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December 24 to December 31, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 49

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FREE

# The <sup>BONAIR</sup> REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) • 717-8988

SINCE 1994

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## Santa in Rincon

Page 4

Santa Larry, helps Martin Heinrich and Janice Huckaby and two happy kids



The Antilles had a birthday last week. The Kingdom Charter (*Statuut*), the Antilles Constitution which defined the islands' freedoms and relationship with Holland, is 50 years old. At the time of its signing it stood as an international example of modern de-colonization. The support received from Holland based on the charter over the years has contributed to a higher standard of living on the Dutch Caribbean islands than in many other countries in the Charter may be amended so can have direct relations with government in Willemstad (as has



*1954. Back then Minister-President of the Netherlands Antilles, Efrain Jonckheer, returns after signing the Statute in The Netherlands - 50 years ago December 15<sup>th</sup>.*

► For the third year in a row, readers of *Scuba Diving* magazine have named Bonaire as the **Top Dive Destination in the Caribbean/Atlantic**. The 2005 Readers' Choice Awards were recently announced in the January/February issue. Bonaire also received the highest scores in the following categories: Top Marine Life, Top Shore Diving, Top Snorkeling, Top Destination for Underwater Photography and Top Beginner Diving.

"*Scuba Diving* is the only dive publication that asks readers to rate their dive vacations for the benefit of other divers," said Buck Butler, editor of the magazine. "For this issue, the reporters

in the field are our readers, diving the world and recording their observations.” Thousands of *Scuba Diving* subscribers and web users rated their experiences at numerous dive destinations.

► **Captain Don and Janet will return (to follow his foot) to Bonaire from Curaçao this Thursday, December 23 at 12:30 pm on BonairExel.** *The Reporter* will be there to welcome him back. We hope there will be a big crowd to greet them! Join us.

► **Bonaire is getting a resident gynecologist.** As part of its continuing



*Drs. Broodt and Frans*

upgrade of medical facilities on Bonaire, Fundashon Mariadal (which oversees San Francisco Hospital and other medical services on Bonaire) brought on board Dr. Jan Broodt. The contract signed between Mariadal and Dr. Broodt is part of a plan to integrate doctors into the organizational structure (*medisch geïntegreerd bedrijf*) of Fundashon Mariadal.

Dr. Broodt joins Dr. Rob van der Veen, the general surgeon, as the second specialist to join the foundation.

Currently, Dr. Broodt provides services to patients who are private payers, insured through the Government, BVZ, and private medical insurances. However, Fundashon Mariadal is negotiating with the SVB to service SVB insured clients, otherwise OB-GYN patients have to go to Curaçao. The problem is that the SVB fees approved by the Central Government does not cover hospital costs for patient care.

This problem is so severe that health economist Gijs Boas presented it in survey report he did recently for the government on Bonaire. On page 6 of this report he states that if the SVB tariffs will not be adapted the San Francisco

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
from the  
REPORTER STAFF

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**Reporters:** Lars G. de Brabander, Dodo, Don & Desiree, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Dabney Lassiter, Ann Phelan, Dee Scarr, Alex Semeleer, Michael Thiessen, Andy Uhr, Marion Walthie

**Features Editor:** Greta Kooistra , **Translations:** Peggy Bakker, Sue Ellen Felix

**Production:** Barbara Lockwood

**Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa);

**Housekeeping:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij



# COVER SANTA VISITS RINCON

On the Sunday before Christmas Santa Claus rode his motorcycle up to Rincon, bringing a lot of gifts for the boys and girls in the village. Parents, friends and some of the residents of the old folks home were there to watch the happy faces. Santa's helper took their photos. Thanks to sponsors Bob Bartkowski of Re/Max Paradise Homes, Rose Inn, Larry's Wildside Diving, JanArt and the Starkweathers for sponsoring the day. □ G.D.



*Santa puts this youngster in the driver's seat*



*Some girls need convincing before trusting Santa*



*Rincon residents Dolores Celestijn and Antonia Molina get a squeeze from Santa*



*Becky Starkweather helps distribute the goodies*



# KLM'S FIRST CHRISTMAS FLIGHT

Exactly seven decades ago a lot of people, both in Holland and here in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, were looking forward to the first trans-Atlantic flight of the *Snip*. This was not merely for its historic value to civil aviation but for what the *Snip* was bringing. It was loaded with Christmas mail put on board by people in Holland for their beloved faraway families and acquaintances in the west: Surinam, Venezuela and Curaçao. KLM had given a lot of advance publicity to the pioneer flight, offering to take along Christmas letters and cards. The offer was extremely well received, and on December 14, 1934, no less than 26,521 Christmas letters and packages were taken on board for delivery on time and at the right destinations for the upcoming festive days of Christmas and New Years.

It was the first time that the Christmas post was delivered by air to the Netherlands Antilles (and Aruba), and it all went perfectly well right from the beginning. Since then the load of Christmas post has only grown more rapidly and massively. Due to the Internet and other modern telecommunication facilities, the traditional Christmas post may have diminished somewhat, yet it is still there, now both by airways and airwaves.

Today, on behalf of the staff and personnel of KLM in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, we'd like to wish all



our travelers joyful holidays, hopefully surrounded by those most dear to them.

□ *Lars G. de Brabander, KLM Commercial Manager Caribbean Area*

**Editor's note: The trimotor Fokker F-XVIII made a crossing from Amsterdam via**

**Paramaribo to Curaçao, carrying mail. The 11,000 km. (4,000 over water) flight landed eight days after take-off from Schiphol, on December 22, 1934, in Curaçao. The captain was J. J. Hongdong; co-pilot/navigator, J.J. van Balkom; engineer, L.D. Stolk; wireless operator, S. v.d.Molen. The route was from Amsterdam via Marseille, Alicante, Casablanca, Cabo Verde, Paramaribo and Caracas.**



# BONAIRE'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

It was a time of change, both socially and politically. The Queen wanted to know more about the population in the kingdom so everyone had to go to the place where they were from to register. Joseph and Maria had to go to Bonaire. They had no friends in Bonaire and did not know any of their relatives. However, by royal decree they were obliged to return to Bonaire to register.

They arrived in Bonaire aboard the motor vessel, *Niagara*, to discover an island of fresh air and clean waters. As they were walking on the main street, looking for a place to stay, they met a man who told them about Pension Reina: "good place, not expensive." However, when they arrived there, all the rooms were already occupied. They knocked on many doors, only to find "no" for an answer.

Maria was in her last days of pregnancy. So they moved slowly, reaching guest houses where others already were queuing up to book their room. Joseph, worried about his wife, was getting nervous. "Don't be afraid, Joe," Maria said. "We didn't get a room in Playa because God has a better place for us."

After leaving the city, Joseph saw many donkeys. They were not shy, and they could approach them. Joseph got a donkey and made a simple saddle. With Maria on the donkey's back they moved faster, going north along the coast. A boy told them that farther north there were caves where fishermen used to spend the night. Finally, they reached the caves. From brushwood, Joseph made a broom and cleaned the place. "Well, darling," he

said, "it's not much but better than nothing." Maria was too tired to answer. She kept feeling this pain...

"Joe," she said, "I

think the time has come." Joseph made the necessary preparations and helped her. Orion was quietly shining high in the sky. Suddenly the sky was filled with flocks of Bonaire parrots, changing the color of the sky to green with hues of black, blue and red. The screech of hundreds of birds filled the air, echoed in the caves and made Maria's labor pain cries less audible.

In this symphony of nature, at a most humble place, Jesus came to earth. Maria cried from happiness and Joseph did not know what else to do.

In the early morning hours fishermen came by with reef fish. From *Purunchi*, *Gutu* and *Scandélchi* they made a very strong soup. "Drink this madam; this is 'aw'i playa. This soup will give you strength. When they left, the sun was coming up.

"Joe, my son is going to be a very important person."

"For how long, Mary?" Joseph asked.

"For thousands of years, Joe."

Joseph grinned, showing his strong white teeth. □ *Alex Semeleer*



*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)*  
Hospital will have significant financial problems in 2005.

► **Antillean Minister of Transport and Communication, Omayra Leeflang, is holding up a permit for regional flights by Exel.** Because of recent negative publicity in Holland she says she wants to be sure all doubts concerning the company are removed. "I have no reason to think there's anything wrong with the Caribbean operation," said the Minister.



► A recent survey of 1,108 Dutch men and women in Holland investigated their **perceptions about the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.** More than half (55%), when asked what they thought about first when the islands were mentioned, gave positive responses like "good climate, a vacation destination with nice nature and beaches," "the culture" and "the people." Only one in five (22%) associated the Antilles and Aruba with "drugs" and "bolita swallowers."

A majority feels Holland should assist the islands to improve education, fight crime and erase poverty. Only one in five in the 18- to 34-year group is familiar with the Kingdom Charter, while close to half (48%) of those over 55 are. Only 13% were able to name all five islands of the Netherlands Antilles.

► If you look west **after dark you**

**can see a fiery glow.** Is Curaçao burning? No, it's just the Isla refinery again. Things there seem a bit out of control environmentally with contaminated catalytic powder being released into the air, mysterious gigantic bags filled with light colored contaminated sand being surreptitiously buried on refinery property and now the never-ending fires. The refinery is under notice to reduce pollution, but with thousands employees on the island, which already has high unemployment, a shutdown is out of the question.

► **Judge Jan Harm Bosch was harsh in his sentencing of the defendants in the Post Office fraud cases.** "They misappropriated almost a million guilders belonging to the old Post NV in Curaçao," he said. Former chairman of the Board of Directors, Roy Heerenveen, was sentenced to three years in prison. Lucette Komproe-Kwidama, owner of Pinnacle Insurance, and her husband, former Post director Hedwig Komproe, were sentenced to two years each. Former Board of Directors member, Rufus McWilliam, received a conditional sentence of 18 months with two years probation, mostly due to his age combined with his ill health. Post attorney André Small was acquitted. "This is an extremely appalling example that creates a feeling of indignation towards those confronted with it, as well as a lack of trust in government. ... the credibility of the institution also was damaged," concluded the judge.

► **Bai Bini Air Charters, which operates DiviDivi Air, has new own-**

**ers,** Curaçaoans Germaine and Richie Reginald, who were both pilots for ALM. The previous owners and founders, Carla Siercke and Hans Peter Barth, we heard, are building a house in Curaçao and going fishing. The Reginalds say there are no changes in the operation and planes will continue to keep flying on schedule.

► Bonaire's expert surgeon, **Dr. Rob van der Veen, has been cleared of any wrongdoing** in a case of a bolita swallower who died from the effects of the cocaine balls she swallowed. An inquiry revealed that the woman most likely had swallowed more cocaine balls after surgery.

The 29-year old woman was arrested at the airport on May 8, 2004, on suspicion of bolita swallowing. She was admitted to the hospital, complaining of stomach pain. In the hospital, she defecated numerous cocaine balls. She was discharged from the hospital on May 9, but re-admitted on May 10, again with stomach pains. Dr van der Veen operated on her that same night and removed 53 more bolita balls from her stomach. The woman died on May 19. An autopsy disclosed one of bolitas that were found in the woman's body had split open and killed her. Thorough investigation revealed that the woman had possibly swallowed more cocaine balls after the surgery on May 10 and before she died.

► Park Manager Fernando Simal writes that "both the **long and the short routes are open to high clearance vehicles (vans, jeeps, pick ups)**

**in Washington Park (WSNP).** The Park looks great!" Plus he reports that the construction work of the library at the Washington Park entrance is finished thanks to a grant from the Prins Bernhard *Cultuur Fonds*. He adds, "Now we need BOOKS and/or DOCUMENTS! The library is intended to provide information on topics related to Bonaire in general and WSNP in particular, so if you have any books, old or new, that you would like to donate or sell regarding the following topics, let us know, *por favor*: geology, history, flora, fauna, archaeology, diving, old maps, scientific research documents, old documents, pictures, field guides, bird ID guides, reptile ID guides, flora ID guides, any others that you think are good to have available."

► **The Bonaire Basketball Federation (BBF) is looking for youth members** – maximum age 16 - to play on our teams at an inter-island tournament on Bonaire in April, 2005. Information: 786-0060 or 791-4750.

► **Support Bonaire**, a philanthropic organization that solicits funds from American donors, reports they have **received and passed on almost \$19,000 in donations** from generous donors to a variety of projects on Bonaire. They report, "The projects and organizations we support work steadfastly, day in and day out, to improve the lives of Bonaire's young children, promote the island's rich history and culture, and provide for the protection and well being of the island's environment and ani-

*(Continued on page 7)*

*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 6) mals. They include: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Bonaire Animal Shelter, Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary, Bonaire National Marine Park, Fundashon pa Bon Koral (Coral Resource Management), Foundation for the Preservation of Klein Bonaire, Maria Hoppner Foundation, *Stichting voor Kunst en Cultuur van Bonaire* (Foundation for Bonaire Art & Culture), Wowo di Bario, Jong Bonaire and Mangasina di Rei.”

Visit their website at <http://www.SupportBonaire.org> for information about these organizations.

► Justine Gonggrijp, who is **Bonaire’s Assistant Prosecutor**, has just been promoted to *Plaatsvervanger officier*, which means she is the “Substitute



Prosecutor.” In this capacity she can carry out all the same duties as does the Prosecutor, except go to court. However, after a “training period” of a few months she will be able to do that as well. When Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius is not present, Ms. Gonggrijp will substitute for him. Congratulations, Justine!

►Take a look at the Benetton Advertisement on page 22. Those aren’t professional models **but members of Jong**

## CHIEF DAANTJE TRANSFERRED?

There has been significant pressure from some interests in Bonaire to replace Police Chief Gerold Daantje. They cite the poor performance of the police force in solving crimes, overreaction to public expressions of dissent and an overall lack of leadership and police training. Several weeks ago *The Reporter* disclosed that the St. Maarten Chief of Police, Richard Panneflek, had been approached to take over command of the police in Bonaire.

Early last week, on December 13<sup>th</sup>, Chief Daantje received a communication from the Minister of Justice, Norberto Ribeiro, that he was assigned to new duties in Curaçao beginning December 15<sup>th</sup>. This news did not sit well with the policemen of Bonaire. They believe their chief was shamefully and rudely treated and given insufficient notice. They underscored this by picketing in front of the Pasangrahan (Island Council meeting hall), sending the Justice Minister a stern letter with their complaints: the unexpected removal of their Chief of Police, the un-

derstaffing and lack of material for the force and the Minister’s poor communication with authorities on Bonaire. They collected signatures from the public in support of their chief. The Police Union supported the action.

The next day Minister Ribeiro visited Bonaire to speak with police and other Bonaire officials. The police union also contacted Jopie Abraham, the leader of the political opposition and a Member of Parliament who promised to make inquiries at the national level. During a radio interview on Mega FM’s “The Forum” Thursday edition, Abraham confirmed the reports of the shabby treatment of the Chief and added that Chief Daantje himself had requested reassignment months ago. He commented that a police chief cannot be removed without ministerial level discussions, and he was unaware of any. Interestingly, according to Abraham, the Chief was also relieved of his command in the same message that reassigned him. As we go to press, however, no replacement has reported for duty on Bonaire and Chief Daantje is

still on the job. The transfer is on hold. The police continued their job action for another day before returning to work. □ *G.D.*



*Chief Daantje*

### POLICE NEWS

Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius reports that it was relatively quiet last week with no drug arrests.

Two scooters were stolen, one of which is the only means of mobility for a handicapped man who works at the FKPD (handicapped foundation) in Rincon. *The Êxtra* newspaper reported the story with photos, causing a public outcry against the crime and offers of financial and other kinds of aid. A suspect, a juvenile with numerous offenses, is being held. □ *L.D.*

**Bonaire.** Keep an eye on future Benetton ads for more of these youngsters wearing Bonaire Benetton fashions. They are: Imka-Maria Thomas, Paulo Allee and Rhoda Celestijn.

► **Correction** from last week’s *Reporter*. The Picture Yourself article it should read, “Leipzig in the Eastern part of Germany,” rather than “East-Germany.”

►Many of our **Bonaire restaurants** are going all out for **special holiday meals** this year. There’s everything from the traditional to the exotic. See their ads in this edition of *The Reporter*.

►**FLASH! Ramonsito Booi**, Bonaire’s top political leader, is scheduled to be **interviewed on the English language FORUM radio show**, Thursday, 22 December, 12 noon, 101.1 FM.

►**All of us at *The Bonaire Reporter* wish you a wonderful and joyful holiday season. And especially warm thanks to our faithful advertisers who continue to support us so we can say, “It’s Still Free!”** □ *G./L.D.*

# Bon Pasku



## WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON

### NEW TEAM RIDERS

Two deserving junior windsurfers will join some of their multi-talented Bonaire brethren to achieve sponsorship with an international windsurfing brand. Jaeger Sint Jago, 15, and Arthuro "Payo" Soliano, 14, are now team riders for Angulo Boards, an international windsurf company headed by one of the windsurfing pioneers, Josh Angulo. With the recommendations of top pro, Taty Frans, and Ann Phelan, Josh decided to take a chance and sponsor these two rising stars to represent his company.

Josh Angulo from Hawaii is only 30 but has a vision to create boards that give a windsurfer the best gear to follow their passion. Josh's faith that these two riders are noble and passionate enough has enabled them to earn two free boards to follow their dream.

There are many levels of sponsorship. Top team members such as Michael Jordan make millions of dollars for endorsing products such as Nike. In the windsurfing community some of the top sailors can earn decent money through self promotion and sponsorship. Some riders have clauses in their contracts that pay for each photo that shows the rider using their gear. Others are paid a monthly salary. Team riders like Payo and Jaeger get free gear in exchange for promotion. To promote, the riders are expected to adhere to a rigorous training program, do well in school, attend and compete in as many events as possible and to hopefully win. They must maintain contact with their

sponsors and have good character and leadership ability. Most of all they must possess drive, motivation and passion.

Currently, Bonaire has riders sponsored by the best companies in the windsurf world. Because Bonaire's first pros like Keke Dammers, Ro Mayer and Tonky and Taty Frans paved the way for their team mates to strut their stuff, windsurfers in Bonaire can certainly aspire to be sponsored. Companies like Angulo see the Bonaire riders as excellent marketing tools. When you see a Bonaire sailor with lots of stickers on the sail, it shows their level of sponsorship. For instance, Kiri Thode, Bonaire's hottest young pro, has many stickers from his sponsors which include Starboard.

For the parents of Jaeger and Payo this is a dream come true. Most of Bonaire's hard working windsurf parents pay large amounts of money to personally fund this costly sport. Some of the kids, like Jaeger who is sponsored by Budget Marine, have local sponsors who help defray the costs of expensive gear. This type of community support is invaluable.

Just how much does gear cost? The average board runs around \$800 to \$1,400. Sails are around \$300 to \$500. One needs a carbon or aluminum boom and mast for the sail, each around \$400, and then fins, mast extensions, harnesses, harness lines, up hauls and foot straps. One rig can cost over \$2,500.



Jaeger Sint Jago, and Arthuro "Payo" Soliano

And if that sounds like a lot, MOST sailors own several rigs. One sail won't work in all wind conditions. High winds require small sails, and in turn low winds require larger sails to catch the breeze.

Jaeger and Payo are very fortunate to have achieved a team rider position. As we speak their new carbon boards are being shipped out of Europe, so look for them at the next freestyle event, the Holiday Freestyle Event, December 26<sup>th</sup> at Lac Suite in Bonaire. See [www.anguloboard.com](http://www.anguloboard.com) for more information on this sponsor. □ Story and photo by Ann Phelan

Ann Phelan is the Bonaire based owner of Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations, a windsurf and eco tour specialty travel service. She is also the Event Coordinator of the Annual Bonaire PWA King of the Caribbean. To book a trip or consult with Ann email her at: [ann@bonairewindsurfing.com](mailto:ann@bonairewindsurfing.com)

### KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
12-24	11:27	2.1FT.	69
12-25	11:56	2.1FT.	73
12-26	12:25	2.1FT.	76
12-27	12:58	2.1FT.	78
12-28	13:29	2.0FT.	77
12-29	0:14	0.7FT.	75
12-30	0:46	0.8FT.	72
12-31	1:07	0.9FT.	67
1-01	1:12	0.9FT.	61

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angie	Jandreso	Sandpiper, USA
Alegria, USA	Inspiration	Serendipity
Aleuya	Isukara	Sirius
Bingo	Luna C. USA	Sylvia K
Bright Sea	Mahi Mahi	Surprise
Camissa, Chan Is.	Maggi	
Cape Kathryn	Mary Morgan	Ta-B
Coral Moon	Michelle	Ti Amo, USA
	Midnight of Goodrich	Tsih
Dallia	Moon Rice	Tartufo
Delphinus	Nana Marie	Tween, Netherlands
Desire	Natural Selection, USA	
Dulcinea	Nowdays	Ulu Ulu, USA
Elza		Unicorn, Norway
Firemoose	One Way Wind	
Flying Cloud, USA	Odetta	Varedhuni, Germany
	Oniro	Ventura II, Costa Rica
Galandriel		Verena
Gammler	Papillon	Windmiller, Canada
Gatsby, USA	Pisces III	
Grey Lady	Plane Sailing	Ya-T, BVI
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Precocious Gale, USA	Zahi, Malta
	Pura Vida	



# SAILING & SURFING at the END of the YEAR



*A dying breed-the Bonaire fishing  
boat -under sail*

Sunfish, Optimists, windsurfers, Hobie Cats, catamarans and fishing boats joined the 'End of the Year' Regatta last Sunday in Playa at 'Kas di Regatta.' Except for the Optimists all the other racers rounded Klein Bonaire in a relaxed race where to participate was more important than winning. No trophies are awarded at this regatta. It is unique on Bonaire because the prizes are items related to the holiday: hams,

beer, etc...

## Regatta Results:

**Optimist B:** Jim, first; Urs, second

**Optimist C:** Olivier, first; Chip, second

**Catamaran:** Pieter Sweets, first; Geerlof & Anita v/d Wal, second

**Windsurf Super Kids:** Amado Vrieswijk, first; Jurgen Saragoza, second, Linomar Isebia, third.

**Windsurf Men:** Elton "Tati" Frans, first; Ethienne Soliano, second

**Windsurf Women:** Femke van der Valk.

**Windsurf Junior:** Jaeger Sint Jago, first; Bjorn Saragoza, second

**Fishing Boats:** *Aranza* -Captain Jopi Soliano, first; *Barabas* -Captain Oswin Margarita, second; *Tu y Yo y Tu* -Captain Con-



stantino Saragoza .



*Sunfish duke it out after the start*

**Sunfish A:** Franklin Soliano, first, Hernando Velandia Vargas, second

**Sunfish Junior:** Kevin Dijkhof, first; Nicolas second

The next races will be on the third Sunday in January. □Marian Walthie

# TRIATHLON RESULTS

Cool and sunny conditions were the order of the day at the start of the 2004 Jong Bonaire Triathlon. Wet weather the previous evening might have been the cause of the poor turnout for the second annual Jong Bonaire Triathlon. Last year 159 participated, this year only 31.

## The winners were:

### Kids

1. Juliano Clarendra 1:34:22 (Last year second-this year first)
2. Archundro Fines

### Women

1. Annemiek LeNoble 1:08:29
2. Simone Sweers
3. Erika Sanders

### Men

1. Frank Bohm 1:07:25
2. David Foster
3. Tim Brunt

### Team with Kids

1. Antje Guntho, Eric v/d/Keuken, Giada Binelli 1:12:01
2. Steve Wilsoe, Sharlon Sumter, Riavently Paulina
3. Team Essers: Tomas (4½ ), Yasmin (7), Laslo (1½) and Imre (too young to mention)

### Adult Team

1. Peter Zweers, Eduard Vingerhoets, Jan Welter 0:58:25
2. Fred Ros, Hernando Velandia Vargas, Willy Gerits □



*Ladies winner Annemiek relaxes*



*The Bonaire Reporter's Marian Walthie finishes*



*The last of the "Team Esser" crosses the line*

*The winning Team with Kids:*

*Eric, Giada and Antje*



*Fastest team: Peter , Eduard and Jan*



## YOGA FOR YOU MAKING YOGA WORK FOR YOU.

AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO AN END, IT IS WORTH EXAMINING THE RISE OF YOGA AS A MAJOR STRESS RELIEVER, FITNESS PROVIDER AND AS A TOOL FOR CONTENTMENT.



The best part about yoga is that it understands the complex relationship that exists between the body and mind.

Yoga grows on you in a way that the breath synchronizes body and mind perfectly.

As this harmony is developed, contentment is created which makes you want it to go on.

Yoga understands the union between the body, mind and energy. It simultaneously works in an interconnected manner so that the development of the body automatically leads to the development of the mind and energy and visa versa. How it works

As you do yoga exercises with awareness on the movement pattern it creates a three-fold effect:

- It provides the physical toning to the applicable muscles, organs, joints and ligaments.
- Simultaneously, this unlocks the energy blockages and help in channeling the energy (*Prana*) appropriately.
- Also, as the physical exercises are carried out with awareness-an awareness of the breath flow and awareness of the body parts during the movements-it exercises the mind by creating the right thought pattern for effective meditation.

As you proceed, you will feel the effect that yoga has on your mind. The thinking will become clearer; the head lighter as you experience a unique calmness. This in turn will motivate you to practice on a daily basis, which will tone your body in a better manner.

With the New Year soon approaching, it is perhaps the best time to give yourself a great opportunity for self-development-it will be one resolution that you wished you had made earlier.

**Life is beautiful and yoga helps you realize it.**

**Embrace yoga for what it provides to your mind and body.**

**Happy New Year.** □ *Don & Desiree*



## WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

Snip and save so you can always find a copy of The Bonaire Reporter if there are no more at your favorite spot



### Aboard Airline: BONAIREXEL

### Airport: Car Rental Agencies, Airport Arrivals Area

### Banks: MCB (Playa & Hato branches), RBTT

### Bookstores: Bonaire Boekhandel, Flamingo Boekhandel

### Realty Offices: Harbourtown Re/Max Sunbelt

### Restaurants: Bistro de Paris Brasserie Bonaire Capriccio Chez Lucille City Cafe Croccantino Wil's Tropical Grill Garden Café Kentucky Fried Chicken Lost Penguin Lover's Ice Cream Pasa Bon Pizza Seahorse Cyber Café Subway

### Shops: Bonaire Gift Shop Cellular One City Shop DeFreewieler Inpo Paradise Photo Photo Tours, Playa

### Exito Bakery Bonaire Super Store (old 7-7)

### Hotels: Buddy Dive Capt. Don's Habitat Carib Inn Caribbean Club Bonaire Dive Inn Divi Flamingo Eden Park Hotel Harbour Village Lion's Dive Plaza Sand Dollar

### Supermarkets: Cultimara Consales More for Less Progresso Sand Dollar Grocery Tropical Flamingo Warehouse

### Others: Bonfysio Botika Korona Bestuurscollege Caribbean Laundry Customs Fit 4 Life Hair Affair Harbour Village Marina Parliament Rocargo TCB Telbo

### RINCON: Chinese Store, Joi Fruit Store, Lemari Grocery, Rincon Bakery.

Still can't find a copy? Visit our office at  
Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6 or Call 717-8988

# SGB CHRISTMAS MARKET- A JOYFUL HAPPENING

A huge crowd helped the third annual Christmas Market of the SGB high school turn out to be a most pleasant and joyful gathering. "Unexpected," math teacher Ray Finies remarked. "I am delighted so many people (families) and students showed up."

Finies and colleague Edi Carolina (English, Dutch and Papiamentu teacher) were the hosts of the evening to announce all the performing acts on the stage (karaoke and dance). Not only did they serve as professional MCs but the performances of the students from all different classes were even more professional and exciting. "Stars are born... here at SGB," someone remarked.

But there was a lot more than performing. The students did a wonderful job in inventing all kind of games and activities, among them a beer/cola taste test, makeup and manicure service, a Play Station 'house' and a second-hand

and new book sale. However, the Spooky Ghost House turned out to be the most popular adventure. All evening long lines formed at the Ghost House. It seemed to be so real and scary that the lights had to be turned on several times because the youngest children became too frightened.

And of course no Christmas Market is complete without Santa Claus, "Ho, ho, ho," and delicious snacks and 'goodies.'

Sharlene Winklaar, an SGB student,



*The acts were most professional*



*Encouraging the performers*

was the lucky winner of the door prize from BonairExel, where you had to be present to win. Roosje van der Hoek-Goeloe, sales manager of BonairExel, congratulated the happy Sharlene with a round trip ticket to Curaçao.

Teaching couple Carolien (art) and Pim (chemistry) van der Moolen evaluated the event. "We are so pleased to see what the immense cooperation of students and teachers showed us tonight. It's a very successful event and stimulating end of the year," the satisfied couple confessed. *Bon Pasku i Felis Aña Nobo!* □ Story and Photos by Marian Walthie



# INSIDE MARSHÉ RINCON

Marshé Rincon is the official name of the market place in Rincon. Last November 11 Marshé Rincon celebrated its first lustrum (five years). It was time to look back to five years ago when 10 women and one man founded what has now grown to be the Marshé Rincon.

The number of founding mothers compared to only one man in this group is remarkable, and this unbalance has remained through the years. There are now more men active in the Marshé, but they are still greatly outnumbered by the women. In many market places around the world there seems to be an equal number of men and women involved. After some questioning around I found out a few reasons. Men think that it's women's work. Men feel that people will think that they are in great need of money. For this reason also, there are men who do not want their wives to sell in the market. Generally, men on Bonaire think that selling goods publicly or on a market place is some kind of work for a beggar. Consequently when asked if they want their son to become a salesperson, most men say no. With this present situation, the future does not hold much promise either. Teenagers do not seem to want to help their parents in the market.

The organizers of the market in Rincon are now trying their very best to involve younger people. The board of the Marshé Rincon has great plans to spread its wings and aim at a broader customer base.

Marketing efforts are being made to attract people from Curaçao and Aruba to Marshé Rincon. Because of their limited financial resources, the committee is doing this by sending press releases to all newspapers, radio and TV stations. It's not that easy. There are a few hurdles to overcome. People will not pay \$80 a night to come to the Rincon Market Place. One possible solution is



**Maria Kocks Sint Jago,  
founder of the now famous  
Soldachi Tours**

being worked out privately by one member of the committee. The idea is to organize a pool of persons who have empty rooms that they would like to make available for guests for a low price. Future guests can call a contact person who will refer them to the available rooms of their choice.

The committee is also working on organizing training sessions for the market vendors, teaching them selling and presentation techniques, giving them language training and awareness of the importance of their work.

After five years of existence, Marshé Rincon is alive and kicking. □ Alex Semeleer



**Welcoming smiles at the Marshé**

**GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL?**  
**REACH MORE READERS THAN ANY OTHER WEEKLY**  
**NEWSPAPER BY ADVERTISING IN**  
**THE BONAIRE REPORTER**  
**FREE FREE FREE FREE**

Non-Commercial CLASSIFIED ADS (UP TO 4 LINES/ 20 WORDS)  
 Commercial ads are only NAf0.70 per word, per week. Free ads run for 2 weeks.  
 Call or fax *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988 e-mail [ads@bonairereporter.com](mailto:ads@bonairereporter.com)

**JanArt Gallery**, Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

**BonaireNet** is the leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>

**PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE BONAIRE.** Consultation, Supervision, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy **Drs. Johan de Korte, Psychologist, Phone: 717-6919**

**CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER**  
 Trees and Plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m<sup>2</sup> of plants and nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). **Phone: 786-0956 or 787-0956**

**LUNCH TO GO-** Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call **CHINA NOBO 717-8981**

**NEW BRASSERIE BONAIRE**  
 Restaurant – Terrace – Take away Open everyday for **LUNCH** and **DINNER** Sunday closed.  
**SPECIALTIES:** French baguettes – Fresh salads, Local fish–Steaks–Saté–Special Fish Menu \$20.  
**ROYAL PALM GALLERIES, DOWNTOWN KRALENDIJK,**  
**Kaya Grandi 26 F/G, TEL/FAX : 717-4321**  
**NEW NEW**

visit *Gallery "MyArt"* **Mar-jolein Fonseca-Verhoef** call : 785-3988

**Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards** are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Sand Dollar. Photography by Shelly Craig. [www.bonaireimages.com](http://www.bonaireimages.com)



**FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS**  
 Interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy healing China trained, Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at **785-9013**

**FOR SALE**

**2 steel Scuba Tanks** with boot, good condition but need the '5 year pressure test'. NAf50,- each. Phone 717-5038

For Sale: **Underwater housing** for video camera (120 F) + **camera Sony TRV27** (perfect condition) Price-\$1,200. Call 790-1228.

For more information on any of the following items, **please call 717-2848.**  
 •Two end table **lamps**, mint green with beige shades, in the shape of a cactus. Very good condition. Originally, NAf 480 for the set, now both for NAf200

•**Bird cage**, very good condition: 19.5" wide, 16" deep, and 33" at its highest point (the top curves upward from right to left) originally NAf400, now NAf150

**Slide and negative Scanner;** Minolta Dimage Scan Dual II, Use with Windows 98, Win 2000, Mac OS NAf200. Phone 717-5246

**RENTAL PROPERTY/TIMESHARE**

**For Rent: Perfect Location! 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom apartment** located just 1 block from the ocean and 5 blocks from the center of Kralendijk. The apartment features an updated kitchen, large living room and two good sized air conditioned bedrooms. Hot ticket... Apartment will go fast! **Call 717-7362**

**For Rent:** Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-Privacy & security- July 15 to Jan 15-Brochure available-Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293-or (US) (570)-586 0098-e-mail [larjaytee@aol.com](mailto:larjaytee@aol.com)

**Timeshare week** (7 nights, Saturday to Saturday) in Dutch Sint Maarten, studio apartment for two with full kitchenette, at the Ocean Club on Cupecoy Beach. Available year round, but subject to availability. US\$350 for the week (taxes additional). **please call 717-2848**

**WANTED**

**Wanted to buy, borrow or rent: a wheelchair** in good condition with big wheels and foot support. Also a walker. Call 786-0956.

**Work pick-up truck wanted.** Prefer Hilux Type with 4 doors. Older is fine, must be in excellent mechanical condition. Looking to no more than NAf2.000. Call 790-0959 ask for Renee or email [eginocchio@comcast.net](mailto:eginocchio@comcast.net)

**WANT TO BUY:** Loader/Backhoe in good condition: Call George at 717-8988/786-6125.



# New Croccantino Chefs Arrive in Time for Christmas

Meet the two new chefs in the kitchen of Croccantino Restaurant: **Head Chef Fabrizio Bernarbini (right)** and **Sous Chef David Ardita.** Both gentlemen are from the province of Tuscany in the northern part of Italy. As well as the best Italian food on the island, the chefs will be serving Christmas specials à la carte on December 24, 25 and 26. Stop in and say hello to the newcomers. □



**BOATS & ENGINES for SALE**

**Inflatable Boat - Achilles 16 ft with trailer.** Very good condition Now only NAf4,990 Call 717-8819, 8 am to 5 pm

**Privateer Renegade boat-** used for diving. With **200 HP Yamaha.** All very well maintained and ready to go. NAf29,990 Call 717-8819 8 am-5 pm

**HELP WANTED**

**WANTED:** Part time waiter or waitress for December holiday times. Call **Croccantino Restaurant** at 717-5025 after 4 pm.

**HELP WANTED-** Part time **Server,** Part time **Chef Helper.** Wil's Tropical Grill 717-6616.

**Restaurant Helper** – wait tables, help in kitchen. Day shift part time (30 to 35 hours a week). **Must speak English.** Will train. The Lost Penguin 717-8003

**FOUND**

These **two male dogs** were found wandering the street in the area of Habitat, Buddy Dive, and on down to the Water plant. Both dogs have collars and it is apparent that they were raised together, as they appear to be good friends. If you happen to know who owns them, please tell the owners that they can pick up their dogs at the Animal Shelter, on Kaminda Lagoen. Phone #717-4989



A large male dog - black with brown and tan markings - was found in Niki-boko, near the Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador School. This rather energetic fellow is only about 1 year old. Call **BONAIRE ANIMAL SHELTER,** Kaminda Lagoen #26-A, Open Mon. through Fri., 10 am to 2 pm; Saturdays until 1. Phone #717-4989



## BONAIRE'S BEST SOUVENIR



**DVD or Tape Available**

Visit our shop:  
**SCUBA VISION**  
 In town at Kaya Grandi #6  
 Phone 717-2844 or 785-9332  
[WWW.SCUBAVISION.INFO](http://WWW.SCUBAVISION.INFO)  
 E-mail: [INFO@SCUBAVISION.INFO](mailto:INFO@SCUBAVISION.INFO)

Have Bonaire's professional underwater filmmaker, Hendrik Wuyts ("World of Ocean Films" and "Eye On" Series -most recently in Peru and Kenya), custom produce an underwater video of your dive for only \$85.00.

**VIDEO SERVICES**  
 Digital stock footage  
 TV productions  
 Documentary films, DVDs  
 Weddings, Video art  
 Diving-windsurf films



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CHEF COMPETITION NEARS



*Some of the members of the group working behind the scenes to make the Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005 a success: Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn, Kees Leeman, Ann Leong, Sara Matera, Sapphira Coffie, Laura DeSalvo, Liz Rijna*

Bonaire started it first – a culinary competition in 2002 with students from the SGB hotel school. Teachers from the other islands came to observe, and the idea took off. The following year Aruba held one for all the ABC islands; then it was Curaçao's turn this year. Next month Bonaire will be hosting an International Culinary Student Competition on January 14 at the

SGB hotel school, Chez Nous. Not only will there be teams of students from the ABC islands but from St. Martin as well, who will come together to pit their expertise against each other. The teams, made up of four students each, will create, cook and present a three-course menu which will be judged by four or five international judges who will choose the winning team. As of this writing there will be nine different

teams competing: two from Bonaire, three from Curaçao, three from Aruba and one from St. Martin. Judging will be according to internationally recognized rules of the Caribbean Culinary Foundation (CCF).

The teams and their coaches will arrive on Thursday, January 13. The next day, Friday, January 14, the competition begins. During the competition there will be two demonstrations open to the public at Chez Nous: a bartending demonstration from 4 to 6 pm and one on pastries, time to be announced.

Then on Saturday, January 15, is the Gala Awards Dinner, with proceeds going towards funding the event. □ *L.D.* be a buffet with "food stations," each representing a different theme: Italian, Caribbean, Dessert, etc. Attire is "Caribbean Elegance with lots of Color!" There are a limited number of tickets, NA\$55, available so call now to reserve yours. Call Liz Rijna at the school at 717-8120; Sara Matera at 786-9299; or Laura DeSalvo at 791-7252. □ *L.D.*

## CALL TO RESERVE YOUR GALA DINNER TICKETS.

The Award Dinner is a buffet with "food stations," each representing a different theme: Italian, Caribbean, Dessert, etc.

Attire is "Caribbean Elegance with lots of Color!" There is a limited number of tickets available so call now to reserve yours. They're NA\$55.

Call Liz Rijna at the school at 717-8120; Sara Matera at 786-9299; or Laura DeSalvo at 791-7252. □ *L.D.*

# PAN PASKU PA SELIBON



On Friday, December 17th just before going home, all 45 employees of Selibon received a freshly baked *Pan Pasku* (Christmas bread) from a group of residents living in Sabadeco Shores who wanted to show their appreciation for the good service that this agency provides to our island. This Christmas gift was the result of an announcement made two weeks ago

that Selibon employees were again not going to receive a Christmas bonus. As a result, Mrs. Helmi Staartjes took the initiative to mobilize Shores neighbors, Jacques van Gennip, Rene Hakkenberg, Jacqueline and Bart Landheer, Dabney and Bob Lassiter and Paula Overakker to participate in this special thank you. "The people of Selibon do a great job and they really deserve to be recog-

nized for it," said Mrs. Staartjes.

"Bonaire is the cleanest island in the Caribbean; that's because of the work of those dedicated people of Selibon." Bonaire is indeed fortunate to have Selibon working for it.

Special *Bon Pasku* wishes to all of the employees and their families. □ *Photo and story by Dabney Lassiter*



## PET of the WEEK

This is “Natasha” and what a story she has. During the sterilization program in October she and another dog appeared outside the Bonaire Animal Shelter, but they were too skittish and afraid to come in. They lived on the street, avoiding, by some miracle, being hit by a car or truck. Every day Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema tried to coax the two into the Shelter yard with food. Finally, after about a month, one of them decided to enter, but Natasha still held out. Jurrie still kept trying for another month to gain her trust. Then one day when she saw him she started jumping and twirling. Jurrie got a ball and threw it into the Shelter yard, with Natasha right behind. Ever since she’s been the ideal pet: intelligent, loyal, social and very cute. She’s made it very clear that there’s no way she’ll ever go back to the street again. It’s people she loves. In fact she is so trustworthy that she is allowed to run free in the Shelter yard but still sticks close to Jurrie or one of his staff if he’s not around.

Natasha is very special and needs a very special and appreciative owner. She’s a medium sized dog about seven or eight months old, has longish hair, a very alert and expressive face. Her companion, by the way, has already been adopted.

The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to



“Natasha”



2 pm, Saturdays  
until 1. Tel. 717-  
4989.

### ATTENTION PET OWNERS:

It’s **fireworks time** on the island now until New Years, and the Shelter staff says this is the **worst time of year for runaway dogs and cats** who are terrified of the noise. As it has in the past, the Shelter will act as headquarters for lost pets. If you find a lost animal or are missing one, call them at 717-4989.

Please be cautious in setting off fireworks, making sure that children and pets are at a safe distance. A live firework could be a disastrous “toy” that a dog might try to retrieve.

Plan ahead so that your pet will have a safe refuge from all the noise. If you have a particularly nervous animal you might check with the vet for tranquilizers. Another suggestion is to make sure you have enough “chewies” on hand – rubber, rawhide or other bones or pigs’ ears. The chewing will help them release their fears and nervousness. □L.D.

# PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER in Fox, Alaska, U.S.A.



**H**ato area residents Bob and Joyce Clark had this photo taken of themselves at a gold mine! It's the El Dorado mine in Fox, Alaska, just north of Fairbanks, about 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle. □

## BONAIRE



**A**nny van Winkelhoff makes a hat that is **still free** from an issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Give your friends a hat for Christmas and a *Bonaire Reporter* as well. □

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES. Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: [picture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**Call to make sure:**  
Usually 9:00 pm  
**The Grudge**  
Early Show (usually 7pm)  
**Shall We Dance**

**Kaya Prinses Marie**  
**Behind Exito Bakery**  
**Tel. 717-2400**  
**Tickets - NA\$10,50 (incl. Tax)**

**NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY 4 PM Shark Tale**  
**SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM**  
**Without a Paddle**

## MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

*Seen recently in  
Movieland Cinema:*

**“The Grudge”** by Takashi Shimizu, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar

Sometimes I hate this job. Normally I never go to horror movies because they can really give me the creeps - especially the good ones - and “The Grudge” is excellent in its genre. It gave me all of what it’s supposed to - raised hair, crawled skin and a sleepless night. If you want to scare your girl friend, this film will deliver, I promise, not to mention the fact that you will probably be scared witless, too.

“Grudge” can’t be recommended for someone who has a weak heart or for children, but for someone who fancies seeing something really frightening, it’s great. □ *Dodo*

## THIS WEEK



Employees of the Central Government on Bonaire have been given **two half days for the Christmas holidays**. The Cabinet has decided that federal employees working office hours will be off from 11:30 am on both Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) and Friday, December 31 (New Year’s Eve). This means all Central Government offices will be closed by noon.

**Saturday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day** (Holiday). Stores closed

**Sunday, Dec 26 - Boxing Day** (Holiday).

**Sunday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>** is the last 2004 windsurf event slated for 11 am at Lac Suite. If winds are strong, a wave event will be held, showing off the multi talents of the Bonaire Team. If the winds are light please head to Sorobon. There will be either the crowd favorite, Wave Challenge or a Freestyle event.



At 7:15 that evening, Gameland will host a Video Night where Tonky Frans and other pros and sailors will show their best 2004 DVDs of the action in Bonaire and on the PWA tour. If you have a video you wish to share, bring it along for this fun movie night. Come at 7:15. Admis-

sion is free. Beverages and food are available for purchase.

**Friday, Dec. 31 - 5k San Silvester Run.** Sponsored by Comcabon. Call Richard Pietersz, 717-8629

**Friday, Dec. 31 -** Fireworks all over Bonaire! - stores close early

**Now through Jan. 27, 2005** First ever exhibition of artwork underwater **“40 Feet Underwater”**: Moving Light into an Unlimited Territory,” Dutch artist Fred Ros. At the dive site Front Porch, located at Bongos Beach at Eden Beach Resort. Entrance Fee \$5 (Bonaireans free)

**Now through January 5, 2005 –Renate van der Byl Art Exhibition** at the Cinnamon Art Gallery, Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind the Banco di Caribe. Open weekdays from 9 am to noon, 2 to 5 pm. 717-7103 or 786-9563.

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** Dec. 26-*Oceana*; Dec. 27-*Queen Mary 2*, Dec. 28-*Aida Vita*, Dec. 29-*Silver Whisper*

## COMING

**Saturday, January 8, 2005 – Art Exhibit Opening of Helen Sargent (“Elena”)** at the Cinnamon Gallery

**Saturday, January 8 –** Crossfyr Soca Band / Fundraiser for Regatta in Playa - See Elvis Martinus for details

**Friday, January 14 – Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005** (students from ABC islands and St. Martin)– Chef demonstrations -Chez Nous, SGB– see page 15

**Saturday, January 15 – Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005 Gala Awards Dinner and Cocktail Reception –** NA\$55, place to be announced –see page 15

**Saturday, Jan. 29 –** Windsurf Expression Session - Event Site 11 am. On site, special industry people from Hi Fly and Starboard.

**Feb. 5/6 -** Bonaire Windsurfing Freestyle Frenzy - two days of the hottest fun freestyle.

**May 15-22** KOTCaribbean!!! This is a World Cup Grand Prix, so many pros and guests are expected. For info, see www.pwaworldtour.com or www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com

## EVERY WEEK

**Sunday -**Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar**. Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live **Fla-Bingo** with great prizes, starts 7 pm, Divi Flamingo

**Monday -Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire**, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

**Monday -Rum Punch Party on the beach at Lion’s Dive**. Dutch National Products on Time Sharing and how to save on your next vacation. 6:15 to 7 pm  
**Tuesday -Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225 /717-7500, ext. 14.

**Wednesday -Meditation at Donkey Beach** from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Open to all. Call S.H.Y. 790-9450

**Wednesday -Sand Dollar Manager’s Cocktail Party**, Mangos Bar and Restaurant

**Friday -Manager’s Rum Punch Party,**

**Buddy Dive Resort,** 5:30-6:30 pm

**Friday- Open House with Happy Hour** at the **JanArt Gallery** at Kaya Gloria #7, from 5-7 pm.

**Saturdays Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm.** Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

**Every day by appointment -Rooi**

**Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NA\$12 for Bonaire residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

**Daily-** The Divi Flamingo Casino is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm– 4 am; Sunday 7 pm– 3 am.

## FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Saturday- Discover Our Diversity** Slide Show, pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

**Sunday - Bonaire Holiday -**Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don’s Habitat, 717-8290

**Monday Dee Scarr’s Touch the Sea** slide experience at the Aquarius Conference Center, Captain Don’s Habitat, 8:30 – 9:30 pm.

**Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) Turtle Conservation Slide Show** by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

**Friday- Week in Review** Video Presentation by the Toucan Dive Shop at Plaza’s Topsy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

## BONAIRE’S TRADITIONS

**Mangasina di Rei, Rincon.** Enjoy the view from “The King’s Storehouse.” Learn about Bonaire’s culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018  
**Visit the Bonaire Museum** on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

**Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors’ Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

**Sunday at Cai-** Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire’s popular musicians.

**Rincon Marshé-** every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Bonaire’s historic town. **Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area. Alta Mira Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am. Town Walking tour at 9:30, Bus Tour at 10.** Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**International Bible Church of Bonaire –** Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle)  
**Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm** in English. Tel. 717-8332

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.** Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu,



## KONGREGASHON PROTESTANT DI BONEIRU

**Kerkdiensten/ Sirbishinan Kerst en Oud en Nieuw/ Pasku i Aña Nobo:**

24 December	Kerstnachtdienst Kralendijk 11.00 p.m.	Ds. J. Jonkman Kenneth Kross i J. Chatlein-Coffie
25 December	Eerste Kerstdag Rincon 9.00 a.m.	Ds. J. Jonkman
26 December	Tweede Kerstdag, Gezamelijke Dienst Kralendijk 10.00 a.m Kinderkerstfeest, Kralendijk 6.00 p.m	Pred. K. Kross Ds. J. Jonkman i L. Coffie
31 December	Oudejaarsavonddienst 7.00 p.m. Kralendijk	Ds. J. Jonkman
2 Januari	Nieuwjaarsdienst ‘05 Rincon 9.00 a.m.	Ds. J. Jonkman

De Kerkenraad van de Protestantse Gemeente van Bonaire wenst U allen een gelukkig Kerstfeest en een gezegend Nieuwjaar 2005.

Spanish and English.

**Catholic San Bernardus** in Kralendijk – Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 . **Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, **in English.** Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

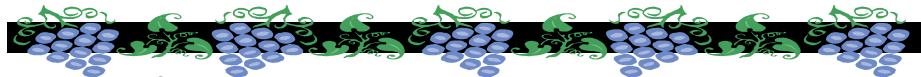
**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios),** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

**New Apostolic Church,** Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

\* \* \* \*

**Send events to The Bonaire Reporter**  
**Email reporter@bonairenews.com**  
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

# DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate, Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debroth 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and turquoise setting when enjoying a breakfast buffet or a la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine.
<b>Caribbean Club Bonaire at Hilltop</b> 717-7901	Kitchen open 10 am for salads and sandwiches. Reasonably priced dinners Closed Sunday	What a place! Friendly bar next to the pool, home cooked meals,  happy hours 5 to 7.
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a delight. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
<b>Garden Café</b> Kaya Grandi 59 717-3410	Moderate Monday-Friday, Lunch & Dinner Saturday, Dinner. Closed Sunday	Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties. Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and Latin Parilla
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> <b>Home Delivery or Take Out</b> 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Nonchi's at Cultimara</b> 791-4280	Low Open 5 am-8 pm Monday-Saturday	Delicious local and international food to take out or eat there. Everyday a different combo. Sandwiches and roast chicken too. Lunch from NA/6,50
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debroth ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111



# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## ACCOUNTING SERVICES

**Bonaire Pro** can keep your financial records in order, minimize your tax liability and provide helpful advice. For individuals or businesses.

## AIRLINES

**BonairExel**, Bonaire's own ON TIME airline flying between Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. Look for *The Bonaire Reporter* on board.

## APPLIANCES/FURNITURE/COMPUTERS

**City Shop** is Bonaire's mega-store for TV, Stereos, Air conditioning, large and small kitchen appliances, computers. Name brands, guarantees and service center.

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair**. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

## BOOKS

**Watercolours Bonaire** and **Eye on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao** are the most original ways to remember Bonaire and the islands at their best. At Photo Tours and many other island shops.

**Bonaire Diving Made Easy**, Third Edition, is an essential in your dive bag. The latest information on Bonaire's shore dive sites.

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

**APA Construction** are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

## CLEANING SERVICE

**Conetal Cleaning Service** cleans homes, apartments, offices. Offers babysitting, gardening, laundry.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

**Dive Inn** Seven studio apartments and dive shop/school directly on the waterfront in the heart of town. Friendly, highly experienced with an exceptional staff.

**Ocean Adventures** Discover the world of low bubble, quiet diving. Learn, use, and try our Dräger Rebreathing equipment. At Dive Inn. Interested? call 717-2278

## FITNESS

**Bonfysio** offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

**Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall**. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals.

## GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS

**The Bonaire Gift Shop** has an wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

## GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK HELP

**JuliMar** assists with the paperwork and procedures needed to obtain permits, citizenship, residency and more. Experienced in Immigration matters.

## HOTELS

**Caribbean Club Bonaire** is in a tranquil setting at Hilltop, adjacent to Oil Slick Leap dive site. Cool breezes, fresh water pool, cozy bar and restaurant.  
**Golden Reef Inn** is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk to diving and the sea.

## METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

**b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V.**, offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints and slides plus a variety of items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

**Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent**. They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.

**Re/Max Paradise Homes:** International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community.

**Sunbelt Realty** offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

## REPAIRS

**Bon Handyman** is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc.

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

**Buddy Dive Resort** offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

## RETAIL

**Benetton**, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

**Littman's Jewelers**, where good taste is foremost. Expansive selection of jewelry, collectibles and top name watches. Bonaire's official Rolex retailer.

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable. Call 717-8125.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent**. Call 717-8922/8033.

## SPA—DAY SPAS

**Face and Body Day Spa** offers the ultimate in advanced beauty treatments, facials and massage. Call **717-2622**

**Intermezzo Day Spa** at Captain Don's Habitat is the newest of this ABC island chain of elegant spas. Now offering seaside massages and facials.

**Pedisa Day Spa** —for all your body and wellness needs. 40 years of experience Classic and specialty massages, Reiki, Reflexology and more..

## SUPERMARKETS

**Tropical Flamingo** is convenient, clean, modern, efficient and has the lowest prices on Bonaire. Located behind NAPA.

Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

## VILLAS

**Bonaire Oceanfront** villa for up to nine people: five kitchens, five bathrooms. Ideal for diver.

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry**. Call Bonaire Nautico at 560-7254. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

## WINES

**Antillean Wine Company**. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

## YOGA

**Yoga For You**. Join certified instructors Desiree and Don at Jong Bonaire for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

**ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN:**  
**Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.**  
***The most advertising for your guild.***



## Chile and Linda Ridley

**“W**e dove here in 1994 and just loved it,” *Chile says*. “Part of the reason, besides the security and the beautiful diving, was that we were raised in the desert, in far West Texas about 60 miles from the Mexican border. I was raised in Valentine and Linda was raised in Marfa. During the 1800s they were building a railroad across the US with train stops every 35 miles. Valentine was named because that’s where the train arrived on Valentine’s Day. Linda’s little town, Marfa, was named after a character in a Russian novel that the engineer’s wife was reading. Marfa has 2,000 people and Valentine approximately 500.

My father was a rancher, raising cattle and doing a lot to make ends meet to keep the ranch going. He did a little bit of everything but mainly drilled water wells for irrigation and cattle. My mother worked as the tax collector for the Valentine school district. Everybody had to pitch in. My father died when I was 15, then shortly after my brother passed away. Suddenly I was the only child. It dumped a lot of responsibility on me, but my mother was a strong woman and we managed. I finished high school, went to college and got a job at the regional feed mill and leased the ranch from my mother.”

“My father and grandfather worked in the community bank in Marfa and I worked there too,” *Linda says*, “so we had three generations working in the bank. Chile and I knew each other... gosh... all our lives; our families knew each other.” *Chile laughs*: “She was too snooty for a Valentine boy; we were wild and crazy!” “When Chile was 33 and I was 31,” *Linda says*, “some mutual friends of ours arranged a dinner party to ‘make the match.’ We were both divorced and weren’t looking for anybody. We were both very independent. I was living in El Paso.” “So, I had to drive 200 miles all the way up and back to see her every weekend,” *Chile says*, “but so far it’s worked out!”

“We got married,” *Linda smiles*, “We were living in Marfa and I had made a full circle: I’d been to England, backpacked through Europe and ended up back in my hometown. For our honeymoon in 1981 we went to Europe. Chile’s favorite place was Amsterdam. We liked Holland. It’s well organized, beautiful and people would talk to you.

Back in Marfa I started working at the bank again. My grandfather had retired and my dad was president. I went from mail clerk to senior vice president, and it was doubly hard because I was the daughter. But I enjoyed it. I loved bank-

ing and solving people’s problems. Chile was still at the mill and ranching. We were very active in community service, working with young people and doing a lot of things to promote our community.”

“In 1996, when I was 45, I retired from the feed mill after 24 years,” *Chile says*, “We were lucky; we’d worked hard and saved our nickels and dimes. About the same time I retired, Linda’s bank was sold so she also had the chance to retire. In 1991 we learned to dive which was something I’d wanted to do all my life. We took all the course work in the desert. We learned to dive in a huge natural spring, 35 feet deep, two acres wide - the largest outdoor swimming pool in the US. Scuba diving opened up a different world for us. We went to Bonaire, Honduras, the Caymans and Saba. So when we got the chance to retire we decided we needed a change of scene.”

*Linda laughs*: “Basically we had a midlife crisis, but at least we had it together!” “We decided to buy a sailboat and sail back to Bonaire,” *Chile says*. “That was the goal. It took us seven years to get here!” *Chile and Linda Ridley are sweet, heartwarming people with good senses of humor; people you instantly like. Together with their big black cat, “Chavez,” whom they found in Venezuela and raised since he was three days old they make a beautiful family.*

**“90% of sailing is joyful and boring, and 10% is horror and pure terror because until you get out and try you really don’t know anything”**

“Well, as we are from the desert, we didn’t know how to sail,” *Chile grins*, “but we’d bought a boat and had to learn. We’re both private pilots, we both had an airplane, so we thought sailing would be easy because we knew about airflow! Wrong! It’s totally different! We spent a year learning to sail on *Natural Selection* and we were lucky we had a very good teacher. We lived on a lake in the states for a year and sailed in all kinds of weather, trying to prepare for the ocean, the deep blue sea. However, there’s no teacher like the ocean; it makes you very humble.”

“90% of sailing is joyful and boring,

and 10% is horror and pure terror because until you get out and try you really don’t know anything,” *Linda says*. “We sailed the entire Eastern Caribbean and stayed for a year in Venezuela which is truly beautiful, but as the political situation deteriorated we left.

Bonaire was the ultimate destination because of the diving, but we didn’t know how long we were going to stay. Having covered the Caribbean there’s just something unique about Bonaire.

It’s safer than any other place in the Caribbean and it hasn’t turned into the US yet - no big hotels and people running around everywhere. We’re attracted to its smallness. There are a lot of different people here and you get a taste of other cultures. We went through the paperwork and Immigration was very gracious. They went above and beyond the call of duty in our application for residency. Where else in the world can you go and ask for an audience with the Governor to help solve a problem? We learned some Papiamentu and we have a Dutch dictionary and we found out that the people here still like their fellow people; they still have time to explain things and help you. Maybe the world is moving too at too fast a pace for me. The fact that people greet you on the street is one of the reasons I like it here.

We’re avid divers; we love the diving and we’re involved with Paul Humann’s reef environmental education foundation here. Jessie Armacost is the representative on Bonaire.” “Bonaire gives a contribution to the world because of its efforts in conservation of the reef through STINAPA and the Bonaire Marine Park,” *Chile says*. “That’s another reason why we’re here - because we’re enjoying being part of this. The world will see benefits of what the Marine Park and STINAPA does. The rest of the world has used its oceans as a dumping ground, but Bonaire realizes the importance of their



*Chile, Linda and Chavez*

reefs. We admire that.

Linda also volunteers at Jong Bonaire with their diving program. We like to give a little something back to a community that has been so good to us. However, everybody needs a break once in a while. I love to go back to the States to see Linda’s parents. We’re very close to them; they’re good people, but I get fed up real fast with the hustle and bustle and it doesn’t take long for us to come back.

We just renewed our residency and we need to go to Venezuela to do some work on the boat, but after that I would like to stay here a bit longer. It takes awhile to learn how things work around here. First you have to learn about the place. Linda still wants to travel the Western Caribbean. For her, part of the adventure is getting there in a slow boat, but as far as I’m concerned I’m tired of traveling in a sailboat; I like a 747 a lot better! We’ve been discussing sailing the boat back to the US and coming back to Bonaire to buy a piece of land, build our own house and start a business.

We’re still looking... we’re still looking around... we still have productive years left.” □ *Greta Kooistra*





## FUN WITH FLOUNDERS

It's always fun to see a flounder. If the flounder is swimming by we can watch how sinuously its body waves as it moves along. We might see it change colors after it lands, to better match its surroundings. If the flounder is resting, we can see how beautifully it camouflages itself against coral rock, sand or other surface. The flounder inspects us in return, swiveling its eyes more than 180° so that it can see in all directions.

Flounders are pretty much ambush predators, as you may have deduced by noticing that they blend in with the bottom very well and aren't particularly speedy swimmers. A flounder who's "resting" on the bottom may not be resting at all but actively (well, its eyes and its brain are active) lying in wait for a goby or other small fish to cruise by. The lunging distance of a 14-inch flounder is about six inches, so if your flounder is lying in an area with many small fishes, you may notice that the little fish stay six inches or so away from the flounder's head.

Flounders have been in the ambush predator business for a long time, though, and they use all their physical characteristics, in combination with a ledge or the top of a wave on the sand's surface, to get within lunging distance of little fish: the flounder positions itself so that its eyes -- which are on stalks so they function like periscopes -- can look over an edge. Once the prey fish wanders close enough, the flounder puts on a burst of speed, darts over the edge and

sucks down the little fish.

A new diver once asked me, "Why did that flounder we saw have snails on its head?"! It was a funny question, but it made me realize that's exactly what the little fish on the other side of a sand wave must think if it happens to see a flounder's periscope eyes. Peacock flounder even have growths around their eyes that resemble snail tentacles. A peacock flounder could bury itself in the sand, exposing only its raised eyes. The flounder would easily see any approaching prey (or predators). To the prey only the flounder's eyes would be visible, looking like a pair of insignificant snails. The moment the prey fish gets close enough, the flounder bursts from the sand and gulps it down.

How did flounders acquire the physical peculiarities they use so well? The as-

sumption might be that a flounder is a "regular fish" flattened from the top, like a stingray or batfish -- but in this case the assumption is wrong. The flounder is a "regular fish," flattened, not from the top but from side to side and lying *on* its side! If you don't believe me, would you believe a flounder? Take a close look at one. Observe that its jaws hinge on the "top" and "bottom" of its body, that its "dorsal" fin attaches in a single spot and swivels and that its tail is "side to side" rather than "up and down." Now imagine this same fish upright: its jaws hinge on the sides, it has a pair of pectoral fins, its tail is vertical like other fish tails. Although this upright flounder's sides don't match each other, the flounder still looks more fishlike in this position than it does when it's lying on its side. Well, except for the minor detail that its eyes are on the same side of its head.

When they first hatch - from eggs which have been drifting with other plankton - flounders look and behave like "normal" side-to-side flattened fish, with one eye on each side of their body. As they continue to drift, their bodies change; the most remarkable change is that one eye switches sides! By the time the little flounder settles from the plankton it's already orienting to the bottom sideways.

Flounders are in the Order *Pleuronectiformes* (PLUR-oh-NEKT-uh-forms), which means "side swimming shape." The peacock flounder is the largest we're likely to see on Bonaire, growing to 16 inches or more. It's seen most often on and around the coral reef, where we dive most often.

For years, I thought the peacock flounder was the *only* flounder we had here on Bonaire. Then one late afternoon I saw a pair of flounders definitely interacting with each other. Finally they began swimming, one on top of the other, both

sets of eyes toward the surface. They swam upwards with quick ripples instead of the larger waves with which flounders usually swim. A few feet off the bottom they snapped apart and released gametes and then returned to the bottom separately. Since this happy pair was each about three inches long, I realized they were too small to be adult peacock flounders. That's how I met the "Eyed Flounder." We have a third species here, too.

By the way, all our local flounders are lying on the same side. Can you tell which side? □ *Photo and story by Dee Scarr*

*Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. It will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529*



## TURTLE TRAVELS

'Funny', our female Hawksbill turtle has resumed her journey to the west and is headed in the di-

rection of Central America. After analyzing the newest set of data points, it was determined that the last data point reported the prior day was erroneous and deleted. 'Funny' has picked up speed and in the last 24-hour period covered 120 km. She is now almost 1000 km from Bonaire. If the coast of Honduras or Nicaragua is her destination, she still has over 600 km to go. □ *Andy Uhr*







# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## A Spectacular Early Morning Sky Show for the Holi- days!

We will end the year right because, starting Christmas week through the end of the year, we'll be treated to a pre-dawn Sky Park show with a super close meeting of the two planets closest to the Sun.

This Friday, December 24th, Christmas Eve morning, 45 minutes before sunrise, face southeast where the brightest object you'll see will be the brightest planet in the solar system which is always mistaken for the Christmas star when it appears at this time of the year: Planet #2 from the Sun, 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**. Just below it, but only 3% as bright, is the elusive planet which makes only brief appearances throughout the year: Planet #1 out from the Sun, the tiny 3,000-mile-wide pink planet **Mercury**. And if you've never looked at either of these through a telescope before you'll see that because they are closer to the Sun than our **Earth** they go through phases just like our **Moon** and change their appearance, which makes them a lot of fun to watch through small telescopes.

Now on Christmas Eve morning they'll be only 2½ degrees away from each other, and because a full Moon is half a degree wide, this means we could fit five full Moons between them. But, as you regular viewers know, things are always moving and changing position in the cosmos, and we can see these changes if we watch from day to day.

In fact 24 hours later on Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Day morning, they will be a half a degree closer - only 2 degrees apart, which means 4 full Moons could fit between them. On the 26th they'll be only 1¾ degrees apart. On the 27th only 1½ degrees or 3 full Moon widths apart. On Tuesday, 1 1/4 degrees apart, Wednesday even closer and on the next three days they'll be at their very closest: December 30th, December 31st (New Year's Eve morning), and January 1st (New Year's Day morning), a little more than one degree or only 2 full Moon widths apart, or only one index finger apart, holding your hand out at arm's length. That's close.

Now you probably noticed that when we started our watch on Christmas Eve, Venus was above Mercury, only slightly above on Christmas Day and side by side on the 26th and 27th, then they changed places. Once again: Christmas Eve morning December 24th, Christmas Day the 25th, the 26th, the 27th, the 28th, the 29th and the three closest days the 30th the 31st and New Year's Day.

So you've got something wonderful to see every single morning from Christmas through New Years if you get up with the chickens. But remember that this close meeting and passing of the two closest planets to the Sun is only an illusion because, in reality, next week Mercury will be only 93 million miles away from us while Venus will be a whopping 140 million miles beyond! So starting this holiday week end watch a super sky show ring out the old year. □ *Jack Horkhimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:  
December 24-31, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 - April 20) You can make progress professionally. Uncertainty about your relationship is prevalent. You could come into extra cash. Be careful not to come on too strongly. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 21) You need more space for the whole family. Don't consume more than necessary. Social activities or travel should be in your plans. You must refrain from overspending on entertainment. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21) Not everything you hear will be legitimate. Organizations may cost you more than you can afford. Try not to lend or borrow money this week. You may want to make changes in your home environment. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 22) Those you live with may be experiencing problems. Partnerships will be successful. Keep your feet on the ground, if you can. Don't be shy; show your abilities! Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug 22) Things aren't as they appear. You will tend to overeat this week. You will do your best work on your own. You need to take a break with the ones you love. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23) Visit friends who have not been well. You should make special plans for you and your lover. Changes in your residence will be favorable in the long haul. Take the time to help those less fortunate. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23) Travel will initiate new friendships or love connections. Emotional matters may not be easy for you to handle. This is probably causing upset and confusion on the home front. Travel and communications will not run as smoothly as you had hoped. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can make gains if you work in conjunction with others. You will be able to work with fine detail this week. Try to deal with it quickly; don't dwell on past regrets. If you haven't already, don't be afraid to start your own small business on the side. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) Residential moves will be in your best interest. Don't jump the gun; you may find yourself getting angry at the wrong person. Organize social events or family gatherings. It's time to reevaluate your own motives and make changes to yourself first. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22. - Jan. 20) Confusion at an emotional level will cause you to make wrong decisions concerning your personal life. Partners may try to argue with you; however, you must stand your ground. Read some books on self awareness. Your outgoing charm and obvious talent will be admired. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) Don't hold yourself back because you think you're too old. You need to be sure that you aren't in your present relationship because it is convenient. It's time to reevaluate your own motives and make changes to yourself first. Concentrate on yourself or your work. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20) You will be tempted to shop till you drop. You're best not to get involved in joint financial ventures. You can expect your mate to get fed up and make the choices for you or back off completely. You should get out and enjoy social events where you are likely to meet new potential mates; however, don't over spend. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday. □