about offshore radio Jack McLaughlin did a good thinking about how to built the story. But before radio really got the subject, good old

Jack went back to his old school to be a teacher. The book, which is partly factual and partly fictional, brings in the radio at high speed at page 49 when Jack finds an advertisement where deejays are wanted. From there on the radio story really starts with meeting several people involved, including director Shields. From there on John McLaughlin asks you full attention in '**Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ**'. For those who don't know the stories behind offshore radio it's really a total eye opener and it reads like an exciting boys book.

On the other hand for those who know the history and the facts the book still swings but brings in a lot of factual questions. I'll give two examples: One of the persons related to the station is described as an Inspector Colombo type. Those two persons were not comparable at all in 1966, when the Radio Scotland started. The TV Series bringing the Inspector Colombo only started in the USA on television during 1971. Another example of historical mistake takes us back to New Years evening when the protagonist in the book: **Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ** decides not to listen to the late evening program from Radio Scotland. No, he's going to listen to John Peel on competitor station Radio London. Really a big mistake as John Peel only arrived back in Great Britain early 1967 and had to start his radio career from that point on.

Anyway, forgetting those mistakes the **Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ** by Jack McLaughlin is really a very good read.

Hans Knot