

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

March 4 to 11, 2005 Volume 13, Issue 9

# The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

## Bonaire's First Jazz Festival

Page 11



Jazz Festival announcement at City Cafe: Chris, Benji, Guus, Hershel, Delbert. Lando and Henk

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Another successful businessman has decided he can run an airline. Curaçao entrepreneur Joel da Silva Gois will launch a new airline to serve the routes of the of the bankrupt Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA). It will be named Curaçao Airways. Da Silva Gois is the proprietor of the wholesaler Goisco that is operated in conjunction with the American wholesaler BJ's. He is negotiating a joint venture with the Surinam airline, SLM. Curaçao Airways will be able to use the air operation certificate (AOC) of SLM. Curaçao Airways is working to get a business permit and an operational license from the Aviation Administration. Da Silva Gois is considering operating the trans-Atlantic route using the Boeing 747 that SLM flies between Paramaribo and Amsterdam. SLM is currently flying to Curaçao three times a week using an MD-80.

► Besides Curaçao Airways, four other partnerships have a license request in progress: Insel Air, Pias, PAS, Bonaire Historic Airways and Trans-Caribbean Airlines. Air France-KLM announced at the end of last year that it wants to set up a regional airline based in Curaçao. In addition it was revealed that KLM was conducting negotiations with DutchEagleExpress (parent company of

Curaçao/BonairExpress) about operating a regional carrier. Air France-KLM is expected to announce details by the end of March 2005.

Not mentioned was Northeast Caribbean, which announced big plans (which fell through) for supporting the Antilles last year using a 747. It re-requested certification of one of its three Boeing 747 aircraft three weeks ago.

About 25 years ago it was possible to fly KLM between New York, Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba.

## American Eagle

► American Eagle's three-times-a-week flights between San Juan and Bonaire have been flying very profitably this season. There are indications that American Eagle will shortly announce resumption of daily service to Bonaire.



► Air Jamaica's Executive Chairman, Dr. Vincent Lawrence, marked the two-month anniversary of the Jamaica government's re-acquisition of the carrier last week by giving an update on its restructuring.

More than 170 staff have been laid off. About 100 of the 170 are flight attendants. Lawrence added, "We are still projecting that the total staff reduction will be in the region of 10%." The airline employs about 3,000. Fifty executives will take pay cuts of between 10% and 30%.

Concerning the recent grounding of several flights, Lawrence said that half of the carrier's 20 planes had to be taken out of service which resulted in cancelled flights earlier this month after a US Federal Aviation Administration audit raised questions about the airline's maintenance schedule. The cancellations affected 10-12% of Air Jamaica's flights and had cost the airline "millions of dollars." (from *Hardbeatnews.com*)

► In Curaçao the Justice Court discharged the cases against FOL-advisor Nelson Monte, Campo Alegre (brothel) owner Giovanni van Ierland, his mother Xiomara Bakhuis, Campo lawyer Leslie Franklin, FOL-leader Anthony Godett and Gibi de Windt in the Campo-II case last week. The verdict is a black-eye for the Curaçao Prosecutor's Office. Both the Prosecutor's Office and press affairs Judge Bob Wit reiterated that the Court did in fact consider the investigation and detentions justified, but that there did not appear to be enough proof of intentional wrongdoing to convict those involved.

► Antillean Justice Minister Norberto Ribeiro tendered his resignation after the Court dismissed all charges against the suspects in the Campo-II case involving the admittance of prostitutes from Colombia and the Dominican Republic without the required visas. Ribeiro made his position clear to his party. "In this case a former minister, a political leader and others have been prosecuted without enough proof. With such a ruling I am forced to step down," he said.

► There have been continued problems at Curaçao's Bon Futuro prison. Now

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that escapes are finally under control it is now again in a crisis following three shootings among inmates, one of which was fatal. A variety of guns had been smuggled into the prison. It was mentioned in a press conference that the fee to sneak a gun to a prisoner is about the same as the monthly salary of a prison guard. The Council of Ministers has

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DEEP DIVING CAUTION

Dear Editor,

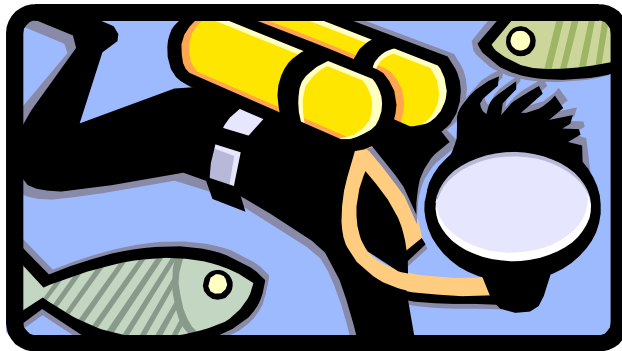
As a follow up on the last week article about *The Windjammer* I would like to give some additional information about DEEP diving.

First of all I do not write this to attack or argue the very nicely written article from Mr. Bianculli. The only reason I do this is to prevent dive accidents and to give everybody who enjoys diving on Bonaire a clearer and safer vision in deep diving.

Of course one can debate endlessly about how to do it right. When Capt. Don did the first dives on the *Windjammer* for sure he was not equipped TEC (technical diving) style. Just for the simple reason it was not available at that time. And many others followed the same profiles and dive methods for years. Let's just say they had no other way to do it any safer.

Entering the new age of dive technology we might start considering other options to do DEEP dives much safer and more efficiently.

As a SCUBA dive instructor I always compare scuba diving with car driving. To get certified one needs instruction first, after that a final exam will prove if that person is qualified to hold the C-Card. Is that person already a well-trained and experienced one? No, he or she needs to gain experience by doing what he has been taught by the instructor by going out and driving a car. It is more or less the same with scuba diving: once you get the fundamental basics you can increase experience by going diving. As for many divers they have the ability to restrict themselves to what they are trained for. But some how they will get so confident at a certain point they might push it just beyond that point. Or they have somebody with more experience who would like to guide them down into new adventures. Most of the time this is a great experience, but the person misses the theoretical and training portion of the adventure. This essential part was skipped to get to the fun part faster. And guess what? It all worked out fine, and the next time too and so on. I bet no one can deny these facts; we have all



been there and done it.

Last week's article about the *Windjammer* might open some doors for divers who like to find a new "real life adventure" and even better it is labeled "forbidden."

What some might not have read clearly is that Mr. Bianculli has more than 2,500 dives. But still, why not try it and plan a dive to the *Windjammer*? Oh yeah, the brand X dive computer will be my guide for decompression purposes. Let's say the diver will use an 80 qft 3000 psi aluminum scuba tank. Joe average has an air consumption rate of 0.55 Qft per minute at the surface. At 200 ft of depth we are surrounded by no less than 7 atmospheres of pressure. A simple calculation would give us a consumption rate of 3.85qft/min at depth. But this only assuming we don't get any currents and highly anxious.

To get down to the *Jammer* from the reef will take about 4 minutes. Let's say we plan 5 minutes of bottom time plus an other 4 minutes to get back to 30 ft for the first stop. 13 minutes of breathing have gone by and 48 qft of air has been consumed. (13 times 3.7qft average). The gauge will show us 1200 psi left in the tank at the 30 ft deco stop. One might now say ok, just enough to do the stops and come out with an ample amount to inflate my BCD. But what if Murphy's Law was your dive buddy. What "IF" ?

If you get a free flow on your octopus regulator by simply bumping on to the wreck because nitrogen narcosis misjudges distance estimation. In these depths a 20 second free flow will purge roughly 600 psi of air

from the tank, if you are able to recover the free flow that fast. Now at 30 ft we have 600 psi instead of 1200. Nervous already.....can you feel your respiration tempo going up? You will not make it, yes, maybe to the chamber. On decompression dives running OUT OF AIR is simply NOT AN OPTION.

**Let's just cut a long story short: it is not safe to go deeper than recreational depths without redundancy.** One needs a full bail out system. As I mentioned in the beginning, we are entering the new age of diving where we have full availability of instruction and materials. So why stay with the old methods if new ones are available.

The dive industry has gone through a big change in the past 30 years. New BCDs, regulators, dive computers, mixed gasses (Nitrox -TriMix) and TEC dive equipment. As with all evolution of technique if we want to reach new frontiers we need to use our education and techniques.

For anyone interested in going beyond recreational depths I strongly advise you to step into the exiting world of technical diving. On Bonaire it is available at the following dive shops: Habitat Dive Resorts, Toucan Diving, Divi Flamingo Diving, Rec Tec Scuba.

They offer a variety of technical dive instructions (PADI & TDI) and guided TEC dives.

Also the proper equipment and mix-gas is available at these shops to perform deep diving safely. And remember that it's not just "the Ferrari" that makes the champion, it needs a well-trained driver as well. So don't get misled by just getting the gear and dip 'n dive. It takes a lot of knowledge about oxygen toxicity, decompression sickness, micro bubbles, deep stops, best mixes, conservatism, bail-out planning and so on.

I hope this article contributes to your safety on what any ocean challenge might bring to you in the near future. Never forget that the training and gear is available. How much is your life worth to you or relatives ?

Roger Haug, PADI/TDI Instructor

(Continued on page 5)

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*(Letters. Continued from page 4)*

**RESPONSE FROM THE AUTHOR OF  
THE WINDJAMMER**

Dear Editor,

I agree with Mr. Haug in that redundant safety equipment, training and experience, most of all, are required to explore the deep world under the sea. I always use back-up air supplies and adjust the dive plan to existing conditions as I described in the dive featured in the story. As a prerequisite to a deep dive I also advocate that any diver who attempts to establish a new "threshold" in depth or type of adventure should train themselves by gaining experience in stages and log as many dives as necessary to feel comfortable with their own confidence and physiology.

Albert Bianculli

**CRIME VICTIMS' REACTION**

Dear Editor:

This is a summary of our feelings about the proceedings in the Criminal Case against the conspirators and attackers at our home on October 11-12, 2004:

"We are pleased that the Court Case was held today on Bonaire and has exposed the criminals involved in our attack to the full view of the public and the families of the confessed conspirators and attackers. The police worked to arrest the suspects, obtain evidence and later confessions from the male individuals. That enabled the Island Prosecutor, Mr. Ernst Wesselius, to present the strongest possible case to the Judge responsible for the legal process of deciding guilt and suitable punishment.

With the admissions of guilt and the information that was provided by the four male defendants it was clear that there was a plan made for the robbery and attack and that Ms. Valery Nicolaas was a co-conspirator and willing accomplice. She played a very large role in the gang organization and ongoing criminal activities and, by her own admission, has used cocaine to pay for workers and others involved in building her house. I was shocked at her attitude that it is perfectly normal to use illegal substances as currency. Her words tell us, that in her lifestyle as a drug distributor, this kind of behavior should be acceptable in normal society and

social and business transactions here on Bonaire.

It is our opinion that ALL the conspirators and attackers involved, independent of their various roles, are EQUALLY responsible under the law for their actions and should receive the strongest and longest prison sentences permitted under the law. None of these individuals should be shown any leniency and those that have prior convictions should receive additional time in jail as repeat offenders."

Albert & Barbara Bianculli

*See story on page 7 for details of the trial. Ed.*

# Rotary Centennial



*Bonaire's Rotarians*

Rotary clubs and districts across the globe celebrated the 100th anniversary of Rotary on February 23 with an array of activities and service projects. The Bonaire Rotary Club celebrated this special day with a luncheon which included: installation of Honorary Member Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé, a gathering of past Rotarian Members including partners, and a few words by Paul Harris Award Charter Member Yke Faber. The meeting was presided over by incoming 2005-2006 President Edsel Winklaar.

Rotary International has 1,219,523 Rotarians in 31,926 Clubs, encompassing 529 Districts and 166 countries. □ *Sara Matera*

# Electric Power Update



*Aggreko generators being set up on the WEB property*

Last week emergency generators were brought in from Porto Cabello, Venezuela, by the *Dona Luisa I* and should be able provide sufficient electricity to meet the island's peak needs. The quick response, in answer to a request from WEB, following the loss of 5 Megawatts (MW) of generating capacity in a fire on February 7<sup>th</sup>, came from Aggreko (www.aggreko.com), a company in the business of providing emergency and additional power on short notice. Americans may recognize them because they made available a 15 MW temporary power and electric heating package for the 39<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl on February 6 in Jacksonville, Florida. The six 1 MW generators may be running by the time you read this story.

WEB has been doing a masterful job of keeping the power on for Bonaire, considering about a third of their generation capacity is out. In fact last Monday, because of conservation by consumers, the entire day passed without any load shedding required. But one of the light-duty Caterpillar generators failed on Thursday and a large part of the island lost electricity for a few



*Hurbert (Ibi) de Palm, representing the WEB board, and Stijn Janssen interim director of BMG sign the Aggreko contract.*

hours.

WEB's insurance company, AON, last week declared the number 2 diesel/dynamo made by Stork/Werkspoor a total loss, paving the way for the purchase of a new unit. The number 3 diesel/dynamo made by Wartsila should be okay, but extensive repairs are needed to associated boilers and heat exchangers.

WEB will pay NAf1.3million to use the generators for 16 weeks and has the option to extend their use in three-week increments three times (nine more weeks.) It's hoped by then a more permanent solution will be found. □ *G.D.*

## In the Park

### A Whale of a Lot of Progress

Archaeologist Dr. Jay Havisier, who leads the BONAI group of high school students who are restoring the whale skeleton, sends an update: "The students assembled the head and jaw onto a stainless steel frame which was built a couple of weeks ago. We have finished the 'arms-hands' and now are working on the backbone and ribs. We're hoping to have it finished and all assembled at the Washington Park entrance (to go into the Museum) for the end of March or beginning of April! The students are doing a great job and really enjoying this project!" □ *Jay Havisier*



BONAI photo

*Head-jaw of the whale*

### Just A Ride in the Park



Want to have a unique, athletic experience? Take a bike through Washington Park like these folks did. The road is rough so a mountain bike (available at De Freeweiler Bike Shop) is recommended. You should be relatively fit, bring twice the water you think you will need and if possible arrange for an escort pickup truck in case of bicycle or human failure. You should consider starting as early as possible. The Park opens at 8 am but can be opened earlier for a small fee. Call STINAPA HQ at 717-8444 for more information. □ *G.D.*

# Justice is (Almost) Served.

The violent crime that caught the attention of all Bonaire is coming to closure. On October 11, 2004, three men broke into the home of two Americans and demanded money and that the safe in the house be opened. There was no safe to open so one of the men brutally beat the woman hoping she or her husband would reveal the location of the non-existent safe. The house was ransacked, shots were fired, and finally the men departed. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, in an all-day action, police arrested the several suspects. Subsequently all confessed. Last Friday, in Bonaire's Justice Court, they allocated their crimes and made additional statements.

The court session started at 10:30 am and ended at 4 pm with a half-hour break at 12:30. All five defendants were present and each was represented by a lawyer.

The Judge opened the proceedings and read the statements (*Process Verbal*) of the victims, Barbara and Albert Bianculli. The Prosecutor, Ernst Wessilius, read the charges against each of the defendants. Each of the four male prisoners was then identified and placed before the Judge as he read their statements of confession and questioned them about details. They all admitted their participation and that these were, in fact, their statements. Valery Nicolaas, a female accomplice and sister of Ellery, denied being a part of the crime, but she was clearly implicated in the planning and operation of the attack by two of the men, Dominico Wanga and Ryan Frans.

Following the resumption of the proceedings the Prosecutor charged each individual with their part and described the evidence against each. At this point in his summary he specified their guilt and requested the following sentences: Ellery Nicolaas, 15 years; Sergio Mercera, 15 years; Ryan Frans, 12 years; Valery Nicolaas, 6 years; Dominico Wanga, 3 years. At this point each defense lawyer pleaded the case for their

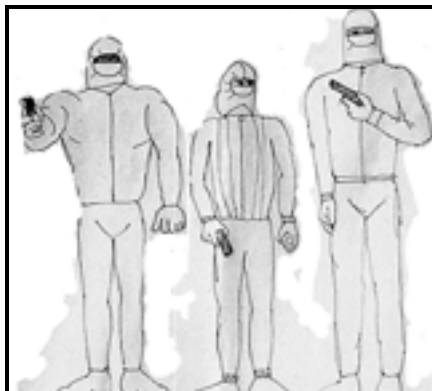


*Prosecutor Ernst Wessilius*

clients. The Prosecutor rebutted their claims. The defense had their last words. The Judge then asked each of the defendants if they wished to say anything. Ellery N. said he was sorry; Sergio M. had his attorney read a letter, in English, to the victims asking for forgiveness; and Valery N. asked not to be sent back to prison on Curaçao.

At the end of the day all the defendants were sent back to prison in Curaçao.

The Judge then announced that he would pronounce the sentences on Friday, March 4, in Curaçao in the presence of the defendants and another Judge would do the same here. □ G.D./A.B.



*The three intruders were dressed in nylon windbreakers of a type available in Bonaire shops. Their built-in hoods were drawn up tightly. Masks covered their faces up to their eyes. They all wore latex gloves.*

(*Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2*) agreed to present an emergency law to Parliament. This new law will limit the rights of the prisoners. It is one of the measures that the Justice Minister wants to take to get the situation in the prison under control.

Other measures he mentioned last week are: 24-hour surveillance, additional cell inspections, more personnel, more deliberations with the service group, electronic outside security, the formalizing of the legal position of the guards that act as mobile unit inside the prison, the use of the body scan, cell phone traffic blocking (Many prisoners have cell phones), obtaining an Antillean prison expert from the Netherlands, and the establishing a new position responsible for 'safety inside the prison.'

► **The Central Government called for three minutes of silence in Curaçao on Tuesday, March 1, at noon, as a "moment of reflection in these uneasy times, for peace, harmony and tranquility."** After that church bells on the island rang and Prime Minister Etienne Ys addressed the people on radio and television.

► In January Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and the Netherlands signed a protocol to improve cooperation between the two countries to combat crime. The cooperation is focused on tackling violent crimes, especially in Curaçao.

The Netherlands will make up to 40 officers available for a period of one year. Another objective is to strengthen the law enforcement overall in the Netherlands Antilles. For this purpose the

Netherlands will make up to 20 additional specialists available for two years.

Finally it was also agreed that 13 members of the Royal Netherlands Military Constabulary (*Koninklijke Marechaussees*) and 12 Customs officers would be made available by the Netherlands for joint border control teams. If all goes according to plan Marechaussees will join the airport drug control Flamingo Team on Bonaire this month.

Last week Minister of Kingdom Relations Thom de Graaf appointed Klaas de Jong as Coordinator for this Netherlands Antilles Security Plan effective March 1. De Jong will coordinate the Dutch deployment and inform the Antillean Minister of Justice of the implementation of the agreements.

► **Last Thursday, the Parliament approved a two-year moratorium on physicians.** This means that for two years, no new physicians can be added in the Antilles.

Member of Parliament Philip (Fifi) Nieuw, chairman of the Health Committee in Parliament, confirmed this. "We need a new law, because the doors cannot just remain closed for our children who graduate as physicians and want to establish business here."

The moratorium is aimed at reducing the enormous expenses for health care. These were more than NAf600 million guilders for the Antilles a few years ago (the last period for when figures were available). The moratorium is expected to reduce this by NAf25 million.

Health Minister Joan Theodora-Brewster will determine how many patients a specialist is supposed to accept in

(Continued on page 9)

# Return to the Windjammer



A diver is dwarfed by the 'Jammer's anchor

As we prepared for our dive on the *Mairi Bhan*, my thoughts wandered back to her last fateful voyage in December of 1912, bound from Trinidad to Marseilles (which is odd considering Bonaire is 400 miles in the opposite direction from Marseilles. Ed.), her holds filled with a cargo of asphalt pitch. This once proud three-masted clipper ship boasted a record maiden voyage in 1874 from Glasgow to New Zealand in only 75 days. Now the remains of her 239-foot (73 meter) iron hull lay on her starboard side, resting 190 feet (58 m) below the surface. The azure blue sea that once carried her from port to port is slowly devouring her structure. The end came swiftly. After fighting against mountainous seas in a fierce storm that blew her off course toward Bonaire, Captain Rosetta had little choice but to ground the ship after an oil lamp ignited the cargo which exploded in flames. The final maneuver was an attempt to save

the crew, and all but four of the 32-man crew survived the horror of her sinking! Visions and sounds of crashing waves, intense flames, exploding barrels and screams of terror filled my brain as I strapped on my tank for another visit to her sandy grave.

Our steps into the calm, warm sea, at our chosen entry point took us over fossilized Elkhorn and Staghorn coral. These skeletons, left behind eons ago by tiny animals, are the ancient relatives of the creatures that today call the *Mairi Bhan* home. The first sight of the upper spars, strewn like pick-up sticks on the shallow reef, tells us to turn and swim down the reef slope. At 100 feet (30 m) we see the lower section of the four-foot diameter (1.2 m) main mast, snapped cleanly from the deck, silent witness to the violent lurch that heeled the ship over as she slid down the sloping reef.

Descending below 140 feet (43 m) we encounter a cold thermocline, and the

water column takes on an eerie green cast. My eyes strain and pick up the shape of the huge overturned hull with the curve of the port rail outlined against the white sand below. Fifteen feet (4.5 m)-long wire corals extend upward in cork-screw shapes, endlessly dancing in the mild current. Today the visibility is spectacular and I can see the entire ship from stem to stern.

Nothing, no previous experiences, can prepare you for a close-up encounter at the bow of the ship. The anchor chain is clearly visible in the sand below, the links slack, reminding me of the way my own chain necklace looks when lying in the bottom of my dresser drawer. The graceful curve of the hull terminates at the bow in the superstructure that supported the bowsprit. Built by Barclay, Curle and Company in Scotland, the *Mairi Bhan* was a fast sailing ship that carried passengers and cargo to distant ports using only her sails to harness the power of the wind. It was the same wind that drove her to destruction in December of 1912 on the north coast of Bonaire.

Today we are measuring the size of the bowsprit support, and as I watch Barbara descend to the long steel tube protruding into the mild current, I am shocked by the sight of her outline dwarfed by the massive proportions of the bow structure! The length measures over 26 feet (8 m) with a ring at the end which is over two feet (0.6 m) in diameter. I can only



The remains of the bow fitting that supported the bowsprit

imagine the thrill of being on board and standing at the bow watching the ship slice through the water with the sound of the rigging straining at the wind.

Further along the hull we see a huge round hole at deck level where the main mast snapped off. It measures over four feet (1.2 m) in diameter and most certainly was over 150 feet (46 m) tall. It now lies on the reef slope pointing to the surface at mid-ships. It is our sign that our time on this visit is over.

We glance over our shoulders as we ascend to view the *Mairi Bhan* now playing host to her new passengers, a large school of silver Horse-eyed Jacks, in permanent residence in her watery grave. We plan to return again and explore this magnificent ship and learn her secrets. □

Photos and story by Albert Bianculli

**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.**

## VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Adesso	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Meruva
Alessa	Honalee	Moana
Alice	Hinano	Mulloka II
Amante	Inti	Reward
Angelos	Jacuzzi	Rumkath
Argus, USA	Jan Gerardus	Santa Maria
Aton	Janus	Sandpiper, USA
Bettina, Venezuela	Jel-jok France	Significant Other
Bright Sea	Kormoran	Solvig of Lorn
Blown Away Too	L'Aquila, BVI	Star of the West
Blue Rabbit	Libelle	Sylvia K
Camissa, Chan Is.	Luna C. USA	Tagora
Cape Kathryn	La Escotilla, Caymans	Ti Amo, USA
Flying Cloud, USA	Low Key	Ulu Ulu, USA
Gabrielle	Maebelle	Unicorn, Norway
Galandriel	Mahi Mahi	Varedhuni, Germany
Gambler	Maggi	Ya-T, BVI
Gatsby, USA	Maki, France	Zahi, Malta

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

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
3-04	8:04	2.0FT.	17:15 0.8FT.
			54
3-05	8:54	2.1FT.	17:52 0.8FT.
			56
3-06	0:07	1.0FT.	9:44 2.1FT. 18:23 0.8FT. 23:57 1.0FT.
			64
3-07	1:26	1.1FT.	10:30 2.0FT. 18:56 0.8FT. 23:47 1.1FT.
			75
3-08	3:14	1.1FT.	11:23 2.0FT. 19:29 0.9FT.
			85
3-09	0:32	1.3FT.	4:33 1.1FT. 12:10 1.8FT. 19:53 1.0FT.
			93
3-10	1:14	1.4FT.	6:04 1.1FT. 13:05 1.7FT. 20:11 1.1FT.
			98
3-11	1:58	1.5FT.	7:53 1.2FT. 14:03 1.5FT. 20:20 1.2FT.
			99



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 7) order to guarantee good care. She is charged with coming up with a new legislation. The Curaçao Physicians Association complained last year about competition from new physicians. For example, there are 121 physicians in Curacao, where the "norm" is for 57. There are 45 dentists, 25 speech therapists, and only 7 obstetricians in Curacao, while the norm is 19, 7, and 16 respectively. Bonaire also has "extra" doctors. However, a spokesman for the island's medical specialists, Dr. Ajubi, said these figures were very misleading because **80% of the local doctors have training only in the basics, "basisarts," and in the Netherlands normally an additional two or three years of training is needed to become fully qualified.**

► More evidence of economic expansion: **A commercial mall across from the northern hotel row**, long planned but in limbo, is getting increased interest. And a conditional okay has been given for **a building containing shops at the street side of the pier used by cruise ships.** The ground has been cleared.

► Anita and Guy Chaumette, who are filming in Bonaire for upcoming documentaries, have had their production, **"Talking With Fishes"** win **1st place for 'Best Camera Work'** and also been nominated for 'Best Underwater Animal Film' at the Moscow International Festival 'Golden Dolphin.'



*Prince Floris and Aimee together with Prince Pieter-Christiaan and his girlfriend Anita van Eijk*

► Princess Margriet and her husband Pieter van Vollenhoven **announced marriage plans for their sons.** Prince Pieter-Christiaan of Oranje-Nassau van Vollenhoven will marry in August while Prince Floris of Oranje-Nassau van Vollenhoven will do the same in October.

Pieter-Christiaan (32), the third son of Queen Beatrix's sister Princess Margriet, will marry Anita van Eijk (35). His brother Floris (29), the fourth and youngest son, will tie the knot with Aimée Söhngen (27).

Pieter-Christiaan is a major at the Directorate of Operations of the Dutch royal military police Marechaussees in The Hague. Floris is policy secretary at the Prosecutor's Office. Both princes studied law.

► Last week the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) published the results of **its research on the labor situation on Bonaire.** The survey was made in October 2004.

In summary:

- **The working population has grown by more than 300 persons** compared to September 2002, an increase of almost 8%.
- **The number of job seekers dropped 20%.** Unemployment dropped from 11.6% to 8.9%.
- **Youth unemployment decreased** from

31.5% in 2002 to 25.2% in 2004.

The Bonaire Island Government stated that it felt that the economic revival which has been underway in Bonaire since 2003 has had a positive impact and has raised confidence in investors in the Bonaire economy.

► **A selection of products made with donkey milk are on sale at the Donkey Sanctuary.** Marina Melis, founder of the Donkeys Help Foundation, got the idea to sell these products after seeing in the TV and print media a story about Mrs. Marie Tack's donkey farm, L'Asinerie du Pays des Collines in Belgium, where she has 66 giant female donkeys. Together with her husband, she milks the donkeys and makes soap, bath cream, body lotion, silky cream and candies. Donkey's milk, as we reported in an earlier issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*, has been known for its curative powers since Cleopatra's time. These products are now available at the Donkey Sanctuary. They are open every day except Monday, from 10 am to 5 pm. Email: donkeyshelp@telbonet.an. Telephone: 560-7607.

► **For the first time there will be a Singles Week (March 21-26<sup>th</sup>) in Bonaire.** According to organizer Ann Phelan it will be a time to mix and mingle with singles of all ages and genders for dinners, activities and fun. Dive and windsurf by day and at night join a group for a French dining experience, fondue and wine, bowling or karaoke. Membership is open to all. Email ann@bonairewindsurfing.com or call (011-599-9)-786-3134 to join in the fun. It's fun to travel solo but even more fun to meet new people and have new social opportunities.

► In last week's *Reporter* we wrote about **Jasta Travel's air excursions to Los Roques**, the islands north of Venezuela and about 100 miles east of Bonaire. There has been a reorganization of Jasta and according to owner Jacinto Cicilia, the Roques trips will not begin on March 7 as originally planned, but will be begun on a later date and will most likely allow travelers to spend more than just a day in the islands. With the Transaven airlines they are still flying to Valencia, Venezuela, three times a week. As well they do charters to Caracas via Valencia. For more information call Jasta Travel at 717-9444 and ask for Jacinto.

► **The Cunard line's Queen Mary 2 will be visiting the island this Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.** She's the largest liner in the world: 992.9 ft. long, displacing 148,528 tons and carries 2,700 passengers and 1,270 crew. Bonaire is no stranger to large cruise ships. The QM-2's companion ship, the QE-2, is the liner in service for the longest time of any ship and first visited Bonaire on Christmas, 1981.

► **Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn has now added free wireless internet access service for its guests.** The wireless service can be accessed anywhere around the pool patio area. Anyone wishing to bring their laptop can now enjoy some Internet time and emailing between dives. For more information contact Carib Inn at Bruce@caribinn.com or call (011-599) 717-8819

► The first 2005 concert of the **The Dutch Dixies** will be held this Sunday, March 6th at KonTiki beach club from 5 to 8 pm. Starting in the early 80s as The

► Is Bonaire's hotel sector about to boom? According to reliable sources last week the **Island Government signed a deal with Coral Suites by Hilton for the former Sunset Beach Hotel property.** Coral Suites has the rights to the Hilton name in the Caribbean and has several hotels in the Dominican Republic. One proposal is for the hotel to have over 500 rooms.

The government is awaiting **Harbour Village Development, NV, to sign off on a deal to develop the area adjacent to the Harbour Village Marina.** Reportedly the developer must post a NAf250,000 performance bond and begin construction within six months and follow through with completion.



*Scenes from the demolished Sunset Beach Hotel*

Swinging Woodpeckers, the band joined various jazz festivals. When performing abroad they are known as **The Dutch Dixies.** They'll be performing with special guest Gil O'Gawa. The Dixies consist of Louis Bink (trumpet/voice), Henk van Muijen (trombone/voice), Jan Vervoort (clarinet), Ton van Kooten (banjo), Rob Stadhouders (bass) and Klaas Brouwer (drums).

All revenue from the concerts will be donated to the Rotary Club of Bonaire, for sponsorship of special projects directed at assisting and supporting Bonaire's youngsters. Don't miss the concerts (from March 6<sup>th</sup> till 13<sup>th</sup>) this coming week. See the "Happenings" section for the schedule.

► Archeologist and current resident of Bonaire, **Dr. Jay Havisser is having an exposition of his paintings at the Curaçao Museum on Friday, March 11 at 6:30.** The exhibit is called "Passion through Painting." Congratulations, Jay.

► **The teens from Jong Bonaire** in the **Benetton ad** on page 11 this week are Nakka Frans and Farley Mercera.

► **Tryouts for new kids for soccer** this Saturday and Sunday at the soccer field near Reina Beatrix (Antriol Pariba) 10 am to 2 pm. Kids 8-12, 13-15. Donations for food for kids gratefully accepted at the gate. Future tournaments will be with teams from Aruba and Curaçao.

► **Don't forget to send in your stories for the April 1 edition.** □ L./G.D.

# ENVIROWATCH

Strollers along the waterfront promenade this weekend were shocked to see five “headless” palm trees and many others damaged. We couldn’t imagine what catastrophe caused it. When we asked one of the people who lives in a house opposite the trees he told us. It was vandalism and the vandals were drunk Dutch Marines they said. Incredible! Then we heard that the Marines were also suspects in the vandalism and theft of one of the lions at the Lions’ Club Time Capsule on Kaya Grandi.

At the very minimum, the commanding officer of the Royal Marine contingent on island last week should make his troops repair the damage they caused. □ G.D.



# GOING FOR THE GOLD



*In the kitchen of the SGB hotel school, Chez Nous: Coach Vernon “Nonchi” Martijn, Isadoor van Riemsdijk (Rum Runners), Ricky Janzen (Divi Flamingo), Floris van Loo (Rum Runners), Tico Marsera (Den Laman), apprentice chefs Bram Smit and Andreas Cicilia*

## Pet of the Week

“Rick” has one of the cutest smiling faces we’ve ever seen on a dog. He has that kind of rakish dog look that movie directors love to discover and put into their films. But Hollywood is not for Rick right now because he just loves being here on his island. Rick’s mom wandered into someone’s yard with her three puppies, Rick amongst them, and the people, not being able to care for them, brought them into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. The puppies were born about mid-October according to the vet’s estimate. Rick’s mom is a darling, very nice dog, and Rick is just like her. He’s social, alert and of course so cute and funny you just want to laugh at that whiskered face. He’s passed all his health and social tests and is ready for adoption. The NAf105 adoption fee for dogs includes a health exam, tests, worming, shots and sterilization. You’d pay much more than that if you had to pay those costs individually. Stop by and see for yourself at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



**Remember, there’s always room at the Shelter for unwanted dogs or cats. Don’t ever hesitate to bring them in so they can have a good chance at life.**

Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema reports that since the first of the year **there have been 26 pet adoptions.** Congratulations to all and may your lives together be happy ones. □ L.D.

Bonaire’s team of chefs and bartender for the “Taste of the Caribbean” competition in June in Miami are hard at work. The chefs must come up with a winning three-course menu of appetizer, main dish and dessert – the ingredients chosen from a “mystery basket.”

In addition to their regular long hours as chefs in hotels and restaurants on the island, the team members have set aside times to work together to hone their skills as a team. They’ll be competing with the best chefs in the Caribbean.

A new team member is Ricky Janzen, Divi Flamingo’s sous chef, who replaces Selsio de Palm. This year, for the first time the team will include two apprentice student chefs from the SGB hotel school: Bram Smit and Andreas Cicilia.

### THE FUNDRAISERS:

The first fundraiser to help send our team to Miami is coming up in two weeks. It’s a **Wine and Cheese Party on Saturday, March 19**, the place yet to be determined. Participating will be local wine purveyors: ALCON, Antillean Wine Company (AWC), Bonaire Gift Shop and The Island Supplier (TIS). Cheeses and appetizers will be supplied by local restaurants.

To help the team practice there will be **some lunches (of the chosen three-course menu) served during the weeks of March 14 and 21** and the public is invited. There is seating for only 30 persons each time, so make your reservations early. Call Sara Matera at 786-9299 or Laura DeSalvo at 717-8988 or 791-7252.

□ L.D

**COVER  
STORY**

# Harbourtown Bonaire Jazz Festival

Having an international music festival is a good sign that Bonaire is growing into a more broadly based travel destination. Last Friday at City Café the official announcement was made by organizer Guus Gerritsen that the Harbourtown Bonaire Jazz Festival will run from May 19 to 22. And the program is awesome, especially for a first effort. There will be Happy Hour sessions and three main concerts during the May 19-22, 2005, long weekend:

**MAY 19:** WELCOME CONCERT AT WILHELMINA PARK. Happy hour and late night jazz in cafes and restaurants

**MAY 20:** MAIN CONCERT AT PLAZA RESORT. Happy hour and late night jazz jam sessions at City Café and other places

**MAY 21:** MAIN CONCERT AT BONGOS BEACH. Happy hour and late night jazz jam sessions at City Café and other places

**MAY 22:** MAIN CONCERT AT KONTIKI BEACH CLUB. Brunch concert. The location has not yet been decided.

Latin and Caribbean jazz will be featured. Artists signed up to date include: Denise Jannah, Ced Ride, Avila Blues House band, Cuban Express, X-Hale, The Bernabela Bislip Project, the *Freewinds* Band with guests, Stacey Francis, Latin Quarter, Bonaire Jazz Trio and Stingway. More groups are promised too. There will be jazz all over the place plus three main concerts and an all-inclusive pass is only NAf30! Signed up as sponsors so far are: Harbourtown Real Estate, the title sponsor. The main sponsors are Heineken and Bonaire Fun Travel. Day sponsors are Littman, Yellow Submarine and Fatum Insurance. The supporting sponsors are City Café, Plaza Resort Bonaire, Kontiki Beach Club, Bongos Beach, Toyota, Benetton, Russell Insurance, Telbo, Omni Electronics, BonaireNet, TCB, *The Bonaire Reporter*, Bonaire Express and the Bonaire Jazz Foundation. Keep track of the event at [www.bonairejazz.com](http://www.bonairejazz.com). □ G.D.



*Jazz in Action*



*Margon Muller of major sponsor, Harbourtown Real Estate, and event organizer Guus Gerritsen*

# Great Escape Hotel under New Management

The new owners of the Great Escape in Belnem are Americans, Kevin and Kathy Williams, who both had careers in computers in "Silicon Valley" (San Jose, California). So what was the Bonaire connection? "We're scuba divers," replies Kevin, "and we were looking for a new occupation. You might say we're refugees from San Jose!" The Great Escape hotel with its lush gardens around the pool and the bar and restaurant under the thatched palm roof (*Churuhuata*) seemed just the ticket and it was a pretty spontaneous decision they say.

The well established hotel has had a following over the years and the couple wants to maintain the same quality of atmosphere and ambiance. However, a lot of refurbishing, modernizing and upgrading are going on: new aircos and pool deck for example. And now there's an Internet Café, DVD and DVD machine rentals. Each of the 10 rooms has a brand new flat screen TV.

The hotel has a deal with Belmar for diving: guests get a 10% discount.

"And kite surfing lessons can be booked here too," Kevin explains. "We're the closest hotel to the Atlantis kiting area."

"We want to emphasize our restaurant and bar," Kevin says. "Our Cuban chef, Luis Alvarez, does Caribbean cuisine and he makes the best black bean soup." The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There's a breakfast buffet served until 10 am, with a Champagne Brunch on Sunday from 10 to noon. Lunch starts and 12 and the restaurant remains open for dinner until 9 pm. The bar is open from noon to 10 pm, with Happy Hour 5 to 7.

A nice thing that they're doing for the community is to open the pool to the children on Saturday afternoons from 1



*Your hosts, Kathy and Kevin Williams*



*The Great Escape pool, garden and Churuhuata (thatched roof) over the bar and restaurant*

to 4. (Kids must be accompanied by an adult.) Drinks and snacks are available.

Stop by for a cool drink or sample Chef Luis' lunch or dinner. The Great Escape hotel, bar and restaurant is at EEG Blvd. #97. Tel/Fax 717-7488. There's always someone there who speaks English. Email: [greatest-cape@bonairelive.com](mailto:greatest-cape@bonairelive.com). Website: [www.bonairenet.com/escape](http://www.bonairenet.com/escape). □L.D.

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

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

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

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

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

**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**

**For Sale: Logan compact mat cutter-** 120 Nafl; **Lexmark Z11 color printer with extra cartridges-** 60 Nafl; **LG Studioworks 17 " computer monitor almost new-** 100 Nafl, **HP 1350 Color printer; scanner, copier with extra ink cartridges-** 300 Nafl. Call 717-3976 or 786-0076

**For Sale Appliances: Whirlpool Super capacity 5 cycle washer** made for 50 cycle 127 volts- 400 Nafl available March 17; **Avanti counter height refrigerator with transformer-** 225 Nafl; **Daewoo large microwave with transformer-** 200 Nafl.; **George Foreman grill-** 50 Nafl. Call 717-3976 or 786-0076

**For Sale Furniture:** Mission style **oak futon with mattress-** 300 Nafl; **Comfortable sofa and loveseat -** 800 Nafl; **2 oak end tables-** 100 Nafl; **Black lacquer table with 4 matching chairs-** 200 Nafl, comfortable **Recliner chair** black 1 year old- 300 Nafl; **Sony Trinitron 21" color TV-** 125 Nafl; **Samsung TV 27"** almost new- 500 Nafl; **Cherry TV stand-** 100 Nafl; **white student desk-** 60 Nafl; assorted **bookcases** 50 Nafl each. Call 717-3976 or 786-0076

**Revolving CD-Stand,** wood, holds about 300 CDs, NAf90.00, call 717-2848**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

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**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

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

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

**CARS FOR SALE**

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

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**BOATS & ENGINES for SALE**

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

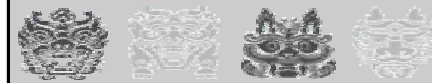


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**Desktop Computer,** in excellent condition includes CPU (6-gig Hard Drive), Monitor, and upgraded Keyboard with built in mouse-pad, great for light computer work and email/Internet. NAf500, Call 717-2848 if interested.

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## El Fogón Latino – A New Colombian Restaurant Opens

After giving them some time to work out the kinks we decided to visit Bonaire's first and only Colombian restaurant, **El Fogón Latino**. We were overwhelmed by the quality, selection, taste, portions and service as well as the low, low prices. The most expensive item on the menu (broiled fresh fish - thick filets!) is only NAf13,50! If the restaurant were on the Bonaire waterfront it would be jammed with diners even if the prices were tripled.

Right now it's in a spotless small blue building with the two white pillars at Nikiboko Suid #88 (Leaving Kralendijk toward Sorobon pass the first main intersection. El Fogón Latino is on your right, just a couple of houses past). The name, "El Fogón," refers to the ancient method of cooking with three stones placed in the fire pit.

It's run by Juan Mendoza, who is also a radio personality with his own program of Colombian music on Saturday on Digital FM, and the popular chef Leonardo Romero, the restaurant offers traditional Colombian dishes with all the simple, basic and wholesome ambience of a neighborhood Bonairean eatery.

Their soup, *Sancocho de Gallina Criolla*, uses all the parts of the chicken to make a rich thick broth with potatoes, corn on the cob, yucca, carrots and chicken with a squeeze of lime. There is a vast array of beef dishes done mostly on the grill, with a Criollo sauce or without. A particularly tasty beef dish is called *Punta Gorda*. There are other beef styles: *Churrasco* or *Carne a la Plancha*. Chicken and fish come *a la plancha* too. Accompanying the meats is a typical sauce, *chimichuri*, which is made with fresh parsley. Another sauce, *Salsa Verde*, again with fresh parsley, can be used on vegetables, rice and salads. All meals come with rice, yucca, salad, French fries or *Patacón* (thickly sliced fried plantains).

They have a Happy Hour every day with Polar and Amstel for NAf2, a Chivas Regal goes for NAf7.

El Fogón Latino is open every day ex-



Juan Mendoza is ready to greet you.



Juan and Chef Leonardo Romero in the spotless kitchen

cept Tuesday, 11 am to 11 pm. The kitchen is closed at 3 pm and is open 5 to 10 pm. Eat in or take out. Telephone 786-2810. □ L.D.

## Intermezzo Spa at Capt. Don's Habitat Opens



Owners and operators of Habitat and Intermezzo at the opening.

A gathering of the owners and operators of Intermezzo Spas and Captain Don's Habitat welcomed guests to the official and gala opening of the elegant day spa last Saturday evening. What was once one of the original "cottages" at Captain Don's has been turned into a stylish and tranquil setting for massages, facials, scrubs, wraps, nail care and more.

Cinnamon Gallery's Avy Benhamron's African-themed art decorates the walls.

In addition to the main spa there is a private little cabana adjacent to the hotel pool and at the seaside where you may have your facial and/or massage.

Intermezzo has six day spas in Aruba's leading hotels. This one is the first in Bonaire.

To make a reservation call 786-7069 or Capt. Don's Habitat at 717-8290. □ L.D.



**The Bonaire Reporter needs your ideas for our annual April Fools issue.**

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.

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## Picture Yourself with the Reporter Shanghai, China

Here's Harris Fried-  
burg of New Haven,  
CT, and Bonaire with his  
copy of *The Bonaire Re-  
porter* in Shanghai, China..  
The photo was taken by his  
wife, ardent conservationist,  
Mel McCombie. □



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

### Hide and Seek (Robert de Niro)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

### White Noise

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

## MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in  
Movieland Cinema:

**White Noise** by Geoffrey Sax starring Michael Keaton. With movies like this I don't need air conditioning to freeze my blood. Like The Grudge, this film had me covering my eyes from time to time. When I look beyond the scary stuff the film scores high on the predictability scale. We see Keaton behaving like every other horror movie fruitcake: Abandoning the Woman Whom He's Sworn to Protect; Delving Into Things Man Was Not Meant To Know; Going Into The Spooky Place Alone. On the positive side, White Noise was well acted and directed. The scary effects were jolting. The music was exciting (and sometimes lovely) and helped to build the tension.

□ Dodo

## THIS WEEK

**Saturday, Sunday, March 5, 6—Tryouts for new soccer players.** Soccer field near Reina Beatrix School. Ages 8-12, 13-15. 10 am—2 pm. Donations for food for kids gratefully accepted. Tel. 717-5330, ext. 667.

**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.

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

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** Saturday, Mar. 5—Queen Mary 2; Monday, Mar. 7—*Oceana*; Tuesday, Mar. 8—*Aida Vita*

## COMING

**Saturday, March 12—Opening of art exhibition by Willie Dijkstra,** Cinnamon Art Gallery, 7 to 9 pm, A.P.L. Brion #1. Until April 14. 717-7103

**Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** -Premiere of two Theo van Gogh films "Cool" and "0605" at Movieland. Premiere party with appearance of Katja Schuurman at 2300 in City Café. Tickets NAf15.

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** Wed., Mar. 16—*Mona Lisa*; Tues., Mar. 22—*Aida Vita*; Sun. Apr. 24—*Endeavor*

**Saturday, March 19—Wine and Cheese Fundraiser for Bonaire's Culinary Team**—Time and place to be announced

**Sunday, March 20—Palm Sunday**  
**March 21-26<sup>th</sup> Singles Week in Bonaire**-Membership is open to all. Email ann@bonairewindsurfing.com or call 011-5999-786-3134 to join in the fun

**Friday, March 25—Good Friday**—Banks and shops closed.

**Sunday, March 27—Easter Sunday**

**Monday, March 28—Easter Monday.** Banks and shops closed

**Saturday, April 16—Padrino Fashion Show** at Croccantino Restaurant—to raise funds for Bonaire's Special Olympics Team. 7:30 pm. NAf125 donation includes multi-course Tuscan dinner. Well-known singer Monica Millar will perform. Tickets at Croccantino Restaurant. Tel. 717-5025.

**Saturday, April 30—Rincon Day, Queen's Birthday**

**Saturday, April 30—COMCABON MCB 17.5 km run with prizes.** 7 am. Call Richard Pietersz at 717-8629, 780-7225.

**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

**May 19 to 22—Bonaire-Harbourtown JAZZ FESTIVAL May 19 - 22!!**

## EVERY WEEK

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

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

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

**Tuesday** -Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225 /717-7500, ext. 14.

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

**Wednesday** -Sand Dollar Manager's Cocktail Party, Mangos Bar and Restaurant  
**Friday** -Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort, 5:30-6:30 pm

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

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

**Every day by appointment** -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for 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. Turtle STCB slide show is canceled for March....



## DUTCH DIXIES JAZZ TOUR

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

It

restarts April!

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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

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

**Donkey Sanctuary** - 560-7607.

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

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

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

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

**Bridge Club** - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBT 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.

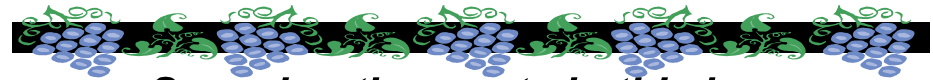
**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios),** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

**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 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 Great Escape</b> EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open 7 days	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof.</b> Cuban Chef prepares Caribbean cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> <b>Home Delivery or Take Out</b> 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side <b>Caribbean-style bistro</b> owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111



# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## ACCOUNTING SERVICES

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

## 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.

## 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.

**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.

## 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.

## The Great Escape

Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, restaurant and bar.

## METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

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

## PHOTO FINISHING

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

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

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

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

## REPAIRS

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

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

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

## RETAIL

**Benetton**, world famous designer clothes available

now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

## SECURITY

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

## SHIPPING

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

## SPA—DAY SPAS

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

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

## SUPERMARKETS

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

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

## VILLAS

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

## WATER TAXI

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

## WINES

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

## YOGA

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

**ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN:**  
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.  
The most advertising for your guild.  
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252



## Denise van der Ree

**I** met Alvin van der Ree in a discothèque in Enschede, Holland. I was 18 and he was 22. He swept me off my feet. He was a hunk, very handsome and interesting. He told me he was from Bonaire; I didn't even know where that was! I am from Oldenzaal, a small town in the very east of Holland, near Germany. Alvin had moved to Holland with his family when he was 11. He was definitely different from anybody I'd known before and we fell in love. One year later I moved in with him.

I gave up studying and did a one-year receptionist course and started working in boutiques. Alvin was a welder originally, but he'd started a carpet laying business with a friend. When Alvin's mother left for Bonaire to take care of his grandmother we went to visit her as a surprise for Christmas. It was 1988 and the first time I'd flown. The only other place I'd been before was Sauerland, Germany, just over the border. Bonaire was unbelievable... overwhelming... paradise! I couldn't believe my eyes. I'd never seen anything like it in my life. Those huge cactuses! The yellow, pink, green and blue houses! The sun! Those white beaches! The colors of the sea! The only open water I'd seen was a muddy brown lake close to my home. Because Alvin's great-grandfather had been the owner of Washington Park, we went there a lot. I remember standing in the back of the pick-up truck, the hot wind blowing in my face, the rocks, the dusty roads. I felt like a cowboy in a western! I just couldn't get enough of it! And the people were so nice; I thought it so special that everyone would greet you in the streets! It was a new world... a true paradise. We immediately thought, 'Let's stay!' But, with pain in our hearts, we had to go back to Holland, and life went on.

The idea of going back to Bonaire lingered on, but it was a big step. Alvin's family advised us to stay in Holland where there were more and better opportunities. In 1990 our son Joey was born. When he was 18 months old we returned to Bonaire. I thought it was even greater than the first time, and I had this overwhelming feeling, 'I want to live here!' I applied for a job at Bonaire Trading, and when they told me that a gross (*bruto*) salary was about NAf1.500 per month I asked them if it was a part-time job. They answered, 'No, young lady. That's full time!' *She laughs:* Now it doesn't seem so bad to me, but at the time..."

*Denise van der Ree (38) has a great personality. She's pretty, she's strong and she has a tremendous lust for life. "Well, again we went back to Holland; again we were homesick and we spent lots of time going through the pictures of*

Bonaire. Rachele was born in 1993. It was an everyday life: two small children, work and the crèche (child care).

In 1994 Alvin came to Bonaire to apply for a job as a prison warden. After he got back we didn't hear anything, but we'd made our minds up. In November 1995 we bought four round-trip tickets and left. The first day we arrived I told Alvin, 'I'm not going back! I'm staying!' In December I got a temporary job as a receptionist at Harbour Village. Alvin went back to Holland with Rachele to arrange everything and returned three weeks later. We got married here on Valentine's Day 1996.

It wasn't easy in the beginning. We moved in with Alvin's father as we didn't have anything and had to start all over again. But we had each other. After a while I got a job at an accounting office. I didn't have the slightest idea

**"I applied for a job at Bonaire Trading, and when they told me that a gross (*bruto*) salary was about NAf1.500 per month I asked them if it was a part-time job. They answered, 'No, young lady. That's full time!... Now it doesn't seem so bad to me, but at the time..."**

about accounting, but I'm a person who makes the best of every opportunity. So, I became a clerk, and at night I sold ice cream at Colombo's. Every little thing helped. Alvin was working all kinds of jobs: he was a bell boy at Plaza; he worked for Special Security Services as a guard and as a mechanic for Akkermans. We moved in with a cousin of Alvin's until we finally found an affordable house to rent.

Joey's first school day at Papa Cornes wasn't a big success. 'The children don't understand me and I don't understand them! I don't like it!' However, three weeks later he spoke Papiamentu fluently! Rachele went to crèche Bon Kuido; when she started talking it was in Papiamentu. I spoke Dutch and she would answer in Papiamentu and kept doing so until she went to kindergarten! In 1997 Alvin's dad gave us some property next to his house in Antriel and we started building with the help of Fundashon Cas Bonairiano. After his job Alvin did a lot of work on the house

himself. In September 1998 the house was ready and we moved in. A year later I started working for Tjin N.V. At that time they did business from their house in Nort di Saliña and it was great; it felt like family.

While we were working on the house Alvin started having problems: pain in his joints, headaches and fatigue. He went to see the doctor and had some tests, but nothing showed up. He went for examinations in Curaçao a couple of times. Although they found there was something wrong they didn't know what it was. For the first time in five years we went for a holiday to Holland. We'd planned to have him examined there, but our insurance wouldn't cover it, so we didn't do it. We had a wonderful vacation though and the children had a great time. When we came back Alvin started working as a technician for Radio Nederland, three shifts. It wore him out, but he went every day.

At the end of 2001 he got the flu and couldn't get rid of it. The doctor diagnosed it as hepatitis. He was advised to take complete rest. From that time on his health went downhill. To make things worse Radio Nederland didn't renew his contract. In September 2002 he was hospitalized in Curaçao for more exams and finally they found out he had leukemia... and the world stopped turning. He said, 'I want to see my kids grow up,' and I answered, 'Of course you will. Don't be silly.' Two weeks later we went to Rotterdam. The children stayed here with family. Between his two chemotherapies the children came for Christmas. Together we picked them up at Schiphol Airport. You can't imagine the way he looked - like an 80-year old man. All the complications one can get, he got them.

That time we spent together as a family was bittersweet. On January 3, 2003, the kids went back to Bonaire, and on January 12 he got a tremendous fever and was taken to intensive care. He didn't respond anymore; he was in a coma. That night it was diagnosed as kidney failure. Then a male nurse told me, 'Listen girl, I think you should have your children here.' I said, 'Why? They just left! You told me it was going to be all right!' He answered, 'You can't handle this alone; you need to have your



*Denise van der Ree with Rachele and Joey*

family around you.' I called Alvin's mom and she came with her sisters and Joey and Rachele and Alvin's brother. We all gathered around his bed; the children were there; I talked to him; we prayed and I think somehow he realized we were there. He passed away Friday January 17<sup>th</sup>. Together with Alvin we all flew back to Bonaire where he was buried. It was all very unreal... I would hear his car coming... I would hear him talking...

The first year was very hard. We'd been together for 18 years and we'd been a part of each other. And I felt so sad for the children, that they had to miss him because he was a wonderful dad. I started working almost immediately; I couldn't stay home. People would ask me, 'Aren't you going back to Holland?' I thought that was funny because I live here, my children are here, I've got my life here. In April 2003 I became the office manager at Lisa's Gas Station. It's a good job and I like it. The children are doing okay. They are good kids and I've learned that you can't do everything and that everything doesn't have to be perfect. We manage. I work out every day. I love to dance and sometimes I go to Curaçao or Aruba for the weekend, with or without the children. I've learned how important it is to enjoy every single day and not to postpone anything. Enjoy every day as if it is your last one..."

□ *photo and story by Greta Kooistra*



**Greta Kooistra**

**THE PET PROFESSOR**  
  
**Evaluating  
 an Adult Dog**

Puppies are almost always happy and excited to see anyone. Testing them, like training them, is pretty easy. On the other hand, adult dogs live in a fully developed universe of which you are not yet a part, and they have a history which defines them, so evaluating them can be a bit harder. You want to see them under as many different circumstances as you can.

Start with observing him through the fence. First just watch quietly and see how he interacts with the other dogs. Then call him over. Does he come right up to you? Does he do this with confidence and joy? Or does he do this because he is top dog and doesn't want any other dogs to visit with you? Or does he push his way through the other dogs to get to you? If so, how do they react to him? Does he hold his ground once there? Or do they push him aside? On the other hand, if he hangs back, try to figure out why. Is he intimidated by the other dogs, or simply uninterested in you, or interested but aloof? All of these observations can tell you a lot about this dog's dominance level and his overall sociability.

Take him outside the fence, but stay near it. Does he want to go back? Is he more interested in what the other dogs are doing than you? Is he more interested in his new surroundings than you? Are you able to get his attention in the face of these dis-



tractions?

Take him away from the pen to some place quiet. Talk to him -- does he prick up his ears and look at you? Let him wander to the end of the lead -- does he return to you if you clap your hands and call him? Does he respond to your voice, to toys, to treats? These are things you must know about him, because you cannot train him if you don't have his attention.

Next, expose him to various stimuli -- cats, children, strange dogs, loud noises. You want him to be interested, friendly,

but respectful. Then, handle him all over -- will he allow you to pick up his feet, squeeze between his toes, put your fingers in his ears, open his mouth, pull gently on his tail, roll him over on his back? (As you do these things, remember to talk to him in a confident and cheerful tone which suggests that this is the most fun thing in the world.) This testing will tell you any

areas you will need to work on with him. Ask questions about him -- is his history known? How does he act at feeding time? When new dogs are introduced to the pen? How energetic is he? How does he respond to regular handling? Describe your home set-up and ask if it's appropriate. Lastly, you will need to introduce him to any other dogs you have (this is best done on neutral territory, outside your home and yard). Be prepared for an adjustment period for all concerned. There may be a few skirmishes -- this is a natural part of dog social interaction. Most dog fights are all noise and no teeth. Unless a dog is really in danger of getting hurt, you don't want to interfere in these. If the new dog is young and energetic, allow an older well-trained dog to discipline the new dog as he sees fit, but make sure the old guy gets a break sometimes.

Do not change the routine your other dogs have established (your current dogs have seniority over the new arrival, so feed them first, let them out first, speak to them first...). At some point you may recognize that the dynamic is changing, and the new dog may naturally be dominant over one or more of your current dogs. You will have to respect this, but it's complicated and we will jump off that bridge when we get to it. To start, you want to keep your routines and maintain the status quo. As long as you are calm and confident and consistent with your dogs, they will adjust to the new family member in no time. □

*Susan Brown*

Next time: Canine Body Language

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



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## The Three Wonderful Stars of the Winter Triangle



Every summer I frequently talk about the three bright stars that mark the points of the great **Summer Triangle**. But because there are so many brilliant stars in the same part of the heavens in winter I often talk about the six stars of the **Winter Hexagon**. But did you know that inside that hexagon is a wonderful **Winter Triangle**?

On any clear night during the next couple of weeks between the hours of 8 and 9 pm look due south. Smack dab right in front of you will be the brightest star visible to the naked eye from planet **Earth** - **Sirius** which marks the eye of **Orion's** biggest of two dogs, **Canis Major**. Draw an imaginary line up and to the left of Sirius and you'll come to the second brightest star of the triangle, **Procyon**, which marks the eye of Orion's smaller dog, **Canis Minor**. Then draw a line to the right to the third brightest star of the triangle, the red star **Betelgeuse** which marks the shoulder of Orion the Hunter and the line back to Sirius completes our wonderful Winter Triangle.

And how wonderful each star is, especially when we compare each one to our **Sun**. For instance, while our Sun is 865,000 miles wide, Sirius is 1,400,000 miles wide, and Procyon is 1,500,000 miles wide. But they are put to shame by Betelgeuse, which is one of those pulsating stars which actually varies in size. At its smallest it is 500 times as wide as our Sun and at its largest, 900 times as wide. So why does Sirius appear the brightest of the three if it's actually the smallest? Simple: it's much closer.

Now as you may recall stars are so far away that we do not speak of their distances in miles. Instead we use the term "light year." One light year is the distance light travels in one year. Light is the fastest known thing in the universe and travels 186,000 miles per second. So to find out how many miles light travels in one year simply multiply all the seconds in one year times 186,000 miles which is roughly 6 trillion miles. Now our Sun is so close that it takes only 8-1/3 minutes for light to travel from it to our Earth. So we say that our Sun is 8-1/3 light minutes away. Sirius, however, is much farther away - 8.6 light years from Earth. And Procyon is even farther - 11.4 light years away.

Thus, as astronomer Fred Schaaf says, "Sirius and Procyon are the birthday stars of nine and 11 year olds," because when we look at Sirius this winter we are actually seeing the light that left it about nine years ago when nine-year-olds were being born. And the light we see from Procyon this winter actually left it 11 years ago when 11-year-olds were being born. So is Betelgeuse also someone's birthday star? It is if you were born 525 years ago. Because when we look at Betelgeuse this winter we are actually seeing the light that left it in the year 1480 the year both Ferdinand Magellan and Montezuma were born! That's a lot of candles on the cake! So get outside and do a little time travel with the stars of the Winter Triangle. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:

March 4 to 11, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Problems with female members of your family may play on your emotions. Visit friends or relatives you rarely see. Plan a day of enjoyment with them. Monitor your budget carefully to avoid unnecessary stress. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You may find that someone you really cared for in the past has come back into your life. Family members may feel anxious if you make promises you don't deliver. Let go of the past in order to progress. Romance can surface if you get into some of those fitness programs you've been putting off. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You will learn a great deal from the foreigners you meet. Tell them to get out of the mess they are in and then you'll consider getting together with them. Don't say something you'll live to regret. Curb or cut out that bad habit you've been meaning to do something about. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Avoid any confrontations with colleagues. You can avoid hassles by sticking to your work and refusing to get involved in gossip or idle chatter. Don't say things that could be damaging later on. Cut loose. Opportunities will unfold; however, you must be willing to pay the price. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Put your efforts into your work or money making ventures rather than your emotional life. You have the stamina and determination to succeed. You are best to back away from commitment. Use your quick wit to win points and friends. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Changes involving your domestic scene may be unpleasant. You might not accomplish all that you want to at home this week. Try to curb your tongue and let others at least get a word in. You can certainly gain popularity; however, don't do it by paying for everyone else. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Put your thoughts into some trendy new ideas. You will find that you are able to clear up a number of small but important details. You need to keep everyone on your domestic scene too busy to complain. You will make new friends through physical activities. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company. Your doubt could lead to insecurity. It's hard to stay mad if the object of the anger refuses to react. Moneymaking ventures may just turn your life around. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Keep an open mind when listening to the opinions of others. Don't overdo it. Don't lend to people who have given you negative vibes. Get out and enjoy some entertainment. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You need to make your lover feel wanted, not like a piece of the furniture. Your health may have suffered due to neglect or abuse. Make career changes that may increase your income. Limitations with females could lead to unfortunate circumstances. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can make financial gains if you are prepared to take a risk. It's time to get yourself back on track. Don't give out any personal information that you don't want spread around. Try to be reasonable. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Romance could be exciting if you are spontaneous. You will have a productive day if you organize yourself well at work. Disruptions may set you back, but you're strong, and in the end the choices you make will be favorable. Emotional situations could bring out your stubborn nature. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □