

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

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# The **BONAIRE** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



**BONAIRE** | Hand to Hand  
**GIVES BIG** | for Asia Pg. 6



# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

**K**LM and Dutch Eagle Express (DEE), now doing business as BonairExel, have reached agreement on forming a joint regional airline based in Curaçao. "We have decided to work together. How exactly, we still have to work out," said DEE shareholder, Niek Sandmann, from Amsterdam, where the talks were held. Possibly the airline(s) that will evolve from the former Aruba/Bonaire/Curaçao-Exel fleet will start operating in two to three months. Reportedly negotiations with Sandmann are being conducted by Deputy KLM President-Director Peter Hartman, who recently visited Bonaire.

According to the Dutch daily, *De Telegraaf*, Niek Sandmann's business partner is Erik de Vlieger, who earlier this week announced his retirement from direct involvement in his many companies but will stay a shareholder in the Exel Aviation Group. However, some of de Vlieger's aviation investments are on the verge of folding, and significant layoffs in Europe are expected if that occurs.

Bonaire Senator Ramonsito Booi, a key player in the original effort to bring BonairExel to our island, says he is working to make sure air service to Bonaire continues uninterrupted in the meantime. It was announced earlier this week that the name Exel would be disappearing from the BonairExel, CuraçaoExel and ArubaExel aircraft. Winair, the Antillean windward island airline owned by the Central Government that was set to be taken over by Exel, will be included with the former Exel airlines in the new arrangement.

The intention is to improve inter-island service and add jets of KLM's subsidiary, Transavia, to the Antilles fleet. The



Samco (Schreiner Aircraft Maintenance) company will be hired and on-time performance will be improved, Sandmann said. The current ATR 42 fleet is in need of maintenance, one source of the delays BonairExel passengers have been experiencing. *Dutch reports by A. Burlage and B. Mos- De Telegraf*

► **The new airline, West Caribbean Aruba**, will be operational by March 18, Aruba Day. Acting director of Aruba's

Aviation Administration Chris Dammers says steady progress is being made with the procedures for the necessary manuals and filling the various positions within the



company. The airline will start flying with a single MD-82 aircraft, similar to the MD-88 used by the bankrupt Air Aruba, which means the pilots won't require much extra flight training. A second plane will soon be added. The airline will be flying to Curaçao, Bonaire and Colombia, with the US to follow later.

► Another start-up, I-Jet Caribbean, will continue with the flights on the **Miami-Port au Prince-Curaçao** route it began around Christmas to meet the great demand from Haiti to the ABC islands and Florida. The company aims to be the successor to DCA for the route. It offers good fares (less than NA\$400 to Florida), good service (includes meals and a US Immigration expert) and reliability (on time). For the time being the company uses a Boeing 727 (170 seats) and flies twice a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Walthie photo



*Dutch Justice Minister Donner and Lt. Governor Domacasse*

► **Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner concluded his trip to the Netherlands Antilles with a visit to Bonaire.** He met with Police Chief Police Gerold Daantje, Chief Prosecutor Gilbert Joubert, Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé and Deputy Prosecutor Justine Gonggrijp. While the minister had been in the Antilles last year for orientation this visit was

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"to nail things down," he said during a press conference in the Pasangrahan.

The most important result of his visit was the signing of several agreements for Dutch assistance for law enforcement in **the Netherlands Antilles to fight crime. The Netherlands will send extra police**

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Flotsam and Jetsam** (Continued from page 2) **detectives**, which Chief Daantje said is not an unnecessary luxury for Bonaire, considering the persistent understaffing of the local police force. The added manpower will work behind the scenes, especially to solve violent crimes. This also means that police officers can be put on the streets to heighten security. A work group of local police and Dutch military police will maintain border control at the airport especially to intercept drugs. The 100% inspection will continue at Schiphol Airport in Holland and will be supplemented with stricter controls at all Antillean international airports. The 13 military officers and 12 Customs officials will be assigned to Curaçao and Bonaire airports starting in March and will remain in the Antilles for a maximum of two years. Next month 40 detectives and 20 other police officers will go on duty to combat crime in the Antilles, primarily on Curaçao.

► **Recently a mobile seawatch radar was tested** in Bonaire. The system is actually being used by the Royal Army and the Marine Corps and has been optimized to track ships around the ABC Islands. The Coast Guard hopes that this radar will be able to spot attempted drug landings on Bonaire. In mid-2006, a permanent radar will become operational, but in the meantime the Coast Guard will use the mobile unit.

► During the Island Council meeting last week, Commissioner James Kroon, who is responsible for the island's medical policy, discussed the **problems of the health care system in Bonaire**. He said that he is very concerned about the increased amount of chronically ill patients and the ever-increasing medical expenses. He suggested a significant reorganization of the current health care system, more attention to mental health and that information and prevention should be the focus for this coming year.

According to him, as many as 53% of the adults in Bonaire have a chronic disease, like diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney failure and heart and vascular diseases. He feels there is insufficient health care on the island for this group of people. Usually the patients have to go to other islands or foreign countries for treatment. Kroon says there are plans to attract more specialists to Bonaire. Since numerous Bonairean kidney patients have to fly several times a week to other islands to be dialyzed, it is more logical to have a dialysis center in Bonaire.

He added that about 17% of adults in Bonaire are mentally ill or depressed. There is no care for these people. A psychiatrist visits Bonaire for a few hours a month to treat these patients, and there are only two nurses for the care of the mentally ill people. There are no government-sponsored psychologists or social workers in Bonaire.



► This photo unintentionally tells a different story than intended. In it the Deputy Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Mr Henri Brookson, is visiting a travel show in The Netherlands to promote tourism. In the background you can see the poster for Sri Lanka; in the foreground, Bonaire. Because of the tsunami-created devastation in Sri Lanka many tourists have had to change their plans, and some have chosen Bonaire.

► **Postal rates are changing.** Local letter mail increases 1.8%, part of which will go to establish innovative services such as the Elite Post service that offers intra-island, next-day delivery. A 20-gram letter will cost NAf1,75. International letter mail between 0 to 20 grams remains the same, while rates for letter mail between 21 grams and 2 kilos, small packages and printed matter have been simplified and most of the rates have been reduced.

A letter destined for Holland weighing 500 grams used to cost NAf61,65, but will now be reduced 66.7% to NAf20,50. A package destined for the US weighing 250 grams was NAf25,20, but will now cost NAf14,40. The release stated, "A shipment of 100 grams consisting of printed matter (like magazines) destined for Aruba was NAf5,45. As of January 18, it cost NAf3,95."

► **Curaçao pays 82% of all taxes in the Netherlands Antilles.** Of the record

tax revenues of NAf 1.3 billion in 2003, over a billion came from Curaçao. About 74% of the people in the Antilles (133,644 out of 180,592) live on Curaçao. Second is St. Maarten, which, with 33,119 legal residents, produced NAf172 million. Bonaire produced NAf56 million with 10,185 residents; St. Eustatius NAf5 million with 2,498 residents; and Saba NAf2.2 million with 1,146 residents.

Per capita Curaçao paid an average of NAf7.992 each in taxes; Bonaire NAf5.513; St. Martin NAf5.197; Statia NAf2.020; and Saba NAf1.990.

Of direct taxes, the income tax yielded the most, namely NAf 516 million. For indirect tax, the sales tax yielded the most, NAf261 million.

► Don't forget to attend the **SGB High School open house** this Saturday, 22 January, from 10 to 12 noon. See what the school offers and meet the staff. □ G. /L. D.

## Sea News



HMS Van Speijk

► The multipurpose frigate *HMS Van Speijk* returned to the Netherlands Antilles as **station ship for the Royal Marines** on Monday. With its crew of 140 and an on-board Westland Lynx helicopter, she will remain in the Caribbean for one year to perform counter drug operations with a Law Enforcement Detachment of the US Coast Guard on board. The vessel will be used by the Royal Marines as well as the Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.



► Acting director Peter de Witte (left) and Commander Frank Sijtsma presented the Coast Guard's **newest weapon against drug traffickers and human smugglers - the Super RIB** - to members of the press in Curaçao. This extended version (12 meters long) of the Rigid Inflatable Boat is driven by 630-horsepower engines and can reach speeds of up to 40 knots (more than 70 kilometers per hour). Weighing close to 6 tons and with a V-bottom, it is better suited to the relatively rough Caribbean Sea than the

smaller RHIBs and outdated patrol boats it's replacing. It can also give chase longer than its predecessors, some 15 hours straight at 30 knots. Five have now arrived, of which two for are Curaçao, two for Aruba and one for St. Maarten. In total the Coast Guard will get 12 Super RHIBs by the end of next year, four each for the three stations. The Dutch Government invested 6.75 million euros: 5 million for the boats and 1.75 million for the necessary infrastructure. In April, 34 new Coast Guard officials will also start working, bringing the total personnel to 188.



► The Royal Marines and the Damen shipyard in Gorichem, Holland, recently signed a contract for **the design and construction of a new support vessel to replace the venerable Pelikaan** which is a familiar sight in our waters. The new vessel will replace the current support ship in 2006. Then-defense minister, De Grave once called it "a brutal ship." Marines on board have to sleep in shipping containers stacked three stories

high, which promotes seasickness because of the heavy rocking motion of the short boat. The new *Pelikaan* is much longer (65 meters) and more comfortable, with proper accommodations for 40 Marines. Powered by two diesel engines, it can reach a top speed of 17 knots compared to the 12 knots of the current ship.

# BONAIRE WINS THE TOP SPOT in the ABC Island-ST. Maarten Student Chef Competition

Saturday night at Chez Lucille's at the Harbour Village Beach Resort was the setting for the Gala Awards Dinner for the ABC Islands, St. Maarten Student Chef Competition. Everyone agreed it was a tremendous success: the students, the judges, the teachers and coaches and the organizing committee.

Nine teams competed in the kitchen of the SGB hotel school, sometimes four teams at a time, following strict international culinary competition rules. Professional judges on the scene were lead judge, Klaus Friedenreich, Henny Kolenbrander, Helmut Holzer and Augusto Schreiner. All four judges were born and trained in Europe but now have their businesses in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico, respectively.

Each team had to create and present three dishes: appetizer, main dish and dessert. Judging was based on, for example, sanitation, how they followed their work plan, use of their culinary skills, plate presentation, and most of all, taste and flavor. The teams try to accrue as many points as possible, the number of points determining whether they win a gold, silver, bronze or no medal. They don't compete with each other but with the system. In this competition, for instance there were seven bronzes and two silvers. No team had the required number of points for a gold.



Trevor from the TV show, "Kiko ta Kiko," films the Feffik team from Curaçao.

After the competition the judges met with the teams to critique their performances. "This is a time for teaching and for the students to learn," Head Judge Klaus Friedenreich said.

Two exciting announcements were also made. The winning team, SGB Bonaire, will be invited to attend Chef Klaus Friedenreich's Culinary Arts Institute in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, for a week. And St. Maarten coach, Bart Peut, invited all the teams to come to his island in May 2006, for the next culinary competition. Also to be invited then will be teams from Saba, Statia and the French side of St. Maarten.

The event was filmed by Hendrik Wuyts of Scuba Vision and a video will be made to use as a promotional aid for future hotel school students and to air on TV. □ L.D.



The top winner – a Silver score– goes to the SGB team Bonaire – receiving congratulations from the four judges



ABOVE: A group of ladies from the island, escorted by Maria Koeks of Soldachi Tours, stop by the view the plates for the competition

Chef Vernon checks out the Aruba team



After it's all over there's a great sense of relief and time to exchange signatures and plan on getting together again soon.

## SPONSORS

Thanks to all the sponsors and supporters for making this event happen:

AMFO	Chez Lucille at Harbour Village Beach Resort
Antillean Wine Company -Rocca del Macie wine tasting and raffle prizes	Consales
Bonaire Culinary Foundation	Divi Flamingo
Bonaire Tours for all the transfers and the complimentary island tour to the students	Martines Imports – Polar
BonairExel	NGO Platform
Bonaire Reporter	Rum Runners Restaurant – chef coats, Brad's bartending exhibition
Bonaire Restaurant Association – chef coats	ReMax – chef hats
Capriccio's Restaurant– Lola's pastry demonstration	SGB (high school)
Caribbean Club	Special Olympics for the use of their van
CCF	Tropical Inn
CHA	Warehouse
Cedros	Xerox – for the prize of the laser printer to one of the students □

## COMPETITION RESULTS:

- |    |                       |              |
|----|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. | SGB Bonaire           | Silver Medal |
| 2. | EPI-2 Aruba           | Silver Medal |
| 3. | EPI-1 Aruba           | Bronze Medal |
| 4. | SBO Bonaire           | Bronze Medal |
| 5. | FEFFIK Curaçao        | Bronze Medal |
| 6. | Ban Bria 1 Curaçao    | Bronze Medal |
| 7. | Ban Bria 2 Curaçao    | Bronze Medal |
| 8. | Sundial St. Maarten   | Bronze Medal |
| 9. | EPB –Oranjestad Aruba | Bronze Medal |

## WINNERS OF INDIVIDUAL COURSES:

Appetizer- FEFFIK Curaçao  
Main Course- SGB Bonaire  
Dessert- EPI-2 Aruba

## NEW NAMES FOR NEW KIDS

We told you the “new kids,” the goats born on the *Keshi Kiki* (goat cheese) kunuku around the first of the year, needed names. So last week the 27 children of the Pelikaan School visited the farm as part of their Animal Project and to present their chosen names for the eight baby goats to farmer Aleta van Beeck.

The beautiful “cover goat” of *The Bonaire Reporter* (January 7<sup>th</sup> issue) was named ‘Lippie’ because of its sharp black marked lips, the kids told me. Aleta was very happy with all the names picked: Tuti, Frutie, Brunie, Liefie, Spots, Kiki and Peli (Lippie’s sister).

The goat kids and the children seemed to enjoy playing with one another.

After the *Keshi Kiki* Kunuku excursion the schoolchildren visited Piloto’s kunuku on Kaminda Lagoen. Piloto’s farm added cows, calves, chicken and rabbits to the day’s experience. The kids had a great time learning, and on the way home there were loud animal songs coming from the bus. □ *photo and story by Marian Walthie*



*Mike (in front) and Jorge tried out the milking station*

## LEARNING BONAIRE



Ms. Ronella Croes, Bonaire’s new General Manager of Tourism at the TCB, had several orientations to bring her up to speed on Bonaire’s latest cultural and environmental attractions. First, Bonaire’s cultural expert Bòi Antoin gave her a tour of various historical sites. Then she and STINAPA (Park Authority) Director, Elsmarie Beukenboom (driving the boat), herself a past director of tourism, visited Klein Bonaire. □ *G.D.*

**COVER STORY**

# Tsunami Help



“Awesome,” “Splendid,” “Humbling” were some of the sentiments we heard about Saturday’s fund raising extravaganza for the Asian Tsunami victims. The outpouring of generosity from the Bonairean people was on an unprecedented scale, not only of material items but in personal effort. In less than a week the arrangements for the day-long fundraiser with its sales booths, auctions, food and drink, performers, donors, sellers and buyers were completed. Thousands of Bonairean residents and tourists showed up at Wilhelmina Park to buy, sell, contribute and join together to raise money to help people who lost everything in the disaster.

We cannot print a complete list of sponsors and contributors. There are lists of many who helped and people, organizations and businesses that contributed, but that will never be complete. There were folks coming up to help or to give raffle prizes or other things during the whole day. The organizers feel, in order to not forget anyone, they’d rather thank everyone in a general way.

An incomplete, but audited, tally is

NAf54,980. That doesn’t include some bank transactions yet, as well as the contributions from churches and schools. Per capita, it is the largest donation of any Caribbean island reported so far. It should eventually exceed NAf60,000.

A lot of raffle prizes haven’t been picked up. The numbers of the winning tickets are listed on the right. After Sunday, January 23, the prizes that still have not been picked up will go up for auction. We will inform you on what, how and when. The prizes range from t-shirts to sailing trips and airline tickets. This will provide full disclosure on all gifts offered, and will raise even more money.

The Antillean Wine Company is offering bottles of the fantastic Novello wine for NAf15/bottle-100% goes to the relief fund.

Prizes, if provided with valid tickets, can be obtained by emailing to [tsunamihelp@infobonaire.com](mailto:tsunamihelp@infobonaire.com) or calling 787-0707.

Any questions or information can be directed/ obtained via email: [tsunamihelp@infobonaire.com](mailto:tsunamihelp@infobonaire.com) or by phone to 787-0707. The website is: [www.infobonaire.com/tsunamihelp](http://www.infobonaire.com/tsunamihelp). □ G.D.

**PRIZES THAT NEED TO BE CLAIMED:**

Sponsor	Prize	Ticket #
Tropical Travel	2 person Island Tour	1658015
Bailamores Centro de Danza	Gift certificate Salsa	1658034
BonaireExel	Roundtrip BON - CUR	1658043, 1658364 1658228, 1658705
Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire	Book It Starts with water	1658047, 1659017
Pasa Bon Pizza	Gift certificate Ang. 25	1658066, 1658887
Sand Dollar Grocery	100 guilder shopping spree	1658081
Bailamores Centro de Danza	Gift certificate Street dance	1658159
RumRunners	Gift certificate Ang. 50	1658162, 1658707, 1658734 1658462, 1658935 1658987, 1658256
Plaza Resort Bonaire	Breakfast for two	1658194, 1658821 1658889, 1658903 1658971
Mona Lisa	2 specialty menus	1658280
Woodwind	2 person Sunset sail	1658357, 1658643 1658428
Great Adventures - Harbour Village	Book Sea and Sea guide	1658381, 1658437 1658470, 1658609 1658284, 1658327 1658067, 1658948 1658503, 1658512 1658534, 1658567 1658648, 1658819 1658671, 1658379 1658018
Aquaspace	2 person Nemo trip	1658520
Flamboyant	2 person Dinner coupon	1658571
Chat n Browse M. Gaynor	Bonaire Turtle shirt	1658605
Aquaspace	5 person Nemo trip	1658615
Pasa Bon Pizza	Gift certificate Ang. 25	1658650
Beverley Bio Aesthetics	30 min. massage	1658654
Tropical Travel	2 person Island Tour	1658660
Great Adventures - Harbour Village	2 person Discover Scuba	1658670
Bonairean Golf Club Piedra So	Diving	1658676
Plaza Resort Bonaire	30 min. lesson Golfpro	1658741
Caribbean Laundry	2 person Kayak Trip	1658760
Benetton	Dry Cleaning ticket	1658860
Mushi Mushi	Gift certificate Ang. 100	1659013 □
Bailamores Centro de Danza	2 person Sunset sail	
	Gift certificate Cheerleading	



# BONAIRE VISIT



*Students from Illinois Math and Science Academy visit Bonaire for an Intersession Course*

From January 9 to 15, eight students and two teachers from the Illinois Math and Science Academy, a special high school for accelerated math and science students, learned all about some of Bonaire's non-profit environmental organizations (NGOs) during a special winter intersession course. Hosted by Pauline Kayes, part-time resident of Bonaire, and Marina Melis, Director of the Donkey Paradise Safari Park, the students began their study by visiting STINAPA headquarters to learn about the foundation and the marine and land parks from Director Elsmarie Beukenboom and Washington Park Manager Fernando Simal. Next they were given a tour of the turtle nesting sites on Klein Bonaire by STCB's Funchi Egbrechts with the promise of perhaps even seeing Hawksbill hatchlings later in the week. Since part of the requirement of their

intersession course is to provide service, the students also spent two days working at the Donkey Park, assisting Marina in caring for the donkeys.

Amazingly they found time for two guided snorkels from Carin Ekrich (Sea and Discover) and Renee Leach (Renee's Snorkeling Adventures), a kayak trip into the mangroves through the Mangrove Center and a free lunch at Richard's waterfront restaurant. They carried their notebooks everywhere, writing down information in order to complete their 30-question quiz on Bonaire, including questions on coral reef ecology, turtle nesting conditions, the history of the donkeys, Bonairean culture and government, etc. A highlight was meeting the Bonai student group at the museum to work with Dr. Jay Havisser on their whale skeleton project. □ *Pauline Kayes*

# BONAIRE AMBASSADORS



*Charlie, TCB's Evelain Marchena, Jesse, Dave and Jewels Stabnik of Pirate Cruises.*

The Bonaire Ambassador's List is growing and grew especially during the month of December. On December 29th we added a father, **Jesse Norton, and his two sons, Charlie and Dave, from Virginia**, to our growing list. At Eden Beach they got their Bronze Medals for coming to Bonaire over 10 consecutive years. Their good friend on Bonaire, Jewels Stabnik from Pirate Cruises, was responsible for making sure they got their medals.

**Jim and Diane Emry from South Carolina** became Bonaire Ambassador Silver Medalists for coming to Bonaire for 25 years. They started coming in the 70s and on their first trip they fell in love with the people of Bonaire and discovered its beautiful underwater world. Over the years they saw many changes, but despite its growth Bonaire has remained the Paradise that they first discovered. The people continue to be warm and friendly. The Marine Park has been well preserved. They enjoy the unhurried relaxing atmosphere that Bonaire continues to offer. Jim and Diane will be back in May 2005, and then that will be their 26th year and so they will become Gold Bonaire Ambassadors.

□ *Story and photos by Delno Tromp*



*Evelain Marchena from TCB with Jim and Diane Emry*

# The Walk-a-Thon is SUNDAY!



These people all walked (or ran) the distance in 2004.

Last chance to get tickets to join the Walk-a-Thon to benefit Bonaire's Special Olympics Team. For the last two years, this event has been the major fundraising event on the island, and this year it can be even bigger. Everyone on the island is invited to join - to walk - to bike - to roller blade. Or you can just buy a ticket (NAf25) and cheer everyone on or sponsor a participant. The more the merrier. **But you have just until Saturday to get your ticket** from one of the board members (see box below). Not only will you have the satisfaction of knowing you gave to a good cause but you get a goody bag with T-shirt, canvas back pack, water bottle, hat and, at the end, at Pasa Dia in Rincon, a delicious free barbeque.

Everyone meets at the Slave Huts at 5 am. You may leave your car at the Stadium in Playa and get a bus to the starting line. The bus leaves the Stadium at 4:30 am SHARP. There will be pick up trucks and Red Cross personnel along the way to help you up if you have any problems.

Every five km. there will be a refreshment stop where you can get water, Gatorade, oranges and lots of encouragement.

**Present your ticket and get your gift bag at City Café/Hotel Rocheline lobby during these times:**

**Thursday, January 20 – 1600-1900;**

**Friday, January 21 – 1600-1900;**

**Saturday, January 22 – 1000-1600.**

Some of *The Bonaire Reporter* staff will be doing the 30 kilometer trip on bikes, with their cameras ready to record the event. So when you see them, give a wave and a smile and you might appear in next week's *Bonaire Reporter*. □L.D.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
WALK-A-THON  
- SIGN UP NOW**



Everyone's getting into the Walk-a-Thon spirit. This week all the sponsors got together for a photo session with the Jong Bonaire kids. Ludwina Lendering, Director of Wega di Nomber, presents a check to Jong Bonaire head Bilha Thomas to sponsor 20 Jong Bonaire kids in the Walk-a-Thon this Sunday. Joining in were representatives of other sponsors: MCB bank, BonairExel, and TC Herrera.

## Special Olympics Bonaire Aids Sint Maarten



Bonaire Special Olympics board members Delno Tromp and Roosje van der Hoek-Goeloe with a few of the Sint Maarten Special Olympics staff and athletes. From left to right: Xiomara Wilson, Linda Richardson, Delno, Leo Violinus, Beatrix Arrindell, Sint Maarten First Lady Angela Richards and Julia Boasman.

Last week two board members of Special Olympics (SO) Bonaire visited Sint Maarten to help with the start-up of Special Olympics Sint Maarten as well as to promote our Third Annual "BonairExel" Walk-A-Thon. After a long session in which information and experiences were shared, the delegation met some of the athletes of Special Olympics Sint Maarten.

A big thank you goes to the official airline of Special Olympics Bonaire, BonairExel, who not only is sponsoring SO Bonaire, but has also offered to sponsor SO Sint Maarten with reduced airfares when needed to go abroad for participation in Special Olympic Games on one of the other islands. □ Roosje van der Hoek

### WEARYELLOW :: LIVESTRONG

Show you care: Get your Live Strong arm bands here in Bonaire to benefit the Bonaire Cancer Society. They're NAf10 (to cover shipping and other costs) and are sold at Sand Dollar Grocery, from Stacey Winklaar at the Benetton Shop, TCB, Gabrielle at MCB Playa or at Croccantino Restaurant. □L.D.



Special Olympics Bonaire National Director Delno Tromp models the waistband water carrier that you can buy for NAf15. It's got zippered pockets for keys, lipstick, money, whatever and holds a water bottle, so you can step right out, hands free. Makes a great gift too. All proceeds go to Special Olympics. Get them at City Café/Rocheline during the bag handout times (see above). □ L.D.

### GET YOUR TICKETS FROM: Board of Directors 4/'05

**National Director** – Delno Tromp  
**President** – Lupe Uranie  
**Treasurer/Secy** – Claire Sealy  
**Dr, Spec. Events**- Onnie Emerenciana  
**Head of Coaches** – Elizabeth Wiggy  
**Public Relations** – Roosje Goeloe  
**Board members:** Mike Gaynor, Chio Semeleer, Sharon and Scott Barlass, Aura Kock, Lucille Soliana



# YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS PAGE

## WINDSURF SCENE AT SOROBON *AN AFTERNOON WITH MAN OF THE SEA, ERWIN MULLER.*



I wanted to sit down with my neighbor, Erwin Muller, to learn more about one of Bonaire's pioneers of windsurfing. If you don't know this gentle giant you have seen him. He is a dive instructor at Toucan Dive and a living legend on Bonaire. He also buzzes around, usually wearing a faded red Toucan Dive shirt, on his quad. He has wild long hair and a beaming grin. Erwin was one of the first Bonaireans to windsurf. It was hard to find Erwin home as he is often at sea - fishing or diving. One rainy day I found him relaxing in his oceanfront Antillean house. We sat down in this old Bonaire structure and discussed the windsurf scene in days not too long ago. Erwin spins a great story, but he is hazy with details and dates. Still he kept me captivated

while I listened to his many tales of way back when. He always has a twinkle in his eye and a brilliant grin as he shares his personal tale of the sea and life in Bonaire.

Erwin, a 40 something Bonairean, has spent his life on the sea. His first experience on a windsurfer was around 1972 when he was a dive instructor at the old Sunset Beach Hotel. Erwin recalls a doctor from Aruba bringing a board for his vacation. Erwin took a spin and was hooked. He recalled the board to be a Whaler, an old

**“Along with fierce mosquitoes, nighttime wandering donkeys and partying sailors, the next day could not come soon enough, and the days were spent catching the wind.”**

style board without foot straps. This vintage board can be found today in garages and under decks in any seaside community - a windsurf relic. Erwin recalls the booms being wooden and the sails cloth without any battens to keep the form. We both laughed, wishing we had some old gear for memorabilia. He recalls his friends, Constantino “Patun” Saragoza and Junie Statie, also trying this new sport. Another man of the sea, Elvis “Piskechi” Martinus, was manager at a gas station but took time from work to learn how to windsurf around Playa. One day Erwin decided to sail to Curaçao to attend a race. When some of the

other locals heard about his adventure they joined in. Erwin planned to sail from Playa (Kralendijk) to Klein Bonaire and then on to Curaçao. Light winds made the trip long but Erwin made it ahead of the others. When Elvis Martinus didn't show up in Curaçao, people were worried; authorities were notified and a search started. While telling the story, Erwin chuckled with glee, claiming Elvis was “lost” and ended up at Klein Curaçao where he spent the time drinking and chilling with local fisherman. The next day Elvis showed up safe and sound. “I think he was lost, but I don't really know. All I know is he had a lot of people really worried,” Erwin recalls. It was clear from the laughter and mirth in Erwin's voice that he enjoyed this day very much.

Another pioneer in the sport Erwin says is Ernst van Vliet, a Dutchman who ran the windsurf concession at Sunset Beach. With more laughter Erwin says Ernst spent more time rescuing windsurfers who drifted to Klein Bonaire than teaching anyone to actually windsurf. Due to the offshore winds Ernst sought a safer location and was one of first to take windsurfing to Lac Bay, then a quiet fishing and swimming area. Once the locals started sailing at Lac it was soon their favorite place to sail. A group started Aquaspeed, a windsurf club, and the sport suddenly was alive and well in Bonaire. Erwin recalls many a night spent sleeping near the shop and sailing all day.

Elvis would caution the sailors to carefully hang up their gear in the night but

much to his dismay, he was ignored and donkeys would walk over the sails, damaging them. “He warned us,” Erwin laughs, “but we didn't listen too good.” My jovial story teller laughed, sharing the antics of those times. Along with fierce mosquitoes, nighttime wandering donkeys and partying sailors, the next day could not come soon enough, and the days were spent catching the wind. They even sailed up to Cai in the waves with boards that had no foot straps. This is incredible since it's the foot strap that keeps the sailor attached to the board while catching air. Again, laughter in his story telling reveals it was a hilarious experience.

When I ask Erwin what he thinks about the new school windsurf scene he shakes his head a little. “The kids don't know sailing rules and right of way,” he said. He wishes they knew more about sailing and the rules and not just how to throw tricks. He also wants the kids to sail for enjoyment and for the passion of being at sea, not just to make money. It's a great sport to keep kids busy and off the streets, but they need to be focused and learn other skills so they can work and take care of their future. He feels the youngsters of Bonaire have a great island to live in harmony with the sea: to fish, dive, and windsurf. The sea has been good to Erwin. It's been awhile since he took to a board, but he has many memories of the early days and the scene at Sorobon.

□ Ann Phelan

*Ann Phelan, Bonaire based owner of Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations, a windsurf and eco tour specialty travel service, is 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)				
<i>Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides</i>				
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		COEF
1-21	10:28	2.1FT.	19:57	0.8FT.
1-22	11:00	2.1FT.	20:33	0.7FT.
1-23	11:33	2.1FT.	21:13	0.7FT.
1-24	12:00	2.0FT.	21:54	0.8FT.
1-25	12:29	2.0FT.	22:28	0.8FT.
1-26	13:03	1.9FT.	22:59	0.8FT.
1-27	13:31	1.8FT.	23:28	0.9FT.

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angie	Kamila	Sea Fever
Antares	Lady Alice	Sea Festa
Bettina, Venezuela	La Familia	Sirius
Bright Sea	La Orana	Sylvia K
Camissa, Chan Is.	Letrancer	Surprise
Cape Kathryn	Little Mermaid	Ta-B
Cava	Luna C. USA	Tartufo
Clemencia	Maebelle	Ti Amo, USA
Cordelia	Mahi Mahi	Tsih
Delphinus	Maggi	Tartufo
Desire	Nava Maria	Tween, Netherlands
Flying Cloud, USA	Natural Selection, USA	Ulu Ulu, USA
Forewinds	Nechtan	Unicorn, Norway
Galandriel	Oniro	Varedhuni, Germany
Gammer	Precocious Gale, USA	Windmiller, Canada
Gatsby, USA	Rire II	Ya-T, BVI
Guaicamar I, Ven.	Santa maria	Zahi, Malta
Haxebase	Sandpiper, USA	

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## PET of the WEEK

**D**o you feel uptight, nervous, stressed out? Take some advice from “Ryan” the cat and find a comfortable spot away from it all and just chill out! Your cares and worries just fade away and you can concentrate on the important things in life like relaxing and letting the world come to you.



Ryan came into the Shelter with his sister “Rita,” who’s been adopted already, and his brother “Boy.” All three of them are very fine animals and come recommended highly. Ryan is about six months old; he’s been sterilized, is in great shape and has had his shots. Stop by the Bonaire Animal Shelter and see for yourself what healthy and social animals are there for adoption. It’s on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

Ever wonder just how much damage one firecracker can do? Check out what one did to the roof of the Shelter – it’s a hole about 4 inches by 3 inches that was made in the corrugated roofing material, “Eternit,” that covers one of the cages. Apparently the firecracker was thrown in from the street. The cage was occupied at the time by one dog that was in there for quarantine!

**Here’s a real use for your old Bonaire license plates. Bring them into the Shelter so they can be sold to tourists who think they’re great souvenirs. It’s a good way to help raise money for the Shelter.** □ *L.D.*

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

**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 **Dr. 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**

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

Visit **Gallery "MyArt"**  
 Marjolein Fonseca-Verhoef  
 Call: **785-3988**

**NEW BRASSERIE BONAIRE**  
 Restaurant – Terrace – Take away  
 \* **SPECIAL DINNER - MENU \***  
 NAf35.00 - \$ 20.00  
**CRAB BISQUE**  
**CATCH OF THE DAY**  
**COUPE CARIBE**

OPEN: 11.30 a.m. – 02.00 p.m.  
 DINNER 06.00p.m. – 09.30p.m.  
 Sunday and Monday closed

**ROYAL PALM GALLERIES,**  
**DOWNTOWN KRALENDIJK,**  
 Kaya Grandi 26 F/G, TEL/FAX :  
 717-4321

**NEW RENTAL PROPERTY/TIMESHARE**

**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

**FOR SALE**

**Laptop Computers for sale: Sony VAIO V505DX,** Pentium M 1.4 GHz Centrino - RAM 512 MB - HD 60 GB - CD-RW / DVD, LAN, Wireless 802.11b - Centrino 12.1" TFT XGA Screen Size, \$2,000 (negotiable) and...

a **Toshiba Satellite A75-S229,** Pentium 4, 3.2 MHz, 15.4 TruBrite Wide-screen, TruBrite, 512MB RAM, 80GB Hard Drive, CD & DVD Writer, 802.11g Wireless, LAN, \$2,800 (negotiable). Call **786-5119** or thusisiva@hotmail.com

**TV/VCR Combo—Samsung 20"** color Television and Magnavox VHS. NAf125 for both. If interested, call 717-2848.

**Suzuki Samurai Jeep,** in very good condition, color white, NAf7.000, tel. 717-2066.

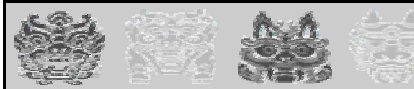
**2 Italian design (LUCE PLAN) ceiling fans,** transparent blades, remote control, V220, Never used, still in orig. boxes \$500, tel. 717-2066

**Oster (TM) Espresso / Cappuccino Maker,** in perfect condition - only used for 6 months - makes two cups simultaneously - filter also holds Senseo bags Asking Price = NAf90.- Contact : Tel 717-2209

**BOATS & ENGINES for SALE**

**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

**Classic Sailor**  
 Traditional Bonairean Sailing sloop. Wood, traditional construction, about 21' long. Fiberglassed in and out for minimal maintenance. Two time winner of Bonaire Regatta, Class A. A dream to sail. Make an Offer. One of the last of its kind. Call **717-8988 or 785-6125.**



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*Make it more livable from the start*

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

**YOGA FOR YOU**  
**LETTING GO**

*Do everything with a mind that has let go.*

By John Chan

*This week I will be quoting from Rolf Gates' book, Meditations from the Mat.*

“I rarely teach a class that doesn't include at least one student who is brand new to yoga. Working with beginners affords me an excellent opportunity to observe just what it is we bring to our mats. Despite wide age, gender, socio-economic, cultural and physical differences, we all carry some of the same baggage. Whether you are a dancer, a housewife, a grad student, a retired police officer or an aerobics dropout, you will no doubt confront the same roadblocks to learning that I see students encounter everyday: pride and fear.

If you are new to yoga, chances are you are wrestling not only with the postures but also with the judgments you pronounce on your efforts. But if you can make a commitment to be a little easier on yourself, I am certain you will enjoy your practice more. If not, you may soon find yourself making all sorts of excuses to avoid practicing altogether- it will become just too painful.

When we opt out of experiences that challenge us, it's usually because our pride is in the way. And "pride" is really another word for fear- the fear of not being enough. Marlon Brando delivers this truth magnificently in the movie *Apocalypse Now* when, sweating in a nadir of spiritual bankruptcy, he tells his executioner, "It is our judgment that defeats us." We become our own executioners when we sit in judgment of our efforts. Only when we act without judgment can we truly flourish in our lives. Yoga means becoming one. As long as we stand apart in judgment, we sabotage the opportunity for connection and integration that is yoga. So I encourage you: get into that canoe and ride with the river. Commit and don't look back. Before our bodies can open, they must first let go; the clenched and guarded muscles must relax. But the mind must let go first."

*Allow yourself the time to re-read this so that you can slowly start to practice the process of letting go.*

*Give change a chance.* □ Desirée

*Don and Desirée of "Yoga For You" offer classes from beginners to advanced.*

Call 717-2727 or 786-6416



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**Airport:**  
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 Airport Arrivals Area

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

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 Flamingo Boekhandel

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 Re/Max  
 Sunbelt

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 City Cafe  
 Croccantino  
 Wil's Tropical Grill  
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Lost Penguin  
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 DeFreewieler  
 Inpo  
 Paradise Photo  
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 Exito Bakery  
 Bonaire Super Store (old 7-7)

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

**Supermarkets:**  
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 More for Less  
 Progresso  
 Sand Dollar Grocery  
 Tropical Flamingo  
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**Others:**  
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 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*

# BUDDY DIVE AT 25 EXPANDS TO THE NORTH



*Buddy Dive General Manager Ruud Van Baal and Operations Manager Lisa Muehleemann welcome us through the break in the fence between Buddy Dive and Lions Dive.*

In 1980, operating from a shipping container, Buddy Dive Resort began. Over the years it has grown into the first class resort it is today. At the end of last year it began an expansion that is continuing. The owners of Buddy Dive took over the Lions Dive operation adjacent to their property ...and they've big plans. One of the first things we noticed is that all the buildings in both resorts have been painted a sunny yellow, a favorite color of owner Ingrid van der Valk.

Combining the two resorts brings the number of units up to 71: 40 units at Buddy Dive, 31 at Lions. General Manager Ruud van Baal says, "That means we have 200 beds." According to van Baal, there has been such an increase in guests that they've needed to expand to serve their customers.

Renovations have started with the painting; there will be new fabrics, curtains, furniture – particularly some very lovely beds from Indonesia. The dive tank drive-through will be relocated so it's more accessible from the road, and it will have the retail shop (moved up from the seaside location), showers and a bathroom. A maintenance department will be set up where the present drive-through is, far enough away from the rooms so that there will be little disturbance.

A number of the Lion's Dive staff is still working here, so guests who have their "favorites" will most likely find them there, albeit in a different uniform.

Back at "Buddy Dive central" the bar will get a new roof and the buffet updated. "Lunch on the beach has become really popular," explains Operations Manager Lisa Muehleemann. The Bella Vista Restaurant serves breakfast and lunch and theme night dinners. Their breakfast buffet is overseen by a Dutch chef who's had experience on the island. The new restaurant Manager is Patrick Wiljan. Kirk Gosden's Lion's Den Restaurant will continue to serve their very popular dinners. There's now a pass through between the two restaurants.

The building that housed Bon Bini Divers is being opened up with windows to the sea and turned into a real conference room with air conditioning and space for 50 seats. The back area of the building will be an activity center for children. The old Lions Dive office is being transformed into a three-bedroom rental unit.

"We expect the renovations and transformation to take from nine to 12 months," explained van Baal, "then it will be one complete Buddy Dive." □ *L.D.*

## THE PET PROFESSOR CAT IQ and PERSONALITY TEST



*A 40 point cat reads The Bonaire Reporter*

1. **If you get on all fours, bark and growl loudly, your cat:**
  - a. Looks at you inquiringly
  - b. Hisses at you and/or retreats
  - c. Pretends not to notice you
  - d. Looks you in the eye and yawns
2. **When your cat wants you to wake up, she:**
  - a. Jumps on the bed and purrs maniacally
  - b. Meows continuously
  - c. Jumps on your bladder and/or licks your eyelids
  - d. Knocks an item off your nightstand every 20 seconds until you get up
3. **If you hold a mirror up to your cat, he:**
  - a. Looks up, down, left and right
  - b. Hisses at the reflection and/or retreats
  - c. Approaches and then looks behind the mirror
  - d. Grooms himself
4. **When you turn on the vacuum cleaner, your cat:**
  - a. Runs away and hides
  - b. Gets up off the floor and watches you
  - c. Deliberately goes wherever you want to vacuum next
  - d. Picks up all the cat toys so that you don't suck them up
5. **If you put an object in your cat's way (e.g. a few empty cans in front of his food dish), she:**
  - a. Stops and looks confused
  - b. Demands with ever increasing obnoxiousness that you remove the objects
  - c. Moves objects as necessary
  - d. Manages to avoid/negotiate any objects
6. **When your cat is the topic of conversation, he:**
  - a. Is completely oblivious
  - b. Comes over to participate in the conversation
  - c. Realizes you are discussing him but keeps his distance and grooms
  - d. Realizes you are discussing him and leaves the room
7. **If you turn on a flashlight, your cat:**
  - a. Ignores it completely
  - b. Pounces on the beam of light and plays as long as you will
  - c. Plays for a few minutes and then gets bored
  - d. Realizes that you have the flashlight in your hand
8. **When your cat's water dish is empty, she:**
  - a. Waits patiently at the bowl
  - b. Meows and waits at the bowl
  - c. Meows and waits at the faucet
  - d. Turns the faucet on and has a drink
9. **If your cat were trapped in a closet, he would:**
  - a. Sleep until you discover him
  - b. Meow continuously
  - c. Bang on the door and rattle the doorknob
  - d. Vomit in your favorite pair of shoes, and then open the door himself
10. **When you are sitting at your computer, your cat:**
  - a. Sits on your lap
  - b. Lies on the keyboard
  - c. Plays with the mouse
  - d. Emails the SPCA recommending your immediate incarceration

### Scoring:

a. = 1 point      b. = 2 points      c. = 3 points.      d. = 4 points.

**10 -15 points:** Burden on Society. This cat expects you to do everything for him. He is dependent, lazy, trusting, and frankly missing a few buttons off his remote control (but I'm sure he's very attractive...and sweet...and you love him dearly).

**16 - 25 Points:** Upstanding Citizen. This cat is self-aware and intelligent, and moderately demanding. He is more physical than imaginative when it comes to problem solving, and tends to employ basic instinctive behaviors to get what he wants.

**26 - 35 Points:** Rebel. This cat is extremely intelligent. He is more independent, demanding, creative, and resourceful. He is also more manipulative, in the long tradition of domestic cats.

**36 - 40 Points:** Criminal Mastermind. This cat is extremely self-aware, one might even say narcissistic. He also happens to in fact BE your superior in every way. You are very fortunate that he has chosen to live with you, as he has no need for you whatsoever. □ *Susan Brown*

*Susan Brown is a professional dog trainer on the island who has been in the "pet business" for 28 years. For all your dog training or pet care needs contact Susan at the Pet Professor, e-mail: bandfarm@yahoo.com or call 717-2620.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PHIL TURNS 75

Phil Katsev, husband of Laraine, turned 75 over the weekend and celebrated at City Café on Sunday afternoon with his many friends on the island. Phil and Laraine are known for their many charitable deeds on Bonaire and especially Phil's always-bubbling-to-the-surface sense of humor. (It is rumored, but denied that, as the inventor of Preparation H, his future was secured.)

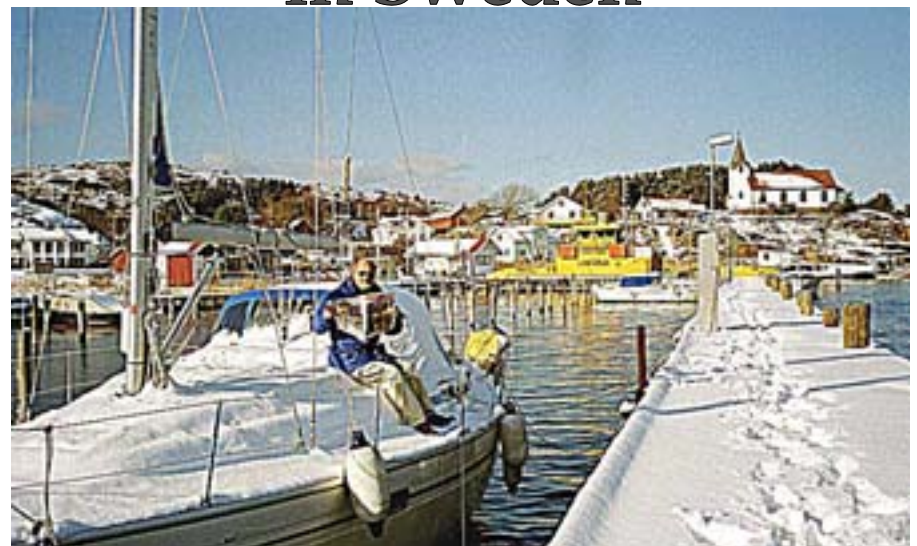
Phil can always be counted on to come up with innovative ideas for new projects and fund raising. He doesn't just write a check, he thinks up ways to make his donation generate even more funds. Just ask the Maria Hopper or Klein Bonaire Foundations.

Most recently he's produced a video of Capt. Don Stewart called "Island Adrift," with Scuba Vision's Hendrik Wuyts. It is set to debut at the end of next month at Movieland. □ L./G. D



Readers are invited to send their photos of their engagement or wedding to The Reporter. The photo will be printed free of charge.

## PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER in Sweden



Sara, Emil, Anna and Lars Hagström write, "We spent a couple of weeks on your beautiful island in February 2004. When we arrived home the winter culminated with white, glittering snow that crunched under our shoes. This was a change. Two days earlier it was the golden sun under our bare feet.

Bonaire was a fantastic experience. We drove around your island and we did also a couple of dives. In the picture Lars is reading *The Bonaire Reporter*, sitting on our yacht which is covered with snow. The temperature was 35°C lower than we experienced two days earlier on your island. □

**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

### Ocean's Twelve (George Clooney)

Early Show (usually 7pm)  
**Shall We Dance**

**Kaya Prinses Marie  
Behind Exito Bakery**  
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf10,50 (incl. Tax)  
High Schoolers - NAf7,75

NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY

**SATURDAY 4 PM The Incredibles**

## MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in  
**Movieland Cinema:**

*Shall We Dance*, by Peter Chelsom, starring Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez. I'm deeply impressed - two good movies in a row. After **The Incredibles** you can have an excellent time with this film. It's very funny, has some great lines and is heartwarmingly charming. The girls can enjoy Mr. Gere (in a tux of course) and the boys can drool over J-Lo. If you don't like what you see just close your eyes and listen. You'll hear lovely music. And Susan Sarandon in a supporting role has some wonderful words. □ *Dodo*



## KARNAVAL BONEIRU 2005

- 22 January Final Grand Tumba Festival
- 23 January Youth Tumba
- 28 January Election of the Queen
- 29 January Youth Parade Rincon
- 30 January Youth Parade Playa
- 5 February Adult Parade Rincon
- 8 February Adult Parade Playa
- 8 February Farewell Parade
- 12 February Festival Closing

fukabo2005@yahoo.com

## THIS WEEK

**Saturday, January 22 - Open House at the SGB High School, 10-12 noon. Meet the teachers & staff.**

**Saturday, January 22 - Lions Club-Comcabon Races - 2, 4 and 5K race with prizes. Starts at 1730. More information call Richard Pietersz of Comcabon 717-8629**

**Sunday, January 23—3rd Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon** - You can walk, run, bike, roller blade -Entry fee is NAf25, includes gifts, BBQ at end & more. Get tickets from Croccantino (717-5025) TCB (717-8322) or from board members. See page 8

**Now through February 9—Art Exhibition of Helen Sargent ("Elena")** at the Cinnamon Art Gallery, Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind the Banco di Caribe.

**Now through January 27- 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)

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** Monday, Jan. 24 - *Oceana*; Tuesday, Jan. 25-*Aida Vita*

## COMING

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

**February 5 & 6 - Bonaire Windsurfing Freestyle Frenzy & Beach Bash** - two days of the hottest fun freestyle. Ann Phelan (786-3134) or Elvis Martinus (790-2288)

**Monday, February 14 - St. Valentines Fundraising Dance Party to benefit the**

**FKPD** (disability foundation). Featuring "All in Two" professional singers from Curacao and local DJ, Juan Danger. At Gran Chaparal, 8 pm to 1 am. Tickets NAf100 per person. A 10% discount to groups of 10 at a table - NAf180 per couple. Call Shunilla Kroon 717-6210 or Ansherella Frans 717-6292 during office hours.

**Saturday, February 19—Lora Count.** Call 785-1000, 717-8444

**Sunday, February 27—2005 School Swimming Championships,** Meralney Sports Complex.

**May 15-22 -King of the Caribbean** - World Cup Grand Prix, many pros and guests are expected. For info, see www.pwaworldtour.com or www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com

## EVERY WEEK

**Saturday 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

**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

**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.

**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.

**Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for Bonaire residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

**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,  
**Monday Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea** slide experience at the Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30-9:30pm.

**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.

**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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Bonaire Arts and Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonieriano)** 717-5246/7117

**The Bonaire Swim Club-** Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.an

**Cinnamon Art Gallery** - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. Contact Wendy Horn at: wendy@bonaireart.org

**Bonaire National Marine Park** - 717-8444.

**Bonaire Animal Shelter** -717-4989.

**Donkey Sanctuary** - 560-7607.

**Jong Bonaire (Youth Center)** - 717-4303.

**Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care)** Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

**Special Olympics** - Contact Delno Tromp, 717-7659

**CLUBS and MEETINGS**

**AA meetings** - every Wednesday; Phone 717-6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.

**AI-Anon meetings** - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

**Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30pm** - call 567-0655 for directions.

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays,** 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

**Darts Club** plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

**Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions are welcome.

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday,** 12 noon-2 pm - Rendez-Vous Restaurant, Kaya L.D. Gerharts #3. All Rotarians are welcome. Tel. 717-8454

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## 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, 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

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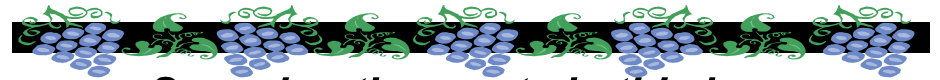
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# DINING GUIDE



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. Debrot 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 by a 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 sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the <b>highest standard of cuisine.</b>
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	<b>Tuscan chef s prepare exquisite dishes.</b> 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	<b>Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties.</b> 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 <b>Caribbean-style bistro</b> owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot 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.

## 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

**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 Re-breathing 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, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

**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.

## HOTELS

**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 Galeries 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

**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 divers.

## 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 Desirée and Don 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.



## Gisla Zils

“I used to spend the winters in Kenya, but I couldn’t go there anymore because my body had become too sensitive to the mandatory malaria medication, so I spent the winter in Germany. I was very unhappy as the cold caused me a lot of pain. I didn’t know where to go. I was staying in a home which was a new experiment: handicapped and old people under one roof. It was a beautiful place, but on the weekends there was no staff, and I needed help with everything. The cancer radiation treatment had destroyed all the nerves in my arm and left it paralyzed. The pain was unbearable; I took morphine; my health was going down; I couldn’t do anything anymore so I just didn’t move, sat all day and grew fat.

I’d heard a doctor talking about pain and painkilling so I made an appointment with him. He looked at my files and said, ‘I can give you an injection against the pain, but what are you going to do after that? You have to change your life, you have to move. Where do you feel good?’ ‘In Africa, in the heat, in the sea,’ I answered, so he said, ‘Move to a warm climate!’ I cried all the way home in the car, thinking I can’t do it, I’m not a millionaire. I had only a small sickness allowance from the government. When I told my son Stefan what the doctor said and added that it was impossible, he answered, ‘Nothing is impossible!’

He was right! One day a 92-year old lady who lived in the home came to help me put on my socks and gave me a newspaper with an ad that said, ‘In Holland, where the palm trees grow.’ It was about Curaçao. Then another lady called me to tell me that she was going to Curaçao and I should come with her.

We stayed in Spanish Water. Just before we were supposed to leave I met a Dutch family who said I should see Bonaire. ‘It’s quieter and the sea is so beautiful!’ So my friend returned to Germany and I went to Bonaire with the little money I had left. It was 1994 and I was 47 years old.

The first moment I saw the island I loved it: few cars, the sea was awesome, and the drinking water incomparable. In Africa there were times when there wasn’t any water from the tap for 20 days, just some water from the rain tanks on the roof and it had to be boiled. And there were poisonous snakes there too! People here don’t realize what they have!

I wanted to stay. In Germany it was still winter and very cold. I went to Immigration; they told me to talk to the Governor. You couldn’t make an appointment. You had to go to Rincon

and sit there from six in the morning and wait your turn. Mr. Frits Goedgedrag came at seven. I showed him the letter from my doctor, and he was very gracious and gave me my permit. I rented a place and in the summer I flew back to Germany to get a car adjusted to my handicap because Akkermans couldn’t do it. So, the second time I came with my ‘handicapped car’ filled up with pots and pans and dishes, a fridge, towels, a washing machine and lots of little things stuffed in.”

*Gisela Zils has guts: While many people in good health, in a stable financial position and accompanied by their partner or their family see moving to a foreign place as a big step, she did it all by herself, bad as she felt and uncertain of the future. “You see,” she says, “I believe the island came to me. I didn’t come to the island.”*

“I am 20, except for the wrinkles! I’m so happy with all these extra years.”

*She shows me a photo album with pictures of paintings: “I was and am a painter. I was left handed and I had to learn to paint again with my right hand. In 1986 I started painting islands, islands with flocks of birds flying over. If anybody asked me what is was, I’d answer, “That’s my dream island.” I’d never heard of Bonaire or about the flamingos. Here I have everything I had in Africa, but I have it all year around and more beautifully!*

In 1999 I got this property. I’d moved seven times. The bank wouldn’t give me a loan to build a house, so I went to Fundashon Cas Boneiriano and talked to Mr. Herbert Piar and a social worker. They said, ‘Everybody on the island can do this when they want to, so you can too!’ They gave me a loan and I built my house. I still can’t believe it; it’s like a dream. What I never thought would come true happened. I’m very grateful to Mr. Piar and all the people who helped me and I promised them I’d make a nice garden and that’s what I did. It’s my hobby.

Most of the time I’m at home with my dogs and my cat; I like it best here. I’m in my garden every day or on the beach collecting funny corals. I make art out



of everything!

I like the cruise ship season. I sit on the pier, I look around, and always some young guy helps me to set up my stand. There are things I can’t do by myself, so I’ve learned to ask, and if the first person says ‘No,’ I ask a second person; that’s normal. Many people want to help, but you have to ask as they cannot smell it. It’s nice to spend a day in town when a ship is in. The promenade is beautiful; the people tell me about their travels and sometimes they buy a little thing. I did the tourist guide course with Sue Felix and so I can tell them about the island and things they should go and see.

When you leave your country it’s very hard. You have to leave everything behind and fear what’s coming. You can cry, but you have to move on. I had to decide what was best for me. My whole family was angry: ‘What are you doing? You’re sick!’ Only my son stood up for me and said, ‘Go check it out. If it’s not good come back on the first plane!’ When you have great kids you listen to them! I’m very proud of him! He’s so good! It’s easy to say now, but it wasn’t at the time. I should have done it five years earlier!

When I did Sue’s course I met a lot of people; that was another good thing! Wherever I lived I’ve always talked with all my neighbors, with people when I go shopping. I’ve met many people at Trans World Radio Church and I’m a member of the Queen Angel

snorkel and diving club. The day I go out snorkeling with them is the best day of the week! I love it! I think my life is good, I’m thankful for every day I open my eyes. A while ago my sister came to visit me and said, ‘Gisela, you know, the doctor gave you only one year...’ Now I have my 20th anniversary,” she laughs. “I am 20, except for the wrinkles! I’m so happy with all these extra years.

I’ve grown coconut trees from coconuts. When I planted them the first thing I asked the Lord was to see my trees grow big. Now they’re big and I got scared... but life is very exciting! My faith has grown so strong; I know there is a God who guides and helps me; I could have never made it on my own. I think that you don’t always see the reason why in some situations, but I know that I would have never moved from Germany to a nice little island like Bonaire if it hadn’t been for my health. In spite of my handicap and the pain the quality of my life has improved in every possible way. I want to tell my story to give people hope to do something for themselves to make their own situation better so they will have a better life too.”

□ Greta Koistra



Greta Kooistra

## A SALUTE TO THE SERGEANT MAJOR



Guarding the eggs

Whether you're snorkeling or scuba diving around Bonaire or just looking into the sea from land, you're likely to see sergeant-major fish. Sergeant-majors are a type of damselfish, but luckily for us they're not as aggressive as their yellowtail damselfish cousins! Like other damsels, though, their bodies are flattened from side to side and they're more oval than round (except for the tail, of course). Sergeant-majors of various types live on tropical reefs worldwide. Ours in the Caribbean have five black vertical stripes (called "bars") on a yellow and white background.

In the daytime most sergeant-majors can be found in mid-water, feeding on tiny drifting critters. You might notice, though, that some of them aren't as far from the bottom as others. Those individuals are striped black and *blue* rather than black and yellow. They stay close to a substrate, often returning to check it out. This is not because they're flaunting convention and becoming bottom feeders; instead, they're following convention and becoming parents.

What you're seeing is the sergeant major dad taking care of his eggs. Yes, you read that correctly: it's the dad sergeant-major who takes almost full responsibility for his babies. He begins by choosing a nesting site. One classic is a dead area on a coral head, but sergeant-major dads also make good use of human artifacts such as I-beams, Bonaire National Ma-

rine Park moorings (especially the concrete blocks), and shipwrecks. Next, the prospective dad clears his site for the eggs. He removes any bits of shell or rubble by picking them up in his mouth, carrying them off the nest and releasing them. Finally, dad hovers above the nest site and waves his tailfin, hard, fanning off any fine debris.

The nesting site is prepared. The hopeful dad performs a looping courtship display for the local ladies. One will accept his invitation and begin swimming back and forth over the site in tight rows. She's depositing up to 20,000 adhesive eggs, which look like purplish-red dots. Her mate follows, fertilizing the eggs. When she finishes, she leaves -- if she doesn't leave, he chases her away.

Now he takes full responsibility for the eggs. He doesn't have the convenient pouch in which the seahorse dad carries his eggs. He doesn't have the versatility of the yellow head jawfish dad, who mostly carries his eggs in his mouth, but who can empty them into his burrow when necessary. No, the sergeant-major's eggs are right there in the open, and the only one to protect them from crabs, wrasses and other predators is their hardworking dad.

He examines the eggs frequently, removing any that may have died. He constantly patrols around his nest, chasing

away any fish that dare come within one or two feet. He makes sure no crabs or bristle worms sneak up.

(Okay, *most of the time* he makes sure no crabs get to his eggs. On one occasion I saw a sergeant-major nest area which included a tiny cavity in the coral head. As I watched, a little claw emerged from the cavity, plucked a single egg and returned to the cavity -- without attracting the attention of the guarding dad. I also noticed a small circle, empty of eggs, around the crab's lair; it's just possible that the egg I saw it steal wasn't its first.)

As the newly-deposited eggs mature they become greenish gray; in about seven days they hatch and the larval fish drift upward. New sergeant-majors feed hungrily on other plankton for another week or two, then, at a size of around half an inch, they leave the plankton and appear around mooring buoys, shallow water rock or coral formations and even in tide pools.

The scientific name of the Caribbean sergeant-major is *Abudefduf saxatilis*. *Saxatilis* (sak-uh-TILL-iss) is a traditional-sounding species name, from Latin, and means "dwelling among rocks."

But *Abudefduf* piqued my curiosity since it didn't sound like Latin or Greek and wasn't in any of my reference books. All I could find out was that *Abudefduf* fulfilled the criteria for a scientific name - which means someone else had noticed it was a little different - but is otherwise no help. I had to find an Arabic speaker before I got a translation: *Abudefduf* (ah-boo-DEFF-duff) means "father who darts swiftly back and forth" - a perfect description of the sergeant-major dad guarding his eggs! □  
Dee Scarr

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





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## Sky Goodies and Two Celestial Tongue Twisters

First, a few hints to help find some of the sights in the exciting winter sky in our Sky Park, day by day:

*January 21* - In early evening, the **Moon** shines between **Orion** (to its lower right) and bright **Capella** (to its upper left). **Saturn** is the bright point glowing far to the Moon's lower left.

*January 22* - Look for Saturn below the Moon this evening. Fainter **Pollux** and **Castor**, the "twin" stars of **Gemini**, are to Saturn's upper left. **Procyon** is farther to Saturn's lower right.

*January 23* - The bright "star" shining near the Moon tonight is the planet Saturn. Fainter Pollux and Castor are also in the Moon's vicinity. The Moon is at "apogee."

*January 24* - Saturn shines to the Moon's upper right this evening. More directly above the Moon are fainter Pollux and Castor. Procyon is farther right of the Moon.

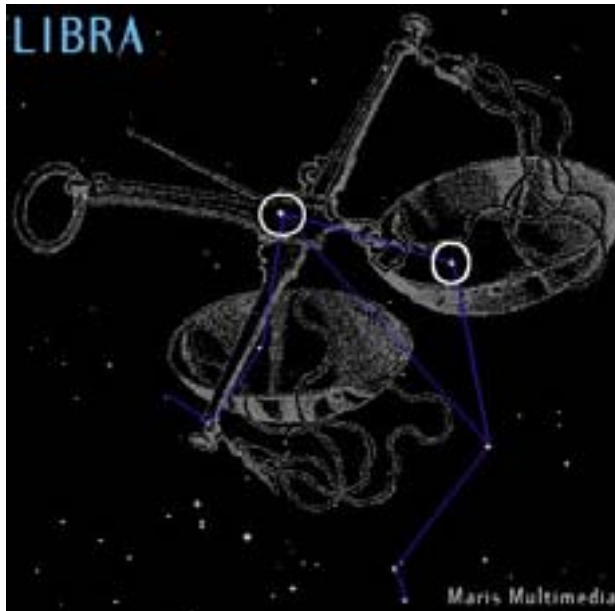
*January 25* - Full Moon, called the "Wolf Moon."

*January 26* - After the Moon rises in mid-evening, look to its lower right for **Regulus**, the brightest star of **Leo**.

Now, some highlights for early next month: If you get up a couple of hours before dawn in early February you'll be able to catch a couple of cosmic items whose names are bizarre and fun to pronounce along with several lovely sky objects. On Wednesday, *February 2<sup>nd</sup>* about an hour before sunrise, face southeast where the brightest thing you'll see will be a last quarter **Moon**. Up to its right you'll see the brilliant king of the planets, 88,000-mile-wide **Jupiter**. And just below it is the brightest star of **Virgo**, **Spica**. Now if you draw an imaginary line from Jupiter to the Moon and continue that line it will pass just above the giant red star **Antares**, which marks the heart of **Scorpius the Scorpion** and will whisk on by the tiny 4,000-mile-wide, red-orange planet **Mars**.

So you've got two wonderful stars, Antares and Spica, two wonderful planets, Jupiter and Mars, and an exquisite Moon to greet you. But it's two dimmer stars near the Moon which are really made for February 2<sup>nd</sup> because of their wonderfully weird names. They are the two brightest stars of the constellation **Libra**, the scales of justice. The one closest to the Moon is called **Zuben Elgenubi** and the one above it is called **Zuben Eschamali**. Don't you love it? Now Zuben Elgenubi means the southern claw and Zuben Eschamali means the northern claw. But as any school kid can tell you the scales of justice don't have claws. What gives? Well before Julius Caesar came along these two stars marked the claws of the then much larger constellation Scorpius the Scorpion. But Julius Caesar wanted to extend the power of the Roman Empire into the very heavens themselves, so he lopped off the poor scorpion's claws and renamed them for the symbol of roman justice.

Now if it's cloudy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and you can't see the stars, then on the 3<sup>rd</sup> the Moon will be just above the three stars which mark the top of Scorpius, and on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> it will be just past Antares, and on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> will be parked right underneath Mars, named for the Roman god of war. □ *Jack Horkhimer*



Where the tongue twisters are in Libra



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:

January 21 to 28, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Drastic financial losses may be likely if you lend money. You can make new connections if you play your cards right. Romance will develop through work. This is a great day for a trip. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You can beautify your surroundings by renovating or redecorating. Don't let individuals with wild schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful. Overindulgence could cause problems for you with your loved ones. If you try to manipulate emotional situations you will find yourself alienated. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Your partner may blame you for everything. Exercise your talents and present your ideas to groups you think you can contribute to. Opportunities to go out with clients or colleagues will be in your best interest. You will be accident prone if you aren't careful this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Be aware that minor accidents or injury may prevail if you are preoccupied. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Things may not be as they sound. Consider the source before you believe what you hear. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Put your energy into home renovations. You will easily blow situations out of proportion. Make plans that will take you to exotic destinations. Visit friends you don't get to see that often. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You are best to stick to yourself this week. You can surprise members of your family, which in turn will bring you a pat on the back. Don't let the cat out of the bag. Friends or groups that you're affiliated with may want you to contribute more cash than you can really afford. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Have some fun, but draw the line if someone tries to fast talk their way into your heart. Money problems will get worse if your partner hasn't been playing by the rules. You are better off visiting friends or relatives than entertaining at home. You are exceptional at presenting your ideas. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Unstable relationships are likely. Don't believe everything you hear. This will be a great time to invite friends over to visit. Try to get out and socialize. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Put your energy into behind-the-scenes activities. Join a club to work off that excess energy; but consider ways of doing that without spending the money. You should get into some of those creative hobbies that you always said you wanted to do. Your self esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the limelight. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Financial limitations are likely if you take risks. Try not to skirt issues if you think you'll hurt some one's feelings. Entertainment could be pleasing if it is of an energetic nature. You need time to rejuvenate. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will be full of energy and you need to find something constructive to do. Love relationships will flourish. Do something that will be stimulating and creative. You won't be able to keep a secret. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can open up to your mate and let them know what you expect out of this relationship. Your lover may be annoyed if you have been flirtatious or not attentive to their needs. Children may pose a problem if they don't like suggestions. Get involved in jobs that require creative input. You can win points with both peers and superiors. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. □