

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

February 25 to March 4, 2005 Volume 13, Issue 8

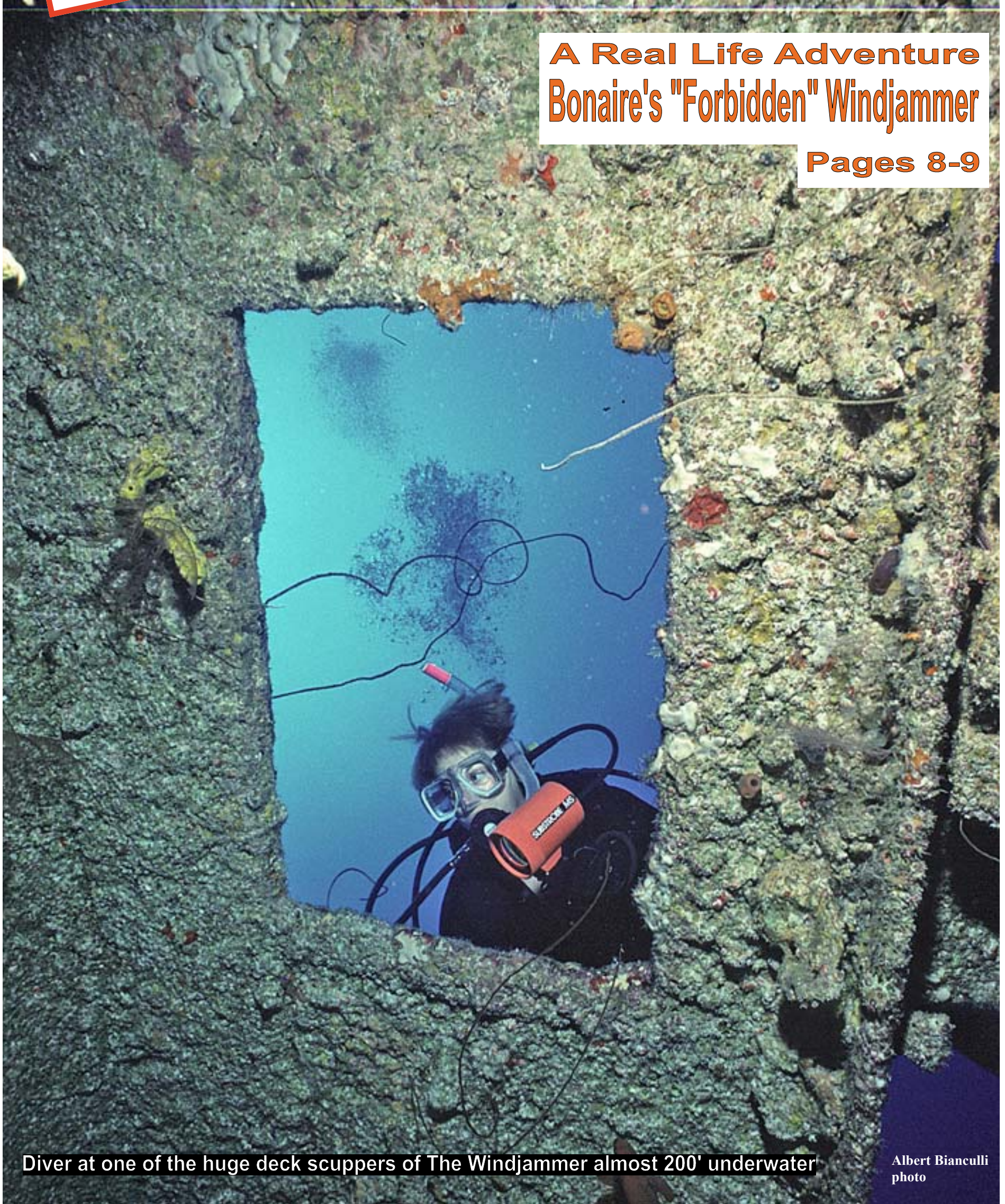
# The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

**A Real Life Adventure  
Bonaire's "Forbidden" Windjammer**

**Pages 8-9**



Diver at one of the huge deck scuppers of The Windjammer almost 200' underwater

Albert Bianculli  
photo

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



**B**onaire is getting its own Jazz Festival. While it's well known as "divers paradise" and an excellent place for windsurfing and sailing it's also a music-filled island with a variety of folk music combined with reggae, salsa, tumba and of course Latin and Caribbean jazz.

The Bonaire Jazz Festival - 2005 is being organized for all lovers and practitioners of that type of music.

**The festival is set for May 20, 21 and 22;** coinciding with the King of the Caribbean, World Championship for Freestyle windsurfing. And you can get in on the ground floor if you come to City Café this Friday, February 25, between 6 and 9 pm to listen to some jazz and get full details of the exciting upcoming event. Sponsors are now being signed up. If you want to assist with financial or services sponsorship call Guus Gerritsen at 717-4496, or email [guusgerritsen@bonairelive.com](mailto:guusgerritsen@bonairelive.com).

► **Dutch Eagle Express (DEE), the company that controls BonairExel and CuraçaoExel, has announced that it has changed the names of the airlines to BonairExpress and CuraçaoExpress.** Speculation is that the name change is to distance it from the crumbling AirExel Group in Holland and emphasize its independence. DEE recently signed contracts to lease its three turboprop aircraft directly from ATR, their builder, instead of AirExel.

The new contract includes the delivery of parts, which was a problem in the past, causing frequent cancellations and delays. DEE is now flying among the ABC islands and to St. Maarten on reliable schedules. In a press release the company promised to work on maintaining and further improving its "on time" performance.

► According to published reports in the Dutch daily newspaper, *De Telegraph*, the **Exel empire continues its tailspin.** Founders Eric De Vlieger and Bonaire resident Niek Sandmann, the 50-50 shareholders, have had to relinquish control of HollandExel to legal administrators who will attempt reorganize the airline so it can keep its commitments to tour operators and continue flying. In fact the tour operator TUI may take over the airline and invest additional capital.

► The flight service company, American Sales & Management, is adamant in holding the former **DCA management, three ex- Curaçao Island**

**Commissioners and the island territory of Curaçao personally liable** in its claim of NAf800.000 against the bankrupt airline. The case against the administrators in question, that was supposed to start last week, was postponed to March 14.

► **Last Thursday the Zero Tolerance squad set up roadblocks** from 6:30 am to 12:30 pm at several locations around the island to check for cars without 2005 licenses. As a result there were 104 verbal warnings given and 28 cars were confiscated (until payment of the fee and fine are made). According to the police the monitoring will intensify in the coming days. Enforcement was delayed from Monday, February 14 (as mentioned in an earlier edition of *The Reporter*), because the police cars did not have their own 2005 number plates. The Central Government was tardy in sending the necessary funds to the Island Ontvanger (Collector).

► **Interested in knowing the fines to pay for breaking local vehicle laws?** The following information was released this Monday from the Police Department:

- Driving without a valid driver's license - NAf200
- Driving without valid insurance- NAf400
- Driving without paid-up road tax- NAf150
- Driving without proper paperwork (insurance, driver's license, road tax payment) in the car- NAf25 for each document

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- Having an invalid number plate- NAf50, or not displaying a valid plate in the rear-NAf50.
- Speeding fines for speeds above the limits are < 15 km = NAf50 , 15-20 km = NAf75 , 21-25 km = NAf100, 25-30 km = NAf150, > 30 km = NAf200. You can contest it or pay your fines at the Justice Court in Fort Oranje.

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Published **weekly**. For information about **subscriptions, stories** or **advertising** in *The Bonaire Reporter*, phone (599) 717-8988, 791-7252, fax 717-8988, E-mail to: **Reporter@bonairenews.com** *The Bonaire Reporter*, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

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

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

**NEW NATURE FEE  
-A CLEVER MOVE!**

Dear Editor:

I believe it is a self evident fact that the more people who use a natural resource the greater the negative impact this use has. However, "more is better" has been human nature since time immemorial. By charging user fees the incentive is there for resource managers to encourage people to use our natural resources, perhaps to excess. For example, in the United States, the Cape Cod National Seashore in an area two thirds the size of Bonaire has an incredible 5 million visitors annually. Most of the visitor's revenues go toward mitigating damage caused by these same visitors. Some natural resource managers have now concluded that environmental protection should take precedence over usage. I am gratified to see that STINAPA has embraced the new "less is better" philosophy. Fewer visitors have less of a negative environmental impact, and this is definitely a good thing especially if the existing revenues can be maintained. This last part is very important as resource managers are also realists and budget cuts are to be avoided at all costs. Environmentalists joke that the ultimate aim of the "less is better" policy is to have one visitor per year who is willing to pay the entire annual budget of the operating authority. And take all the staff out to lunch.

STINAPA's solution of how to discourage visitors from coming to Bonaire is very well thought out. Alienating thousands of divers would have a very serious affect on revenue. It is much better to get a lot of revenue off of them first. Increasing the cost of the dive tags to \$25 will greatly increase revenue but will not discourage visitors as they won't find out about the increase until they arrive and then it will be too late. Doubling the cost of the tags every year will probably catch the majority of divers by surprise every year for at least the next few years. By the time they catch on and begin to go elsewhere STINAPA should be in fine financial shape.

In the shorter term, doubling the mooring fees is an excellent idea. With prices doubled, if less than half the boats go elsewhere, which I think will be true, then STINAPA comes out ahead four ways: 1) fewer visitors, the whole point of the new policy. 2) more revenue. 3) less mooring usage, less maintenance required. 4) fewer users, fewer complaints about mooring maintenance. Incidentally, enlisting the assistance of Immigration in ousting those willing to pay the new fees after 90 days on island is truly innovative.

It has been pointed out that fewer visitors will have a negative financial affect on the rest of the island. This is indeed unfortunate and I applaud STINAPA for taking a stand and doing what they were created to do. Namely, protecting Bonaire's valuable and irreplaceable natural resources.

Webster (Web) Burrfish



BMP photo

*Marine Park Ranger at Lac Bay*

**KUDOS FOR THE WEB CREWS**

Dear Editor:

About the situation at WEB:

I want to say one thing: shame on all those who feel it necessary to call the WEB office and yell at the receptionists: who feel it necessary to shout at the work crews using foul language and calling them unprintable names. Shame on you all. You are acting like spoiled children who did not get exactly what they wanted.

If it were not for the valiant efforts of those work crews, and all levels of management at WEB, Bonaire would be much worse off, for a much longer period than we are. Those work crews *been working without a day off* for two, sometimes three weeks: have been working 15 to 18 hour days, waking up tired and going back to another long day; have been working ill and exhausted so that all of Bonaire can have as much electricity as possible. They have put their lives and their families on the side in order to serve the public and meet their obligations to the best of their abilities. They have done a phenomenal job.

Generators do not grow on palm trees. Nor are they made on the island. To replace them takes not only time, and money, but also planning and expertise. The suggestion that they replace them with alternative power sources is a decent proposal for the environment at least: but one cannot just throw up a few windmills and connect them just like that. They must be fit into the existing systems, and backed up with other power sources to ensure continuity of distribution.

I remember when I first moved to Bonaire 15+ years ago it was NORMAL for the power to go out. How quickly we forget and become spoiled. I assure you that the work force at WEB is doing their absolute utmost to solve the difficult situation they are in and restore Bonaire to 100% capacity. In the meantime I believe it is our duty as citizens of this community to SUPPORT and APPLAUD their efforts; and also to contribute in very real ways by limiting our personal consumption of power to the least we can manage.

Elise Serous-Dietrich

**BRISTLING OVER BRISTLEWORMS**

Dear Editor:

As a frequent visitor to Bonaire I have always enjoyed reading *The Bonaire Reporter*. It has been a place to catch up on the latest news and take the pulse of life on Bonaire. However, the recent article, "Diving with Dee Bristleworms" was alarming and downright irresponsible.

The reason I come to Bonaire is because the diving is great. It has remained great because the government and the dive industry on the Island have worked hard to maintain the delicate reef structure. The Marine Park is a "No Touch" sanctuary where visitors can observe marine creatures much as they have existed for thousands of years.

The article written by Dee Scarr, which appears in the Feb. 11 to 18, 2005 edition, not only advocates handling marine creatures, but advocates handling dangerous ones.

When divers handle any creature it increases their stress levels threatening their very lives. By moving creatures from their safe environment, even if by a few feet, it increases their chances of becoming food for some predator. The handling of dangerous creatures, like bristle worms, also puts divers' lives at risk. Who knows what reaction a diver might have if "accidentally" stung by a bristleworm? A panicked diver could easily lose his/her life following Dee Scarr's advice.

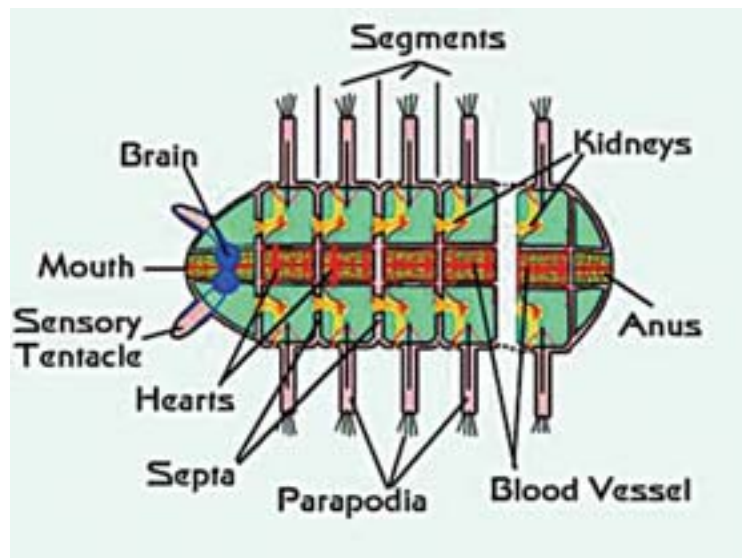
I believe *The Bonaire Reporter* has an obligation to promote adherence to all local laws and should condemn all who promote any actions which threaten wildlife and the safety of divers.

Sal Guida

(Continued on page 5)

(Letters. Continued from page 4)

DEE SCARR REPLIES



Inside a bristleworm

Dear Mr. Guida,

It's always a shock to find out that someone has heard or read something in a very different way than it was intended, isn't it? I felt that shock when I read your letter about my "Bristleworm" article.

I cannot find anywhere in the article that I advocated handling any marine creatures, although I suppose people might assume that from the photo. The reason I occasionally allow bristleworms to crawl on my hand is to demonstrate that the mere possession of defense mechanisms doesn't mean an animal will use them. The result of this knowledge is that people learn to respect rather than fear marine animals. They enjoy their dives more, do more diving, and help protect the seas and their inhabitants as a routine part of their lives.

The term "handling" itself does not reflect anything I discussed in the Bristleworm article or anything I recommend, advocate, or do. I agree completely with you that handling a creature can increase its stress levels, and you're certainly correct that moving some creatures, even only a few inches, can be stressful or fatal. I guess I didn't make it sufficiently clear in the article that bristleworms are NOT among the creatures who could be stressed by such a move. Unlike, say, a Pederson's cleaner shrimp, which rarely – if ever -- travels more than a few inches away from its anemone, bristleworms routinely follow scents to their sources from three or more feet away.

When I wrote that "no fish ever came within inches of a bristleworm" I thought it would be clear that fish don't eat bristleworms. Sal, in thousands of hours underwater, I've never seen a single fish – adult or juvenile, small or large, predator or nibbler or gobbler – or any other marine animal show any interest whatsoever in a bristleworm, except to avoid it. The only creature I've ever seen lying dead underwater, without attracting one single creature to feed on it, is a bristleworm.

You're right, however, that I shouldn't have moved the jar before I counted the bristleworms; even though they weren't endangered it wasn't considerate of me to give them the extra distance to travel.

Now, about divers and bristleworms. It is truly horrible when any diver, ever, panics and dies. In fact, I wonder if people aren't *more likely* to feel panic about something when they're being warned all the time. "Don't touch a bristleworm, it has bristles that can come off in your skin and poison too!" might make someone panic when they discovered that they had, accidentally, touched a bristleworm. Could they reach the surface before becoming unconscious from this deadly poison? Would they be more likely to bolt for the surface?

My assistant, Dustin Abraham, was about 11 years old and looking at a seahorse when his knee brushed against a bristleworm we hadn't seen. He looked down, moved away from the bristleworm, and made a few faces at the rest of us while pointing at the worm and his knee. We signaled, "Shall we end the dive?" and Dustin replied "YES!" and that was the end of it, except for Dustin's knee, which hurt for a few hours that seemed like a few days to Dustin.

It takes more than a surprise bristleworm contact to cause a good diver to panic, and one of the characteristics of a good diver is comfort around marine animals, not fear.

The bristleworm was fine, by the way.

Sal, thanks for your feedback on "Bristleworms," and I hope I've clarified how your concerns relate to these creatures. Teaching people how not to stress marine animals is very important; I thank you for helping clarify some issues for me.

Dee Scarr

*Editor's note: The BMP brochure says "don't touch or feed animals without expert guidance." With her decades of experience as an underwater naturalist Ms. Scarr, in our opinion, qualifies as an expert.*

A NEW COMMUNISM?

Dear Editor:

Imagine, one morning you wake up and when getting ready to go to work you notice that your car is gone and replaced by another one. A note under your windshield wipers explains that new Government regulations require that everybody needs to drive the same car. Color is also determined: green.

In the office you don't hear your favorite radio station playing anymore and a program you never listened to before is the only program you can find. Within five minutes the broadcaster reads a message that the Government has decided that as of today we can listen to only one radio station.

When your secretary comes in to bring your coffee and newspaper you look at her when she serves the coffee you never drank because you didn't like the taste and puts the newspaper on your desk you never read because you were not impressed with its quality. Before you can ask anything she says; "Sorry sir, but as of today Government regulations require that you can drink only the Government recognized coffee and read only the Government approved newspaper."

Is this a dream? A nightmare? Orwell's 1984? No, it is Bonaire 2005!

Five years ago a group of like-minded hospitality experts and investors got together and founded the Bonaire Hospitality Group (BHG). Today the group is composed of entrepreneurs that have invested over NAf60 million on Bonaire and hospitality trained professionals who have an open and creative approach that proved to be successful for their companies. Together they employ close to 200 persons on the island.

Using the self-concocted excuse that two hotel associations are not good for the development of Bonaire tourism, the Island Government and BONHATA are trying to isolate the BHG by excluding them in communications and tradeshows with their ultimate goal to eliminate a successful organization that has been recognized by the Dutch Crown via the Governor of the Netherlands Antilles as a legal association.

A legal association yes, but the BHG doesn't pretend to be a hotel association. The BHG is a marketing organization of hospitality experts that have chosen to bundle their marketing efforts. A deeper motivation for some local politicians and some BONHATA members to eliminate the BHG is personal revenge, ignorance and the lack of vision that dualism creates a positive environment where dogmas get challenged and creativity prevails.

BHG doesn't ask for much! Just their – like everybody's - right of freedom of choice, the right for information and their share in the opportunities that are being created through the collection of Room Tax to which the BHG contributes a considerable percentage; like participating in trade shows. The present attempt to exclude the BHG from all those basic – civil – rights might be a sign of fear. The fear to think-beyond-the-nine-digits (thinking "unconventionally," "out-of-the-box" Ed.) and the fear to be questioned and to be held accountable.

Bert H. Gadoed

*The Bonaire Reporter* welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number or e-mail address. Letters without that information will not be published.

If a writer wishes to remain anonymous or just use initials we will honor the request. Letters should not be more than 400 words in length and may be edited at the Editor's discretion. Send letters or diskettes to *The Bonaire Reporter*, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire; via fax 717-8988 or E-mail: [letters@bonairenews.com](mailto:letters@bonairenews.com)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

► **What to do with your old license plates?** Drop them off at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road. They'll sell them to interested parties and all the money goes to the Shelter.

► After several delays **the trial of the suspects from the Sabadeco burglary** will be on Friday, February 25, in Bonaire. The public is permitted to view the proceedings at the Justice Court in Fort Oranje.



► **The TCB is considering a new approach to the Bonaire Dive Festival for 2006.** This year, for the first time since 1998, there will be no Dive Festival. Originally organized as an educational and pop-science event with top speakers like Sylvia Earle, it evolved into a broad-based, two-week long affair that last year attracted hundreds of participants, a big jump following the removal of a participation fee. While the Festival was always a big success in terms of contributing to Bonaire's image as a pioneer in the protection of the marine environment, it

was questionable whether it ever was an economic success. Sponsors like *Scuba Diving Magazine* and the Coral Reef Alliance that supported the initiative in its formative years are no longer able to do so.

► Individuals involved in Bonaire's cultural affairs, including government Commissioner Reginald Dortalina, Hubert Vis of the Culture Section-SKAL and Arthur Sealy had a meeting with the Central Government's Minister of Culture, Maritsa Silberie. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the policy of the Central Government with regard to **privatizing the Section of Culture, Art and Literature.** Arthur Sealy is the project's coordinator. The delegation talked with the Minister about her policy and the availability of funds from the Netherlands for the culture in the islands.

► **Bonaire's well-known anti-establishment lawyer, Michiel Bijkerk, is joining the establishment.**



He announced to the press that he is suspending his private law practice for about six months to devote 100% of his time to work for the island's Executive Council (the "BC"). He will focus on working out proposals for changing the political structure with regard to the changing relationship

► There's a new activity at the Jong Bonaire Youth Center. **It's golf.** Using the Piedra So course at Washikemba, Center coordinator Bilha Thomas-Evertsz with coaches Kees v/d Bijl and Tanneke Bartels have made arrangements to have up to 12 Jong Bonaire members learn and enjoy the game. In an upcoming issue we will follow up on this interesting development which may provide employment opportunities for Bonairean youngsters



Golfers at the Piedra So course

among the Netherlands Antilles, the Netherlands, and Bonaire.

Bijkerk achieved national attention with his hunger strikes against police brutality in the 80s. He has also been criticized as being responsible for the present situation where police must obtain excessive evidence before making an arrest.

► **STINAPA has named a new Board of Directors** to be led by President Evo Cicilia and Secretary Ronella Croes. According to its charter, the STINAPA board is to be composed of 11 members, seven from stakeholder groups and two from the government and two from the general public. Four members were recently added: Papy Cicilia and Evo Cicilia for the government, Ronella Croes from the TCB, and Corine Gerharts from BONHATA.

Other BONHATA members include Bruce Bowker (Dive Operators), Jack Chalk, Jeanette Nolen (Vice President), Herbert Piar (Treasurer) and Diana St. Jago. There are vacancies for the seats of the representatives of the fishermen and farmers (*kunukeros*). STINAPA is charged with the protection of Bonaire's environment.

► Yes, 10 am on a Sunday is way toooo early for Horeca chefs. But with dedication and drive and lots of coffee, the **Bonaire Culinary Team started its first practice.** It was a huge success, even with one of the members missing.

Coach Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn supplied a mystery basket, which was no mystery to talented chefs. With more fine tuning, they will be ready for the "Taste of the Caribbean" competition

(Continued on page 7)

*Flotsam and Jetsam. (Continued from page 6)*  
June 26 to 29 in Miami.

Dessert artist, Isidoor van Riemsdijk of Rum Runners created a tropical island -a.k.a. "Castaways" with beautiful flavors.

To aid in their practice within two weeks the team will be ready to offer lunches to the public for tasting: day, time and place to be decided. As it has been in the past this will be to help raise money for the team to go to Miami. Price will be reasonable and food will be fun and educational. Of course wine is always available.

► Washington-Slagbaai Park Manager Fernando Simal let us know that **beginning this coming Saturday, February 26, Mrs. Swinda E. Trinidad will be selling local food during the weekends** at the Visitors Center (entrance) in Washington Slagbaai National Park. She will offering breakfast and lunch, starting at 8 am. Mrs. Swinda has been a favorite for many years at the Marshé de Rincon thanks to her delicious local recipes. If you would like more information or to order your favorite local dish ahead, please call Swinda at the following telephone numbers: 527-4730 or 717-6302.

► Jake and Linda Richter's NetTech NV announced that it has expanded its offerings with a recent successful merger with Susan Davis' Bonaire-based Caribbean Design & Marketing Consultants (CDMC). CDMC does website design and has been Bonaire's premier web designer for the last two years.

"This merger will greatly benefit all of our existing and future clients, as it means that NetTech now becomes a one-stop shop for all Internet marketing from developing marketing strategies to implementing them via state of the art web sites using the latest tools and server technology," said Jake Richter.

To celebrate this new collaboration, NetTech is offering a 10% discount on any new banner advertisements placed on Bonaire's Official Web Site, www.InfoBonaire.com, between February 18th and March 31st, 2005. For more information, contact Jake Richter or Susan Davis by phone at 717-6773 or email: info@nettech.an.

► **Digital photo fans alert: Paradise Photo** (see ad on page 15) can now turn your digital images into studio quality prints. They can accept the images from the "card" in your camera (just about any media is OK: flash, Xd, SmartMedia, CF etc.) memory stick or floppy disk. And the cost is less than you can do yourself on your PC or Mac printer. They can also put your images on a CD.

► **Put it on your calendar:** the annual **Special Olympics Fundraiser Fashion Show by designer Padrino** – April 16 – at Croccantino Restaurant, 7:30 pm. Last year it was an outstanding success with fabulous clothes modeled by charming local ladies and gentlemen. Padrino is an up and coming young Venezuelan couturier whose work in the theatre and on the runway has put him at the top of the international fashion scene. Your NA/125 do-

nation gives you a multi-course Tuscan dinner and the show. Tickets go on sale next week. Call 717-5025.

► **Remember to say, "The Reporter sent me,"** when visiting the shops and restaurants advertising in this issue. It's because of them that *The Reporter* is "Still Free." □ L./G.D.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to Riane Jansen and Jopi Abraham on their Valentine's Day wedding. Jopie Abraham is a Senator in the country's parliament and Riane is the owner and former operator of the Blue Moon Restaurant. □

Readers are invited to send photos of their anniversaries, engagements or weddings to *The Reporter*.



► We told you that more **Buddy Dive upgrades and improvements** were on the way. They've expanded the gear room to double the space for gear. (see photo). And just opened is a new "classroom" the perfect spot for

dive orientations, dive courses and fore meeting space to groups. Located in the retail shop of former Bon Bini Divers, it's an air-conditioned 430-square foot room complete with TV, full size screen and a video/DVD player. Other AV-equipment, like a beamer, can be rented upon request. Need more information on securing this space for your group? Please contact Corinna (diveshop@buddydive.com) or Heleen (reservations@buddydive.com).

## The "Forbidden" Windjammer



The Mairi Bhan in port

Our descent is filled with excitement and anticipation. My heart pounds as I slowly fall through the clear sunlit turquoise water. I strain my eyes to get that first glimpse of our target in the deep indigo blue void below. The reef disappears at 100 feet as we maintain our course and angle our dive out to sea to conserve our precious air supply. The only sound is the rhythmic rush of bubbles from our exhaled breath.

Barbara, my dive partner, and I had returned to our favorite Caribbean island, Bonaire, just 12 degrees above the equator, for a brief Christmas/New Year holiday. We planned to explore more of the volcanic, arid island topside and return to some special dive sites we had selected from our previous log books.

Today we chose the wreck of the *Mairi Bhan*. It is the famous "Forbidden" Windjammer, built in Scotland in 1874, with a steel hull and three tall masts. Her last voyage ended one fateful day in 1912 when she literally hit the shore of Bonaire, just off the northwest coast at the current site of the BOPEC petroleum depot. She is uncharted and considered too deep for the inexperienced recreational diver. The location does not appear in the Bonaire Marine Park Guide and the wreck is not an indexed dive site.

The main mast, over 120 feet tall, snapped off and broke into three pieces. It now marks the grave of this once proud sailing ship. The topmast lies on the shallow reef terrace at a depth of 25 feet and points toward the sea where the hull now lies. We intercept this marker

as we snorkel parallel to shore from our entry point at the old fishing pier. The wind at our backs makes it an easy swim.

At first sight we alter our heading and continue, on the surface, to seaward in search of the crow's nest and the two lower sections of the gigantic tubular mast. About 100 yards from shore the reef slopes sharply downward and begins to fade from view.

... Now we begin our dive back into time ...

We set our watches, check our direction, adjust our compass heading, and purge our buoyancy vests of air. Slipping below the surface, I hear the bubbles rising from my exhaust and watch the sunbeams penetrate the soft warm liquid of the sea that now enfolds my body.

**"On those past dives, we have had up to 10 minutes to explore the wreck and shoot a roll of film, before consuming half our air supply. Today I know it will be a brief five-minute excursion. This shortened visit should allow enough reserves for our planned 20 minutes of safety decompression stops."**

Our dive plan is to descend to 60 feet or less, until we sight the lower sections of the mast, to conserve our air and bottom time. The main hull lies at 140 to 190 feet below the surface with the bow angled downward to the sandy shelf at 200 feet.

"I see it ... I see it ..." I hear my brain shout as I sight the wreckage of the crow's nest.

It is barely recognizable in the tangled maze of rigging, sponges, and nearly a century of marine growth. I signal to Barbara and point the way as she nods her recognition. We have discussed our dive plan and rehearsed our silent hand, eye, and body language to keep each other informed throughout the dive. Each of us can detect any abnormal behavior in the other, a vital asset since nitrogen narcosis can alter judgment and function below 100 feet.

Following the mast, the ambient light begins to fade at 120 feet and I check my compass heading in anticipation of my first glimpse of the overturned hull, festooned with round globes of brain coral and thousands of six-foot strands of wire coral, a sight etched in my memory of previous visits. Today, we plan to explore the rear portion of the 240-foot-long wreck starting at the stern mast. It is still attached to the hull, spiked into the sand below, keeping the ship from rolling over and perhaps sinking further into the depths, beyond our reach.

There she is ... directly ahead of us! Instinctively I alter our descent and head directly to the spot where I believe the mast should be. It is now hidden from my view by the massive underside of the hull, bathed in the dim sunlight. I swim harder, with Barbara close behind and always nodding when our eyes meet. We reach the hull at 160 feet, just slightly aft of mid-ships and turn toward the stern. A mild current has pushed us too far forward and the swim has consumed some of our vital air reserves.

I contemplate our options for a few seconds and decide to go over the side and enter the hull to get out of the current. I am carrying the camera and strobes, and I know their added resistance has increased my air consumption in relation to my partner's.

**My accumulated experience of over 2,500 dives, logged in the past 20 years, and six previous visits to the forbidden Windjammer, had taught me to leave nothing to chance.** On those past dives, we have had up to 10 minutes to explore the wreck and shoot a roll of film, before consuming half our air supply. Today I know it will be a brief five-minute excursion. This shortened visit should allow enough reserves for our planned 20 minutes of safety decompression stops.

I glance at Barbara and she indicates that she is experiencing slight discomfort and lightheadedness. I signal her to swim toward the stern, knowing she will be on an ascent profile. After several kicks and 10 quick flashes of the strobe through the bare deck ribs, I turn to face my partner at the mast outside the wreck. I flash the "OK" sign and she returns it with a nod. I signal her to turn on her light and she responds, a good sign that the narcosis has subsided and we can continue according to plan.

**The view from inside is awesome. The wood decking has rotted away and exposed the steel ribs which form a dark, evenly spaced, geometric pattern against the light sand below. Above me, along the gunwale, there is a row of portholes that frame the bright clear blue water near the surface with contrasting blackness.**

Ahead there is a forest of curly wire corals of every color reaching out horizontally like feelers of giant hidden lobsters, waiting to touch a predator or prey. My eyes search the blackness for a sign of the giant grouper we have been told is in residence on the wreck.

I reach the stern and examine the

skeleton of the steering mechanism of the square rigger. The entire section is reinforced with cross braces and extra ribs to take the strain of the massive rudder just outside the hull. The curve of the stern rail is set off with a series of evenly spaced, round portholes making a semi-circular arc of blue lights.

I exit the hull and signal to Barbara as I position her at the tiller for several poses with her hand-held light showing off the sponges and tube corals. The current pushes her close to the superstructure and reminds me that we must move on. I glance at my beeping watch and pressure gauge and signal her to follow me around the stern to the rudder.

I see the flat plane of the rudder for the first time and notice that it is fixed amidships. For a moment I wonder why it was not set for a turn to avoid the sure collision with the shore 90 years ago. On the underside, it is decorated with thousands of orange tube corals now retracted in the daytime light. The top side has brain coral, sponges, and wire coral all competing for space and sunlight.

**What I see next instantly snaps me back to reality. Just ahead, swirling in a huge silver mass is a school of large Horse-eyed Jacks hovering under the massive rudder and hull. They react to our rapid advance and turn in unison to escape our approach.** Pushed by the current at our backs, we zoom in to watch ... "a river of silver" ... go around the hull and into the safety of the darkness we recently vacated.

I turn to Barbara and see her eyes staring at the school. She glances toward me with a big smile on her face. I signal her to follow me to the nearby reef where the main mast now lies, pointing the way back to the surface. We reach the mast with little effort and I realize that we will have an easy return ascent with the help of the current running to the south.

**We reach the crow's nest at 60 feet and pause for a one-minute inspection and buoyancy adjustment. Our breathing has slowed to a relaxed pace and we are entering the decompression phase of our dive.** We have three additional safety stops planned: two minutes at 30 feet, eight minutes at 20 feet, and a final 10 minutes at 10 feet before we reach the surface. Unlike other deep dives, our decompression time will be spent exploring a virgin reef all the way to the surface.

The tropical fish surround us as we ascend to the 30-foot level. Suddenly I hear a crunching noise, getting louder and louder. I survey the reef before us and see the dark outline of a large fish, head down, in the distance. Surely this cannot be the source of the noise. As we silently approach, aided by the now slower current, I recognize the unmistakable coloration and shape of a magnificent Midnight Parrot Fish, at least three feet long. I shout through my regulator and point to the munching fish. The alien sound startles the grazing fish that momentarily looks at us

(Continued on page 9)



# YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS PAGES

*(Windjammer. Continued from page 8)*

and immediately swims toward the depths to escape our threatening approach.

I turn to Barbara and she flashes an enthusiastic “OK” signal, three times. I return the signal and indicate our ascent to the 20-foot level and our next decompression stage. Here the light from the sun illuminates all the marine life with a bright sparkle. We see French Angelfish, Blue-striped Grunts, a small school of Goatfish grazing in the sand, and a beautiful mature White-spotted Filefish in its orange phase. He hovers to look us over and then returns to nibbling on some branching fire coral. The time passes quickly as we are swayed by the surface swell, and we have now reached our last safety stop at 10 feet.

I notice that we are near our entry point, marked by large tires and other debris from the old pier. Our air is running low, but we are well within the safe limits of our planned profile and safety decompression. The bottom is covered in algae and there are many Lettuce-leaf nudibrachs grazing in the nooks and crannies.

Our dive is over, now just a memory to be relived in our logs and photos. I signal Barbara to follow me through the shallow channel between the rocks to the beach and the colorful fishing boats, now resting from their daily work at sea. We exit the water and greet the warm sun with joy. Now, our endless discussion about the exhilarating dive, confirms our plans to return tomorrow to The “Forbidden” Windjammer. □  
*Story and photo by Albert Bianculli ©*



*The deck capstan about 200' underwater now has sponges for capstan bars.*

*On Sundays, be sure to go and see Bonaire Holiday—A multi-media dual-projector production by author Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat.*

## KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

*Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides*

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
2-25	3:04	1.3FT.	82
2-26	3:30	1.4FT.	84
2-27	4:00	1.5FT.	83
2-28	4:42	1.6FT.	79
3-01	5:37	1.7FT.	73
3-02	6:23	1.8FT.	65
3-03	7:17	1.9FT.	58
3-04	8:04	2.0FT.	54

## VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

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



# Bonaire to the Roques — *by air*

*The airplane flies low enough to give a bird's-eye view of the islands.*

Looking for a great side trip from Bonaire but want to keep in the unspoiled spirit of the islands? You can do it by spending a day in Los Roques, the Venezuelan islands about 100 miles to the east of Bonaire. Los Roques, a Venezuelan National Park, is an atoll of about 340 islets and reefs north of the mainland. There are long stretches of white beaches and almost 20 km of coral reef with crystal-clear waters ideal for snorkeling and diving. And you can be there in just two hours. It is the eastern boundary of the trans-border UN World Heritage Site. Bonaire is the western boundary

Jasta Travel and Transaven Airlines, which have been operating flights from Bonaire to Valencia and Maiquetia (Caracas) since last November, will

now be offering a special Bonaire-Los Roques-Bonaire flight every Monday (with a brief stop coming and going at Maiquetia airport for Immigration). Monday flights begin on March 7. Their smooth, fast 19-seat, twin-engine turboprop plane is your private transportation for the day, and you're treated like royalty all the way.

You leave Bonaire at 7 am, arriving at Maiquetia at 8. You leave Maiquetia at 8:30 and arrive at the airport on Grand Roque at 9 am. After checking into the Park you're met by a typical Venezuelan power boat that whisks you across the water to the island of Franciski and/or Madrizqui. Included is snorkel equipment, soft drinks a cold buffet on the beach and a beach umbrella and chairs. You have the whole day to enjoy the natural beauty, sea and sun of these

remote, mostly uninhabited islands. Close to the airport on the island of Grand Roque is the sand-street town. It's extremely picturesque and is home to a couple of dive shops, 72 tiny bars, restaurants and posadas (small inns).

A full day with the service listed above is \$330 per person, but they're running a special promotion – two people for \$550. (Airport taxes and park entrance fee are not included). Call Jasta Travel at 717-9444 and ask for Maria or Stanley.

*Several Grand Roque inns have been spruced up by their new Italian owners.*



*One of the many deserted beaches you'll find.*

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# Bonaire Musing

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

## Getting to Bonaire: Part Three

Over a cup of coffee, with the sun just beginning to rise, I've been enjoying a special sight two or three mornings each week: the back-to-back ATR departures: one to San Juan (American Eagle) and the other to Aruba (BonairExpress - BXS). Both tend to leave right on time (7 am), and it is fun to see who gets off the ground first. One turns north, the other west, and the day begins, giving the viewer a brief reverie of journeys to distant lands. (I used to get the same romantic “charge” out of KLM's 5 pm departure to Lima, wondering what the folks are sipping up there as they chase the sun west to a truly distant land.)

I share this vignette as a way of saying how vital and emotional the travel connections are to our island. These two 7 am flights give the North American traveler a good jump on the day. Both connect with American Airline flights which will take you to the mainland and then on to a multitude of North American destinations. Yet both flights are fragile: Eagle runs only two or three days a week (depending upon demand), and BXS runs daily, but its long-term future is uncertain.

**Now, here is flight information for travelers to and from Canada and from the West Coast of the US.** The dates I chose were an April 5 arrival in Bonaire, with an April 13 return, which allows for direct comparisons between all competing airlines (Eagle arrives on a Tuesday evening and leaves on Wednesday morning). Note that the times are set for Daylight Savings (which starts March 27, I believe), and the prices quoted are as of February 20 and subject to change. I chose mid-week days as the least expensive way to travel.

First off the ground in all ways is Air Jamaica out of Los Angeles (LAX). Their LAX flight to Montego Bay runs six days a week, and they connect four days of the week to Bonaire (Wed/



Thurs/Sat/Sun). You leave LAX at 11 pm, arriving Jamaica at 6 am, with a four-hour layover (take a taxi into town for breakfast and a walk on the beach?), and you arrive Bonaire at 2:20 pm. Your return connection is better, leaving at 3:10 pm, connecting at 5:45, arriving LAX at 9:50 pm. Of course, on Bonaire, the time is actually 12:50 am, so you might want to overnight rather than continue on to another destination. The current fare is \$654, which is better than many East Coast flights to Bonaire (see my earlier articles for that information.)

**I explored flights and fares from San Francisco (SFO), Seattle-Tacoma (SEA), and Vancouver (YVR) on American and United.** American—probably because of a Caribbean sale they have announced, *which must be ticketed by March 2*—has a very attractive fare from SEA to Bonaire. As with Air Jamaica, you have to do an overnight flight; however, you have to take four flights going down (instead of two from LA). You leave SEA at 11:30 pm, change planes in Dallas (DFW), Miami (MIA), and San Juan (SJU), arriving Bonaire around 8 pm on the next day. The return is much better, leaving Bonaire at 8 am and arriving SEA

around 8 pm, with only three flights vs. four. The current sale price is \$649, which is down \$200 from a few weeks ago. Great time to get a friend to come down from the Northwest!

By comparison, American's fare from SFO (three flights down, three flights back) is currently at \$782, and from YVR the fare is \$999 (four flights down, three flights back), the latter reflecting the cost of flying out of an international city vs. domestic. United Airlines can fly you from all four cities—LA, SFO, SEA, and YVR—via Chicago to Aruba (AUA), but most involve an overnight in Chicago, coming and/or going, as well as the cost of BXS to Bonaire from Aruba. The combined fares for United's routing are between \$900-1,000, not counting hotel costs, depending upon your final home city. (The O'Hare Hilton, by the way, is right at the airport and very convenient to United.) But as you look at these kinds of costs, why not take a low-cost airline to LAX and connect with Air Jamaica instead?

**From Calgary, Alberta,** you fly to DFW on American and overnight in SJU or MIA. If you choose MIA, you can continue on American to Curaçao

and connect with Divi-Divi or BXS. You'll arrive at Bonaire earlier in the day, and save about \$90 on your fare overall. Otherwise, you can take a later flight to SJU and connect with American Eagle, arriving at 8 pm. (I met one Canadian couple who like the Curaçao connection; he likes to dive, and she likes to shop, so they spend a week on each island to accommodate the other's tastes!)

**From Toronto,** the best way to Bonaire is via Aruba. Air Canada offers a daily non-stop (8:40-1:40, returning 2:30-7:40), currently costing around \$1,000 (but, presumably cheaper if booked further in advance or during a sale period). American connects with long layovers in Miami (9:45-7:15 down, 1:43 to 11:30 pm on the return), and their current price is \$584. US Air's price is \$675, and their times are 7 am-2 pm down, 3:15 to 11:33 on the return. To all these costs you have to add the \$163 to BXS, and consider the connection time (American would connect, closer than BXS requires, with the 9 pm to Bonaire, and US Air comfortably to the 5 pm to Bonaire; both routes would use the 11 am return to Aruba.)

I will close by mentioning that American, with their Caribbean sale for travel through June 25 and ticketing by March 2, is offering great domestic US prices to Aruba (AUA) right now. Here's a sampling:

Boston, MA (BOS) to Aruba	\$324
Orlando, FL (MCO) to Aruba	\$260
Washington Reagan Nat'l, DC (DCA) to Aruba	\$319

So, in summary, Air Jamaica has a great one-stop service from LAX to Bonaire, and several other airlines offer good fares and two-stop service from Toronto to Aruba. From other West Coast cities (other than Seattle, at the moment), the prices are higher and you have to take three to four flights each way. I hope this information helps, and I look forward to seeing you on a flight to Bonaire some day! □ *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*

# Intermezzo Spa Opens at Habitat



*The Spa, nestled in the gardens of Capt. Don's Habitat*

This Friday, February 25, the Intermezzo Day Spa officially opens at Cottage #22 at Captain Don's Habitat with all the wraps, massages, facials and scrubs one can imagine. Intermezzo has six day spas in Aruba's leading hotels, having opened a new one each year. This is the first one in Bonaire.

Approaching the colorful and inviting spa in the Habitat gardens you realize this is something special. One of the owners, Bibi, has created a concerto of colors that beckon you to a little piece of paradise where you can be pampered and made to



*Masseurse Paola and Supervisor/Masseurse Luz Marina await you in the adjacent small cabana. See the garden in the mirror. (Another therapist, Andrea, gives facials and massages in the Oceanside cabana.)*

feel like a queen – or a king. Pleasant aromas, soft music and wind chimes transport you to another dimension of peace and tranquility.

We don't use any machines," says Bibi. "Everything is done by hand." When a therapist is hired (there are now 40) they are trained to the Intermezzo system. So, no matter who you have as a therapist, the work will be the same - a very personalized, special touch treatment that they have in all their spas. They even have their own products that are all natural – like the Coffee Body Scrub and even a Chocolate Scrub. There are a number of packages at the new spa, but you may mix and match too. They offer manicures, pedicures and waxing as well.

Couples, newlyweds or otherwise, can receive concurrent full body aromatherapy one-hour massages ("Sonata di Luna") in a small cabana adjacent to the spa. Afterwards in the tranquil mini garden they're presented with a bottle of sparkling wine and an assortment of chocolates and time to enjoy them.

If you so desire, you may have your facial or massage in a private little cabana near the resort's pool and right at the sea's edge where the sound of the waves accompanies your treatment.

A nice touch is the fact that customers can request free pick up and return from wherever they are staying on the island. To make a reservation call them at 786-7069 or call Capt. Don's Habitat at 717-8290.

Stop by and check out this lovely new property and ask for a brochure which describes all the treatments. They have a parking area just off Kaya Gob. Debrot, to the north of the entrance to Habitat. □L.D

## Picture Yourself with the Reporter in Yukon Territories, Canada

This is a picture of Ann and Jerry Weeks reading *The Bonaire Reporter* in the Yukon Territories during their trip thru Canada and Alaska this past summer. The two Weeks have spent a lot more than that on Bonaire over the years. □



### 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.) □

# YOGA FOR YOU

## Sun Salutation

### Sun Salutation Surya Namaskar

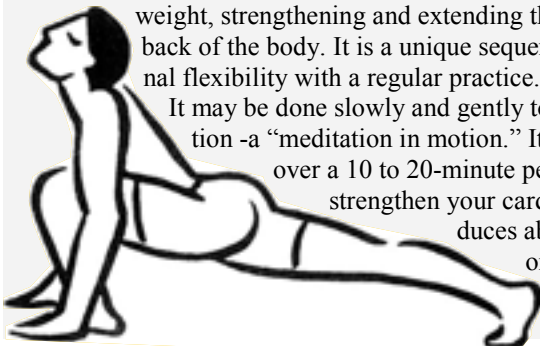
The sun salutation is an ancient sequence- a play, a dance. You can surrender to it. It isn't easy to plan your practice, especially first thing in the morning. But you can slide into the sun salutation without thinking...just being aware of the flow of the movement. If you start the day like this with a dance then you stimulate the dialogue between your body, the ground and this vast light space above you.

By Sandra Sabatini

### The Foundation

The ancient Eastern practitioners had none of the tensions of our modern Western culture. They were extremely flexible and had no problem with the deep bending and extending movements of the spine and joints.

Our Western bodies are not so fortunate. The ancients were strict vegetarians and spent the majority of their lives in humble surroundings without the benefit of today's conveniences such as frozen, pre-packaged, processed and fast foods, cars, and planes, regular office hours, and television and soft furniture. Yet the Sun Salutation has been taught basically unchanged for centuries. The Sun Salutation is a very powerful sequence of postures that tone your body and help to reduce weight, strengthening and extending the long muscles of the front and back of the body. It is a unique sequence and can increase hip and spinal flexibility with a regular practice.



It may be done slowly and gently to promote a deep sense of relaxation -a "meditation in motion." It can also be done more intensely over a 10 to 20-minute period for an aerobic effect to strengthen your cardiovascular system. This produces about the same effects as running or swimming would.

(Continued on page 15)



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

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

# Tower to Tower Walk



Last year's successful Tower to Tower walkers: Anita, Bòi, Nazario, Marcel

During the evening of Saturday, February 26, to the morning of February 27 there will be a 50-kilometer Tower to Tower walk from the lighthouse of Willemstoren to the Malmok lighthouse. Everyone is invited, both men and women. Registration is NAf25 per person, with the money going towards sending representatives of Bonaire to the "Four Days of Nijmegen"\* where participants walk 50 kilometers a day for four days.

This event was originated by Marcel Nahr when he was preparing for the "Four Days" walk two years ago and has become popular since. Marcel looked for the shortest distance be-

tween the two towers. The route has varied—first via Playa Grandi and at the latest via Playa Frans. The Playa Frans route is more difficult but you pass through a wonderful area of natural beauty.

Because February 26 is just two days past full moon, there is the possibility of walking in the light of the moon.

The first group will leave at 10 pm from Willemstoren and the second group, of more advanced walkers, at midnight. Walkers should arrive at Malmok between 10:30 and 11 am Sunday morning.

Along the way the walkers will be

(Continued on page 14)

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**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>

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**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.

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**FOR SALE**

**Gaastra Force, Stealth & Phoenix kites** –assorted sizes 4.0 to 17.5 meter. Nearly new. Call for more info. \$300-\$600 obo. Call 717-6862 or 791-4926

**Sunbeam Portable Gas Grill** – New, never been used. Includes outside cover and new filled gas cylinder NAf600. Tel. 717-4915.

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

**WANTED**

**Wanted - full time employment opportunity.** Experienced in management and administration. Many years on the island and no work permit needed. Please call Marion Wilson at 717-5571

**Wanted- indoor garage** to park my Hi-Lux truck while away long term. Please call Lester 717-3447

**COMPUTER TECHNICIANS**  
Interested persons should drop by City Shop N.V. personally between 5 and 6 pm daily.

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**Desktop Computer**, in excellent condition includes CPU (6-gig Hard Drive), Monitor, and upgraded Keyboard with built in mouse-pad, great for light computer work and email/internet. NAf500, Call 717-2848 if interested.

**For Sale: Grandstream Handytone 486 ATA** Connect your regular phone to this box and **make CHEAP PHONE-CALLS over the internet using VOIP.** No computer needed. Works only with a Telbo Broadband connection. \$85 Tel. 7916167

**Personal Fax Machine**, Model #275 by Brother, NAf65.00, If interested, call 717-2848.

**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.

(Tower to Tower Walk. Continued from page 13) offered water, fruit, coffee and energizing snacks. Major rest stops will be at WEB in Hato, Landhouse Karpata and Playa Frans and/or Slagbaai.

Although the route isn't easy, it is by no means impossible. In fact three women have already completed the walk in past years. Persons interested in joining should do so as soon as possible, no later than Thursday, February

24, at the office of *Extra* newspaper. For more information call the *Extra* office at 717-8482. □ *Bòi Antoin/ Translated by L.D.*

*\*The Four Days of Nijmegen is one of the world's largest walking events and one of the world's largest sporting events. It's held every year, starting on the third Tuesday in July (See Bonaire Reporter July 30, 2004). Ed*

**CARS FOR SALE**

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

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**BUSINESS FOR SALE**

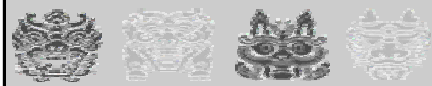
**Lovely small restaurant on the main street in Playa.** Please call 567-0576 / 569-8871 or 717-4888



**Ma's Porch Sale** – Friday, Saturday, Sunday (Feb. 25, 26, 27), 10 am to 6 pm non-stop. Kaya Neerlandia #33 (near Gas Express)

**Yard Sale** – Saturday & Sunday (Feb. 26, 27) – Kaya Rotterdam #7 in Hato – 10 am to 4 pm. Clothes, toys, household, etc. Furnishings, appliances & hardware

**Dates: 26+27<sup>th</sup> Feb.** 9:00-16:00 hrs, **Place:** Storage facility Kaya Industria across from Rocargo/Warehouse. Everything must go! Tel: 790-1604.



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**WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER**  
*Snip and save so you can always find a copy of The Bonaire Reporter if there are no more at your favorite spot*

<p><b>Airport:</b> Car Rental Agencies, Airport Arrivals Area</p> <p><b>Banks:</b> MCB (Playa &amp; Hato branches), RBTT</p> <p><b>Bookstores:</b> Bonaire Boekhandel, Flamingo Boekhandel</p> <p><b>Realty Offices:</b> Harbourtown Re/Max Sunbelt</p> <p><b>Restaurants:</b> Bistro de Paris Brasserie Bonaire Capriccio Chez Lucille City Cafe Croccantino Wil's Tropical Grill Garden Café Kentucky Fried Chicken</p>	<p><b>Lost Penguin</b> Lover's Ice Cream, Hato Pasa Bon Pizza Seahorse Cyber Café Subway</p> <p><b>Shops:</b> Bonaire Gift Shop City Shop DeFreewieler Inpo Paradise Photo Photo Tours, Playa Exito Bakery Bonaire Super Store (old 7-7)</p> <p><b>Hotels:</b> Buddy Dive Capt. Don's Habitat Carib Inn Caribbean Club Bonaire Dive Inn Divi Flamingo Eden Park Hotel Harbour Village Plaza Sand Dollar</p>	<p><b>Supermarkets:</b> Cultimara Consales More for Less Progresso Sand Dollar Grocery Tropical Flamingo Warehouse</p> <p><b>Others:</b> Bonfysio Botika Korona Bestuurscollege Caribbean Laundry Customs Hair Affair Harbour Village Marina Parliament Rocargo TCB Telbo</p> <p><b>RINCON:</b> Chinese Store, Joi Fruit Store, Lemari Grocery, Rincon Bakery.</p>
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*Still can't find a copy? Visit our office at Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6 or Call 717-8988*

# Lora Count 2005

## – The mystery lingers on



*Bonaire's Boy Scouts camped over night to participate in the 2005 count*

Organized by the new *Fundashon Salba Nos Lora*, led by Erwin Waiman, together with STINAPA, St. Bernardo Scouts and DROB, a Bonaire Lora Count was made early Sunday morning (February 20). The count is done in order to have a greater understanding of the Loras and their behavior in order to better protect them.

Preparations were begun weeks ago to determine where the Loras spend the night so volunteers could be stationed in those areas and count the birds as they awaken, start squawking and fly off. Over the whole island 17 different spots were decided upon. Six of those spots were in Washington Slagbaai Park and were monitored by the Scouts who had spent the night there. It was a

*(Yoga. Continued from page 13)*

The Sun Salutation is a remarkable routine because it energizes the body to the point that this is all you need to do to maintain optimal physical health.

For those who know the sequence of the Sun Salutation, let your day begin with allowing yourself to dance into the flow of your breath and body. The Sun Salutations allow you to go beyond your boundaries and explore infinite possibilities.

Make the change you wish to see in yourself. □ *Desirée*

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



very educational experience for them.

According to the DROB Environmental Department, the total count was approximately 300 Loras. During the last Lora count two years ago, between 350 to 400 birds were counted. In previous years the count occurred in December or January; this year it was later- February. Could that be the reason for the decrease? No one really knows for sure. It is known that groups of birds stay together until breeding season when they break up into pairs, but it's not known when that is exactly. It could depend on the weather (more rain) food, etc. Of course the decrease in numbers could be a result of poaching which, although punishable by law, still continues. Recently two chicks were confiscated from poachers.

Interestingly, some of the areas staked out didn't have any Loras this year, even some of the areas that were

very populated two years ago. The Lora mystery lingers on....

As a thank you to those selfless volunteers who got up early to be out on site before the sun came up, a traditional Lora Count Breakfast was served at the entrance to Washington-Slagbaai Park. □ *L.D.*

*Where, oh where, have all the Loras gone?*



*Drawing by Rebecca Tempest*

# QUIZ for Bonaire Businessmen- What's the most cost effective way to get my message out?

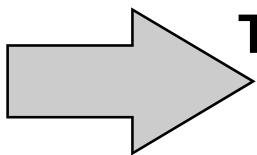
Answer:

*The Bonaire Reporter*

Compare our advertising rates and circulation with any other media and then you'll see for yourself. Let our thousands of loyal readers know what you've got!

## Nothing else comes close

6,000 copies every month  
1,500 every week



There is still time to put your advertising budget to work where it will do the most good during this busy tourist season.

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- Distribution to more than 70 locations on Bonaire
- Proven results in more than 10 years
- 

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Or e-mail [advertise@bonairereporter.com](mailto:advertise@bonairereporter.com)





## Ask the Dietitian

### Prevent child obesity through healthy nutrition and physical activities

Part 1—Information for parents with children ages 1 to 4

Maintaining a healthy weight is a matter of balanced eating and physical activity.

As a parent you can teach and discipline your child to have good eating habits and regular physical activities. You should start with teaching the child these good habits in his early years, from babyhood on. The habits that a child learns at a young age are not easy to unlearn.



#### How to evaluate your child's weight

With the body mass index (BMI)\* you can calculate whether or not your child has a healthy weight. To calculate the BMI of your child you need to know your child's weight in kilos (KG) and the height in meters (M).

For example: A child weighing 15 KG, with a height of 98cm.

- Divide the weight in KG by the height in M. In our example, that will be  $15\text{KG} \div 0,98\text{M} = 15,3$ ;
- Then you divide the result again by the height. That will be  $15,3 \div 0,98\text{M} = 15,6$ .

**15,6 is then the body mass index.**

The table below gives a healthy weight for children of 3 and 4 years.

Age	Healthy Weight for Boys	Healthy Weight for Girls
3 years	BMI between 13,5 & 17,9	BMI between 13,6 & 17,5
4 years	BMI between 13,2 & 17,6	BMI between 13,3 & 17,2

Calculating the body mass index is a method to determine whether your child has a good weight. If by doing the calculation you determine that your child is overweight, consult a dietitian. DO NOT, JUST ON YOUR OWN, PUT A GROWING CHILD ON A DIET. The child's eating habits must be analyzed, focusing on sweets, snacks and in-betweens, etc.

#### Teach your child to have a healthy eating pattern. The child should:

- Eat a variety of foods and eat sufficient fruits and vegetables.
- Eat three main meals a day (breakfast, lunch, dinner, without skipping breakfast) and a maximum of four in-betweens a day.

- Drink a lot but be very moderate with sweet beverages such as soft drinks, syrups, instant drink, etc.

#### The parent should

- Be moderate with sugar.
- Be moderate with sweets (Make rules about how much and how often.)
- Not let the child overeat. See below for the recommended daily amounts for a child in this age group.
- Be moderate with fatty snacks and fatty meals.

**I don't understand, Doc. He only eats the same as the rest of us.**



© Original Artist

www.CartoonStock.com

#### The average daily recommended amount for a child of 1 to 4:

- 1-3 slices of bread (preferable whole grain bread), lightly spread with (low fat) margarine or halvarine
- 1-2 small potatoes or 1 to 2 serving spoons of rice or pasta
- 1-2 serving spoons of vegetables (100 grams) Offer variety!
- 2-3 small glasses (300ml) of low fat milk or soy milk
- ½ slice cheese
- ½ slice meat products
- 50 grams of cooked meat/chicken/fish or alternative for meat
- 1 tablespoon of oil or vegetable margarine to cook
- 1 liter of drinking liquid (tea, milk, juice, water, etc.)

This view of the daily recommended amounts doesn't include the in-betweens (little extras or snacks). These are average; use them as guidelines. The child can have a little more or a little less, but the differences shouldn't be very large. There can be days when a child of this age doesn't have much appetite, for which there are different possible reasons. A child of this age can naturally determine when he/she has had enough. So don't force him to eat or keep offering in between. When you do this you can disturb the child's natural feeling of being full or having had enough, and you risk him becoming obese. And by doing this you are not working on a good eating pattern. If your child has these periods of not being that hungry, consult your child health center *consultatie bureau* or doctor or dietitian for advice.

We will continue with this topic next time. □ *Angélique Salsbach*

*\*There are web sites where you can enter height and weight (inches or centimeters; pounds or kilos) and they'll give you the BMI. Enter "BMI" on your search engine. Ed.*

*Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Write her at dietitan@bonairenews.com □*

## Pet of the Week

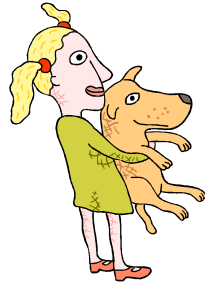
A dorable little Frans just fits in the food bowl at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. We couldn't resist this perfect photo opportunity. Frans was born during the first week of January and he and his mother were brought in by some neighbors of the people who had to give them up. One of the nice things about our knowing his mother is that because she herself is such a very nice personality it appears that Frans has inherited that same good quality. He's very easy to handle and totally relates to people. Frans should grow up to be a small cat. The



"Frans"

NAf75 adoption fee includes an examination by the vet, testing for feline leukemia, worming, shots and sterilization when he's old enough. If you had to pay for all that separately it would be a lot more than that. It's one of the best deals on the island. And pets up for adoption from the Shelter are always social. Stop by and see for yourself. The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

Have some dogs or cats that you can't keep? **The Shelter is never too full for unwanted dogs or cats.** Bring them to the Shelter where they will be tested, health wise and social wise, and if they pass, they're put up for adoption. It's the kindest thing you can do for them – give them a chance at a life with approved adoptive owners.



---

**Right now the Shelter needs some volunteers to help out with the animals and keep them social.** Preferences for working with dogs or cats are honored, and you may pick your hours. It's a happy place to be and the animals are very appreciative. Call Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema at 717-4989. □L.D.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

**White Noise**  
(Michael Keaton)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

**Meet The Fockers**

**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

**Friday, February 25 - 3-hours of jazz with local musicians and Delbert Bernabela from Aruba.** Introduction of Bonaire's First Jazz Festival (May 20-22), City Café starting a 6 pm.

**Saturday, February 26-** Saxophone and flute-player, Delbert Bernabela will play his favorite melodies while the new chef will prepare a four-course dinner for jazz-lovers at the Kon Tiki Beach Club.

**Sunday, February 27— Mangazina di Rei Open Market** with Creole food including kòmkòmber chiki stobá (cucumber stew), kabritu stobá (goat stew), piska salu (salt fish) with tutu (beans and funchi), funchi (polenta), arepas and boka dushi (sweets). Second hand articles for sale. Plants for sale. Take some time to visit the museum. Free entry, all welcome. 10 am to 7 pm

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

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

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** Mar. 1-*Queen Mary 2*

### COMING

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

**Saturday, March 5 – Rincon Marshé** – It's become an island tradition - Big outdoor market in the middle in Rincon's town square. Local food and drink, fruits and vegetables, gifts, candles, plants, more. Guest speakers from business, government and other sectors speak *Bou di Ramada* (on the porch) at 10 am. Stands open at 6 am for breakfast and usually stay open until 4 pm.

### MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in  
Movieland Cinema:

**Meet the Fockers** by Jay Roach starring lots of excellent actors. Everybody tells me I should have seen *Meet the Parents* to really appreciate this film. Maybe I will some day because I didn't find this film funny at all. Besides joking about the family name over and over again, much of the script's humor relies on overt sexual themes. Working as a seniors' sex therapist, mother Focker promotes erotic exercise moves in her backyard; a busload of loaded cheerleaders who start removing their tops on the highway; or going through Greg's baby pictures only to end up with his foreskin in the fondue pot; and a toddler learns to swear repeatedly. Just to mention a few 'jokes'. The results are supposed to be funny, but it's just not my idea of a good laugh □ *Dodo*



**Sunday, March 6—Fun Run** –2/4/5 km. 7:30 am at 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 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> - 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 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**



### COMING

**Second Week in March** - Jazz lovers can enjoy 6 days of music with the Dutch Dixies Jazz Tour:

Sunday	6 March	- Kontiki	17.00 -20.00
Wednesday	9 March	- City Cafe	21.30 -23.30
Thursday	10 March	- Little Havana	21.30 - 23.30
Friday	11 March	- Plaza Resort	17.00 - 20.00
Saturday	12 March	- Buddy Dive	20.00 -22.00
Sunday	13 March	- Wilhelmina Park	16.00 -20.00

**Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for 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.

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

**The Bonaire Swim Club-** Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valarie@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 **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

### 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](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

# DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. 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>Caribbean Club Bonaire</b> 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
<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>Crocantino 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> 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 <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. <b>The 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.

## 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. Digital processing too!

## 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.

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## Sara Matera

Most of my adult life I've spent on this little island of Bonaire. I came at age 28 with my late partner Jim Hough. We came from the States, the Midwest: Moline, and Chicago Illinois. Since I was very young, maybe five, I've always wanted to work in a restaurant. As a waitress during my high school years I made good money, good tips. I was a good saleswoman! I got my Bachelors in Business from the University of Iowa in 1983 and started working as the only female manager for Johnson & Koenig Restaurant Group, which owned seven restaurants. That's where I learned all my skills. Bonaire is simple, pure and the people genuine. We'd never been here. We'd heard about it from a travel agent who'd met the developers of Sand Dollar who were looking for someone to lease the restaurant at Sand Dollar. So, they said, 'I know somebody for you,' and called us from Bonaire, and the rest is history. We started The Green Parrot, an American restaurant, at Sand Dollar. It was exciting, an adventure. We saw all the things people love about the island: it was serene and the opportunity was there to grow. There were about 8,000 to 9,000 population then. There was Hotel Bonaire, Flamingo Beach Hotel, Sand Dollar and Habitat. Nothing prepares you for Bonaire. You may have all the experience, but when there's no lettuce on the island, then no potatoes or no shrimps and no flour, you can't get upset, because if you don't have it, nobody has it and so... you learn to improvise! We were the first American owned and operated restaurant; we served large American portions, comfort foods. We were the first to introduce Mexican food and famous for our giant 'Parrotburgers' - US meat - not from parrots! And we were also famous for our cocktails: over 50 different ones - all colorful. I had a friend in Quito, before anybody knew where Quito was, who would make these handcrafted balsa wood swizzle sticks with different Caribbean items that people liked to collect. For years it was a huge success. I believe we were the highest volume restaurant on Bonaire and the leader in product awareness, training and development. We started the Bonaire Restaurant Association in 1990 and got involved in the Rotary Club and with the Bonaire Culinary Team. We started the committee to send young chefs and bartenders to culinary competitions in the Caribbean. The company provided services and training for restaurants and staff for the Antillean Family Food Group in Curaçao formed by Cactus Club Restaurants in 1990 and 1997. In 1999 the sea swell caused by Hurri-

cane Lenny in the northern Caribbean completely destroyed The Green Parrot and Sand Dollar Dive and Photo. That was hard... watching your restaurant going down... We had such a great combination on that location. The dive shop was Number 1 on Bonaire and the restaurant had received many awards - one of the top 10 restaurants in the Caribbean. It was devastating. We didn't own the property so the business was gone. I was by myself - Jim had passed away in 1998 - and went on consulting and working for corporate structures with Divi Resorts, Rum Runners Group and Dock of the Bay, all on Bonaire. Consulting in food and beverage and training restaurant workers was really fun.

**"I do all this for free and volunteer because I love this business. These children are the future and if we don't share our knowledge and education with them we have not done what we're here for - to help people learn and grow."**

Then I met Ruud Vermeulen, who at the time owned the Antillean Wine Company. He enhanced my wine knowledge and we traveled, traveled... Oh what fun! He took me on my first trip to Holland, to Amsterdam. We traveled all over Holland, all over Europe." *Sara Matera (45) is a sophisticated, elegant and a very lively, friendly person but above all an absolute professional.* "I have four brothers and two sisters; I'm exactly in the middle. They are all professionals: doctors, financial consultants, a financial corporate executive, national sales managers, a technical engineer, and a teacher. I'm the farthest from 'home,' but they all love to come to visit me. I'm the adventurous one! I feel very lucky to have a worldwide view. I've traveled in South America, Europe and the Caribbean and when you live here you meet people from all over the world. To meet people there are no boundaries, unless we put them on ourselves. In 2001 at Capriccio's Restaurant, a friend, Andrea Biondi, and I "birthed" the Italy trainee (*stage*) program for the hotel school students in Bonaire's SGB high school. Coordinating with Italy's Emilia Romagna region, we started the first and second trainee program for the

Caribbean. Bonaire's top hotel school students were funded for a four-week program of practical and theory lessons in October 2002 in one of the richest areas in Italy. In 2004 Aruba and Curaçao students were invited. It's been a huge success! The young men and women adapted beautifully in the very strict hotel school. The kids returned with a different and bigger world picture.

Through the interaction with the other kids they found out it was a real profession and career choice, as the Italians are crazy about food! In 2003 and 2004 we sent four SGB graduated students to work and live in Italy. They now work in a Michelin Star restaurant and are doing very well as young apprentices. Some people are concerned: 'You're taking our kids away!' But the idea is that they come back after some years of practical learning experience, similar to those top students who leave to attend universities in Holland or the US. Life is about opportunities and learning and growing. We can't hold the students back. I was told by the parents of the four students and the school that we'd changed the lives of the children. They have a better outlook, higher self esteem and understanding of this career choice. We will go again this year to Italy for *stage* and hopefully again next year. You can't make huge changes quickly, but step by step it makes a positive difference. Young people and professionals should be proud to have made horeca (hospitality) a career choice. They can work anywhere in the world and there's no language barrier when it comes to food: we all eat! This project is hugely funded by the European Union in Italy. Locally we're funded by AMFO, KLM and greatly by the private sector and our Culinaire Bonaire Foundation.

When I worked in Aruba from 2002 till 2004 at the Renaissance Aruba Resort and Casino as the event manager director I was on the committee to have the first ABC islands high school culinary competition. In 2004 Curaçao hosted, and this year we had nine high school teams competing here in Bonaire with international judges.



Sara Matera

I do all this for free and volunteer because I love this business. These children are the future and if we don't share our knowledge and education with them we have not done what we're here for - to help people learn and grow. I'm fortunate that I've been able to do this much by paying my expenses personally, and I hope that others, instead of being critical, will also take part in the future of our young chefs and waiters, or for that matter any sector. As for me personally, I don't know for certain what I'm going to do for my next opportunities. I enjoyed very much opening the LG Smith Steak & Chop House in Aruba for Renaissance Resort owner Eduardo de Veer. Now, among other things, I'm organizing catering for parties and weddings, but I need to leave time and energy for the Italy *stage* project and the culinary competitions. I go to Italy often to check on 'my' kids, whom I love. They've done wonderfully. I also go to Bologna to keep up the relationship with the educational and vocational regional office. They support our ABC-stage project with approximately 75.000 euros per year... just for our kids. As for me, everything is open; I'm certainly not bored. My days are full. Not to forget why I love Bonaire so much, I go and drive around the *kunukus*, eat some *kabritu*, go snorkeling and drink a nice glass of wine with Ruud... yeah... it's a great life here!" □ *Story and photo by Greta Kooistra*



Greta Kooistra

# DIVING with DEE

## Porcupinefish



Have you ever seen a porcupinefish eat? Me neither.

Oh, I've found evidence of some of their meals - at least I'm pretty sure that the shells we find cracked into pieces have been crushed by porcupinefish -- but I've never seen a porcupinefish actually eat anything.

Last week I finally got a clue about porcupinefish foraging. I was swimming over a sandy bottom in very shallow water, probably just under 10 feet, when I stopped and knelt on the sand for a moment. I saw something out of the corner of my eye and turned to see a porcupinefish almost two feet long. Every time I swiveled to get a better look, the fish turned too, staying behind me! Eventually I must have spun a complete 360° and saw that the porcupinefish was studying the marks my knees and fins had made in the sand. The fish focused intently on one print, then darted down and gobbled it up!

All the porcupinefish got was a mouthful of sand, but if that mark had been made by a burrowing young conch or king helmet snail, the porcupinefish would have found a meal.

So now I know one technique that at least one porcupinefish uses to find food.

The porcupinefish is known to scientists as *Diodon hystrix* (DYE-uh-don HISS-tricks), which means "double-toothed porcupine." The "double-toothed" part refers to the porcupinefish's teeth, which are fused into two crushing plates, upper and lower. In addition to snails, the crushing plates chomp urchins, crabs and even hermit

**"If the predator is NOT able to spit out the inflated porcupinefish, they're both likely to die, but at least the porcupinefish doesn't die in vain: the predator's porcupinefish-gobbling genes will never be passed on again."**

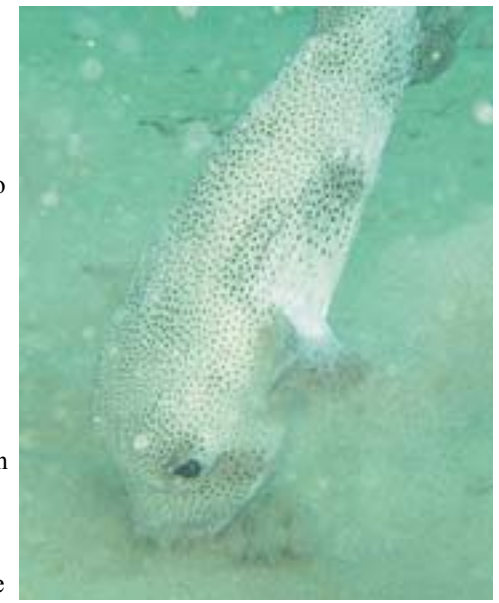
crabs. Under most circumstances, porcupinefish don't think of using those plates for defense because they have a much better way to defend themselves: wildly increasing their size by sucking in water and inflating.

An inflated porcupinefish looks even bigger than you'd expect because its spines stand straight out when the fish inflates. With each spine an inch to an inch and a half in length, the diameter of an inflated porcupinefish would be increased by as much as three inches, which would make quite a difference in the size of the creature who would try to eat the porcupinefish. If a porcupinefish had the chance to inflate *before* a hopeful predator gobbled it, the predator might well decide to dine elsewhere. If a porcupinefish *is* swallowed before it can inflate, it can still inflate *inside* the

mouth of the predator. If the predator manages to spit it out, everyone survives, and the predator learns a valuable lesson ("Porcupinefish are spinnier than they look! Don't try to eat them!"). If the predator is NOT able to spit out the inflated porcupinefish, they're both likely to die, but at least the porcupinefish doesn't die in vain: the predator's porcupinefish-gobbling genes will never be passed on again. Even a predator big enough not to care whether the porcupinefish is extra-round or not might remember the spines and chase the next porcupinefish less avidly!

The range of porcupinefish is large, from Massachusetts to Brazil. They are normally seen around coral reefs and also on rubble and grassy areas -- not surprisingly wherever crabs, snails, and urchins can be found.

Porcupinefish are usually solitary, so if you see more than one you're likely to observe some courtship behavior. The most memorable porcupinefish courtship I've seen occurred in late afternoon off Playa Pabou. What caught our attention were three porcupinefish: two more than two feet long, and one shorter. One of the large ones was circling around the other large one. The smaller one would approach. The circler would chase the smaller fish, then return to the other large individual. We think the circler and the smaller fish were males and the one who was being circled was the female. As soon as the large male got back to the lady, the other male would arrive, and the larger male would chase the smaller away. We watched this sequence, over and



over, for 20 minutes. We couldn't see any way that this courtship was going to be consummated, but now that I think about it there are two possibilities. The first is that eventually one of the males would get tired and quit. This would leave the most fit suitor to pass on his genes. The other possibility is that the larger male decides to complete the spawning. In that case, the other male is likely to perform a stunt well known to wrasses and other fishes: he'll zip up there at the crucial moment and turn the spawning into a two-papa event.

Mr. Darwin would have been proud.  
□ Story and photos by Dee Scarr

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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## Our Nearest Cosmic Neighbor Occults and Hides the Second Biggest Star We Can See With the Naked Eye



*The Moon will occult Antares in the early morning of March 3.*

Next Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the wee hours of the morning, we are going to experience an occult cosmic occurrence because our nearest neighbor, the **Moon**, will actually pass in front of and hide, for about an hour, the second biggest star we can see with the naked eye. And you can watch it with just the naked eye. Let me explain. Next Thursday morning about 3 am Sky Park Time, face southeast where the brightest thing you'll see will be a last quarter Moon, just up and to the right of the giant red star **Antares** which marks the heart of **Scorpius the Scorpion**, which will not be completely above the horizon until a couple of hours later. One good way to recognize Scorpius, in addition to using the Moon and Antares as finders, is that the top of Scorpius is marked by three stars, all about the same brightness, equally spaced in a row but much farther apart from each other than the three equally spaced stars in **Orion the Hunter's** belt.

And right now I can hear some of you saying, "But Scorpius is a summer constellation, so how come we can see him in the dead of winter?" Well as you may recall, the stars and constellations of any given season are those stars and constellations which are highest above the horizon in early evening during a season. And in summer time Scorpius is indeed at its highest in early evening but for part of the winter we can actually see Scorpius in early am hours. And such is the case right now.

And what's going to happen Thursday is really fun and is what astronomers actually call an "occult experience." But the word occult in astronomy is a little bit different than in common usage. Occult, when used as an adjective, usually pertains to magic, divination, astrology etc. But where it's used as a verb, it means to hide or conceal from view. And so Thursday morning the Moon will occult, that is, hide and conceal from view, Antares.

Now our Moon is only 2,000 miles wide whereas Antares is 600 million miles wide, so huge that we could fit over 21 quintillion Moons inside it. It's so humongous that if we placed one edge of Antares where our Sun is it would stretch out past the orbits of **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter**. How can our tiny Moon hide such a big star? Simple. Our Moon is only a quarter million miles away, so close it takes light only 1 1/3 seconds to reach us. Antares is about 520 light years away, so far away that it takes 520 years for its light to reach us.

So what can you expect to see Thursday night? Well, the precise moment the Moon occults Antares will vary from place to place. Basically what you'll see around or about 4 am is the Moon moving closer to and closer to Antares. Then all of a sudden, in less than a second, it will disappear from view. And about an hour later it will pop into view from behind the dark side of the Moon. It's fun to see with just the naked eye but even more fun with a small telescope.

□ Jack Horkheimer



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:

February 25 to March 4, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Generosity will put you in the poorhouse. If everyone wants to do their own thing, let them. Make some notes regarding the changes that you should make. This is a good day to check out your investments. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**TAURUS** (April 21- May 21) You can make gains if you work in conjunction with others. You would be best to work late in order to avoid such disharmony. Don't count on your friends to be loyal when it comes to doing things. Younger relatives may seek your advice. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Friends and relatives can give you good advice. You can make money through solid investment plans. You may want to make drastic changes concerning your personal partner. Pushy people must be kept at arm's length. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You are best to avoid such unsavory circumstances, especially if you're in a group situation. Help those incapable of taking care of their personal affairs. Pleasure trips or friendly get-togethers will be satisfying and intellectually stimulating. Property investments should payoff. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Children may be on your mind. You need more time to think this whole situation through. Go directly to the source if you want to know exactly what's been going on. Direct your energy wisely this week. Anger will prevail if you expect help from others. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You could be emotional if you didn't take care of problems with loved ones. You're best not to get involved in joint financial ventures. You will have to be careful not to fall into traps set by jealous colleagues. Don't fall for damaging rumors, and refuse to get involved in gossip. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't be too quick to spend money. Accept the inevitable. Tell it like it is. You are best to put your efforts into redecorating or inviting friends over. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) A new image can be the result if you change your look. Children may be demanding, and entertainment could cost a lot more than you can really afford. Try to keep your cool; you may be a tad frazzled by all the rushing around. You'll be angry if those you live with aren't pulling their weight. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Find ways to mellow out. Self improvement projects should be your key concern. Be sure that the person you're drawn to is not already involved. You will attract potential lovers, but be sure that they're unattached. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will be able to borrow money in order to invest. Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. Those who have been too demanding should be put in their place or out to pasture. Jealous colleagues may try to undermine you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Talk to others about your plans. Travel will be favorable. You need to keep busy doing things that you both enjoy. Relationships may be hard to handle. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can receive recognition for the work you've done. You will have to be sure not to burn the candle at both ends. You will be on the rampage this week. Don't fall into the trap. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

□