

# 65 Years of "Pomorska večer" Radio Programme

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65 years is a magical number. Many can hardly wait for it, because it is the age at which one is legally entitled to retirement. Nevertheless, the 65th birthday of "Pomorska večer" (Seamen's Evening) radio programme of the Croatian Radio and Television (Croatian Broadcasting Corporation) represents a jubilee, and not retirement by any means. This programme can do anything but retire.

Unique in the world, a champion of Croatian maritime tradition, "Pomorska večer" is a programme of the Croatian Radio and Television which came on air at the time when Croatian Radio Television (Croatian Broadcasting Corporation), as we know it today, did not exist. In 1952 the programme was initiated on the Zagreb Radio by Branko Knezoci, and since 1970s it has been broadcast on local radio stations along the coast. The radio programme on the Rijeka Radio was edited and hosted by Branka Malnar.

The programme used to be transmitted via radio transmitters located along the Croatian coast, and through MF and HF Radio Communication to the ships at sea. At the time when there were no satellite communication or the Internet, the seamen's families would use the programme to extend their greetings to their loved ones aboard ships. They would mark births and birthdays, they would wish a happy return, calm seas, and safe harbours.

Today this programme is broadcast from the Pula studio of the Croatian Radio (edited by Budimir Žižović), as well as from the studios in Rijeka (Branka Malnar), Zadar (Gordan Kurtović), Split (Jadran Marinković), and Dubrovnik (Božica Đurđević and Božo Bržica). The programme is still being transmitted all over the world; however, today the radio has been replaced by the Internet.

The programme is dedicated to the sea, seamen, and fishermen: to all those who, as the saying goes, live off the sea and for the sea. In this respect it may be considered unique: not even major maritime countries, who honour their maritime tradition and heritage, have a radio programme for seamen broadcast on a weekly basis.

The 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of this highly acclaimed radio programme of the Croatian Radio (HRT – HR) was festively celebrated



aboard the training ship *Vila Velebita 2* in Rijeka, from where it was directly transmitted. In a festive atmosphere, accompanied by a number of treats marking the occasion, the editors Jadran Marinković, Branka Malnar, Božica Đurđević, Dorina Tikvicki, and Vladimir Šetka hosted, among others, State Secretary for the Sea Maja Markovčić Kostelac, Deputy Minister of Fishing Ante Mišura, General Secretary of the Seamen's Union Neven Melvan, teachers of the maritime faculties, heads of fishermen's associations, representatives of shipping companies and port authorities, as well as a number of other guests. There was no shortage of serious subjects concerning the sea, seamanship, and shippers. Changes in the maritime legislation (Maritime Code and Maritime Statutes), issues regarding Croatian fishing, expected to be in the focus of this year's fishermen's conventions, were discussed as well. The editors also hosted the newly appointed management of the shipping company *Jadrolinija* and addressed the readiness of our biggest shipper for the demands / requirements of cabotage. Some young seamen expressed their expectations regarding the "Pomorska večer" radio programme, which has for more than six decades been dedicated to seamen, sea, and seamanship.

The varied programme, improvised on the navigating bridge of the training ship, was accompanied by a series of toasts proposed on the deck. Along with the good wishes and greetings to the seamen from their families, everyone wished calm seas to all seamen, wherever they might be.