

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

February 18 to 25, 2005 Volume 13, Issue 7

The BONAIRI! REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



**Behind the
FIRE at the WEB
Power Plant
Pages 6-7**

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

The rain that has caused Bonaire to green up had a more sinister aspect along the coasts of nearby Venezuela and Colombia. Last week Venezuelan navy ships and military helicopters evacuated thousands of people trapped along the country's coastline by torrential rains that have killed at least 64 in eight days. Flood waters and landslides triggered by rains in Caracas and neighboring states have dredged up memories of the 1999 disaster when rains turned hillsides to mud and buried tens of thousands of people along Venezuela's Caribbean coastline.

"The rivers just overflowed and we were trapped. The only way out was by helicopter," said Milkos Kato, one of scores of stranded tourists ferried to the airport from a vacation complex left without electricity or roads for two days. Civil Protection rescue officials said as many as 6,000 vacationers and residents were trapped along the coast near Caracas where residents flock from the capital to private vacation clubs and public beaches along the Caribbean.

Authorities set up shelters for residents whose homes had been swept away, and crews worked to clear the roads and bridges washed away by overflowing rivers. Cheers greeted Venezuelan President Chavez as he met with residents asking for help. Colombian President Alvaro Uribe said his government was looking for funds to deal with the disaster.



► **The Dutch Parliament is concerned about the razing of Bonaire's historic homes.** Lower House-member Ineke van Gent inquired why Hausmann's Folly and the *Brionkazerne* were demolished to make way for new developments. Currently Bonaire has no legislation that protects historic landmarks, and the volunteer Monument Foundation is inactive.

► **Last week six suspects were subpoenaed in the Campo II case.** They include familiar names and faces like Anthony Godett, Nelson Monte, Giovanni van Ierland, Xiomara Bakhuis, Lesley Franklin and Gibi de Windt. The case will appear before the court on February 28. The focal point of the Campo II case is the now deceased ex-Minister of Justice, Ben Komproe's permission letter that allowed Colombian prostitutes to enter the country without visas. The charges vary from fraud, forgery, accepting bribes to involvement in a criminal organization.

► **A weak El Niño and human-made greenhouse gases could make 2005 the warmest year** since records started being kept in the late 1800s, NASA scientists said last week. "There has been a strong warming trend over the past 30

years, a trend that has been shown to be due primarily to increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere," said James Hansen of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies based in New York.

The warmest year on record was 1998, with 2002 and 2003 coming in second and third, respectively.

Last year was the fourth warmest recorded, with a global mean temperature of 57° F (14° C), which was about 1½° warmer than the middle of the century.

► **An earthquake shook Dominica and surrounding islands on Valentines Day.** According to the Seismic Research Unit (SRU) at the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies, the tremor measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale occurred at 2:05 pm just north of the island of Dominica. There were no reports of injury or damage.

Preliminary information from the SRU is that the event occurred at longitude 15.89° north and latitude 61.52° west. The event was reportedly felt in Dominica, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent.

► **Last week Dutch Premier Balkenende, in an open letter to newspapers, thanked the Antillean and Aruban people** for the cordial reception he received two weeks ago in the islands. He said the visit has reinforced reciprocal links and reciprocal respect. The Prime Minister was accompanied by his wife Bianca and daughter Amélie during visits to Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

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► **In 2004 the rate of growth of the Dutch population fell to its lowest in 85 years** as immigration slowed and emigration accelerated, partly due to tighter government policies on foreigners. Last week's Central Bureau for Statistics report said the Dutch population grew 34,000 to 16.3 million in 2004, half the increase of the previous year and the lowest growth recorded since 1920. The center-right government announced plans last year to expel 26,000

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) failed asylum seekers and to force foreigners living in the country to pass a language and culture test.

There was a notable decline in immigration from Turkey and Morocco in 2004 while the number of immigrants from Poland—which joined the European Union last May—doubled to 4,900.

Interestingly, in spite of the gradually increasing ageing of the Dutch population, the number of deaths fell. In 2004, 137,000 persons died, 5,000 fewer than in 2003.

► According to the Antilles Central Bureau for Statistics **overall unemployment in Bonaire declined from 11.6% to 8.9% at the end of last year.** Unemployment for those under 21 dropped from 31.5% in 2003 to 25.2% in 2004. Joblessness among the young is considered a root cause for crime on the island.

► From time to time we tell you about other places, like Bonaire, Georgia, or things, like the racehorse named "Bonaire." **This week's Bonaire name-sake is a 3,201-square-foot model home** at Fiddler's Creek in Naples Florida. It's quite posh and features custom details throughout the home including a stone fireplace.

► **For the first time in history a Dutch coin will be minted outside of The Netherlands.** The coin, motivated by the Dutch-Antillean Oranje Committee, will commemorate the visit of

Queen Beatrix to Curaçao later this year. The special coin will be minted at the Antilles Central Bank as part of the festivities for Queen Beatrix' 25th anniversary.

They will begin on Queen's Day, April 30, and will end at the Kingdom Games on July 29. The Queen will most probably also attend the closing ceremony of the games in Curaçao. While the Queen is expected to visit Bonaire, it's been announced that because of a tight schedule she will not visit Aruba.

► **On March 7th, Jasta Tours, flying from Bonaire's Flamingo Airport, will begin day trips to the Las Roques islands of Venezuela.** In coming weeks we will bring you a report on this opportunity to visit another famous marine park during your stay in Bonaire. The Roques are part of a proposed cross border UN World Heritage Site along with Bonaire. Call Jasta at 717-9444 for additional information.

► Recently we attended a dinner-birthday party at the **private dining room at Croccantino Restaurant.** The charming air conditioned room can seat up to 20 guests and the ambiance is perfect for a cozy evening of friends. The meal, prepared by the resident Tuscan chefs, was outstanding. In addition to the wines, antipasto and dessert, guests



The Queen also appears on a 5 euro coin



Tromp photo

► The visiting cruise ship *Freewinds* donated 419 new books of fiction, history and various other subjects, in English, to the Bonaire Public Library. In the photo Ms Ludrit receives the books from Port Captain Ludwig.

had a choice of a Chicken Marsala or a Tuscan Beef Stew. Prices for small groups are reasonable, and the evening can be a most memorable one. Call 717-5025.

► **Krioyo Paint, Bonaire's paint manufacturer, provided, free of charge, all the paint necessary to re-finish the roller hockey course at the Jong Bonaire youth center.** □ L./G.D.



Jong Bonaire photo

⇒ *Rene Hakkenberg, President of the Jong Bonaire Board of Directors, accepts the donation from Arnold de Jong of Krioyo Paint.*

PRESERVING WHAT'S SPECIAL

Dear Editor:

In regard to your article, "Tourism: Bonaire Fails to Perform," (*Bonaire Reporter* February 11-18, 2005) you point out accurately that difficult air travel is a primary reason why tourists resist coming here. If one has only one or two weeks vacation, losing a day on each end or more if flights are cancelled means that tourist may never come back, nor will those friends back home who hear about the travel woes.

But in addition it has been very short sighted to have given away some of the few beaches we had here to private construction. There never were many places where a person who does not dive could just swim or snorkel. To see houses being built directly on the sand and closing off the small remaining entries to the water is unbelievable and heart-breaking.

It is too late to recapture the access we used to have: most have been given away to commercial interests or taken away by Mother Nature. But isn't there some way to leave what little access there is, so that it will be available to non-divers and residents?

I remember back in the 1970s watching the school children take swimming lessons at the Hotel Bonaire (Sunset Beach). It was a delightful sight and it never interfered with the divers or guests of the hotel. And apparently they were welcome. Where is that charming sight now?
Helen Fine

WITH NO ELECTRICITY...POWER THROUGH HUMOR

Dear Editor:

A week of rotating power outages prompted *The Reporter* to ask Bonaire-ans "How do you cope without power?"

A woman in Hato said, "I scream: I'm having a midweek crisis, and the release of emotion helps me through it."

A Belnem teen who depends on a computer for school work, says "I put on a hat from carnival and go look into the mirror at my sad face."

In Kralendijk a shopkeeper replied, "Complaining doesn't help, but batteries and my Walkman save my sanity. Limbo Dance music is what works."

Soap opera addicts in Antril and Rincon have a pact. When one loses power, she phones her friend, who places the phone receiver near the TV. "I seem to lose power when my story is juicy. My friend understands."

An angry soccer fan said, "I sometimes have to kick my soccer ball when the game goes off, but I calm down. Maybe our Web bills will be less. Of course, without TV, there is time for other things..."



Check *The Reporter* next time for a related story, **Bonaire birth rate predicted higher by November 2005.**

Meg Watt

Bonaire Musing



"WHAT A GREAT ISLAND— BUT HOW THE HECK DO YOU GET THERE?"

Getting to Bonaire: Part Two

In my last article, I pointed out the three main routes to get to our beautiful and yet out-of-the-way island from North America: via Aruba, San Juan, and Curaçao. This week I have researched price comparisons for these three routes from selected US cities, and next week I will compare prices for flights from the West Coast and Canada, as well as provide a few creative ideas on how to vacation best with these various itineraries.

I chose to compare prices for the week of March 15 to March 22, with slight alterations to those dates to ac-

commodate Air Jamaica (their dates are March 16 and 23, since they fly down on Wednesdays) and American from San Juan (their return is March 23, since American Eagle flies down on a Tuesday and returns the next morning.) I chose mid-week to get the best prices and far enough in the future to get good pricing.

The lowest-priced tickets are based on non-stops to Aruba, connecting with BonairExel (BXL). I'll start with US Air out of Philadelphia. Their price to Aruba, non-stop (9:40-3:10 pm outbound, 5:05-8:41 pm return) was \$430, and if booked for a week later, would have been \$410. United out of Chicago (offering a "Winter Clearance" pricing) compared well with \$403 (8:20-3:25 pm outbound, 4:20-8 pm

(Continued on page 9)

Fire at Web Power Plant Cripples Bonaire

COVER STORY

A smell of charring is in the air in the quiet building that once required ear protection to visit. The huge machines in the main powerhouse of Bonaire's electrical supply company are still. Some are in pieces, others look unscathed. Soon that will change as workers begin inspecting, replacing and rebuilding the heart of the island's electrical supply system.

Life on Bonaire is relatively undisturbed considering that a bit over a third of the island's generating capacity was knocked out by an early morning blaze on February 7th. The four biggest generators at the main powerhouse at the WEB (Water and Electricity Bureau) in Hato were disabled by the blaze. Two may be complete losses, while the remaining two, more modern units, should be able to be restored to service following an inspection by the builder and necessary repairs. Fortunately NA\$10 million in insurance is available.

According to a WEB engineer a high pressure hose feeding fuel to Engine 2 ruptured, spraying diesel fuel which ignited. The resulting fire shut down electric power delivery for up to 15 hours to some parts of Bonaire. WEB believes it was not a fault of preventative maintenance but an unfore-



*Top view of
Burnt-out machine*

seen failure. The fault was unconnected to the problems which caused numerous short electrical outages in the weeks leading up to the fire. The machine which failed was installed in 1977 and is considered ancient by power-plant standards. Its fuel feed and lubrication piping are external and vulnerable to exactly the type of failure that occurred.

Even the steel building housing the generating machinery was badly damaged and weakened by the 1,300°C blaze. It will be many months before things are back in order. Much worse damage was avoided by the quick response and effective action by Bonaire's fire company which, in addition to other methods, used foam similar to

the extinguishing agent used for aircraft accidents to put out the fire.

Power continues to be supplied to Bonaire from the Trans World Radio (TWR) power plant in Belnem and a secondary bank of generators at WEB Central. Soon auxiliary generators rented from Curaçao will come on line. Eventually a new 5 Megawatt (MW) generator will be installed. However, until all that is done WEB cannot meet the island's peak power demand of 10.5 MW.

Last week a load shedding/rotating blackout program designed to provide electric power service to the consumers was instituted. Most customers were cut off for four (continuous) hours or less during a 24 hour period. However,



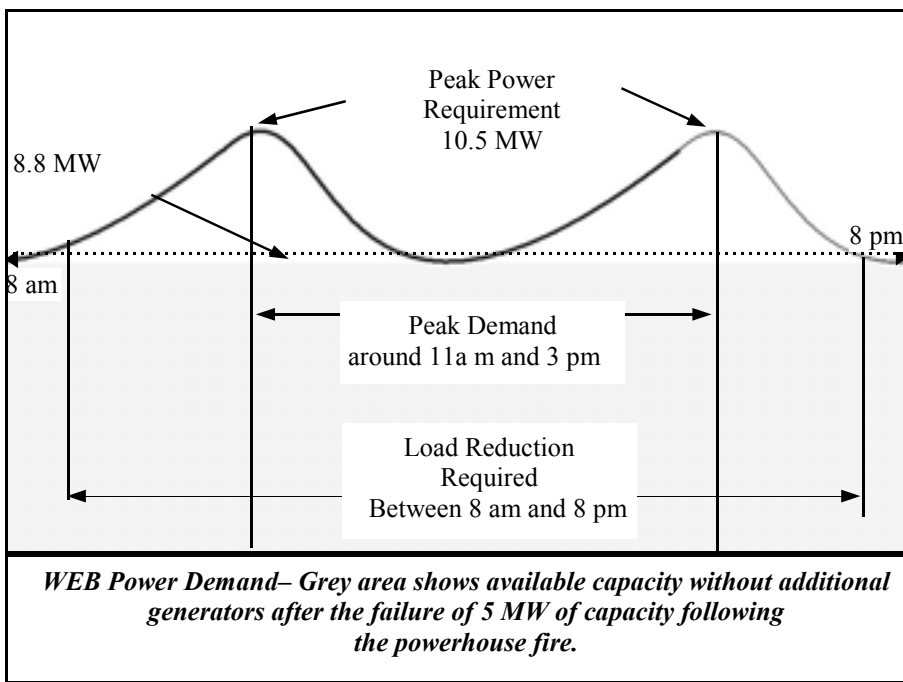
Fire Debris

some areas were off for two, four-hour segments on some days. All areas have power between midnight and 8 am. The blackouts rotate among the various areas on the island. On Monday additional capacity greatly reduced the number of areas being cut off.

Bonaire requires 10.5 MW (10,500,000 watts, the equivalent of 10,500 100-watt light bulbs) at peak times. This is normally provided by eight generators at Hato which can produce 8.4 MW and four generators at the TWR site which can put out a maximum of 6.4 megawatts. But not all generators are equivalent. Only half of the 12 generators can run continuously, the rest are used for peak periods. And four of those, providing 5 MW, are out of service. (See drawings on next page)

Bonaire life is almost normal even

(Continued on page 7)



*Fire at Web Power Plant
(Continued from page 6)*

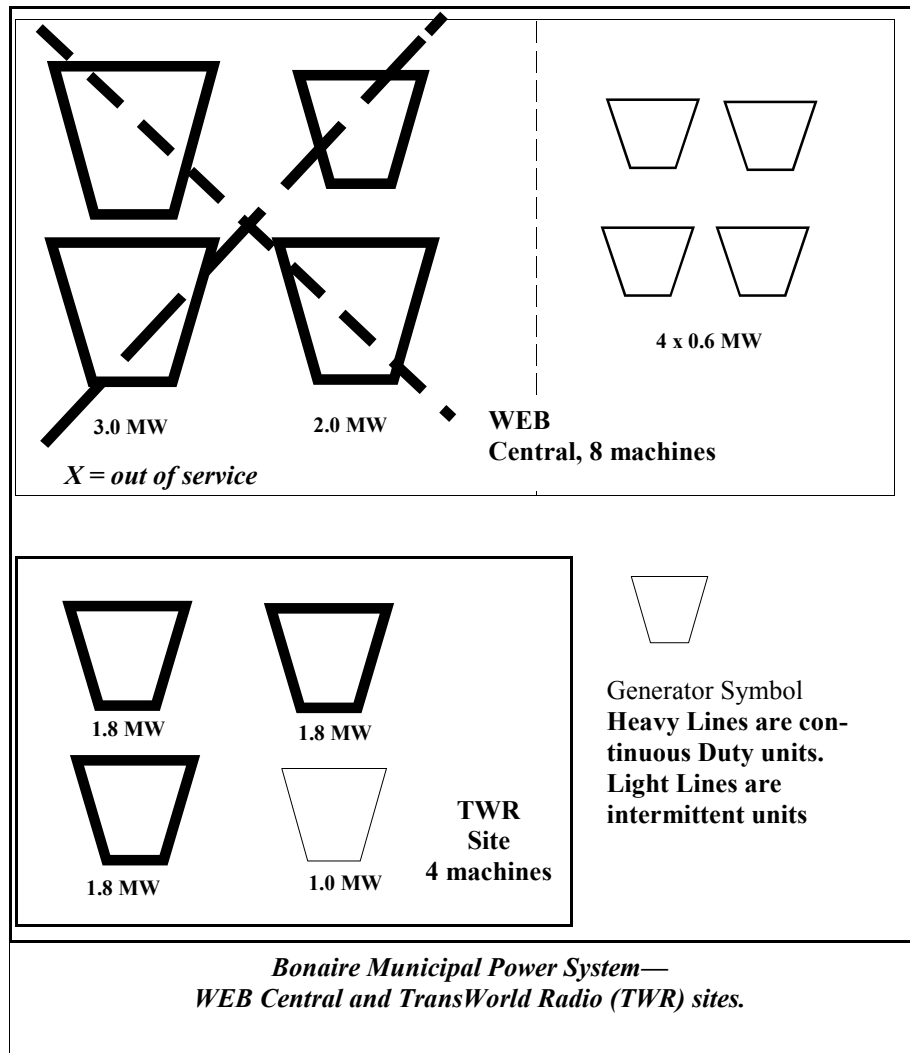
though 4 MW of needed capacity were missing. Some businesses depending on power for their computers, cement mixers or machinery are crippled for part of the workday. The programs for VCRs, appliances and other electric gear must be reprogrammed each time power is restored; there's been a run on batteries, flashlights, oil lamps and lamp oil. Cutoff of medical equipment and monitors puts home patients at risk. The cost to the local economy was staggering. Some hotels reported early departures of their guests. But most people are accepting the situation with good humor. Dining by candle light only is romantic some say.

A total of 8.8 MW was available at the beginning of this week with an additional 1.55 Mw on hand but not connected. Once that's done outages may be reduced to only an hour or so when power demand peaks.

Two additional power units of 0.35 MW and 1.2 MW were shipped from Curaçao at the end of last week.

In two weeks offers to purchase a heavy duty 5 MW generator will be solicited from American and European manufacturers. Then electricity can be guaranteed 100% of the time.

At a press conference we asked if the generators at Radio Netherlands (RNWO) be hooked into the WEB transmission system? Not quickly, sa



WEB engineers. The power switching and transformer(s) needed would take months to obtain and during that length of time other options are better pursued. If an agreement can be reached with RNWO perhaps in the long term it

would be possible.

In the meantime WEB customers are asked to turn unnecessary electrical items off so that we may all have power longer. □ G.D.

Windsurf Scene at Sorobon Barbados, Cocoa Beach

Last week a trio of Bonaire's hottest windsurf sensations headed northeast to the British West Indian island of Barbados. "Irie Man," Brian Talma, a Bajan windsurf champion, held a "Waterman Festival," a windsurf and water sports weekend of fun.

Tonky and Taty Frans and Kiri Thode along with Elvis Martinus headed to Brian's playground to compete and play. Brian Talma is no stranger to Bonaire having attended King of the Caribbean in 2002. He is one of our island's biggest fans, calling Bonaire's freestyle conditions nearly "perfect." This is impressive considering this man calls home two incredible islands famed for water sports - Barbados and Maui.

Kiri Thode and the Frans brothers along with Elvis were personally invited to attend this weekend event held on February 5 to 7. Kiri, sometimes considered a Talma look alike, took his freestyle talent and personal charisma to the radio waves as well as on the beach and clearly had a blast. Tonky reported the parties and the entire weekend were incredible. He loved it so much he hopes to head back soon for a week's vacation. Tonky loved Flying Fish at Oisten's Fish Fry, surfing at Bathsheba and the entire Bajan windsurf scene. Elvis reported that while the wind was not cooperative, a common weather situation in the entire Caribbean, they had non-stop fun on the beach, in the city and out and about. Elvis hopes a team representing Barbados will come to King of the Caribbean this May. The Bonaire Barbados windsurf connection is hot.

This is what the Bajan press had to say about our Bonaire boys: "Among the international Professional Windsurfing As-



Taty Frans

sociation (PWA) personalities taking part are Nicholas Akgazciyan of France, who is No. 1 and won the PWA indoor event this year; Tonky Frans from Bonaire, ranked fourth on the freestyle circuit; compatriot Taty Frans who is ranked fifth; the No. 8 ranked Diony Guadagnine from Margarita; and 14-year-old Kiri Thode of Bonaire, who is ranked 24th."

More Bonaireans head off island later this month to compete and represent their country, this time north to a favorite US based windsurf event, Calema Mid Winters, located in Cocoa Beach Florida. Slated for the first weekend of March, Angulo riders, Jaeger Sint Jago and Arturo Soleano, Real Wind Team Rider, Clay Emer, his talented brother Archendro and Ethienne Soleano are preparing to ride again for Bonaire. More pictures and stories to come. □ *Story and photo by Ann Phelan*

Ann Phelan, owner 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. ann@bonairewindsurfing.com

Mooring Fees Double



Kralendijk Harbor, Once Chock-a-Block

Dear Editor: As frequent visitors to Bonaire and part of the cruising community, we have fallen in love with this island. It has been a safe, friendly and very enjoyable place to have our boat. Provisioning here is a little more costly than other ports of call, but store managers and owners have been more than gracious to provide transportation for us and our provisions.

The Marine Park has provided a mooring field, as anchoring in Bonaire is not permitted, because of the fragile ecosystem. The cost was very affordable. Now, without any advance notice, we find the cost has almost doubled, going from \$5.62US to \$10US per day, making it one of the more expensive ports of call.

Our understanding is, Harbour Village

Marina manages and maintains these moorings for the Marine Park for a percentage of the daily charge. At present, the moorings are in very bad condition. Out of 40 moorings there are many with frayed lines, only single lines instead of two, and mooring blocks that have moved toward the edge and are ready to tumble over.

Fellow cruisers have brought this to the marina's attention one month ago. To date, nothing has been improved. These conditions make it hazardous not only for boats tying up, but also for the reefs as well.

The Marine Park of Bonaire is a very special resource that needs to be pampered and preserved. A reasonable increase of to perhaps \$6.50 or \$7.00US

(Continued on page 9)

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YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS PAGES

(Dear Editor. Continued from page 8)
per day, for a well maintained mooring, would be understandable, as the cost of living is constantly increasing everywhere.

Bonaire is, predominantly, out of the hurricane belt. Six months is ideal for the cruising community. Most cruisers coming to Bonaire, come to enjoy all aspects of the island, while living in our "homes on the water." It allows us to be somewhere safe during this time, and to do needed repairs, contributing to sectors of Bonaire's economy that tourists don't normally contribute to, such as machine shops, mechanics, welders, marinas, carpenters, etc. This also means our incomes, that are from sources outside of Bonaire, are spent on the local businesses such as restaurants, hardware stores, grocery stores, Internet shops, right down to the local laundry. On an average, cruising boats contribute from \$1,000.00US to \$2,000US per month per boat into the local economy. Unlike many other visitors, the cruising community does not put a strain on the utility infrastructure of Bonaire. We generate our own power and desalinate our own water, two precious resources on Bonaire. This truly is a win-win situation for Bonaire as well as the cruising community.

As a cruiser and visitor to Bonaire we are well aware of the fragile eco-system that makes up Bonaire and the necessity of caring for the eco-system. The volunteer groups of STINAPA consist of many cruisers, helping with clean-up dives, trash pick-up on Klein Bonaire, to new computer programs for the Park.

Prior to 1 January 2005, we were permitted to stay in Bonaire for six months. Now we are told by Immigration that our visas are only valid for 90 days in a one-year period, which means we must leave Bonaire for nine months before returning. It seems as though the Government is discouraging cruisers and other visitors, as well as potential investors from coming to Bonaire.

With higher mooring fees and a 90-day constraint on visas, cruisers will be taking a closer look to justify a visit to Bonaire. Just 35 miles to the West, Curaçao offers a free anchorage, a free shuttle service to shopping and little constraint regarding time spent on the island. To the south, in Venezuela, marinas are \$12.00US per day including telephone service, electricity, water, security, swimming pool, other amenities and the pleasure of staying 18 months.

STINAPA has an extra resource in its cruising community. With some discussion, STINAPA could have more visiting yachts, more revenue, and a win-win situation with visiting cruisers. We hope that more consideration can be given to this matter.

Mike and Patti DeLong, *SVGaladriel*,

Restaurants and businesses that appreciate the patronage of the yacht-people are invited to contact this newspaper and STINAPA to state their views.

The Bonaire Reporter was not notified of this mooring price increase prior to its going into effect. We did not see it mentioned in other media either.

(Bonaire Musings. Continued from page 5)

return). And Delta non-stop out of Atlanta priced out at \$433, leaving at 10am, arriving 2:50pm, returning 4:10-7:30pm. Add approximately \$160 to each ticket for a roundtrip, Aruba to Bonaire on BXL, and your net fare is between \$570 and \$590. The connection on BXL for all these flights is at 5pm (provided the airline will allow less than the four-hour connecting time I mentioned in last week's article; if not, the only reservable connection is at 9pm, with a stop at Curaçao). The return time is 11am to noon (giving you more than a four-hour connection time, which is less than ideal).

Next up in price, but offering one-stop service on the same airline, is Air Jamaica. I quoted only their Chicago to Bonaire price, but I imagine their prices out of New York and their other gateway cities are comparable. They leave O'Hare at 6:15am (a bit rough in the winter, even for an overnight if you are coming in on a connecting flight the night before) and arrive Montego Bay at 11am. The connecting flight leaves at 12:30pm, arriving Bonaire (with a one-hour-plus time change) at 3:30pm. The return is 4:10-5:10pm, connecting with 8:10-11:10pm. The price is \$645. So, for \$70-\$100 more, you get to Bonaire sooner, you leave later, and you do not need to make a transfer at Aruba. However, the early departure and late return times in Chicago (and East Coast cities) are a bit of a challenge, depending on your travel habits. And if you leave from Los Angeles, you have to take their overnight flight to connect with the 12:30pm flight to Bonaire.

Then we come to American, with a price of \$592 from Chicago to Curaçao via Miami, leaving at 6:10am, arriving at 2:50pm, with a return of 4:08-10:49pm. If you add approximately \$80 per person on Divi-Divi, your price is \$670. However, compared to Air

Jamaica, you are doing three flights instead of two. American also offers a pricier service to San Juan, leaving Chicago at a better hour—10:21am—and connecting with the 6:30-8:30 American Eagle, with a return of 7-9am and 2:14-5:25pm. This service, since it involves an exclusive market—Bonaire from San Juan—runs higher, at \$718. A great route for you to use 30,000 American frequent-flier miles if you have any! I checked other American connections to San Juan (Hartford, New York, Boston) and they all came up around \$690, with non-stops connecting with the Eagle service. Hartford (BDL) involves long layovers coming and going, while there are better connections to New York and Boston, and other East Coast cities.

So, Aruba keeps popping up as the most economical doorway to Bonaire from many American cities. The trick is how to best handle the connecting times and how reliable BonairExel continues to be. When I flew them recently, I made the decision to not worry about whether we'd make our connection or not on the return—by going over a day in advance and taking advantage of what Aruba has to offer. Yes, this added an extra \$150 for a nice hotel room plus transfers (about \$20 each way via taxi), bringing my overall travel costs more in line with the highest American price quoted above, but for the money I was also able to visit another Caribbean island.

I hope this information helps. I still am gathering itineraries and prices from the West Coast and Canada, and I will post these soon. If you have any clever ideas of how to get down here, email me at getrav@earthlink.net and I will pass them along to your fellow travelers. □ *Gerry Clow*

Gerry Clow is a former Boston Globe columnist and healing arts professional who has flown down to Bonaire more than 20 times over the past five years.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)					
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides					
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		HEIGHT	COEF
2-18	9:26	2.0FT.	18:23	0.8FT.	38
2-19	9:58	2.0FT.	18:59	0.8FT.	43
2-20	10:27	2.0FT.	19:37	0.8FT.	51
2-21	11:03	2.0FT.	20:07	0.8FT.	59
2-22	11:36	1.9FT.	20:35	0.9FT.	66
2-23	12:05	1.8FT.	21:08	0.9FT.	73
2-24	12:40	1.7FT.	21:33	1.0FT.	78
2-25	3:04	1.3FT.	5:01	1.2FT.	82
			13:20	1.6FT.	
			21:35	1.1FT.	

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angelos	Guacamar I, Ven.	Natural Selection, USA
Angie	Hinano	Necesse
Arden	Irish Eyes	Pamina
Bettina, Venezuela	Jacuzzi	Precocious Gale, USA
Bright Sea	Jan Gerardus	Santa Maria
Camissa, Chan Is.	Janus	Sandpiper, USA
Cape Kathryn	Jel-jok France	Satu III
Cavu	Kamaloa	Significant Other
Dream Bird	Luna C. USA	Solvig of Lorn
Deneb	Lena S	Sylvia K
Delphinus	Low Key	Tagora
SI Sabor	Maebelle	Ti Amo, USA
Flying Cloud, USA	Mahi Mahi	Ulu Ulu, USA
Fiddler	Maggi	Unicorn, Norway
Fiona	Maki, France	Varedhuni, Germany
Galadriel	Meruva	Windmiller, Canada
Gambler	Mistika	Ya-T, BVI
Gatsby, USA	Mystic	Zahi, Malta

Bonaire Ambassadors

For 10 consecutive years now, Jean and Edward Magocs from Pennsylvania have been coming to Bonaire. For the past three years, they have come for four months, and they say that during each visit they discover something new. Their two sons also come to visit: one during the Christmas holidays and the other for Carnival. Each year they make their own t-shirt. Bonaire is for them the perfect island, as they enjoy the warmth of its people and the tranquility. Jean told us that soon (in two years) their eight-year-old grandson will also become an Ambassador, since he has been coming to Bonaire since he was a baby. He enjoys the ocean and can identify almost every fish that he sees. Two of their favorite spots on the island are Playa Grandi and Spelonk. □



Jean and Edward Magocs

Ken and Judy Calhoun from Kansas, USA, have been coming to Bonaire for two weeks each year during the Christmas holidays. Bonaire has been their vacation spot for 23 years now, and their children and grandchildren come to spend the holidays with them here as well. People ask them why they keep returning to Bonaire every year. They said it is very simple--What they love about Bonaire is the people, the diving, the snorkeling, and the good restaurants. Especially it's the people who have become good friends and part of their extended family. □



Ken and Judy Calhoun



Nancy & John Truxell, Rian van Ballengooien, Anita & Eric Staal, PJ & Bill Steeby, all of Sorobon Beach Resort

During the weekly Manager's Cocktail Party at Sorobon Beach Resort three couples were awarded as Bronze Bonaire Ambassadors. Nancy and John Truxell, PJ and Bill Steeby from the US, and Anita and Eric Staal from the Netherlands got their medals for coming to Bonaire as their vacation spot for 10 consecutive years. All of them have been staying at Sorobon Beach Resort for these past years. Also we must say that Eric and Anita Stall visit Bonaire twice a year. From Ms. Rian Van Ballengooien, the Manager of Sorobon Beach Resort, they all received the beautiful coffee table book *Eye on Aruba, Bonaire & Curaçao*, on the cover of which is the beach at Sorobon. □

Stories and photos by Delno Tromp. Evelain Marchena from TCB is on the pictures on the left with the new Ambassadors.

Picture Yourself with the Reporter in Warsaw, Poland



On a short trip to Warsaw, Poland, Bonaire residents Willem (a home builder) and Janneke Oosting (Hair Affair) took this photo in the city center. □

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. (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □



The Bonaire Reporter needs
your ideas to fill our annual
April Fools issue.

Send your stories and photos to
Fools@bonairereporter.com or mail
text or disk to Bonaire Reporter,
Kaya Gob Debrot 200-6, Bonaire.

Bonaire has a 2005 Chef Team



Meeting at Rum Runners last Sunday were members of the 2005 Bonaire Culinary Team and some of the committee: Diana St. Jago, Coach Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn, Chef Tico Marsera, Chef Isidoor van Riemsdijk, Coordinator Sara Matera. (front) Chef Floris van Loo and Bartender Andrew Gabrielse.

A team of four professional chefs and a bartender has been chosen to represent Bonaire at the "Taste of the Caribbean" competition to be held June 26 to 29 at the Miami Hyatt Regency in Miami. It's expected that 10 teams from Caribbean islands will participate.

Bonaire has participated three different times in the event – in Puerto Rico and in Miami – and it changed the face of restaurants on the island. More professionalism and quality started appearing in dining establishments; in fact there was even an improvement in the foods served in the more simple local snacks.

Chefs this year are Isidoor van Riemsdijk and Floris van Loo from Rum Runners, Selsio de Palm from Divi Flamingo and Tico Marsera from Den Laman. Bartender is Andrew Gabrielse from Plaza. Their well-experienced coach and team manager is Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn who has participated in the "Taste" event for each of the three different years that a Bonaire team has participated.

The team will begin practicing together next Sunday at the SGB school kitchen. This is always an exciting time as the chefs are challenged to come up with a

(Continued on page 14)

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

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. 8000m² 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



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

NEW **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 **NEW**

RENTAL PROPERTY/TIMESHARE

For Rent: Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-privacy & security-**May 1st until Dec. 15th.** Brochure available. Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293; (US) (570) 586 0098. Email larjaytee@aol.com

FOR SALE

For sale: **wooden wardrobe, child bed, child seat for bicycle, computer/printer/monitor, dive suit and weight belt.** Tel. 717-6351.

Grease monkey special.. '83 **Honda Jazz** NAf2.000 call 785-9760

FOUND DOGS

This brindle colored dog was found by Sand Dollar Resort where some kind tourists fed him for about 5 days. They called him "Velcro" because



he was sticking to them. When the tourists had to leave they wanted him to have a chance at life because he was such a nice dog. So they took him to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. He's a young male, about five months old. The Shelter will hold a dog for 10 days for the owner to claim him. After that he can go up for adoption.

Owners can pick up their dogs at the BONAIRE ANIMAL SHELTER Kaminda Lagoen #26-A. Open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm; Saturday: 10 am to 1 pm Phone #717-4989

COMPUTER GEAR

HP Notebook model: ze5400. P4 (2.4Ghz), 40GB, 512mb, Wireless e-card. Almost brand new, carrying case included, 1500\$(US). Info (599)785-7425 after 3pm

Dell 40-gig hard drive computer, with upgraded monitor, keyboard and mouse, Pentium 3, running Windows Millennium, but can be upgraded to XP, NAf700.00, call 717-2848.



Furnishings, appliances & hardware
Dates: 26+27th Feb. 9:00-16:00hrs,
Place: Storage facility Kaya Industria across from Rocargo/Warehouse. Everything must go! Tel: 790-1604.

WANTED

Wanted: place to rent for 2 students in the months August, September, October (3 months). Please contact us: ikben-judith007@hotmail.com.

Want to buy a 20 foot long power boat. call 790- 1228

City Shop N.V. needs computer technicians. Interested persons should drop by City Shop personally between 5 and 6 pm daily.

WANTED: Experienced waiter or waitress for dinner service. Call Croccantino at 785-0581.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Lovely small restaurant in Playa. Please call 567-0576 / 569-8871 or 717-4888

THE PET PROFESSOR



Puppy Testing

Four simple tests will give you an idea of what your puppy will be like when he grows up.

1. Cradle test: Pick the puppy up and cradle him in your arms on his back. See how he responds. Does he immediately relax? Does he struggle and then give up after a few seconds? Does he try to lick you? These are all signs of an excellent, easy-going temperament. Is he stiff and frightened? This is OK as long as he relaxes after a minute. Does he struggle and not give up, whine or try to put his teeth on you? This pup will need some extra work to inhibit his dominance.

2. Touch Sensitivity test: Squeeze the webbing between the pup's toes (without using your fingernails). Release the minute he responds. Puppies will vary on the amount of time they will tolerate this before pulling away. The key to this test is whether or not he forgives you immediately afterward, or even better, tries to get you to stop by licking you. If he does, you know he will be tolerant and cooperative as an adult. If he screams, tries to bite you, and/or avoids you afterward, then he is more sensitive than average and you

will need to bear this in mind while training and socializing him.

3. Sound Sensitivity test: Wait till the pup is just wandering around, then drop your keys or another noisy object near him. If he is startled and then comes to investigate or ignores it completely, this is good -- he has a steady, calm temperament. If he's startled and runs away and won't approach the object even after some time passes, then he is more fearful than most. You will need to include desensitizing strategies in your training to avoid fearful behaviors which may develop as he matures.

4. Attraction test: Set the pup down in a quiet place, squat down and clap your hands (say nothing). If he wanders off and doesn't look back at you, he is liable to be inattentive as an adult. If he is frightened of you he may be fearful as an adult as well. You need to know these things in order to train him successfully. The puppy who comes running over to you will likely be a confident, friendly, obedient adult.

Determining physical type: Even if you see both parents, it can be difficult to guess the adult size and shape a "naturally bred" puppy is likely to develop. There are some myths we have all heard. For example, big feet = big dog. Not always true. Better indicators might be how much loose skin the dog has, how big his joints are, how balanced and coordinated he appears to be (small dogs mature earlier than large dogs). You can expect the puppy's adult weight to be at least twice the weight he was at four or five months. However, this can be affected by factors such as



poor nutrition or illness, so ...you never know! Another myth which should be discarded is that early neutering will affect your dog's eventual size -- this is simply not true.

Believe it or not, it can also be hard to guess what kind of coat your dog will have. Some puppies are fuzzy when young and grow up to be smooth coated adults, and puppy's coloring will also change as he grows. You can make some guesses about type based on color and hair characteristics (e.g. black and tan markings indicative of working dog types, whiskers on the muzzle reminiscent of terrier types etc.). Still more

clues can be derived from the shape of the head, ear set, breadth of chest, relative length of limbs etc., but don't get carried away. Your dog is unique and he will be who he is regardless of your predictions. The above four tests are more productive than genetic speculation. And let's face it, by the time he grows up, he will be family and you will love him no matter what he looks like. Remember, everything you do with your puppy is training, so be consistent, be clear, be fair, and be fun! □ Susan Brown
Next time: Evaluating an Adult Dog

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: bandbfarm@yahoo.com or call 717-2620.

Pet of the Week

“Negrita,” this beautiful Rotweiler mix, has had a tough life. Awhile ago she started showing up in front of a business in Belnem. The owner of the business felt sorry for her and put some food out for her. It was a dilemma for the businesswoman because she felt such a fine looking dog must belong to someone, but because Negrita kept coming back she felt she had to feed her. But she can’t keep her and thought it would be best to take Negrita to the Shelter where she could have a chance at a good life by being adopted.



Negrita is about two years old and is shy; it seems she’s lost faith in humans. But if she has an owner who can give her love and attention she can be a fine companion and a good watch dog. The intelligence is there already. She’s been checked out by the vet and given her tests and shots and is “approved” as a healthy and social adoptee by the Bonaire Animal Shelter. □

Happy news from the Shelter. The beautiful Siamese mix cat, “Poezie,” our Pet of the Week last week, has been adopted. As well, all her three kittens have found good homes. According to Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema, adoptions are doing great. So far this year there have been 18; last Friday alone there were five adoptions. For the best in pets, health and social wise, visit the Shelter. □L.D



(New Chef Team. Continued from page 11)

three-course winning menu based on the ingredients of a mystery basket.

They are judged on what they present as a “contemporary Caribbean cuisine:” creativity, presentation and taste, use of indigenous products, cost effectiveness, technique, portion size, cost as well as teamwork and attitude.

As in the past in order to raise funds to send the team to Miami there will be a number of gastronomical events that you won’t want to miss. One of the first will be a wine tasting on Saturday, March 19, place and time to be announced. Bonaire’s best wine purveyors will be invited to participate, and of course the accompanying cheese and snacks will be celestial. Dates for other events such as lunches and dinners will be announced later. □L.D.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

Meet The Fockers (Ben Stiller)

Early Show (usually 7pm)
Flight of the Phoenix

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 Sponge Bob Square
Pants Movie**

THIS WEEK

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

Saturday, February 19 -Bicycle trip through Washington Park. Meet at 8am at Park gate. Bring money for normal Park admission charge. A follow truck will accompany the riders. Call Bob Lassiter 717-3949 for more information.

Saturday/Sunday, February 26-27—Famous Tower to Tower Walk – everyone invited. NAf25 pp. Tel. Extra 717-8482/ email b.antoine@telbonet.an

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

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Tuesday, Feb. 22-*Aida Vita*

COMING

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days: Mar. 1-*Queen Mary 2*; Monday, Mar. 7-*Oceana*; Tuesday, Mar. 8-*Aida Vita*

Sunday, March 6—Fun Run –2/4/5 km. 7:30 am at the Stadium. Sponsored by Comcabon Tel. 717-8629 or 780-7225

Saturday, March 19 – Wine and Cheese Fundraiser for Bonaire's Culinary Team – Time and place to be announced.—see page 11

May 15th to the 22nd - King of the Caribbean at Lac Bay. The event will kick off the 2005 PWA Freestyle Tour. 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

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:

Flight of the Phoenix

by John Moore, starring
Dennis Quaid.



The film just feels awfully predictable as we plow our way through each of the various survival threats, rescue attempts and personal conflicts that are standard in all such tales of survivors stranded in a hostile environment. Each of the characters steps out of the shadows to have his or her own "moment in the sun," before receding dutifully into the background to allow the next person to do the same. The main weakness with a film like "Flight of the Phoenix" is that, when the plane goes down we're stuck in the desert right along with the characters, and if they don't have anything particularly interesting to say to one another, we feel just as stranded as they are. □*Dodo*

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 (2nd and 4th) **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.

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: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.

Al-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 2nd and 4th 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

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, 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
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Caribbean Club Bonaire On the Tourist Road 2 mi. north of Town 717-7901	Inexpensive-moderate Breakfast Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Quiet country setting, lovely landscaping, friendly staff Happy Hour from 5-7 pm Inexpensive Bar Hap dinner plus regular menu
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar 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 highest standard of cuisine.
Crocantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Tuscan chef s prepare 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.
Garden Café 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
The Last Bite Bakery Home Delivery or Take Out 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 gourmet class items -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The Lost Penguin 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.
Pasa Bon Pizza 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 Real Thing! 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.

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 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, 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.

GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK HELP

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

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 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

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Jan Rijkens

“My father, Eppo Rijkens, went to Aruba as a marine and then married my mother Hillie by proxy. After she’d come from Holland he applied for a job at the post office as a clerk. I was born in Aruba in 1952 and my sister Helena in 1956. In those days Aruba was a virgin island: long white beaches with palm trees and sea grapes; not one hotel, nothing fancy, just a few cars and about 20,000 to 25,000 inhabitants. At home and at school we spoke Dutch, but after school I learned Papiamentu from my friends, and English and Spanish we picked up in the streets. When I was nine my father was offered the job of Governor of St. Martin, but he didn’t take it because he didn’t want to live in the hurricane belt. Although he loved Aruba and its people, when he was offered the job as head of the post office in Bonaire, he accepted.

It was 1961 and we’d never been to Bonaire before. About 4,000 people were living here. It was very different and special and above all, very quiet! We lived in the *Breedestraat*, now Kaya Grandi, in an apartment above what is now Boutique Vita. My mother found a lady, Olga Valentijn, to help in the house. Olga became her friend and confidant; for my sister and me she was like a second mother.

The post office was located on the waterfront where the customs office is now. Every day I’d go fishing on the pier, and before going home I’d always pass by my father’s office to show him what I’d caught. Twice a week I accompanied him to pick up two post bags at the airport: one with island mail and the other with police mail. We’d go in a jeep; it was a big event as there were hardly any cars on the island. Life was very simple then. My father was a member of the Lions Club and several other social clubs, but he liked the mentality of the Bonaireans better than the attitude of the *Makambas*, the Dutch people.

Every month the old mothers from Rincon would come by foot or on donkeys all the way from Rincon to Playa to cash the money order their sons sent from Holland. My father knew them all personally; he also knew the amount of money they were about to receive, and if they came and the money order hadn’t arrived yet, he’d pay them with his own money so they wouldn’t have to make the trip all over again. The local people loved and respected him for doing so.

Although both my parents were Dutch I never felt at home in Holland; I

thought it was cold and gloomy. We’d go there every two years for three months and once every four years for six months. So I went to school there too, and being a white Antillean boy was enough reason to make me very popular with the girls. That was the cause of lots of fights; consequently I ended up in with the Dutch boys!

In 1964 my mother, sister and I returned to Holland because my mother needed heart surgery. My father stayed on Bonaire. The operation was a success; after two years the doctor said she was well enough to return to Bonaire. Then my mother told us, ‘We’re not going back because it’s over between your father and me.’ I got so mad at her! I finished high school but I refused to go to college; I just got myself a job with KNSM, the Royal Dutch Shipping Company and left the country.

“Every month the old mothers from Rincon would come by foot or on donkeys... from Rincon to Playa to cash the money order their sons sent from Holland. My father knew them all and if they came and the money order hadn’t arrived yet, he’d pay them with his own money so they wouldn’t have to make the trip all over again.”

The first ship they put me on was the *Prince of the Netherlands*, the same ship I’d sailed on to Holland when I was a child. I had my career with KNSM. When the company ended I started working for several hotels in Holland and in the entertainment business. I also had my own café. In 1985 I met Nelly Asmawidjaja from Surinam, who was living in Holland with her three sons. We fell in love and got engaged. A few years later Henny Eman from Aruba, who was living in Holland, called up all the Arubans who were living in Holland to go back to Aruba. I discussed it with my mother who said, ‘You always wanted to go back. Go for it.’ Nelly, her sons and I left for Aruba in 1988. We’d planed to get married there and wanted my dad to be at our

wedding. He’d left Bonaire in 1969 to go and live in Colombia, then in Curacao. When we visited him, to invite him to the wedding, he wasn’t feeling too good, and because he’d just had an eye operation he couldn’t fly. Nelly and I got married in Aruba on my birthday, January 31st 1989. Two months later my father passed away and was buried on Curaçao.

Nelly and I worked and lived on Aruba until 1992 when we went back to Holland so our sons could finish school there. Julio, Fiely and Arian did very well, and we’re very proud of them. They all built up great careers and they’re just very bright, good men. When my wife was 40, a dream came true: she was pregnant! We cried our hearts out when we heard it was going to be a girl! Celine was born in 1998 and she’s the greatest gift...” *Jan Rijkens is a sentimental man, a father who adores his six-year-old little daughter above everything in this world. She and her mother are still in Holland. He shows me her pictures and tears start running down his face:* “This is my darling, my gift from heaven. Do you believe in reincarnation? Celine is an old soul. She was sent to me, to help me, to give me happiness. I miss her so much and she misses me more and more every day, we have such a special bond...” *Then he gets himself together again.*

“Life in Holland was fun. I did all kinds of things, but mainly organized festivals. I was having a good time during the summers but once autumn came I’d get depressed, even though I’m a real optimist. I told my wife, ‘Let’s go back to the Caribbean!’ She replied, ‘You go first to see if you can find a job.’ I went. I was 52 years old, the same age my father was when he left Bonaire; there are no coincidences!

The first thing I did was to look for Olga Valentijn. My mother had passed away in 1999 and I wanted to talk to Olga very much. Through Bòi Antoin, who published an article with a picture in *èxtra* newspaper, I found her within three days! It was a very emotional reunion; there was a lot to talk about; and seeing Olga, who’s now 89 and still quite a lady, brought back all my child-



hood memories, and it made me feel that I had made the right decision by coming back to Bonaire.

However, it was hard to find a job and everything was still very uncertain. I’d sent my CV to Plaza, but somehow it got lost and I didn’t hear anything from them, so I went looking all around the island. I almost lost hope of coming back to my roots. Christmas and New Years I spent without work and without any prospects. I saw the tsunami disaster in Asia on TV and it really got to me. But I didn’t want to leave. The people of Bonaire had been so wonderful to me, and I felt completely at home after 40 years. Then I got a tip that they were looking for waiters at the Plaza. I went, they remembered my name, came up with my CV and I became the breakfast supervisor starting January 13. It worked out very well; everybody is happy with the results! Now I’m waiting for my wife and daughter to come and join me in July. Only then will my life be complete.

I had this dream: You have to come back to Bonaire because you have to finish something there. Because of this dream I’m looking for people who knew my father well. I’d like to talk to them as there are so many unanswered questions I have about him. But the main thing is: I’m back on my beloved Bonaire and after the turbulent life I lived I’m open to anything that’s coming.” □ *Greta Kooistra*



BONAIRE'S "WINDOWS": LA DANIA'S LEAP 1966

In November of 1966 I checked in a small group who informed me that they were NAUI hard core divers. They wanted the best, no matter how scary or difficult, because they were certified, and HE was their instructor. They pointed to a gruff looking little fellow who just bristled with authority. They called him Jock.

"What's your certification?" Jock asked as he glared up at me.

I pushed the guest register a little closer to him and motioned to the pen. "My certification is that I've done my thousand hours, and I'm still around to check you in." It was going to be an interesting week.

I motioned Jock aside. "Get your people comfortable. Then meet me down at the dock. Just mask, snorkel, and fins. No spear guns, please. We don't do that here any more."

There was a little growling among the troops; they wanted to dive NOW. "A little warm up," I said, "is the best thing for travel fatigue." I herded them toward the ocean and then, as they entered, watched each one's water skills. Jock was barking out orders like he was still a Marine drill sergeant.

They all looked fine. Then I saw her. She swam beautifully but repeatedly brought her head up out of the water and yanked the snorkel out of her mouth. She would gasp, look around, see the others, then reassured, return to her snorkeling. I made a mental note and returned to the business of running a hotel.

The following morning I heard, "Captain Don?" I turned to see a figure approaching up the small beach. Female, buxom, blonde hair. I returned my attention to our old Boston Whaler out on a mooring and quickly filling up with rain-water.

La Dania waded out to stand alongside me. "Captain Don, I'm scared. In a little while I do my open water dive, and Jock, he's so demanding. What happens if I get salt water in my eyes?" All her training had been in fresh water pools and this was her first time in the ocean.

"Did you know," I asked her, "that your tears are saltier than this sea?" I cupped a handful of water. "The sea," I told her, "is like part of us. As long as we can breathe and control our temperature we can become part of this wonderful ocean. Of course, there are a few other little things like pressure and such, but as long as you are in control, you can handle it."

I turned to leave, then swung back, and added, "I watched you yesterday, the way

you handled yourself in the water. You have nothing to be afraid of. You're part mermaid. Just be yourself." This girl was in desperate need of confidence and support, and her instructor was failing her.

Their first dive went well. La Dania was now a full-fledged certified diver. Jock's teaching had stopped, but the learning was just beginning.

The following morning I asked her to gear up, told her we were going to hike up the street a little ways. She looked at me oddly but showed up half an hour later, fully geared. She had flip-flops on her feet, and I told her to shuck them and put on her flippers. I had prepared a rag with some red paint and smeared it on the end of one fin. "For the rest of your life, this fin is on the right foot. Full foot fins will actually take the shape of each foot and be more comfortable if you give them a chance." Then I tied a four-inch red ribbon onto the edge of her mask. "Depth gauge. Bright red here, black at depth. Read it like litmus paper. The deeper you go, the blacker it gets. Understand?" She nodded.

"Stick that snorkel in your belt and hang your mask over it. Slide your gauge under your belt, so nothing drags. You were over weighted yesterday. Take off four pounds. Balance your weights, left and right. This tank and you are going to get married. Wherever your backbone goes, so does your tank."

La Dania's secret lessons had started. Every trick for entering the sea became hers. She was becoming the mermaid I had told her she was.

Day six, the final day of the vacation, and Jock was still barking. "Well, Captain Don, our last dive. Got anything really different for us?"

"Well, now," I said, "I have a very special dive for you. In fact, I'll even name it in your honor. How's that for a finale?"

The little Marine glared at me from under lowered eyelids and smirked, "The Jock Hammerlid Reef. I love it."

"By the way, Jock, this is a 'total commitment' dive. Once started," and I paused for emphasis, "there's no turning back. Okay?"

The truck ground to a stop where I had stacked a bunch of rocks at the edge of the road for a marker. It seemed like a mile from the sea, and I ordered, "Let's go, folks." They just stood there, bewildered. All but two: La Dania and myself. We geared up, fins and all, tanks tight to our backs, masks hanging from our snorkels, all loose gear stuck into our weight



belts and moved out onto the cactus trail, iron shore rock and all.

Within 12 minutes we had fetched the "breathing rock" and a minute later, the ledge from which we were to leap into a frothing sea. La Dania looked over the edge and down into the swirling water and said nothing. I smiled and she swelled with confidence.

Some minutes later, Sergeant Jock arrived with his patrol. He looked over the edge of the cliff and said, "You're crazy! Nobody could survive this!" He called his platoon back from the ledge. "Madness!" he screamed. "Sure death!" They pressed back from the edge of the cliff.

I took La Dania gently by the hand, led her to the ledge, glanced down at the sea, then at her. "Gear up! Let's go. A safe dive, everybody!" I flung my body far off the cliff, returned to the surface, and hollered, "Let's go, Jock. We have some great diving down here." The little Marine just peered at me over the edge and repeated, "You're crazy!"

I pointed to La Dania, shouting "In!" There was no delay. Her mask came down. She made two steps to the ledge, cocked her knees, did a little spring, and forward rolled off that ledge into the incoming wave. THAT surprised me a little bit.

The little Marine finally did get himself and his platoon into the water and, with some difficulties, finished the swim. However, for him, the last 1,000 feet was on the surface.

True to my word, I named that dive site for this group in November 1966. That window became the famous "La Dania's Leap" and is one of the most sought after reefs in Bonaire today. □ don





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Every once in a while the Moon and a star and a planet will call attention to themselves by forming exquisite triangles which usually last for only an evening. And next week we'll have an opportunity to see three such eye catching pieces of cosmic geometry.

This Saturday, February 19th, about 7 pm face

east, where about half way up from the horizon to the zenith, you'll see a grouping of four cosmic objects with the three brightest making a wonderful equal-sided triangle. The brightest object will be an exquisite 11-day-old waxing quarter Moon marking the first point of the triangle. And below it is the second brightest object, the wonderful ringed planet Saturn, which we are currently visiting with our Cassini space mission. And up to Saturn's left the brighter of the two brightest stars of Gemini, the twins, Pollux, which marks the third point of our triangle. Gemini's other bright star is Castor, so if you can't ignore Castor you could form a somewhat lopsided rectangle with it although the triangle will really jump out at you.

So here's our first triangle made up of a moon, a planet and a star: 1) our 2,000-mile-wide nearest neighbor, 249,000 miles away this Saturday; 2) 75,000-mile-wide Saturn, 770 million miles away on Saturday; and 3) whopping 9 1/2 million-mile-wide Pollux, 35 light years away this Saturday. Three vastly different cosmic objects in size and nature and at incredibly different distances away; yet all appearing to form a simple triangle to the casual observer here on Earth.

But for those of you who are not into equilateral triangles, just wait 24 hours and the Moon will have moved from being above Saturn and Pollux to below them and will form a somewhat stretched out but also very nice triangle for your early evening viewing pleasure.

And for those of you who prefer to do your viewing in early morning all you have to do is wait one week and on Sunday morning, February 27th at 6 am go outside and face southwest. An exquisite 18 day-old waning Moon will be parked right underneath the king of the planets, brilliant Jupiter, marking the two base points of an isosceles triangle, the third point being the much dimmer blue white star Spica the brightest star of Virgo the Virgin. And of course like our first triangle these objects too are different sizes and distances. Indeed on the 27th our 2,000-mile-wide Moon will be only 241,000 miles away; 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter will be only 432 million miles away; whereas 8-million-mile-wide Spica will be 275 light years beyond. And I suggest if you've got a pair of binoculars you'll want to look at Jupiter and the Moon because they'll be only 2 degrees apart, which means that only four full Moons could fit between them.

So there you have it: a super triangle on the morning of the 27th and two lovely triangles on the evenings of Saturday the 19th and Sunday the 20th. And that's the Sky Park cosmic geometry lesson for this week. □ Jack Horkheimer



The Sky Around Virgo



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
February 18-25, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21 - April 20) Make sure you concentrate if operating machinery or vehicles. A residential move may be necessary to get a better job. Offer love and affection instead of conflict and rejection. Be careful when dealing with loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21) You will be able to find the perfect outfit, and the greatest new accessory for your house. Tempers will mount if you are too pushy at work. You need to look into new philosophies. You may need a physical outlet that will help you relieve your tension. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Your emotions may get the better of you. Attempt to face key issues with lovers or problems could escalate. It is best not to upset the apple cart if you learn information that may damage a colleague's reputation. Your professional attitude will not go unnoticed. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) Do not jump to conclusions concerning your romantic partner. Don't exaggerate. Your lover will be annoyed with your participation. Be careful; your ideas are good but make sure that you're realistic and start off on solid ground. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 22) Your mate may not have been honest with you. You should focus on moneymaking matters and stay away from emotional disputes. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. You can make wonderful contributions to any organization that you join. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23) Take care of matters involving institutions or government agencies. You won't have to look for the action. Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones. Set your goals and stick to your guns. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23) You are going through a period of questioning. You are likely to be left alone if you aren't willing to bend just a little. Rid yourself of that which is old and no longer of use. Older family members may take advantage of you by making you feel guilty. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your ability to communicate with ease will win the hearts of those you are in touch with this week. You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. You may find it difficult to communicate with someone at work. You are best to be accommodating for the time being. Sudden romantic infatuations won't be lasting. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) You could find yourself left with someone's dirty laundry. Don't let jealous friends put you down, making you insecure about your capabilities. You'll be prone to tears if your mate is harsh with you this week. You will easily blow situations out of proportion. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan. 20) Large organizations may try to talk you out of your hard-earned cash. You need to take a break with the ones you love. You may want to take a look at your direction in life. Travel and creative hobbies will be your best outlet. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) You must try to lay your cards on the table. Talk to your mate and tell them how you feel. You will find that valuable knowledge can be gained if you are willing to listen. Take a short business trip if possible. Don't be too eager to start any debates. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20) Don't agree to make any of those cosmetic alterations you've been considering. Organizations may cost you more than you can afford. You need an energetic outlet that will help you dissipate your anxiety. Don't let someone you work with put words in your mouth. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. □