

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

March 25 to April 1, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 12

# The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



**Too Many  
CARS?**  
Pages 10 and 11



# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



**A** start-up airline named **Trans Caribbean Airways (TCA)** received a business permit from Curaçao that would allow it to supply a wide range of aviation services in the Antilles, initially focusing on charter flights. However, a flight permit is still required. The airline plans to use two- and four-engine airbuses which haven't ever been type certified in the Antilles.



However, if you were to judge by its website, <http://flytca.com/>, you would be led to believe that TCA is already the flag carrier of the Netherlands Antilles. They say they soon will offer daily flights between the Eastern/Southern US, Canada and the Caribbean using Airbus 320 series aircraft, as

well as six-days-a-week flights from Sint Maarten or Curaçao to Europe and the Western US with Airbus 340 series aircraft, and three-day-a-week flights between Curaçao, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain and Moscow also using Airbus 340s. In addition TCA is offering to participate in an Airbus repair depot in Curaçao.

► It appears that an airline free-for-all is brewing in the Dutch Antilles. Antilles Minister Omayra Leeftang said **that KLM is evaluating plans to establish a regional airline company in Curaçao.** She said she heard this from top KLM management during a working visit in the Netherlands but doesn't yet know when she can expect more details. KLM's plans revolve around the activities of DEE (Bonaire/CuraçaoExpress).

In addition the Curaçao and Central Government are currently working on several permit requests from companies that want to conduct flights from Curaçao. **Trans Caribbean Airways (TCA)** received a business permit last week (see above). Next in line is **Insel Air** (a partnership of local persons with the Venezuelan Avior Airlines). Insel Air wants to take over the DCA routes. **Pont International Air Services (PIAS)** is the third company that submitted a permit request with the government. Investor Jacob Gelt Dekker (Kura Hollanda) is involved with this company which will count on financial support from Saudi investors. No permit request from **Curaçao Airways**, the

airline proposed by Curaçao businessman Joel de Silva Gois (GOISCO) has been received.

► **Dutch Eagle Express (DEE)** owner Niek Sandmann met with Sint Maarten officials in Curaçao last week, according to a published report, to confirm that his company **will take over operations of financially troubled Winair**, the government-owned airline connecting the northern Antillean islands. The Central Government is said to be ready to transfer Winair shares to the new owner.

► **BonairExel has officially changed its name to BonairExpress.** Information on the new airline is still at <http://www.bonairxel.com>. However, flights can no longer be booked on the website <http://www.flyxel.com>.



► Last Friday, Acting Commander of the US Southern Command Richard Mentemeyer (left) and Dutch Royal Navy commander for the Caribbean Frank Sijtsma signed a refined version of the **“Operating Arrangements for the Forward Operating Locations (FOL) at Curaçao and Aruba.”**

The documents establish technical

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agreements on the use of facilities in the Antilles and Aruba for the US military to search for illegal drug shipments with the aircraft at the two FOL bases. The US planes must be unarmed and can only detect and monitor the ship-

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)  
ments from the air.

► **The Dutch government**, defying pressure from the US and other allies, is **pulling its troops out of southern Iraq**. A large contingent returned home last Monday. The remaining 800 Dutch soldiers will leave Iraq in mid-April. Other US-led coalition members in Iraq are also planning to leave. The Ukraine said earlier this month it would start bringing its 1,600 troops home from Iraq in March and would complete the withdrawal by October 15. Italy is waffling.



► Feelings are running high following the **arrest of dozens of people trying to illegally enter Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten by boat**. No arrests were reported from Bonaire. The Colombian newspaper *El Tiempo* published a photo showing illegal immigrants, mostly Colombians, caught in the boat *Anita* off Aruba last Tuesday, just a few days after at least four South Americans drowned while trying to swim to shore. The paper quotes the Colombian consul on the island, Ventura Diaz, as saying that Aruban au-

thorities have the habit of dumping people overboard in deep water who were trying to reach the island by boat. Aruban Justice Minister, Rudy Croes, sought immediate clarification from the consul, who said he had never spoken to the paper. Both have demanded a retraction. Illegals are usually from Haiti, Colombia or the Dominican Republic.



► **Remember to prepare for the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Kite Flying Contest**. This year, as always, it will be organized by the Flamingo Bookstore in cooperation with the Division of Culture, SKAL. It's the 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for the event. As usual it will be held at the Juventus field beginning at 8 am and continuing all day until all the kites have been flown. Kids from 7 years old



► **New educational signs have been placed at Sorobon, Lac Bay by STINAPA**. They explain the life cycle of the conch, the turtle population and their feeding habits and the significance of the mangrove forests to the eco-system of the bay. Another lists the international treaty that governs traffic in endangered species. The signs are in English and Papiamentu with many helpful illustrations.

through adult can take part. The entry fee is NAf3,50 for children and NAf7,50 for adults. This year the contest is dedicated to Valerie's Airport Gift Shop. And, as usual SABEDECO will be a sponsor. Sign up at the Flamingo Bookstore, Kaya Grandi # 19.

► **WEB, the island's power company, reminds kite flyers to take care of electric lines** when flying their kites. They advise using kites made of plastic,

wood or paper only. Metal kites conduct electricity as do kite strings made of wire. An electric shock could be fatal. Fly kites only on dry days. Wet strings can carry current as well. Try to always fly kites in open areas, away from poles and wires. If a kite gets caught in the wire do not try to remove it. Instead call WEB at 9215. For more information on kite flying safety call WEB during office hours at 717-8244.

(Continued on page 4)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)

► **Earth Day is just a month away!** On and around 22 April this year, millions of people all over the planet will engage in actions to celebrate our environment and call for greater responsibility in protecting it.

What are you doing for Earth Day 2005?



► **Sign up for the 3rd Annual MCB International Tennis Tournament.** One of Bonaire's best attended tennis competitions will be held March 24 to 28 at the Harbour Village Tennis Center.

There will be the following categories: Male: Single A, B, C, Doubles A, B, C and Female: Single A, B, C, Doubles A, B, C and Mixed Doubles A, B, C.

Sign-up forms are available from MCB (Bonaire) and at the Harbour Village Tennis Center from Elisabeth Vos, Tournament Director, at Tel. 717-6907 or 565-5225. Cost is \$ 30 for one event or \$ 40 for two. Entries are limited to 125 players.

The competition schedule is as follows: Thursday, March 24—from 3 pm registration and warm-up at Harbour Village. The tourney will open at 6 pm and continue to about midnight.

On Friday March 25 through Sunday, March 27, matches will begin at 8 am and continue through midnight. There


will be a players' BBQ at Vespucci Restaurant on Saturday night; cost is \$12.

The final day, Monday, March 28, the tourney will begin at 8 am with the final at 10 am. Prizes will be awarded at 5 pm.

Everyone on Bonaire is invited to participate, especially Class A players. The event is sponsored by Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) and co-sponsored by Littman's, Budget, Heineken and Tennis-School Sport Bonaire.

► **Maduro and Curiel's Bank, MCB**, the biggest bank in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, and the sponsor of the popular *Reporter* column, *On the Island Since...*, saw its profit grow by 12% in 2004 over 2003. Although MCB's profits increased on all the islands, Aruba, Bonaire, and St. Marten registered better financial results than Curaçao, the bank's headquarters. At the end of last year, MCB employed 1,342 persons. It had 1,319 employees 10 years ago.

► The World Health Organization (WHO) predicted that **by 2025 one in every three persons would have diabetes.** And the bulk of these persons would come from the third world and developing countries. **Diabetes and kidney disease is a health problem on Bonaire.** "These ailments get their start from unhealthy diets and inactive lifestyles," said a WHO spokesman. "It has a lot to do with lifestyle. Children are hardly eating fruit, and they consume a lot of snacks with sugary con-



## Get your tickets now!

**G**et your tickets now for the three-course gourmet lunches prepared by Bonaire's Culinary Team. In order to practice their skills in preparation of going to the Culinary Olympics—"The Taste of the Caribbean," in June in Miami—the Bonaire team will be preparing, for 30 lucky diners, their three-course competition meal on **two Sundays—April 10 and 17.** Lunch will be served at 1 pm at **Le Flamboyant** on Kaya Grandi. Wine is included. There is seating for only 30 so get your tickets early. They're NAf30. Call Sara Matera at 786-9299 or Laura DeSalvo at 717-8988 or 791-7252. □L.D.

tents. You find that these children also don't exercise. He added that diabetes results in other complications, including heart disease - the leading cause of death among diabetic patients - strokes and kidney failure. "Fifty per cent of persons who start dialysis are diabetics.

► FESBO, the Coordinating Organization for Community Centers in Bonaire, SELIBON, the waste management company, and committee members from all the community centers met last Wednesday evening **to come up with a plan for cooperation to make the island cleaner.**

They say that Bonaire is already a clean island. To keep it this way, it is necessary to continuously motivate people to keep their own neighborhoods clean. The slogan, "**On our way to a clean and livable neighborhood,**" was suggested. Follow-up meetings at the different *sentro di barrios* (community centers) are planned, and funding or-

ganizations like AMFO, NGO-platform, Skan-fund, and Reda Sosial will be approached for support.

► **Buddy Dive Resort now offers a Kid's Club program** weekday mornings from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm. Kid's Club activities include snorkel lessons, a Marine Park and ocean introduction, fish and coral ID, guided snorkel on Buddy's Reef and other locations, drift wood painting, reef exploration with SASY and games. Children must be able to swim. Snorkel equipment, drinks, snacks, logbook and certificate are provided, plus kids who participate in the full week program will receive a t-shirt. The Kid's Club is open Monday to Friday (weekends on request). Prices (excluding 5% NAOB) are \$30 for one morning, \$80 for three mornings and \$120 for five mornings. For more information call 1-866-GO-BUDDY or visit <http://www.buddydive.com>. □L./G.D.



TSUNAMIS ARE A REAL THREAT TO THE REGION

We cannot let the passage of time allow us to forget the danger to our coastal communities from tsunamis or other phenomena that can cause high seas and flooding. We believe that protection from these events is a Dutch Kingdom problem and requires more resources than the Antilles' governments alone can manage. A report last week in a scientific journal re-emphasized the issues.



A Reuters report, according to geologists last Wednesday, revealed that large cracks off the coast of Puerto Rico show there is a strong chance of quakes, landslides and tsunamis in the Caribbean region. Sonar readings of the Puerto Rican trench, where the North American and Caribbean plates meet, show long, deep cracks, said Nancy Grindlay and Meghan Hearne of the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and Paul Mann of the University of Texas at Austin. That fits in with historical reports of tsunamis in the area, some of which have the potential to be very large, the three scientists reported in the journal *Eos*. Grindlay said in a telephone interview, "We identified large cracks on the sea floor ... about 35 to 40 kilometers (20 to 25 miles) long, and they are right off the north coast of Puerto Rico." She added, "Some are similar to the fault that caused the December 26 quake off the coast of Indonesia that generated a devastating tsunami.

At least 10 significant tsunamis have been documented in the northern Caribbean since 1492. All 10 were triggered by movement along this plate boundary, which runs 2,000 miles (3,200 km) from the north coast of the island of Hispaniola. One destroyed Port Royal, Jamaica, in 1692, and another killed at least 10 Jamaicans in 1780. In 1946, a magnitude 8.1 earthquake in the Dominican Republic caused a wave that killed 1,800 people. In January, American officials said they would spend US \$37.5 million over two years for new deep-sea warning systems aimed at giving near-total coverage for the US coastline. There is no such system in the Caribbean. The governments of the Antillean islands should begin working with Holland for action. To wait until the Tsunami Symposium in Bonaire next January may be too late. □ *G.D.*

# Jessie Farewell



*Chris Armacost, right and Jessie Armacost center are surrounded by STINAPA-Marine Park personnel at their going-away party.*

Two of the best known members of Bonaire's expatriate diving community are returning to their home country. Chris and Jessie Armacost have been familiar figures in the island's diving scene for over five years. Chris was best known for his able help on hundreds of dives and Jessie for her book, *Bonaire Diving Made Easy*. In addition Jessie led the Bonaire National Marine Park Volunteers for many years. Dozens of their closest friends were on hand at last Monday's party at Pasa Bon Pizza. They are relocating in North Carolina. We will miss them a lot. □ *G.D.*

# Mairi Bhan - The Maiden Voyage

*One of the reasons that many a diver's dream is to dive the Windjammer may be her rich history. This week Albert Bianculli shares not only his dive experience on the ship that was christened Mairi Bhan, but his research about her maiden voyage carrying immigrants to New Zealand.*

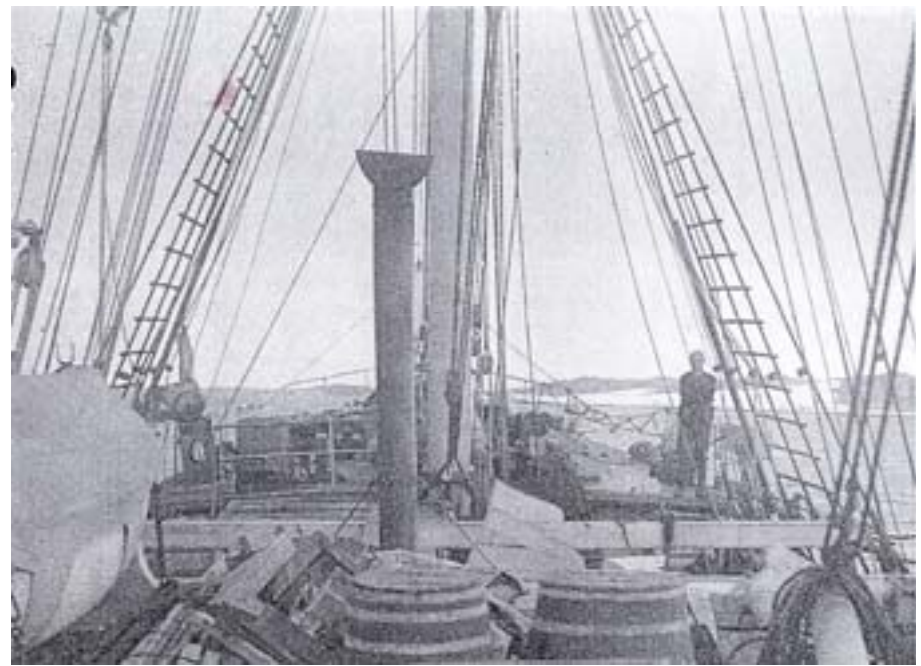
Today we are planning to make a "blue water descent" to the wreck of the *Mairi Bhan*, the 239-foot-long (73-meter) clipper ship that now rests below the surface of the protected waters surrounding Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles. This adventurous dive into the deep will be done without the aid of a drop line since we will be starting from shore off the northwest coast of the island. We slide into our wetsuits, prepare our equipment, pressurize our primary and secondary air supplies and inspect each other's gear in our final "buddy check." I notice a minor hiss of air escaping from Micky's air-activated signal device attached to her low pressure inflator. We decide to remove it and replace it with a simple elastic tank banger. Experience has taught us to simplify our dive equipment where possible and take the necessary safety precautions for each of our planned encounters into the depths. She closes the air valve, purges the pressure from the system, removes the small noise device and reconnects the low pressure hose to her buoyancy compensator while I find and install the needed replacement from the gear bag. This seemingly routine event will have potentially grave consequences later. With everything in order, we enter the shallow, clear, calm sea and

begin the surface snorkel in the bright early morning sunshine to our position above the wreck.

## **The ship's first voyage**

As a dive team we have visited the *Windjammer* together many times and are filled with the excitement and anticipation of learning new secrets hidden within the hull of this once proud sailing ship. Our thoughts center around new found information about the passengers on the first voyage of the brand new iron clipper built in Glasgow, Scotland, by the Barclay and Curle Company for Captain P. J. McIntyre of London. The *Bonny Mary*, her English name, was one of the most handsome ships sent out to New Zealand by the Patrick Henderson Charter Company. She was a well appointed, full-rigged ship, with three masts, double topsail yards and additionally rigged with unusual top-gallant yards on the forward and mainmasts. As a result, she carried an immense spread of canvas for her 1,315 tons.

The master of the ship for this first voyage is Captain J. Massen. He has carefully assembled and instructed his crew in the monumental task of manning the gigantic sails and hundreds of lines that will drive the ship from Glasgow, Scotland, to Port Chalmers, New Zealand, more than



*The Deck of the Mairi Bhan*

15,000 miles. The ship is fully provisioned for the three-month, non-stop, passage. Her gigantic fresh water tanks, located amidships, on each side of the main mast below the main deck, are topped off. The passengers are welcomed aboard, assigned their space with all their personal possessions, tools and household goods securely stowed for the long sea journey.

## **She carries a human cargo**

Built for the immigrant passenger trade the *Mairi Bhan* is transporting 439 individuals consisting of 79 families with a total of 182 children, 64 single men and 36 single women. John Dunn, a blacksmith, and his wife Matilda, both 38 years

of age, from Lanark, Scotland are on board with their six children, from 12 to 1 year. They are sharing deck space with Alexander Jack, 27, a cabinet maker from Edinburgh, his wife Maria, 27, and their two children, 3 months and 2 years. The rest of the passenger list consists of farm laborers, carpenters, mechanics, tailors, boiler makers, shoemakers, miners, painters, plumbers, masons, nurses, cooks, dairymaids, domestic servants, bricklayers, engineers, and firemen. All their hopes and dreams of a new life of prosperity and adventure are voiced in their daily conversations as they pass the time on board their strange temporary home. The close confined space below decks

*(Continued on page 7)*



*(Mairi Bahn.  
Continued from page 6)*

bonds all the passengers into one large family sharing food, domestic chores, child care, and the sometimes frightening realization that nature and the sea is in command of their lives.

The *Mairi Bhan* was towed to sea on May 5, 1874, started her sail late on May 7 as she left the Tail of the Bank, and arrived at the Snares off the south

coast of the South Island in New Zealand in the record time of 70 days! The *Otago Daily Times* referring to her arrival at Port Chalmers, stated: "Her performance during this, her maiden trip, entitled her to take rank amongst high-class clippers; she made the run out in between 75 and 76 days from Glasgow. The voyage, starting in the North Atlantic Ocean, south to the South Atlantic Ocean, around the Cape of Good Hope sailing to the east into the Indian Ocean and making port on July 25, 1874, in the South Pacific, was made without incident."

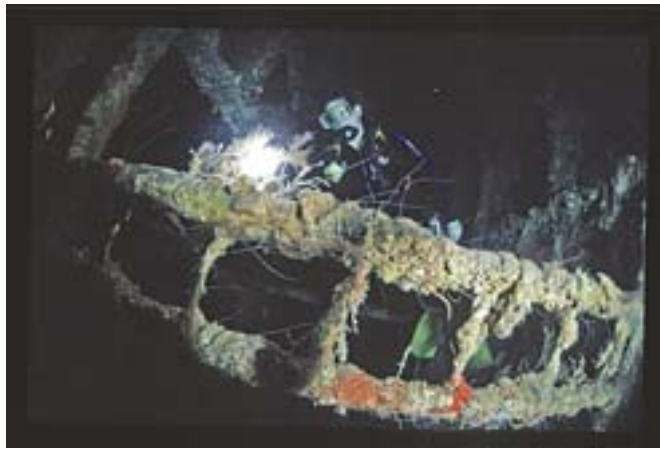
Micky and I have reached our three shore sight markers and our conversation thoughts turn from the visions of crowded decks, crying and dirty children and the smells of shipboard life to the dive on that very same ship that sailed in all her glory now resting below us at 200 feet (61 meters).

#### **A scary moment**

We face each other, signal OK to go down, purge the air from our Buoyancy Compensators, exhale the air in our lungs and start our descent into the blue water. I turn face down, set my compass and, as is our custom at the 10 foot (3 m) level, turn again to my right to make eye contact with my partner and ...she is not there! I look up and she gives me the NO AIR signal. I see that she is 6 feet (2 m) below the surface struggling to turn on the tank valve behind her head. I rush to assist her. As we meet, I hand her my octopus regulator, she presses the purge button and shoves it into her mouth as she inhales that first gush of air. We signal OK to each other and get her air valve turned on. We exchange the octopus with her primary regulator, signal OK again, stabilize our rapid breathing and, keeping eye contact, ask each other if we want to continue the dive. We give each other a vigorous yes shake of our heads and continue our descent.

#### **Where is the wreck?**

Our target area on the wreck is the mid-ship area to measure and inspect the fresh water tanks and expect to see the outline of the hull at the 100 foot (30 m) level. My thoughts about the tank valve and the removal of the air operated signal device distract me as we continue to drop into the darker indigo blue depths. The sand bottom appears and my depth meter tells me we are close to 180 feet (60 m). We stop and level off to glance around. There is no shipwreck in sight. I take a compass reading, adjust our course toward shore and the reef, signal to Micky and we start a slow rise and swim in the direction of shore. After one to two minutes we sight the bow of the ship to our left just north of our present bearing. I realize that the episode near the surface allowed the current to push us southward off our marks and caused us to miss the 239 foot (73 m)



*A Ladder from the deck of The Windjammer Marie Bahn*

clipper completely.

We reach the wreck and go to our alternate plan of getting inside at the forward chain lockers to escape the swift current flowing outside. We proceed from bow to stern at the bilge deck level, rising as we go. We pass around the water tanks (we will return to measure them on another day) and exit at the poop deck near the tiller. A full 11 minutes has elapsed. The current is swift as we go over the port rail and head for the reef only 15 feet (5 m) away. Now it is pushing us to the south from behind and will aid us as we make our slow ascent to our numerous decompression stops. We are getting a free ride back toward our entry site and pass directly over the mangled remains of the main mast crow's nest below us at 80 feet (24 m).

#### **Decompressing**

We have completed all our deco procedures and are into our safety stop at the 10-15 foot (3-5 m) level when we spot a mated pair of Yellow Head Jaw Fishes. The male has a full clutch of eggs in his mouth and proudly displays them to us as he "churns" them around. The female is feeding in the open water and doing her domestic chores by cleaning sand from her burrow.

We reach the shore after a total dive time of 84 minutes with our reserve air supply intact and our pony bottles untouched. Our experience, training, equipment, dive planning, air supply management and clear confident action during this very adventurous dive helped us to complete the dive within acceptable safety margins. The extensive debriefing that has followed since this dive has added to our experience level and we have learned the true value of a good dive buddy team. □ © 2005 Albert Bianculli

## **YOGA FOR YOU** *Yearning to Grow*

**Yearning is a part of the beginning of anybody's practice. You have to yearn to grow. You can't want it one day, but not the next, and expect to make any real progress. You have to begin with some steady, inner hunger.**

*- Swami Chetanananda*

**I**t amazes me to observe the diversity of bodies in our classes, especially after a dedicated yoga practice of several months and how the yoga practitioners' bodies go through subtle changes.

How they let go on concentrating on the external aspect of their bodies.

How they now allow yoga to let them look within, and work within their bodies.

At that exact present moment it's just breathtaking to see the inner beauty that shines through.

Practicing, practicing and practicing lets you see and feel how naturally the body adjusts to its correct alignment. It makes you wonder - what other kinds of amazing changes can yoga provide for you?

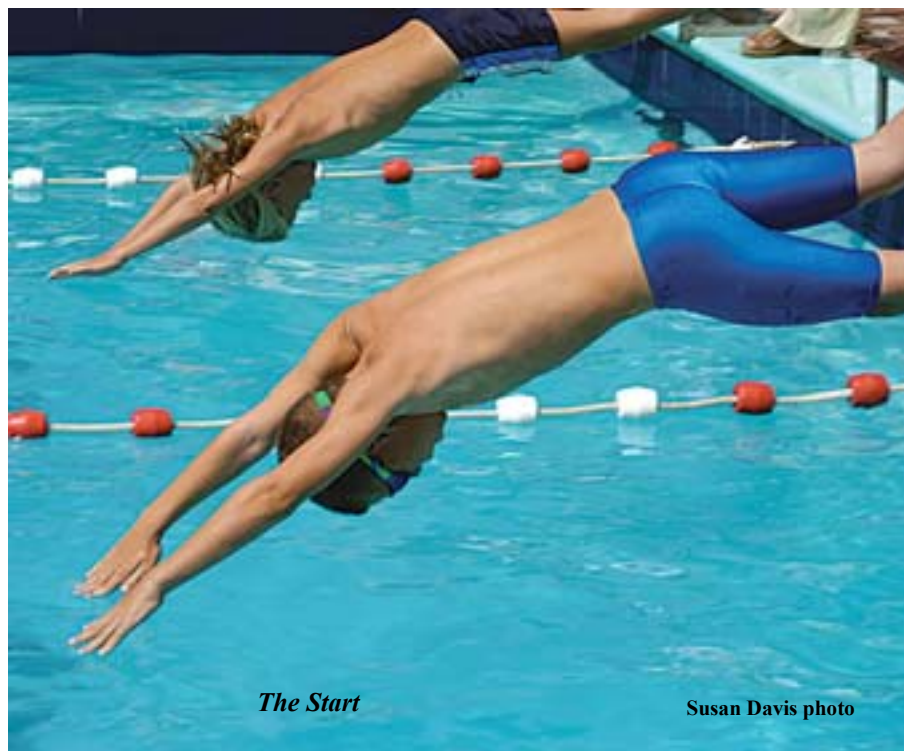
In a class I'm always mentioning listen, feel and experience where you are right now.

To grow it takes baby steps. This is important on your yoga mat but also so very true in your daily life. We tend to have this need to fill every hour of our day with so many things and projects going on and on that we forget to listen, feel and experience where we are at that exact moment, the present moment. □ *Desirée*

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



# Swim Meet



*The Start*

Susan Davis photo

The Bonaire Barracudas Aquatics Club successfully held the 2005 School Swimming Championships at the Meralney Sports Complex at the end of February. Bonaire elementary schools and the high school (SGB) participated. Prizes were awarded to the top three individual finishers in each age group for freestyle and breaststroke as well as the top three schools based on team performance.

The results are shown in the table to the right. The winner of the "Barracuda Prize for Team Spirit" was Watapana School.

### Thanks to our sponsors:

Sponsors of the event were: AMFO, Ennia Caribe Insurance, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) and Sand Dollar Grocery.



Susan Davis photo

*Bonaire Barracuda Jurienne Anthony of Kolegio Papa Cornes in the breast stroke race*

### 2005 Bonaire School Swimming Championship Medal Count

School/(Number of Swimmers)	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Place	Points
Papa Cornes School (15)	8	6	2	1st	38
Scholengemeenschap (SGB) Bonaire (5)	5	3	2	2nd	23
Pelikaan (13)	1	3	8	3rd	17
Watapana (7)	1	1	2	4th (tie)	7
Kristu Bon Wardador (5)	1	1	2	4th (tie)	7
San Bernardus (3)	2	0	0	5th (tie)	6
Reina Beatrix (11)	0	2	2	5th (tie)	6
Luis Bertran (7)	0	2	1	6th	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19**</b>		

\*\*Tie for Bronze Girls 11 - 12 50 meter freestyle



**WATER EN ENERGIEBEDRIJF BONAIRE N.V.**

Kralendijk, March 8th, 2005

## Thank You!

Dear Customers,

The management of WEB NV would like to heartily thank you for the understanding and cooperation that we received from you during the very difficult period following the ferocious fire that destroyed more than 35% of our total capacity to produce electricity.

The Aggreko plant has been installed which had meant great relief to you, our customers, but also to our employees and machinery.

The WEB team has, and will continue, to do their utmost to guaranty high quality products and services.

Each of us has learned a lot from this experience and it has shown to us that united we are stronger. It has also revealed that providing information to the public is very important.

Now WEB stands at the start of a new era that will bring changes and new challenges. We hope that we can continue to count on your support so that our company as well as Bonaire can continue to grow.

To everyone that called us, send letters and e-mail we would like to thank you for your words of encouragement, gratitude and support, this has meant a lot to us.

Once again, **thank you very much!**

*For the WEB N.V. Management  
Ing. H. de Palm*

Kaya Carlos A. Nicolaas 3 – Kralendijk – Bonaire – Ned. Antillen  
Tel.: 599.717.8244 – Fax: 599.717.8756



# YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS PAGE

## 2005 Bonaire International Fishing Tournament.

One of Bonaire's best kept secrets was the 2005 edition of the Bonaire International Fishing Tournament. Twenty yachts from Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao took part in the event the weekend before last. Twelve blue marlins were caught but released. Other fish caught included Tuna, Wahoo and Dorado. The 153 lb. winning tuna shown to the right was cleaned and donated to San Francisco Hospital.

The newly-opened bar/restaurant, Morgan's Tavern (in the lighthouse building), was the site for the shore events and award presentation. □



**The winning Piscatur fishing team: Eddy Hinds, Frans Heiligers and Marco Haitma, Larry Gerharts and Chris Morkos**

## Fisherman's Friendly Waters

Accessibility, calm waters and abundant fish - the same features that attract divers to Bonaire - are the same attributes that make fishing on Bonaire so special. Although the fish most commonly talked about in Bonaire are reef fish, in the deeper waters anglers will find big game fish like Sailfish, Marlin, Tuna, Barracuda, Tarpon, Dorado and Wahoo. Charter fishing boats rarely return empty handed although the catch can vary by season. November through February is best for bill fish, including Marlin and Sailfish; February, March and April is Dorado; March to late June is Wahoo and Amber Jack; and June through September is Yellowfin and Bonito.

In Bonaire fishing is not limited to big pelagic fish. Bone fishing is also available. You can fly or spin fish for tailing bone fish and spooking permit in the southern portion of the island. There are a number of "secret" spots local guides have staked out and are willing to share with visiting fisherman, so don't be afraid to ask. Contact any of the listed charter operations for more details. Please keep in mind though that bone fishing is prohibited at Pekelmeer, a protected area for the Island's flamingo population. □ *TCB*

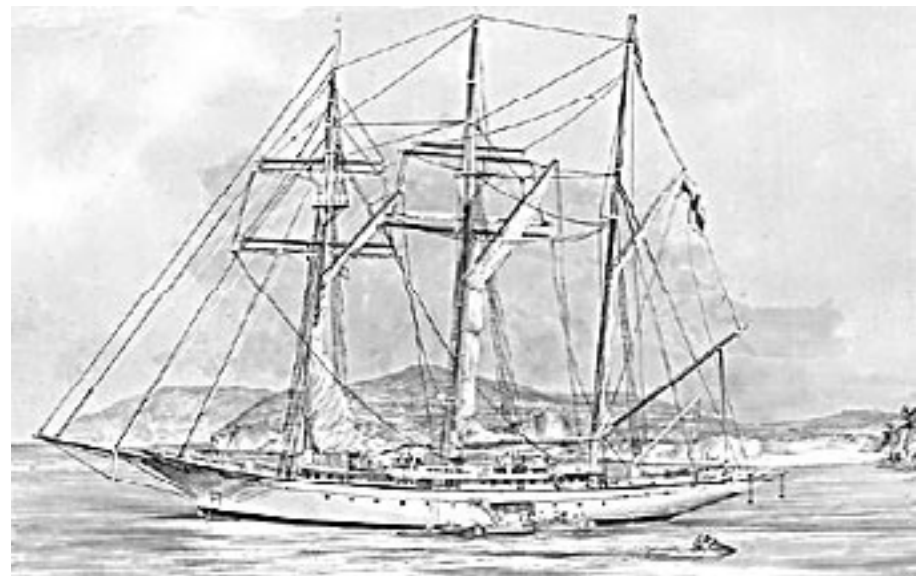


**Big game**



**Delfin**

## Training Ship for the Antilles



Drawings for the sail training ship, *Netherlands Antilles*, are entering the final stages. Latest changes to the three-masted schooner project, announced last year, include a reduction in draft (from 5.60 to 4.00 meters), a retractable keel, a garage and water toys storage room with swim platform in the stern, glass bottom viewers in the restaurant, and hydraulic stabilizers. The ship will now be 285 feet long (95 meters).

Money to build the *Netherlands Antilles* will essentially come from private and tax deductible business donations, while a proposal will be made to ask the Netherlands and Netherlands Antilles governments to assist with the operating cost of daily sailing.

The *Netherlands Antilles* is to be a sail training ship for Antillean youngsters. During sailing days, instructors will teach seamanship, scuba diving, navigation and sail handling, while teachers will educate students in languages, mathematics, cooking, marketing, public relations, and ocean and nature conservation.

Initially she will sail with 32 trainees and eight instructor/teachers for a three-month period. The ship will have five double luxurious staterooms and will be available for charter.

The ship will be ABS and MCA classified, fully air conditioned and heated and feature the latest safety and fire prevention systems. It will be built mostly in Holland. The ship will cruise at 16 knots under almost 2,000 square meters of sail. □ *Press release*

## For more information contact:

*Big Game* Sportfishing 011-599-717-6500 <http://www.bonairefishing.com/biggame>  
 Fishing Bonaire 011-599-790-1228 <http://www.bonairefishing.com/siri>  
*Multifish* Charters 011-599-717-3648 <http://www.multifish.com>  
*Piscatur* 011-599-717-8774 <http://www.piscatur.com> □

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

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

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
3-25	0:45	1.5FT.	79
3-26	1:12	1.5FT.	85
3-27	1:49	1.6FT.	89
3-28	2:37	1.7FT.	89
3-29	3:34	1.8FT.	86
3-30	4:32	1.9FT.	81
3-31	5:38	1.9FT.	72
4-01	6:35	2.0FT.	64

## VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Adesso	Jan Gerardus	Sapphire
Alessa	Jasokinbah	Sarah
Amante	Jel-jok <i>France</i>	Santa Maria
Antigone	Laetitja	Sandpiper, <i>USA</i>
Argus, <i>USA</i>	L'Aquila, <i>BVI</i>	Sea-iesta
Bright Sea	Lisa Light	Seute Deern
Camissa, <i>Chan Is.</i>	Luna C. <i>USA</i>	Simplicity
Cape Kathryn	La Escotilla, <i>Caymans</i>	Significant Other
CCD 65	Maebelle	Sirius
Flying Cloud, <i>USA</i>	Maki, <i>France</i>	Solvig of Lorn
Gabrielle	Meruva	Sylvia K
Galandriel	Miz Mae	Tagora
Goeie Mie	Moana	Ti Amo, <i>USA</i>
Gerda	Mulloka II	Ulu Ulu, <i>USA</i>
Glad	Neliandrah	Unicorn, <i>Norway</i>
Guaicamar I, <i>Ven.</i>	Pearl	Varedhuni, <i>Germany</i>
Honalee	Sabbatical	Ya-T, <i>BVI</i>
Infinity	Sanuk	Zahi, <i>Malta</i>



## Too Many Cars On Bonaire?

Looking out of my window I see snowflakes whirling down. On the radio I hear the 'cold' voice of the newscaster telling the listeners that there are 51 traffic jams, some of 20 to 25 kilometers long, all due to the falling snow. Yes, your part-time reporter is back in Holland after three months of *dushi* Bonaire and is already confronted by road traffic. It's one of the main reasons to exchange the Netherlands for a peaceful and tranquil island in the blue Caribbean Sea.

However, during my stay, that was the 13<sup>th</sup> in a row, I was most astonished to discover that the number of cars on Bonaire is also increasing immensely. Of course, it's nothing compared with Holland, but I found Bonaire's traffic pretty troublesome sometimes, especially around the "rush hours" when office and school traffic accumulate. All the more reason to find out what Bonaireans think about it and especially to ask the people in charge of the traffic situation the question:

### "Are there are too many cars on Bonaire?"

Five out of eight people interviewed answered unconditionally, "YES, Traffic is a problem." But there doesn't seem to be any policy nor is there going to be one in the near future to do something about that "yes."

Jopie Abraham, Senator and Member of Parliament, leader of the opposition Democratic Party, received me very cordially and opened up with, "Definitely there is an increase of cars on the island, and the roads are filling up. And the biggest problem is that the roads are not built to handle this number of vehicles." Abraham continues, "I also see a tremendous increase in rental cars. The previous Executive Council decided to introduce limitations on the establishment of new car rental companies. But this Council never followed up."

**Bermuda has a strict policy—no rental cars but a good public transportation.** (See the editor's note at the end of this article.) When I asked Mr. Abraham if knew of the policy, "Yes, I have heard about that, but in my opinion that is not feasible here. Think, for instance, about all the shore divers visiting our beautiful reefs. I don't see a solution in closing down the car rentals. But I agree that the Bonaire Government should develop public transportation and safer passable roads for bikers and scooters. For years there have been very nice bus stops, but unfortunately they've not been put to use. The Government should take action – and not only about this subject - but they are afraid to do so."

Eric Soleana, co-manager of DROB (Department of Physical Planning) is very explicit in his opinion: "The roads back up. Think about the promenade when there

is a cruise ship in port. I foresee in the near future a "boom" in cars by the youngsters when they get their driver's license. Almost every member of a family owns a car. And last, but not least, the number of rental cars is growing like a mushroom with hundreds of additional cars. DEZA (Economics Department) should make new rules. But I realize perfectly well that on top of all that the Executive Council has to fine-tune their policy about the increase in tourism, traffic and economy."

A fluent Soleana tells me confidentially, "First of all we need to improve the flow and the quality of the roads. The plans are already there. More parking places are needed. People park their cars in the weirdest places (also a thorn is the side of Jopie Abraham). But before that all takes place we should place the new road signs suggested in the new traffic ordinance of 2001 which the Government has had on the back burner for years. When I asked Bert Nijland of JAZ (Legal Department) when the roads of Bonaire will get their new signs his answer was firm. "After smoothing out some details the ordinance should be approved within a short time and goes to DROB for implementation." I wonder myself how 'short' this time will be after knowing it has already been tabled for three years.

Nijland was one of the two people who reacted with astonishment at my question about the number of cars. Nijland: "When I leave my office at 12 noon I'm home within 10 minutes." This is contradictory to the experiences of a mother of a St. Bernardus school student who needs at least 15 to 20 minutes to get clear of the school ground, then drive home. Before she takes one bite of her food she has to bring the child back to school again.

And to let a child go by bike is too dangerous, not only because of the narrow roads but also because of the many pot holes caused by the intensive rain and the wear from cars and heavy trucks that don't get fixed.

Miguel Martis, head of DROB, would be delighted when safe cycle paths are built so schoolchildren and office workers can go by bike to their destination. "But," Martis confesses, "unfortunately there is no money for such a nice project. We must search for funds and sponsors. In addition, people are getting more and more lazy and hurried, so we have to

change their attitudes."

**Getting support for bike paths**  
To organize a fundraising, though, there should be a steering committee formed from, amongst others, DEZA, DROB, the Police and JAZ to come up with a well-thought-out plan of action. Only, according to both Erik Soleana and George Abrahams (Coordinator-Corps Traffic Police), the Executive Council should come up with the mandate to form such a committee which would investigate and present recommendations to form a road works policy. George Abrahams agrees that Bonaire has to start considering immediately what to do about the increase of cars and the ensuing traffic problems.

We tried to contact members of the Bonaire Executive Council to get their reaction, but none were available for an interview.

### Some revealing numbers

As of December 31, 2004, there are 6,240 cars and pickups. (Source: Department of Taxes and Population). From this total, approximately 1,000 cars are rentals. That makes 5,240 cars for

(Continued on page 11)



A traffic jam on Bonaire



A side effect of lots of cars is lots of junk cars at the landfill





Lots of cars wear out lots of tires.

(Continued from page 10)

a population of 9,790, made up of ages 18 to 89 years old (the estimated group of drivers). So about one out of every two persons on Bonaire has a car.

#### More cars arrive every month

Elsmarie Beukeboom, Director of STINAPA (the Bonaire Parks Authority), is not convinced that at this very moment there are too many cars, but she warns about the near future. She says, "I observe that there are more and more new cars coming on the road." (The Ro/Ro ship, *Don Andres*, brings about 30 new cars ashore twice monthly. Source: George Abrahams). "And most of us have seen the huge Japanese car carriers disgorging

new cars and trucks. The center of Playa is sometimes bursting from sputtering cars and parked vehicles. My suggestion is to have a car-free town center, with parking places outside of Playa and a good public transportation to and inside the center."

My advice to the Bonairean Government is simple but straightforward: Take serious notice of the traffic and parking situation and make a policy for the near future before news of Bonaire traffic jams are regularly reported on the radio, as they are in Holland. □ *Story and photos by Marian Walthie*

**NOTE:** Bermuda has restrictions on the number of cars on its territory. Restriction policies have limited the number of vehicles on the roads at one time and to one automobile per household. Nevertheless, it now has more automobiles per square mile than any other country in the world. The automobile restriction law does not apply to the Bermuda Government. Its employees—13% of the entire workforce—can use government cars as well as their own.

A traffic study in 1999 said that if Bermuda had more than 15,000 cars on its total area of 21 square miles, it would reach saturation point. By 2001, according to 2002 Bermuda Transport Control Department (TCD) figures, there were already more than 26,000 four-wheeled vehicles on Bermuda's 37 miles of roads. Bonaire has 112 square miles—290 km<sup>2</sup>—so the situation here is not nearly as critical. Ed.

## Advancing Art and Culture

The Foundation for Art and Culture of Bonaire has set many goals to stimulate and organize activities for our talented young artists, musicians and dancers during 2005 and 2006. They include forming an artists' society, an office and a multi-functional study for music, dance, theatre, art and comedy, and cultural exchange events involving Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba, Holland, the US, Cuba and Venezuela.

The Foundation asks for the public's support, donations and cooperation to help enrich the art and culture of Bonaire, particularly among the youth of the island.

#### Some of the events planned for this year are:

- Pastry cooking course for children with Lilian Cicilia-Martina
- Duo Festival in March to represent Bonaire in the Caribbean Gospel Festival in May
- Dance school for children
- Book of the most outstanding artists from Bonaire
- 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Bonaire Art Day, July 3.
- For the office: photo copy machine, notebook, scanner, color printer, paper cutter, etc.
- Musical instruments for the island's youth folklore group
- Vocal and music course for children 8 to 14 – starting soon
- Recording of folklore group, "Tutti Frutti," and more
- Recording of different Bonairean musicians and singers
- Children's art school guided by local artist Norwin Coffie
- Multifunctional study for music, dance, theatre art and comedy (own theatre)

Emma Sint Jago is President of the Foundation. For more information phone/fax 717-6420, 786-6420; email [artandculture65@hotmail.com](mailto:artandculture65@hotmail.com) or [stg.kunstencultuur@telbonet.an](mailto:stg.kunstencultuur@telbonet.an). □ *L.D.*



Youngsters show their pastry skills

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REACH MORE READERS THAN ANY OTHER WEEKLY  
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THE BONAIRE REPORTER  
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Commercial ads are only NAf0.70 per word, per week. Free ads run for 2 weeks.  
Call or fax *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988 e-mail ads@bonairereporter.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NEW BRASSERIE BONAIRE**  
Restaurant - Terrace - Take away  
**\* SPECIAL DINNER - MENU \***  
NAf35.00 - \$ 20.00

**CRAB BISQUE  
CATCH OF THE DAY  
COUPE CARIBE**

OPEN: 11.30 a.m. - 02.00 p.m.  
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Sunday and Monday closed

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Kaya Grandi 26 F/G, TEL/FAX :  
717-4321**

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**FOR SALE**

For Sale: **Kiteboard, Wipika twin-tip**, 1.59 m. Very good beginner's board and also a very good board for light weather. NAf 350. Call: 564-9577 or 786-5881

For Sale: **Water Heater** - 110v., 6 months old- NAf130. Call 786-8329

**Compressor block 3 stage 100 - 200** ltr per minute. German build Max 225 bar. Complete with coolers and water separators. Just add motor and filter system. Call 786-1465

**For Sale:-stroller as good as new.** From 175Naf for 100Naf -**Sony prof. surround system VAC5** with warranty (a.g.a.n), 7500 Watt, MP3, mic, c.d., double tape deck etc from 1100Naf for 700Naf -**Asahi Pentax K2 DMD prof. photo camera set:** Pentax lenses, tripod motor drive, prof. case, filters remote etc. Absolute bargain: Was 7500Naf, now 700Naf! For information call 717-7977 or e-mail alexander137@telbonet.an

**HP Notebook Computer** model: ze5400. P4(2.4Ghz), 40GB, 512mb, Wireless e-card. Almost brand new, carrying case included, \$1,400 (US). Info 791-6009 after 3pm

**FOR SALE:**Men's (Large) Scubapro Finseal BC-\$50, Women's (Xtra Small) Dacor BC-\$25. CALL 717-2050

**CARS FOR SALE**

**1994 Toyota Hilux Truck** - double cab, with air conditioning. Runs good. Asking price: NAf7,500 Please call: 717-6537, after 6:00 PM

**FOR SALE: 2002 BMW 525i** Excellent condition, 30,000 km / fully equipped / aspen grey will sacrifice for 55,000 fls Serious offers only. Contact 791-6533

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

**BOATS & ENGINES for SALE**

"Koncha", NB-123, fast-sailing 14ft. **FRG centerboard sloop**, Naf 1,400. Trailer available. Also **stowable dinghies** cheap: 12 ft "Banana" and 2 Avon inflatables. Call **Mac 786-1580**.

**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**.

**Pet of the Week**

"Here's lookin' at you," says "Tommy," appearing as though he could handle just about anything with style and grace. He has the most beautiful defined markings, like those of a tiger. Not only is he a handsome fellow, but he gets along extremely well with the other cats and people. He especially is at ease with children because he's grown up with them. He just loves to be cuddled. His owners had to leave him here when they moved to Holland (but they did take their children we understand). Tommy is about a year old, a very settled, relaxed personality with a fine character. Included in his adoption fee of NAf75 are all his tests, worming, shots and sterilization. You can always be assured of a social, well adjusted and healthy animal when you adopt from the Bonaire Animal Shelter. It's located on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



"Tommy"

**Right now it's kitten season and there are a lot to choose from at the Shelter.** If you have a mother cat who's had her kittens and is ready to be sterilized, the Shelter can help you out with their **Sterilization Fund**. Call 717-4989 and ask for Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema. And, in turn, if you can make a donation to the fund it would be very much appreciated. **It's MCB Account #10616410.** Mention "Sterilization Fund." The money will go only towards sterilizing animals.

More good news from the Shelter. As of last week there were 35 adoptions since the first of the year! □L.D.

**WANTED**

Owners of Robin RGD-5000 Diesel Generator **LOOKING FOR WORKING ALTERNATOR SECTION.** Our motor is OK. Contact Captain Don and Janet: 786-0956

Captain Don and Janet are **seeking a massage table or waist-high padded exercise bench.** Call 786-0956

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

**PROPERTY, Sales & rentals**

**For Rent:-fully furnished 1 bedr. apt.** with large porch, beautiful yard, washing machine, alarm, TV., tel., airco, very quiet area for **NAf900 incl.** Please call 717-7977 or e-mail alexander137@telbonet.an

**For Sale: Special Offer: Chalet in Valencia,** Venezuela, in private zone. 1,000 sq. meters property, 1,000 sq. meters green zone. Chalet is 215 sq. meters. Built in 1999. Downstairs: living area with open, built-in kitchen, office, guest toilet, laundry. Upstairs: master bedroom with bath, terrace; 2 additional bedrooms, 1 bath. Many trees. Documents in order. **Tel 717-4111**

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



## Picture Yourself with the Reporter Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, USA

“It’s Tim Barger and Barbara Sery back at home in Arnold, Maryland USA, standing on our pier overlooking Mill Creek off the Chesapeake Bay. See how the creek is iced over and we still have snow. We spent a wonderful week in Bonaire with our good friends, Sal and Patty Guida, who rent a house in Bonaire for the winter (smart people!) While in Bonaire I wrote a song to commemorate our time spent there... hope you like it! We love Bonaire!”



### TROPICAL EASE

By Barbara Sery

(Sung to the tune “My Favorite Things” from The Sound of Music)

Bright colored fishes  
And so many corals  
Chattering parrots  
And beautiful florals

Palm trees that wave in the warm ocean  
breeze  
These are what put us at tropical ease  
\*\*\*\*\*

Pineapples, plantains  
Bananas and mangos  
Fish on a platter  
To restaurants we all go

Drinks that are fru fru  
And surely will please  
These are what put us at tropical ease  
\*\*\*\*\*

(Chorus)  
When the temps drop  
When the snow falls  
When the nights are long  
We simply remember our time in Bonaire  
And won’t stay away too long  
\*\*\*\*\*

(Continued on page 14)

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

## Fashion Show Fundraiser



*Padrino*

*surrounded by some of his models at his show last year.*

A fashion show to benefit Bonaire’s Special Olympics team - the Padrino Haute Couture Fashion Show on Saturday, April 16, at Croccantino Restaurant. Last year’s show was a huge success with all tickets sold out. This year’s theme is “Broadway of the 50s,” with singing star Monica Millar from Curaçao. Your contribution of NAf125 includes the show and a multi-course Tuscan dinner by Tuscan-trained Chef David with wine. There’s a limited number of ticket still available at Croccantino Restaurant 717-5025. □*L.D.*

**Special Olympics Fashion Show  
Tickets on Sale Now**



*(TROPICAL EASE  
Continued from page 13)*

Octopus, Seahorses  
Morays and Triggers  
Turtles, Queen Angels and  
Gobies are diggers

Diving off shorelines  
Whenever we please  
These are what put us at tropical ease

\*\*\*\*\*  
Small cars and scooters  
That zip all around town  
Yellow stone markers  
The dive sites we have found

Opening gates with our skeleton keys  
These are what put us at tropical ease

\*\*\*\*\*  
(Chorus)  
Donkeys and parrots  
And bright pink flamingos  
Colorful lizards with beautiful blue toes

Aqua blue skies and aqua blue seas  
These are what put us at tropical ease

\*\*\*\*\*

Eden Beach, Lovers  
Our house by the sea  
Wanna Dive, Durgeon  
And Michael G's

All are the places that we want to be  
These are what put us at tropical ease

\*\*\*\*\*  
(Chorus)

\*\*\*\*\*  
Mask, fins and snorkel  
BC, regulator  
Ready to descend  
We'll see you all later

Ear pops and tootsie pops  
We're happy you see  
These are what puts us at tropical ease

\*\*\*\*\*  
The people the places  
The fauna and flora  
The sea life the good life  
All things we want more of

So Bonaire we love you  
We never want to leave  
Cause we're at our best in your tropical  
ease

\*\*\*\*\*

(Chorus)



## 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*



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

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

**Bookstores:**  
Bonaire Boekhandel,  
Flamingo Boekhandel

**Realty Offices:**  
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**Restaurants:**  
Bistro de Paris  
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Chez Lucille  
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Croccantino  
Wil's Tropical Grill  
Garden Café  
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Lost Penguin  
Lover's Ice Cream  
Pasa Bon Pizza  
Seahorse Cyber Café  
Subway

**Shops:**  
Bonaire Gift Shop  
City Shop  
DeFreewieler  
Inpo  
Paradise Photo  
Photo Tours, Playa  
Exito Bakery  
Bonaire Super Store  
(old 7-7)

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

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

**Others:**  
Bonfysio  
Botika Korona  
Bestuurscollege  
Caribbean Laundry  
Customs  
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

Are we there yet?  
(Ice Cube)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

**Elektra**

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  
**Fat Albert**

### THIS WEEK

Until April 14—**Willie Dijkstra Art Exhibit** Cinnamon Art Gallery is at Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind Banco di Caribe.

**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**

**Sunday, March 27 – Easter Brunch Buffet at the Rose Inn Bar and Restaurant, Rincon.** 11 am to 3 pm. NAf35 (children under 13, NAf15). Call melfina at 562-0327

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

**Friday, April 1 -Simadan (Harvest) Festival in Rincon**

### COMING

**Saturday, April 2 - Big Rincon Marshé**-gifts, food, drinks, music, friendliest people on the island.—6 am to 4 pm.

**Sunday, April 3 - Contest di Fli, (Kite Contest)** at the Juventus Field, the big ballpark behind Kooymans, near the Pauw gas station. Entry fee for ages 7 to 15 years is NAf3,50. 16 and up it's NAf7,50. Sign up at the Flamingo Book Shop on Kaya Grandi #21 before March 28 or 29.

**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.

**April 15 - 22 - Dive into Earth Week** - check with your hotel or dive shop for activities including beach and underwater cleanups

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** Sun. Apr. 24-*Endeavor*

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

**Saturday, April 30—COMCABON MCB 5 km / 17.5 km run with prizes.** 7 am. Call Richard Pietersz at 717-8629, 780-7225.

**Saturday, April 30 - Windsurfing Race**

### MAY 2005

**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 **cancelled until March 28th.** (Then at the Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30–9:30pm.)

**Turtle STCB slide show is canceled for March....It restarts April!**

**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 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 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.

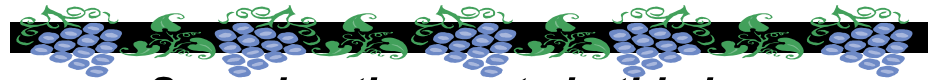
**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios),** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

**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 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 am 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



# Back on Bonaire...

## Orphaline Saleh

“As Bonaireans we have two options after we’ve completed our studies abroad. Either we come back to our island or we make our life elsewhere. The opportunities in other places can be huge and you can really make it there, but in spite of that, there are still quite a few Bonaireans who make the conscious decision to return to their homeland.

What strikes me is that their decision to return is often based on the same reasons foreigners decide to come and live here. If I have to put the feeling into words, I think I definitely have to use Hugo Gerhardt’s slogan: ‘Unhurried, Unspoiled and Unforgettable.’

From my mother’s side I have a rich Bonairean heritage. Her father was the only son of Kachi Craane and in that sense I am related to all the Craanes, the Abrahams and the Don Andres family, the De Jongs. My father’s parents came to Bonaire around 1918 from Lebanon. His mother had 12 children who lived. All children, except for the eldest, were born here, and my grandmother decided that she would raise them as Bonaireans. I had a carefree childhood. I am the eldest. Then there’s my brother Michel, then my sister Amelie. Our hangout was the Beach Hut at Hotel Bonaire and every year we went for an Easter egg hunt at Fontein.

In 1969, when I was four, my dad, Raymundo Saleh, who was a politician, became the governor and we moved to the governor’s house. Now, whenever I visit that house, I still get goose bumps because it wasn’t the most positive time of my life. My dad didn’t finish his term; after four years he resigned and founded his own political party. There was a lot of turmoil, and that’s why I’ll never go into politics!

My mom, Orpha Craane, was a schoolteacher. When I was 14, I was at HAVO-2 high school. My marks were all 10s, and because of that I wasn’t very popular with my fellow students! In fact I was a candidate for VWO high school, but as it didn’t exist on Bonaire, my parents and I agreed it was time for me to go to Curaçao to Randolphus College. The school turned out to be just great, but it was too big an impact on me, and in spite of all the support from my family in Curaçao I couldn’t get used to living there. So I went to Aruba to live with my Aunt Manira. She took me in her care... until today.

After I’d finished Kolegio Arubano I had no idea what to do. I talked to my dad and told him I wanted to do something to contribute to society so I could make a difference on Bonaire. Social compassion is a strong issue in our fam-

ily, so my dad understood what I was talking about. He answered, ‘Why not economics? That’s all round!’ I went to Pennsylvania State University. My main reason was that I’d never heard of a Bonairean going there. I wanted to widen my horizon, to get to know other people, not to be in a comfort zone. It was a great school, one of the biggest universities in the States, with 36,000 students. All in all, it was a wonderful experience.

Out of the 6,000 students who graduated with me I was one of four Phi Beta Kappa honor students. Then I wanted to do my Masters Degree, and to be honest, it wasn’t for idealistic reasons; it was just for the money!” *She laughs: Orphaline Saleh (38) is a wonderful, open-minded, warm-hearted, spiritual and vivacious person.*

“Well, I went to Holland, to the Netherlands International Institute for Management, and instead of two years I got my Masters in one year. I was the most successful candidate in my program.

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“... one day, seven o’clock at night, in my car in the dark, caught in a traffic jam for hours, this overwhelming thought entered my mind and I found myself wondering, what am I doing here?”

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After that I felt, ‘Enough! No more studies!’ I’d fallen in love and was offered a job at the National Investment Bank in The Hague and... I stayed in Holland for five years. When my relationship ended I still had my job; it was a fabulous job. I’d made it completely and I had everything I could wish for, but... one day, seven o’clock at night, in my car in the dark, caught in a traffic jam for hours, this overwhelming thought entered my mind and I found myself wondering, what am I doing here? I could do so much more at home; I could really make a difference! There are so many people in Holland with ability, and there’s such a need for professionals on Bonaire. I didn’t want to stand aside any longer; I really wanted to make a contribution. As I left Holland I didn’t have the feeling that there was much I left behind—just material things—but when you think about it... that’s nothing.

In Bonaire I was looking for a profes-

sional environment with structure and at the same time, for an institution that showed social compassion. I found it with the Maduro & Curiel’s Bank. It’s funny, in spite of the fact that we Bonaireans are very hard workers, who’ve proved themselves everywhere in the world, I noticed that in many cases we don’t like to take responsibility and that we’re afraid of authority. The first time it hit me was in Holland. I’d just gotten the job with the bank when I had this problem with a client. I went to my superior, Don, and asked him, ‘Can you handle this for me?’ He looked at me and answered, ‘What would you do if you were me?’ I stood there, looking at him and I felt shocked when I realized I was afraid of taking responsibility! Don taught me the best lesson I’d ever had and I owe him eternally for that!

Now I’m the assistant managing director at MCB-Bonaire, and I’m doing the same with my people at the bank.

Some people might think it has been easy for me, that I was privileged coming from an influential family, but my achievements are my own. My parents didn’t do it for me. I do feel lucky though, because being a part of this huge family gives me the sensation deep inside that it’s cozy, that I’m safe. I don’t think they realize that because I don’t have a lot of time to spend with them, but that’s how I feel. The unconditional support they’ve given me has strengthened me to expand my horizons, to push myself further and it also gave me self confidence. I have a strong family behind me that says, ‘You can do it!’ In that sense I am privileged. Yes, I am.

I feel that as a people we have great value. I’m very proud to be Bonairean, and I think we should make it a point to pass this feeling on to our children. In April, 1999, I met Jaquín. What worked for us is that we understood each other perfectly well. He came from Curaçao to Bonaire in 1997 and he stayed. Jaquín is with the police force working on a youth crime prevention project. In May 2000 our son Jordan was born. From the moment I first saw him, his big brown eyes looking at me attentively, I thought, ‘You’re part of me, but you’re not ‘mine;’ you are yourself.’ He’s very bright and he’s very sweet, but I don’t take credit for



Jordan and Orphaline

that. I give him the tools, but he does it himself. Nevertheless, I’m very, very proud.

Before Jordan was born I was involved in many things, AMFO, Rotary and so on. Now I only work for the bank, harder than ever, more stressful than ever, but the quality of my life has improved so much. I tell my friends who live in different places all over the world, ‘All year long you’re saving for a two-week holiday, but I have a holiday like that every Sunday!’ Life is not about money. Whenever the time comes and you stand before God and he asks, ‘What did you do with your life?’ It won’t make any sense to tell Him, ‘I had this fancy car, this great house, I made so much money and I knew all these celebrities!’

I believe everyone is here for a reason, to fulfill something. We have to love and be there for each other and we have to help each other in every possible way. Integrity is what counts, not what you own. I don’t know what the future will bring. Maybe when Jordan is a teenager Bonaire will be too small for him and then I’ll go. Not that I feel the need to, but I’ve done it before and I can do it again if it’s for him. It will be temporary though, because as I see it, the ideal life is growing up as a child on Bonaire, but as a teenager you have to go some place else to explore the world. You do your studies abroad and when you’ve seen it all... you come back to Bonaire.”

□ Photo and story by Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

# Bonagraphs -- Photo Artist Gert van Zanten

“In Bonaire I discovered this beauty, this light and I got really excited,” says photo artist Gert van Zanten, whose show opens on **Friday, March 25 at Le Flamboyant Restaurant**. “In Europe,” he continues, “the nicest light is in late afternoon, here it’s early morning.”

His enthusiasm shows in his photos of Bonaire – above the water. “I snorkel, but I don’t go into the deep. When I say to people that there’s great beauty here, they think I’m talking about under the sea. But what I see above sea level is so beautiful.” You may think you have seen it all in photos of Bonaire, but his are a surprise. His subjects may be well known, but he shows them with different lighting and from different angles.

Gert spent five years at the Art Academy in Holland, then, as a very young man, took off to Canada to work as a photographer in advertising, but as it happened he got kicked up to designer, then art director. Several years later, still a young man, 26, he returned to Holland where he worked in major advertising agencies as creative director. “But,” he says, “I wanted to make things, do things, not just talk about them!” It was always photography that called to him.



*Photo Artist Gert van Zanten*

How does he feel about digital? “I trust my film more,” he replies. But his photos are digitalized after they’re “perfect to my eye.” And computers? “People shouldn’t forget they’re only a tool!”

He rhapsodizes more about the light here: “It’s a combination of a number of things. The humidity in the air is like that of Provence, where it becomes almost transparent. If you love light you’ll see it here with all its changes.”

Gert photographed subjects all over the world before he “discovered” Bonaire. “Had I known about Bonaire before I would have started with a landscape lens!” But his focus has shifted.



*Old Bonairean house*



*Plasa Machi Mimi market*

“Now,” he says, “I want to photograph the houses of Bonaire.....before they’re all gone.”

Gert van Zanten’s photography show, called *Bonagraphs – with a Different View on Bonaire*, opens at Le Flam-

boyant Restaurant on Friday, March 25 from 5 to 7 pm. The show will continue for four weeks. All works are for sale at one price - \$125 each. You may visit his website: [www.gertvanzanten.nl](http://www.gertvanzanten.nl) to see more of his works. □L.D.





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

**Happy First Day of Spring to You and Happy New Year to Old Fashioned People**

The Vernal Equinox is what astronomers call the first day of spring and which officially began last Sunday, March 20, at 7:33 am Sky Park Time

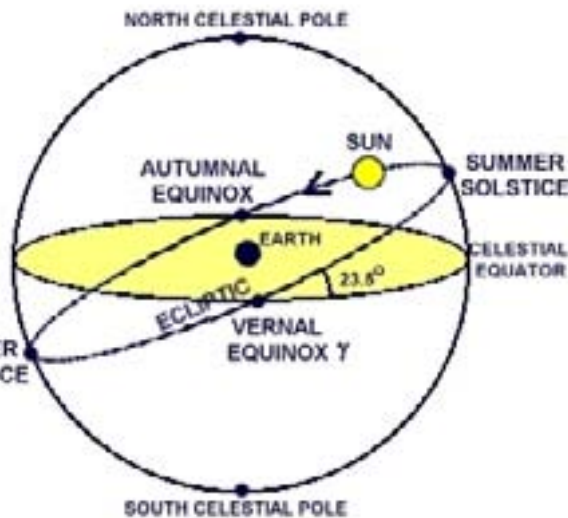
(which is back in sync with US east coast time). Now although we all know what spring is, have you ever wondered why we call spring 'spring?' Well, the word spring is simply short for the phrases, spring of the leaf and spring of the year. Spring of the leaf is pretty obvious because at this time of the year leaves literally do spring up out of branches and grass springs up out of the ground. But what does spring of the year mean?

Well, believe it or not, before 1752 the New Year began when spring began on March 25th in America and England. In other words, the New Year began, that it sprung up, at the same time the leaves and grass did. In fact, when George Washington, Ben Franklin and America's founding fathers were young men they all wished each other Happy New Year on March 25th until Parliament declared that henceforth beginning in 1752 the New Year would be celebrated on January 1st. At any rate I actually think it's more logical to have the New Year begin with the beginning of spring when all of nature seems to begin again.

And lest we forget, the first day of spring is actually an astronomical event which marks one of the two days when our Sun is smack dab on the celestial equator, the other day being the first day of autumn. And these two days are called the equinoxes, equi meaning equal and nox meaning night because on these two days the hours of daylight equal the hours of night. When this happens in September we call it the **Autumnal Equinox** and when it happens in March we call it the Vernal Equinox, vernal meaning green. This is appropriate because in mid-northern latitudes the landscape is really springing up green.

Now although most people today don't keep track of the Sun and its movements throughout the seasons like our ancestors did, nevertheless we can still observe the Sun as it changes its place on the horizon every day from equinox to equinox. For instance on Sunday the Sun rose due east and set due west and each day this week the Sun will rise just a little bit farther north of east each successive day and set a little farther north of west each successive day. It will continue moving northward day after day week after week month after month until June 21, the **Summer Solstice**, when it will rise its farthest north of east and set its farthest north of west. And then after a couple of days it will retrace its path southward, week after week, month after month, until on September 22, the Autumnal Equinox, the first day of autumn, it will rise and set due east and west once again. So happy first day of spring, and for those of you who are really old fashioned, Happy New Year!

□ Jack Horkheimer



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:  
**March 25 to April 1, 2005**  
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't make large purchases or investments. Spend some quality time with your lover. You can't win and they won't listen. Offers of joint ventures are likely. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**TAURUS** Apr. 21- May 21)

Try to curb overindulgence this week. Cultural activities will prove to be quite enlightening for everyone. Go with the flow and don't be concerned about your own job. You must strive to get the most important projects completed properly, rather than doing everything in a half baked way. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Don't push your luck with your boss. There'll be difficulties if you spend too much. You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups. You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You will be extremely sentimental, and if pushed by others you may hold a lasting grudge. Someone you least expect could be trying to make you look bad. You can ask for favors or run your ideas by those who will be able to support your objectives. Don't let others know about your private affairs. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Make arrangements to meet friends at your local dance club. Stop those bad habits. Have some fun, but draw the line if someone tries to fast talk their way into your heart. Take a trip or just spend some quality time with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't push your luck with your boss. Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. Plan to do things with your faithful pet or with youngsters who have interesting hobbies. You need to spend time with friends and family. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You should not be concerned with coworkers who insist on spreading rumors. Refuse to let others make unrealistic demands on you. Friends and relatives can give you good advice. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Get help setting up a reasonable budget. Look into ways of making extra cash. Overindulgence will be a problem if you are out in a social setting. Travel and educational pursuits may help alleviate the stress you have been feeling. Look into intellectual and physical games that will test your abilities. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will be popular with acquaintances; however, loved ones could feel left out and insecure. Any intimate relationships with colleagues will lead to gossip that could easily affect your position. You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. Positive connections can be made if you get involved in environmental organizations. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. You can count on getting a pat on the back for your efforts. Someone may be trying to pull the wool over your eyes. In-laws or older individuals may give you a bit of a hard time this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Short trips will prove to be more fruitful than you imagined. You must act quickly. Opportunities for romance are present. Your pilgrimage may end up being fruitless. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You are best to put in some overtime rather than get involved in family gatherings. Your need to get away could lead you into greater debt. Problems with colleagues are likely. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □