

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**  
Section  
2  
Inside

April 1 to April 8, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 13

# **The BONAIRI! REPORTER**

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SINCE 1994



**Easter at Krech  
Bon Kwido  
Page 2**

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



At the beginning of this week developments in the Dutch AirExel lawsuit against Bonaire's Dutch Eagle Express, DEE, (and its follow-on company, Dutch Antillean Express, DAE) took an alarming turn. **As reported in the Dutch newspaper *The Daily Telegraph*, a Court has been asked to seize the assets of DEE/DAE and possibly those of its company officers, shareholders and conceivably the government.** Yes, it is a possibility that the Bonaire Island Government, as the original owner of DEE, will be liable for the 12 million euros that its once parent company, Air Exel, claims it spent getting BonairExel up and running.

A press release on Easter Sunday from BonairExpress emphasized that if the court allows the seizure it would mean the end of Bonaire's airline adventure. DEE/DAE, which operates BonairExpress, previously said that it was NOT liable for the debts of the Holland-based AirExel companies and that AirExel business losses were to its own account and could not be extended to DEE, the holder of the Air Operating Certificate for the airline. Now the court will have to decide.

The issues are confusing and convoluted. The principal owner of the Dutch AirExel and DEE is the same person,

Niek Sandmann. Several other corporate structures with board members never before mentioned in connection with BonairExel(Express) have become public in recent days as well, causing wonder at the Byzantine corporate structure contrived to support a three-airplane airline. And Harm Prins, former Air Exel top man, who was pushing the case, has left Holland Exel, which will probably be taken over by tour operator TUI. It's the same Harm Prins who was arrested late last year for blackmail and fraud in connection with AirExel activities.

The day of reckoning for BonairExel (Express) is this Thursday, 31 March, when a judge in Curaçao will rule if the lien will be imposed.

The people of the Antilles recall the huge debt accumulated in the early 90s following Bonaire's Parker Project scam which wound up costing Antilleans tens of millions of guilders and some say is the reason a 5% sales tax was introduced. It's conceivable that the demise of DEE could have similar consequences. Check the *Bonaire Reporter* website, [bonairereporter.com](http://bonairereporter.com) for late breaking news.

► A Brazilian businessman, David Isreal, is going to try to **rescue Royal Aruban Airlines (RAA)**. Isreal has established a company, Amazon Valley Company, that operates under Aruban law. This company will investigate whether an agreement can be reached with the creditors of RAA for a start-up of the company. RAA has never flown before, but the preparations near completion. Aruba is without a national flag carrier since Air Aruba went bankrupt.

(Continued on page 3)



► **Easter on Bonaire.** The Kresh (nursery school) Bon Kwido was the site for happy and excited youngsters last Easter Monday. The kids got their faces painted as bunnies, made Easter egg-shaped art, played on the playground apparatus and hunted Easter eggs. They brought their parents along too and everyone had a fun-filled time. □

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)



► Bai Bini Air Charters, which operates **DiviDivi Air**, has added another **nine-seat Britten Norman Islander (registration number PJ SKY) to its fleet**. Beginning with one 7-passenger Cessna three years ago, the small airline has found success serving the Bonaire-Curaçao route. There is speculation that it may now include Aruba in its itinerary.

Curaçaoans Germaine and Richie Reginald, who were both pilots for ALM, last year purchased the airline that was founded by Carla Siercke and pilot Hans Peter Barth.

Germaine, based in Curaçao manages the operation. Divi Divi extended their gratitude to all who have helped make their business a success.

► On April 2 **the last assets of DCA will go up for auction in Curaçao**. They consist of furniture, electronic devices, computers, aircos and other items. Contact the Deurwaarder, Ms. S Ersilia, in Curaçao at Hato Airport if you wish to inspect the items. Only cash will be accepted.

► **Dutch Minister of Governmental Reform and Kingdom Relations Thom de Graaf resigned last Wednesday after**

**losing a key parliamentary vote on electoral reform**. The resignation of De Graaf, who was also deputy prime minister, has put a major strain on

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's coalition. Thom de Graaf was the minister charged with the responsibility for the Netherlands Antilles and had formed relationships with Antillean leaders. He was considered sympathetic to the movement for constitutional reform in the islands. No replacement has yet been named.

► **Correction:** Although listed as a BHG member on its website, **ABC Car Rental is actually a member of BONHATA**. We apologize for the error.

► This item is **not an April Fool joke**, emphasized Bonaire's police spokesman, Charles Suriel, late last week. Beginning April 1st police will be **detaining people who have outstanding unpaid traffic fines**. Either pay up at the Ontvanger's (Collector's) office or make an arrangement with the Public Ministry for a payment plan. Otherwise there will be the possibility of arrest.

► An automobile bumper sticker program to promote the **"Protect Our Turtles" campaign was kicked off** last week by STINAPA and the Boy Scouts from St. Bernardus School. For more information contact STINAPA at 717-8444 or STCB at 717-2225.



*Thom de Graaf*

*At ITB: Bous Scholts, General Manager of the Plaza Resort Bonaire; Nick Davies, Harbour Village General Manager; Ronella Croes, TCB Director; and Jack Chalk, President of BONHATA and Capt. Don's Habitat General Manager.*

► **Bonaire was represented at the biggest tourism exhibition on earth**, the ITB in Berlin, from March 11 to 15. With 10,000 exhibitors from 180 countries and regions, ITB represents the full spectrum of global tourism at all levels with tour operators, booking systems, travel destinations, airlines, hotels and rental cars. The TCB, BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association) and the BHG (Bonaire Hospitality Group) were on hand to let attendees know of the joys of Bonaire.

► In previous weeks the Bonaire Hospitality Group (BHG) reported through the media that the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) and the Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association (BONHATA) wasted money by having **exhibition**

► The Irish-owned mobile telephone company, Digicel, which took over Curaçao Telecom (CT) two weeks ago, was rebuffed by Curaçao-owned UTS when they tried to work out a joint agreement. Now **it will become a tough competitor for UTS in a market that may soon see the entry of communication giant AT&T**. The UTS monopoly is gone and the resulting competition is expected to lower cell phone rates to consumers.



**space separate from BHG's at the ITB (International Tourism Börse) in Berlin.**

BONHATA responded with a statement that the space they had was more appropriate since it was among other Caribbean locations and away from loud music that interfered with contract negotiations. There was lots of interest by tour operators for the 2006 season.

BONHATA has invited BHG to join their group, but the offer was rejected. BONHATA is Bonaire's representative to the Caribbean Tourism Organization. □

UTS employs about 500 people. The company signed several roaming contracts in the region, including the US, Latin America and Europe for mobile telephones with a post-paid subscription.

► **Last week's high winds and rough seas** kept several cruise ships, including the Royal Caribbean Cruise line's *Empress of the Seas*, from tying up in Aruba and Curaçao. But Bonaire's expert wind-

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 3) surfers didn't mind. They loved it! See the story on the Watersports page (7).

► BOPEC, the operator of the oil terminal at the northwest corner of Bonaire, has put a sign next to the fishermen's hut at the south end of their property **prohibiting diving, snorkeling and everything else on their lands. This is the entrance to Windjammer dive site.** Dive interests on Bonaire are concerned and are exploring ways to deal with the situation. (*An early reaction can be seen in the Letter to the Editor on page 5.*)

► To align schedules with those of our neighboring islands the dates for the **International Bonaire Sailing Regatta have been changed to October 9 - 15 2005.**

► **Nutritionist George Benjamin Curiel will be giving a course on nutrition:** juice fasting for cleansing the body, food mixtures, how to eat, etc. for a well balanced spirit, body and mentality. The course will start on Wednesday, April 6, at 7 pm, and will continue for three more Wednesdays at Chez Nous (SGB Restaurant School). Cost is NAf175. The course will be taught in Papiamentu, but can also be in Dutch or English if there are enough students. More information email [komesalvo3@yahoo.com](mailto:komesalvo3@yahoo.com) or call Liz Rijna at 786-0450.

► This Sunday, April 3, don't miss Bonaire's extremely popular **Contest de Fli (Kite Contest).** You'll see some of the most beautiful



and outrageous kites, all made by hand, by contestants from Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. There will be food, drinks and lots of camaraderie. It starts in the morning and goes on all day, until the last of the kites have flown. It's at the Juventus Field, the big ballpark behind Kooyman's, near the Pauw gas station.

► This week's Benetton models from Jong Bonaire are **Farley Mercera** and **Nakka Frans**. The Benetton ad is on page 11. □ L/J.G.D.

## Ask the Dietitian

### Be Creative with Vegetables ! A low-fat vegetable recipe

Vegetables are packed with essential nutrients and fiber, are generally low fat and contain in most cases few calories. And like all non-animal foods, vegetables are cholesterol free. The trick is to keep them that way when preparing them for the table. Avoid excessive amounts of cooking fat by using non-stick pans which allow you to sauté with minimal oil. Replace cream or whole milk in casseroles and sauces with low fat milk thickened with a little flour. Dense vegetables, such as tubers and winter squashes, are higher in calories than leafy vegetables. To preserve nutrients, avoid overcooking. One of the easiest ways to cook them is to briefly plunge them into boiling water until they are just crisp-tender (blanching). An alternative to this is steaming.

Here is a nice light and low fat recipe you can serve for lunch or dinner.

#### Zucchini and Sweet Pepper Enchiladas (for four)

- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 2 zucchini, halved lengthwise and cut into thin slices
- 2 yellow bell peppers, cut into thin strips

- 1 medium onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¾ cup reduced-sodium vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano or basil
- 2 cups, no-salt-added, crushed tomatoes
- 8, 6-inch flour tortillas
- ¼ cup shredded low fat cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup prepared salsa

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. In a large non-stick skillet, heat the oil until hot but not smoking over medium high heat. Add the zucchini, bell peppers, onion, and garlic, stirring to coat. Add ¼ cup of the broth and cook, stirring frequently, until the onion is softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in the remaining ½ cup broth and the oregano and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook until almost all liquid has evaporated, about 5 minutes longer. Remove from the heat.



\* Spread half of the tomatoes in a 13x9 inch baking dish. Spoon one-eighth of the zucchini mixture down the center of each tortilla. Roll up the tortillas tightly and place, seam side down, over the tomatoes. Spoon the remaining tomatoes over the tortillas and sprinkle the cheese on top. Cover with foil and bake for 10 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and the enchiladas are piping hot. Divide the enchiladas among 4 plates, spoon the salsa on top and serve.

Calories 248  
Fat 8 grams (28%)  
Carbohydrates 37 grams  
Protein 9 grams  
□ *Angélique Salsbach*



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

**WINDJAMMER SITE  
CLOSED?**

Dear Editor:  
Yesterday I returned from my 14th visit, bringing diving groups to Bonaire in 12 years. The island was still as wonderful and the diving still as grand as the first time. I am amazed at the work that STINAPA has accomplished protecting the environment. One of my fondest dives - as a properly trained and equipped technical diver - was the *Maria Bahn (The Windjammer)*. I read with joy the articles that you print about her. The reef above the Maria is in itself one of the finest dives on the island. The lush corals and fishes too numerous to count along with sea turtles on almost every dive make it so. This trip I was sadly disappointed by the arbitrary closing of the site. Apparently BOPEC has erected a sign which places the reef and thus the wreck off limits to diving. I certainly hope that the dive operators on the island will join together and come up with some sort of compromise to leave the dive site open. How long can Bonaire remain the "Divers Paradise" when the best sites are being closed?

*Tom Smedley, Adventure Sports II, Montgomery Alabama*



**FISHING FOR DIVERS**

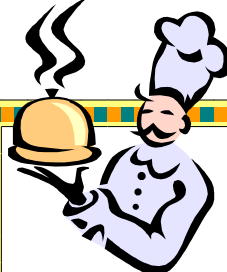
Dear Editor:  
Why is that when reporting an incident such as this one shown in the photo, taken at 9 am on a Monday morning (21<sup>st</sup> March 2005), the manager of the Marine Park is unable to send or contact any of his rangers? With the entrance fee due to increase on the 1st April will there be more interaction, education and awareness made to all residents of the island or will only a selected few respond to the rules of

the Marine Park? Will we be able to choose when to go spear fishing, cut Red Mangrove trees down to allow for the Easter gathering at So-robon, or collect the conch for a fry-up? Or will the Marine Park start enforcing the rules, educating everybody properly and giving alternative fishing spots?

After all we understand here on the island that we are allowed to fish but as a visitor it is harder to explain when they will have to pay \$25 and not wear gloves..!

*Hagen*





**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 for 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.

## Fashion Show Fundraiser For Special Olympics Bonaire

Get Your Tickets Now  
for the SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
BONAIRE Fundraiser Fashion  
Show

Saturday, April 16, the Padrino Haute Couture Fashion Show at Croccantino Restaurant. All to benefit Special Olympics Bonaire. This year's theme is "Broadway of the 50s," with singing star Monica Millar from Curaçao. Your contribution of NA/125 includes the show and a multi-course Tuscan dinner by Tuscan-trained Chef David and wine. There's a limited number of tickets available at Croccantino Restaurant. Tel. 717-5025. □L.D.



Soeraley at the 2004 Show

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## Picture Yourself with the Reporter

11:00 am  
near Tuktoyuktuk, Canada

Soren Christiansen writes, "This is a picture of *The Bonaire Reporter* at 69° 25' 53.1" North and 134°, 18'55.5" West. That is up by the Arctic Ocean close to Tuktoyuktuk. I was up there on January 14, and the picture was taken at 11 in the morning. The little pinpoint of light is the oil rig at the new location we have which is about 2.5 km from the lease we are standing on. The outside temperature was -35° C at the time." □



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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.) □

## Windsurf Scene at Sorobon Bonaire Waves

For several months windsurfers in Bonaire have been shaking their heads, wondering where the wind was. Typically in February and March sailors enjoy wind conditions of around 18 mph. In February and March locals and tourists could count only a few decent sailing days instead of the usual windsurf scenario. Thankfully, the weather changed dramatically around the 23<sup>rd</sup> when the winds returned with a vengeance. For two days, only the expert or the adventurous sailor headed out with 3.0-4.0 meter sails to enjoy or rather brave the winds with gusts sometimes near 45. It was wild on Lac Bay with moderate chop and strong winds. Training local pros, Taty Frans, Choko Frans, Ruben Petrisie and Kiri Thode, headed up wind to Cai, their favorite training ground, for a few wave sessions. Visiting pros from the Gorge, another windy spot, joined their windsurf brethren in what turned out to be a wild ride for all.

As the water from the open sea enters the channel at Lac Suite, a vacuum of wind sucks into the bay, creating some large swells. This past week the waves were sometimes mast high, creating an amazing site for the many tourists and windsurf spectators who headed up to Cai to see the show. Taty Frans dazzled the crowd with some crazy loops and tricks, defying the dangerous and challenging waves. His cousin and



Wave riders at Lac

brother kept up the pace with some super charged jumps and moves. It was a great day for wind and waves

### News on the Local Windsurf Scene:

❖ Local windsurf hero Tonky Frans is in Maui for a photo shoot for his employer, F2 Boards. His brother Tati joins him this week when he heads there to meet with his new sponsor, Maui Sails. It must be a tough job working in yet another wonderful venue.

❖ Jose Fajardo Rivera, NB329, has just signed on as team rider for RRD, an Italian Board company in Europe. JP Boards is working with a scout on island, seeking new talent for their Young Guns Team.

❖ Clay Finies has signed on with Quatro Boards, a Hawaii-based company. There are many visiting pros



Taty Frans masters the waves

from Sweden, Italy and the US on Bonaire, honing their skills for the upcoming 2005 tour.

❖ Pros coming to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bonaire PWA King of the Caribbean are expected to touch ground as early as mid-April to start training for this World Cup Event. It is the first Freestyle event for the tour so the attendance is expected to be high.

❖ Soon to come is the Diva Women's Windsurf Week. The clinic is sponsored by Starboard. Visiting instructors include Windsurfer of the Year in the US, Beth Powell Winkler, and Women's Windsurf Expert Instructor, Petra Kanz. Starboard is offering three local scholarships to teens and women from Bonaire. The dates are July 17-24<sup>th</sup> with three days of direct instruction. If you want to learn to windsurf or want to sharpen your skills, contact Ann Phelan to apply for a scholarship. The three spots will be chosen in a lottery. □ Photos and stories by Ann Phelan [www.bonairepros.com](http://www.bonairepros.com)

*Ann Phelan, owner Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations, a windsurf and eco tour specialty travel service, is the Event Coordinator of the Annual Bonaire PWA King of the Caribbean. [ann@bonairewindsurfing.com](mailto:ann@bonairewindsurfing.com)*

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

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
4-01	6:35	2.0FT.	64
4-02	7:36	2.0FT.	57
4-03	8:27	1.9FT.	56
4-04	1:22	1.2FT.	61
4-05	3:17	1.2FT.	70
4-06	4:45	1.1FT.	80
4-07	6:14	1.1FT.	88
4-08	0:30	1.6FT.	94

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angelos	Infinity	Safari
Antigone	It's Good	Samba
Angie	Jacobi	Sapphire
Barbara Ann	Jan Gerardus	Santa Maria
Besame	Jel-jok France	Sandpiper, USA
Bettina	La Cucaracha	Sirius
Bright Sea	Laetitja	Sylvia K
Camissa, Chan Is.	L'Aquila, BVI	Take It Easy
Cape Kathryn	Last Call	Ti Amo, USA
Catalyst	Luna C. USA	Tish
Clemencia	La Escotilla, Caymans	Ulu Ulu, USA
Dragonera	Maebelle	Unicorn, Norway
Flying Cloud, USA	Make My Day	Varedhuni, Germany
Gabrielle	Maki, France	Ya-T, BVI
Galandriel	Natural Selection	Yanti Paratzi
Guaicamar I, Ven.	Oslo	Zahi, Malta
Honalee, USA	Rusty Bucket	
Incandescent	Sabbatical	

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



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



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

**Bonaire Images**

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



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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

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

**'93 Suzuki Samurai (jeep)-** New Seats, New Battery, Good Tires, Well Maintained for **NAf5,500**. Contact: 786-1465

For sale:-**Stroller** as good as new. From 175Naf for 100Naf -**Sony prof. stereo 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! Call 717-7977 or e-mail alexander137@telbonet.an

**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

**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.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**MARIE CARRANO GUIDI**  
**MARCH 22, 2005**



**George DeSalvo with his Aunt Marie**

Although she's never been to Bonaire she keeps up to date on what goes on here through *The Bonaire Reporter*. At 100 years old, my Aunt Marie, my mother's older sister, is as sharp and as aware of what goes on in the world as she was during her 42-year-long career teaching languages in New York's inner city schools. Having had no children herself she dotes on her nieces and nephews. Like me. At family parties, weddings and get-togethers she's always the peppiest, most vibrant person there. And so she was at her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party last week in Kingston, NY, close to where she lives.

In 1983 after her husband of 47 years passed away, she learned to drive. At age 79, the time most people turn in their driving licenses, she got her first one. But then again she always was adventurous.

She says she's "traveled to all the countries in the world, except China." She still lives by herself in her lovely house near the banks of the Walkill River, but now her travels are more restrained. Arthritis has slowed her down a bit. But she still gathers with her many friends and is an active member of the Rosendale Women's Club and St. Peter's R.C. Church.

I asked her if she had any advice to pass along on how to reach 100 years old in such good shape. Her answer: "Faith." Her strong belief in God sustains her.

She told us to stop mailing her *The Reporter* early last year because she was nearly blind, the unfortunate result of a botched cataract operation. But another operation, late in 2004, restored her vision! During her birthday party last week she asked us to put her back on the mailing list again. Now she's again keeping track of Bonaire's affairs. □

G.D.

**MOVING ON**

Ardent, community minded Dr. Delno Tromp, who has championed the causes of Bonaire and the Special Olympics Bonaire team, has accepted a position with the UN-UNEP (the United Nations Educational Program) in Nairobi, Kenya, Africa.

"I will be working there for the United Nations, as has always been my dream," says Delno. "The possibility for personal growth while there is huge, since I most probably will be a part of the UNEP (the United Nations Educational Program) where we will be going into the slums to teach the children there. Many of my family and friends think I am out of my mind, but after all, *Life is a Daring Adventure or Nothing at All.*"

Delno has been the Caribbean National Director of Special Olympics and has worked diligently with Bonaire's teams for the last few years. Ferina (Roosje) van der Hoek-Goeloe will take over as the National Director of Special Olympics Bonaire.

Delno has been Director of US marketing for the Tourist Corporation Bonaire and was the innovator of the now popular Bonaire Ambassadors Program, among his other many accomplishments.

Delno will be sorely missed by the island and by all his friends. But, as he says, "I'm just an email away." We wish him the very best! □ G./L.D.



**Delno Tromp, PhD.**

**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



**Porch Sale-Fri & Sat 1 & 2 April** 0800-1700, J.A. Abraham 43. Across from Divi Flamingo - Appliances & Assorted household items.

Readers are invited to send photos of anniversaries, engagements or weddings to *The Reporter*. The photo and text will be printed free of charge.

**ATVERTENSIA**

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Section  
2 Special  
Reporter  
Supplement

April 1, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 13 ½

# The ~~BONAIRE~~ REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

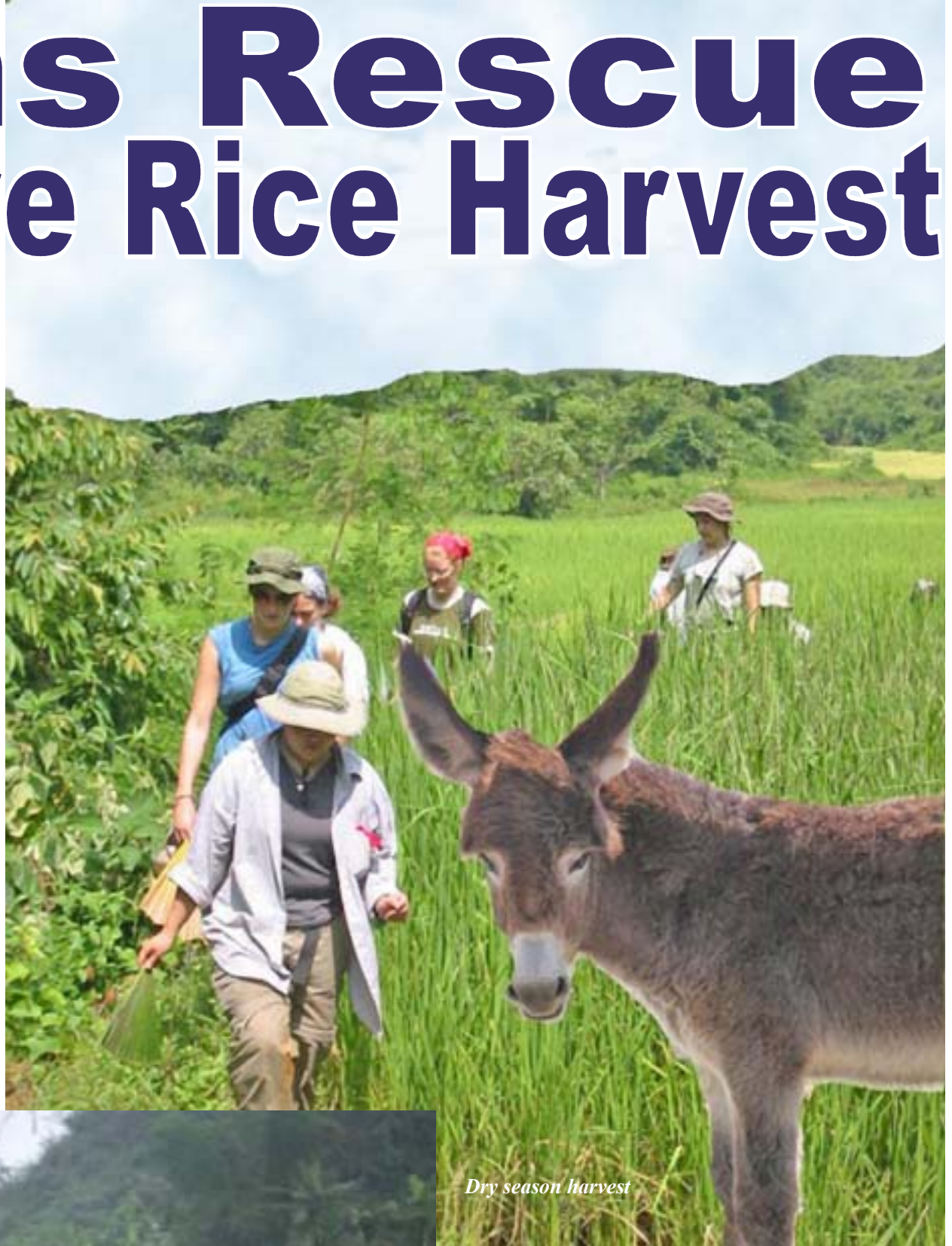
## Rains Rescue Bonaire Rice Harvest

**T**he economic hardship that hit Bonaire when the rice mill was shut down by the European Union (EU) action withdrawing its preferential treatment for foreign rice processed in Bonaire is about to be reversed. On April 1 most of Bonaire's rice planted during the rains of 2004 will have been harvested. The heavy downpours of the past season have produced a bumper crop.

Bonaire rice qualifies as EU farm produce and as such benefits from the same generous subsidies given to French and Italian growers. The salinas, flooded with rainwater, make a perfect rice paddy. Since water buffalo are scarce on the island several of the unemployed donkeys that managed to evade the Sanctuary roundup have been pressed into service behind the plows.

George Winkler, manager of the rice mill, is ecstatic about the prospects. "We've already called 30 workers back to get the grain elevators and milling equipment prepared to process the harvest. Ships to transport the rice overseas have left Europe en-route to Bonaire. When we begin full production about 100 people will be employed."

Corgill Salt is rumored to be considering modifying several of their salt evaporator ponds to make them suitable for rice paddies. "Global warming is reducing the need for road salt to melt winter ice," said Jon Ghleen, the Works Manager. "Corgill's immense profits will be bolstered even more by successful rice production." If most of the salt production is converted to rice growing, Bonaire will become second only to Indonesia in annual tonnage.



*Dry season harvest*



*Rainy season plowing*

Bonaire's political parties are scrambling to take credit for the economic boom. The Green Party is saying rice growing is another of its successful initiatives, along with the demolition of unattractive historic structures, to supercharge Bonaire's economy and that KLM is considering flying "just picked" rice to gourmet European consumers. The Red Party applauds the economic boost but is concerned about the distortion of Bonaire's cultural heritage. "If this continues," said opposition Red leader Jopy Abrams, "before long tourists will be hearing that the slave huts were used to store grain." Several environmentalists are concerned that the change from salt to fresh water in the salinas will harm to the feeding grounds of Bonaire's many flamingoes. However, STINAPO, the new enforcement arm of STINAPA, will monitor the situation. □ G.D.

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Additional air carriers are competing for the routes DCA flew. The latest contenders, both British, parked briefly at Flamingo Airport.

The famous Venezuelan designer Padrino, who will present his fashion show at Croccantino Restaurant on April 16, has been commissioned by the royal family to design a water-resistant dive hat, to be worn by Queen Beatrix when she goes snorkeling on her official upcoming visit to Bonaire.



STINAPA has softened its stand on mooring fees. They will return to \$5, provided the yacht leaves the mooring between 8 am and 8 pm.

Stanley Lourense, King of Tumba, will present his series of religious tumbas in St. Nicolas church, Kralendijk, on Easter Friday, 6 pm. There will be no community singing or dancing, just tumbas.

All Italian wines priced NAf 45 and over are to be recalled by local wine merchant AWC because of a serious price deficiency. The Italian quality restaurants will probably soon run out of Amarone and Ser Gioveeto, so if you like these wines, you'd better hurry and book a table at Croccantino.

And while on the subject of wines, California vintners in the Napa Valley area, which primarily produces Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir and Pinot Grigio wines, have developed a new hybrid grape that acts as an anti-diuretic. It is expected to reduce the number of trips older people have to make to the bathroom during the night. The new wine will be marketed as "Pino More." (J.A.)



Bonaire's recent clear skies have been registering off the top of the scale for Tanning Quotient. In order to protect themselves several tourists have adopted this surefire form of bathing attire with an SPF of 1,000,000.



Sam William, the Englishman perhaps best known for his studies of the endangered Bonairean Lora (Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot) and the first successful ascent of Mt. Brandaris by bicycle (Reporter 8/22/03 issue) has scored another first. Reporter photographers were on hand to record his jump

from Subi Rincon (where all the radio towers are) to Alta Mira last week. He will repeat the deed this Friday, 1 April, at 11 pm. The Reporter will provide a free Dominican Presidente beer to the first 24 people who show up to witness the daring deed as well as to the Red Cross crew. □

The WEB power plant is back to normal schedule again, thanks to the newly installed Aggreko megawatt generators. Power outages will once again be random, as in the good old times.



Like everywhere else, goat theft is a problem on Bonaire. This Friday, LVV, in cooperation with the island government, will begin installing goat vending machines at key spots on the island. So if your goat has gone missing you can obtain another conveniently and relatively inexpensively. The flat price is NAf1 per kilogram. Coins or bills are accepted by the new machines.

Officials from DROB (Environmental Section) made a startling discovery during



last week's "bat-count" survey of Bonaire's many caves. A child, apparently being raised by a family of fish-eating bats, was found in a deep cave in the Lima section. Fish-eating bats are one of the seven bat species living on the island as well as the largest with a typical wingspan exceeding 45 cm (18 inches).

The child is believed to be three-year old Isidore Farkas, the son of a Belgian tourist couple who had believed him kidnapped from their rental car at the Angel City dive site two years ago. The child spoke no recognizable language but seemed to communicate with his adopted mother with high-pitched squeaks. Except for an extreme sensitivity to loud noises, he seemed healthy. He will be reunited with his human parents on Friday, April 1.



It's official! Bonaire Bikers, of the Harley persuasion, have elected A.J. Campbell to be their new president. It was a close race between A.J., Orlando and Jack. The club wanted someone with a strong image to be their leader. A.J. looks tough, but he's really a pussycat at heart. (Gus)

(Continued on page 11)

► **The Rotary Club Bonaire and the Lion's Club Bonaire have announced their merger** effective April 1, Easter Friday. A press conference will be given in Moreno's VIP lounge at the airport. The usual drug pat by Prosecutor Ernst Wes-selius will be skipped for this occasion. Time of the press conference is 4 pm. The reason given in the brief release are: a) the dearth of valid community projects (both clubs), b) the outflow of upper class floozies (Rotary) and c) the parking problems with SUV's at annual cook-outs (Lion's).

The new club is to be baptized the **Rotalions**. A further merger with the Chaine des Rotisseurs is seriously considered. The main obstacle for this further merger is that the Chaine will not consider spare ribs, a popular fare among Lion's members, a suitable dish for a Chaine dinner.

► On Super Friday at 4 pm. at Lagoen (muddy side) a **mud-slinging contest will be held between adult males, divided into a red team and a green team**. The two prizes are: The Jo-pie award for best pitcher, and the Ramon-sito award for best catcher. The trophies are a silver beaker with throwing handle in the form of a knuckle duster, and a silver platter with a holding handle fastened to the back. Referees (who have to decide unanimously) are Commissioner Burney el Hage and former minister Nolly Oleana. C.dK./G.D.

► Bonaire's crack Zero-Tolerance Team has deployed their latest weapon against speeding Bonaire motorists- **the SELIBON trash container radar**.

Drivers are so accustomed to seeing the ubiquitous containers that they don't even know they've been nailed until pulled over by one of the blue-suited team.

So slow down drivers.



What looks like an ordinary trash container...

contains the latest in radar speed detector technology



## New Airlink for Bonaire

Bonaire is to have a new airline servicing both the US and Europe, with an operational start planned for January 1, 2006. On the very spot where Bonaire's first airstrip was built some 70 years ago, on the road to Rincon, Dutch air tycoon Erik Aviator, former partner of Bonaire businessman Nick Sandcastle, revealed his plans for a new airline, dubbed Bonaire Historic Airways (BHA).

"The trend toward ever faster and cheaper air travel is about to reverse itself," declares Erik, "same as happened with transatlantic ocean liners which now ply the leisure cruise trade." BHA will employ small, lavishly fitted aircraft, probably Fokker 50s or 70s, seating 12 in grand luxury, using Bonaire and the Dutch island of Texel as home bases. The whole trip will take three days, with stops at St. Maarten, Hilton Head Island, Bermuda, the Azores, Madeira, Jersey (Channel Islands) and then Texel, all islands, and

the same route back.

The price will be around US\$4,500 one way, return by commercial airliner.

"We have already dozens of advance bookings," says Erik. "We plan to build our own modest airstrip and accommodations on Klein Bonaire and have requested permission from the Island Government, as this project will greatly enhance the tourist attraction of Bonaire without harming the pristine beauty and delicate ecological balance of Klein Bonaire.

We hope to have the permits for a 1 km. strip and one-story high control tower by mid June."

This coming Easter Friday Erik Aviator and his local partners plan to show the actual location of the strip on Klein Bonaire to any interested outsiders. Meeting place is the shacks on the east shore of Klein, meeting time is 10 am. Bring your own boat and refreshments. □ C.dK.



This modern Fokker 70 will fly the transatlantic portion between the US and Holland.



This old Fokker will fly the Caribbean legs of the journey.

## SURVIVOR BONAIRE

CBS-TV has announced that next season's popular "Survivor" series will take place here on Bonaire. In a departure from the show's original format, contestants will be chosen from expatriate residents of the island. According to the show's host, Jeff Probst, "We want to see how these folks manage to survive on an island like Bonaire." Therefore, the show's "challenges" will be taken from everyday life on Bonaire. Probst himself has agreed to his own challenge: he will endeavor to make it through the entire series while never once uttering the words "I'll go tally the votes."

CBS plans to call the two tribes 'The Makambas' and 'The Merkas.' Like the original series, the team that loses a given challenge will have to go to Tribal Council, and a member of their team will be 'voted off the island.' On Survivor Bonaire, Tribal Council will be held at Flamingo Airport, and instead of having his or her torch extinguished in a symbolic gesture of defeat, the losing contestant will have to turn his or her sedula over to Immigration. Rather than the usual \$1,000,000 prize, the final survivor will be given a lifetime, tax-free residency with the freedom to come and go from the island at will.

The search for food, a constant theme in

previous Survivor series, will be a little different on Survivor Bonaire. The Makamba tribe will have to dine out for a week without eating French fries, and will be required to leave at least a 15% gratuity. The Merkas, on the other hand, must dine out for a week, never once going to KFC, and never once uttering the words, "But back home we can get..." A challenge for both tribes will be to find fresh milk on a Thursday.

New to the Survivor Bonaire series will be the fashion challenge: The Makamba tribe must wear shorts and flip-flops, while the Merka tribe will have to wear long pants, closed-toed shoes, and NO flowered shirts.

Individual challenges are rumored to include the following: Completing a circuit of the island without driving by a "Snack," obtaining a list of household items without going to "The Chinese Store," trying to find out where to pay a parking ticket, and obtaining a driver's license by visiting fewer than four agencies.

The greatest challenge survivors face will probably be the building of a shelter which they must do in less than one year.

The Reporter wishes the best of luck to all the contestants! □ Witches of Sabadeco



www.bongonews.com

## Facing the Truth About Donkey Depression

Bonaire's donkeys are in trouble, says well-known equine psychologist and donkey whisperer Jack Ashworth. On a recent visit to Bonaire, Ashworth studied the donkey population in depth and his news is bad: Bonaire's donkeys are suffering from severe depression and low self-esteem. "The drooping ears, the shuffling gait, the plaintive brays, and general lethargy are classic signs of clinical depression," says Ashworth. "The recent spate of attempted vehicular suicides are only the latest cries for help. We must intervene."



*Startled Donkey at the seaside*

The donkeys' self-image also suffers by comparison with Bonairean posterboy fauna. "When comparing themselves to the capering goats, the lovable loras, the sociable prikichi, and the nimble iguanas, the donkeys' self-loathing only rises," observed Ashworth.

"All equine species are excellent swimmers, a talent I rarely observed among the local donkeys," noted Ashworth. He has scheduled an intervention and event that will raise donkey self-esteem and show off their rarely-demonstrated abilities: the First Annual Bonaire-to-Curaçao Donkey Swim. "I know they can do it, and this will put Bonaire's donkeys on the map," enthused Ashworth. Local casinos are supporting the event with their own Donkey Sports Book. "Community support, like that of the casinos, only adds to donkey pride."

The Donkey Swim will be held on April first at the Customs Pier at noon. It is widely rumored that noted Scientologist actor and Bonaire visitor Tom Cruise will fire the starting gun for the event promptly at 1 pm. If you have a favorite equine, come on down to the Customs Pier and kiss your ass goodbye! □



*Donkey Elmo is training for the BONA-CUR swim by jumping hurdles*  
Heywood Jablome

## Lora Roost Discovered!

*In the Bonaire Reporter, issue # 8, (February 25-March 4) it was reported that the annual Lora count had diminished the Lora numbers by 25%, from 400 to 300. Several traditional nesting places were found deserted. Where did these Loras go?*

The mystery was solved last week by a young cook working at Sorobon, an avid Lora fan, who was mountain-biking to his work last Saturday. Noticing a couple of Loras near the slave huts past Cargill Salt works, he investigated, and found 3 (three!) Lora nests in some of the slave huts.



Please do not go and look for yourself. The nests are fragile and the Loras are wary of visitors. On Eco-Friday, April 1, from 10-12 noon you can come and look for yourself, under guidance of a Lora count team worker. You will have to bend over and creep inside, but that's what the slaves did in their lifetime. The Loras just fly in and out, as they should. □ C.dK.

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# Tourist Stay Home

## Especially Foreign Ones

The Antilles Grand Council announced a ban on all foreign tourists, especially divers and snorkelers. The previous rule of a two-week stay has been changed to no stay. Thus the plan to introduce the unpopular "seaside viewing and ocean air breathing fee" has been tabled indefinitely.

The Lost Penguin is delivering emergency sandwiches to any stranded tourists, and portable toilets will be set up in Wilhelmina Square as tourists will not be permitted to rent rooms on the island.

Grand Council head, Anthony Gutlett, who was absent on a trip casing SA-BADECO homes, was replaced by his aunt and mother who announced that, for Bonaire, tourism will be encouraged between Kralendijk, Rincon and Aruba. When interviewed, Gutlett's cousin Marsha Donkey (standing in for Gutlett's aunt and mother, who were absent as usual) stated there will be many advantages to banning tourists, such as:

1. No more divers to ruin the reefs. Blind snorkelers, who were avoiding the \$50 "breathing through a plastic tube fee" by snorkeling at night, will no longer need to be pursued by our police patrol boat.
2. Creation of a new drag strip on the



jet runway. (Since not as many planes will be needed, it will end the need for using the road to Sorobon as a drag strip.)

3. Restaurants will no longer need to serve food to tourists, thereby giving restaurant staff more leisure time, without pay, while protecting our dwindling Wahoo supply.

4. Rental cars will be dumped into the ocean to expand our reef system and thus will no longer ruin our roads.

5. The need to raise diver and snorkeler fees is now ended since no divers or snorkelers will come to Bonaire.

6. We can close the airport tax office since it will no longer be needed.

7. The airport tower can also be closed and could be converted to the Jet

# Mock Turtle Soup Cooking Contest

On Easter Friday at 12 noon an amateur cooking contest will be held at Sorobon, for the best recipe of mock turtle soup.

Participants should bring their own tureen, kitchen tools and ingredients. The mock turtles, freshly flown in from Florida, and cooking fires will be made available by the organization committee, for a participation fee of NA/10 per tureen/recipe. The jury consists of Doi, the island's real turtle connoisseur, assisted by two master cooks of the island. The winner will be crowned "Mock Turtle Chef of the Year." The three best recipes will be put on the menu of leading restaurants.

Make sure to bring along a bottle or flask of rum, as the chief referee Doi favors recipes flavored by this delicious drink! □ C.dK.

### The mock turtle

(*Tortola humoriae*) is a distant parent of the common sea turtle. It is about the size of a small otter, has scales like an armadillo and a rolling appendage that makes them hard to capture in a downhill situation. Its natural habitat is large swampy areas like the Everglades, where they



are in such abundance that they do not rate species protection. Their curious name derives from the sound these little amphibians make, not unlike the mocking bird. □

Disco-a-Go-Go.

Since the lack of tourism will leave a vacuum of sound, some Bonaire motorcycle groups have agreed to move their level of noise from obnoxious to deafening. In order to protect their sensitive eardrums, the Bonaire police have agreed never to leave the police station.

The Dutch government, in a surprise

move, will grant Bonaire the status of "pitiful possession" and provide total support. L. & P. K.

The Dutch government and the island's Dutch business people, could not be reached for comment, but there was talk of opening up closer tie discussions with Belgium. Ed.

On The Scene with Web Burrfish

There were some red faces aboard the cruise ship *Friwinds* last week when the new captain of the ship mistook Harbour Village Marina for the cruise ship dock. Captain Beauregard Edgerton, newly in command and on his first trip to Bonaire, got his ship firmly wedged in the marina entrance. It came free after having all the passengers move to the stern. There was no damage to the ship, however, the patrons of the La Balandra restaurant hastily interrupted their breakfasts and fled for the exit when they saw the ship approaching.



Blanche Boggledorf, visiting from Buckwheat, Nebraska, told this reporter, "I haven't seen people move so fast since Elmer Codwollop's bull got loose at the State Fair." Explaining the incident, Captain Edgerton said that it was an easy mistake to make as the marina was where most of the boats were docked and it was hardly his fault that the channel was neither deep enough nor wide enough for a "reasonably sized vessel." He was also quoted as saying that there were going to be "severe disciplinary repercussions if the crew persists in referring to me as Captain Wedge-It-In. They should show more respect." The passengers seemed to be nonplussed by the occurrence and several pointed out that the marina was much nicer than the cruise ship dock anyway. □ *Story & photo by W.B.*

Pet of the Week

As we've always said, the Bonaire Animal Shelter offers the best pets for adoption; not only are they healthy but they're very social. But these two sibling kittens have taken it a step further. "Kees" and "Ronald" can actually communicate with each other so that humans understand. An astounded Shelter Director Jury Malama explains, "We just can't believe the intelligence these two stray kittens possess. Someone found them arguing in front of a big crowd at Karel's Beach Bar last Saturday night. No one seemed to own them so the kind Samaritan brought them into the Shelter before some unscrupulous individuals tried to capture them."



"Kees" and "Ronald"

Visit the Shelter on the Lagoen Road and meet Kees and Ronald and see for yourself what exceptional pets are up for adoption. They're open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □ *L.D.*

LETTERS: THE Op-Ed SECTION

SOLUTION TO TOO MANY CARS ON BONAIRE?

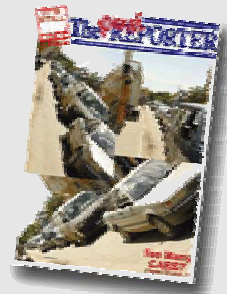
Dear Editor:

I thought the article "Too Many Cars on Bonaire?" (*Bonaire Reporter* 3-25-05 Issue, last week) was well written and researched. However, it did not address what I consider to be the root cause of too many cars on the island. Namely, too many licensed drivers. To alleviate this problem I would suggest that all currently licensed drivers be required to demonstrate competency to operate a motor vehicle. Many would fail the test and there would be fewer cars on the road.

Are there bad Bonaire drivers? Based on my observations walking about the island I wrote a simple test and had several local drivers give me their answers. The test was as follows:

- 1) When rounding the corner in front of Julio's you find pedestrians crossing the road. Do you A) slow down and risk being rear-ended or B) blow the horn vigorously to hurry them on their way.
- 2) When backing out of a parking place at the Tropical Flamingo do you A) look

behind you first and possibly lose your concentration and cause an accident or B) back out regardless, people will get out of the way.



- 3) When passing people on the road side do you A) ease to the left to make room and maybe create a head-on collision or B) brush past them.

Unfortunately many of the drivers taking the test answered A for all three questions. With drivers like these, accidents just waiting to happen, it is surprising to me that there is not more carnage on the roads of Bonaire. I strongly urge that the authority for licensing drivers retest everyone and revoke permanently the licenses of all that fail. With a limited road system only the truly competent should be at the wheel. This will create a safer and less traffic congested Bonaire for all to enjoy. *Webster (Web) Burrfish*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

### Constantine (Keanu Reeves)

Early Show (usually 7pm)  
Are we there yet?

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.

**Until April 22 – Gert van Zanten “Bonographs”** – photos of Bonaire. At Le Flamboyant restaurant.

**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. Food, drinks, lots of fun. More information at the Flamingo Book Shop on Kaya Grandi #21

**Wednesday, April 6 – Nutrition course** by George Benjamin Curiel: juice fasting for cleansing the body, food mixtures, how to eat, etc. for a well balanced spirit, body and mentality. Starts at 7 pm, and will continue for three more Wednesdays at Chez Nous. Cost is NAf175. The course will be taught in Papiamentu, but can also be in Dutch or English if there are enough students. More information email komesalvo3@yahoo.com or call Liz Rijna at 786-0450.

### COMING

**Sundays, April 10 & 17—Bonaire Culinary Team gourmet lunch with wine.** Donation NAf30. Le Flamboyant Restaurant 1 pm. Tickets: Sara 786-9299; Laura 717-8988 or 791-7252 (page 5)

**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.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Saturday 23 April. Earth Day Events in Bonaire.** See story on this page.

**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**

### MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in  
Movieland Cinema:



**ELEKTRA** by Rob Bowman, starring Jennifer Garner. Admittedly I'm not really a fan of comic-book-to-movie conversions so I didn't go with many expectations. My suspicions were totally confirmed. There were some excellent villains, who have interesting powers (Typhoid Mary, with her lethal kisses, steals the show), but after five minutes I was really craving for the end titles. Well, Jennifer Garner made it all bearable. She really looks quite exquisite in her tight red outfit. The fighting scenes consist of a lot of frantic camera work to go along with quick, close cuts so that we can't really see anything but are forced to believe that there's an intense fight scene in progress. After the beautiful AVIATOR, I guess this film is more for the younger audience. There's a lot of violence but not very graphic and it has some superheroes which will appeal to the kids. □ *Dodo*

### MAY 2005

**Thursday, May 5—Healing Touch Free Introductory Class,** 7-8 pm, Caribbean Club Bonaire (page 3)  
**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**

### OCTOBER 2005

The **International Bonaire Sailing Regatta has been changed to October 9 – 15, 2005,** a slip of one week.

### 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.



under which some debris should be left in place. Contact Dee Scarr, 717-8529, dee@touchthesea.com.

**April 22, Friday, 2 pm:** Underwater Caretaking dive. Help remove fishing line and other debris that's dangerous to marine animals. Participants must register in advance for this dive, with passport numbers. We're seeking permission to do our Caretaking beneath a pier. Attending Underwater Caretaking seminar at Capt. Don's Habitat on 20<sup>th</sup> April (Wednesday) is helpful but not required. Dive led by Dee Scarr of Touch the Sea, 717-8529, dee@touchthesea.com.

**April 23, Saturday, all day:** Land and underwater cleanup at Washington Slagbaai National Park. For more information, contact Fernando Simal at Washington Park or by e-mail, manager@washingtonparkbonaire.org. □ *Dee Scarr*



### 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 **28th.** Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30–9:30pm.

**Wednesday** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) **Turtle Conservation Slide Show** by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

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

### 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

## Earth Day in Bonaire

April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Earth Day. Five years ago the Coral Reef Alliance joined the celebration with Dive In to Earth Day, adding a diving/shoreline emphasis to Earth Day. In past years, Bonaire's residents and visitors have participated in Earth Day events such as land and underwater cleanups and educational presentations. So far, 2005 Earth Day events on Bonaire include the following:

**April 20, Wednesday, 8 – 9 pm,** at Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat: "Underwater Caretaking." A slide presentation and talk about helping the undersea world. Learn what debris is actually danger-

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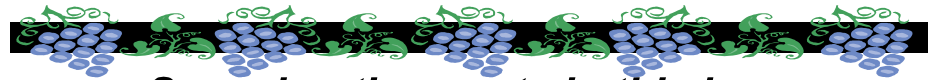
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# DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>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 chefs 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



## 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.

## 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.

## 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 a 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 Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints and slides plus a variety of items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

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

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

## REPAIRS

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

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

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

## RETAIL

**Benetton**, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

## 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

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Contact: Phone/fax: 717-8988

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# DIVING with DEE

## Scorpionfish

### KEEPING THEIR SECRETS

Scorpionfish are fascinating, aren't they? For one thing, few other fish let us study them so easily. Scorpionfish don't hover or flutter around; they mostly just rest on the bottom. Why? Because they don't use their swim bladders, the internal buoyancy control devices that bony fish possess. Without neutral buoyancy, the scorpionfish must swim very quickly (like an over weighted diver). In order to gain "altitude" from the bottom, a swimming scorpionfish flares out its pectoral fins and uses them to control its takeoff, trajectory and landing. The fish's tailfin provides thrust.

One other interesting thing about scorpionfish pectoral fins: their undersides are patterned in an eye-catching black, white, and maroon. When a scorpionfish wants its movements to be noticed, it displays those patterns. The message is, "Note my warning coloration: I'm venomous!"

Once it settles into position, a scorpionfish may brace itself on its pectoral fins or even raise the front of its body an inch or two off the bottom by pushing up on its pectoral fins. Then it waits. And waits. Ambush predators are among the most patient of creatures, and the scorpionfish is an expert ambush predator. It "hides" in plain view, looking like an algae-covered rock. Should an inattentive little fish or crab swim by or try to graze on the scorpionfish-rock, the scorpionfish lunges forward, opening its huge mouth all at once and flaring out its gill plates. This sudden action creates a vacuum which sucks the prey animal into the predator's mouth. Just in case the prey fish is too big to be engulfed all at once, the scorpionfish's small, grasping teeth prevent it from escaping as it's swallowed. (Well, except at least one time, when I saw a scorpionfish lunge up and accidentally suck down a sharpnosed puffer. The scorpionfish looked as if it were gargling for a moment, then it spit the little puffer out! Sharpnosed puffers have a distasteful mucus on their bodies. This little individual had been so sure of the effect of the mucus that, despite being swallowed, it hadn't even puffed up!)

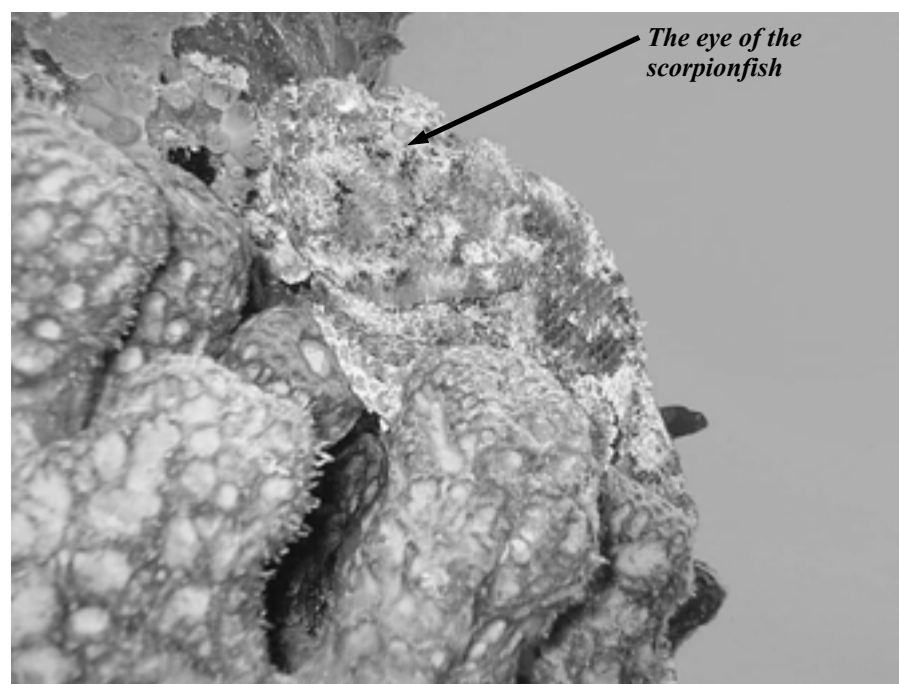
The type of scorpionfish we see most

easily around Bonaire is the biggest scorpionfish here, growing to 14" and more. It's the spotted scorpionfish, *Scorpaena plumieri* ("feathered stinging fish"). The "stinging" refers to the venomous spines in a scorpionfish's dorsal fin and on its underside. Each hollow spine rests on a venom sac. When something pushes down on it, the spine pierces the venom sac, which sends the venom through the spine and into the injury. Any fish who chomped a scorpionfish would be envenomated by both top and bottom spines. The foolish predator would either learn a painful lesson, or die -- and be removed from the gene pool. Either solution works well for other scorpionfish.

When seeking prey, the spotted scorpionfish does more than rely on its camouflage. It's perfectly willing to take a more active role in hunting by seeking high concentrations of prey fish. I used to visit a formation that sheltered a large school of young French grunts and almost always found a scorpionfish resting nearby. Recently we came upon a section of reef where hundreds of brown chromis -- perfect prey for an adult spotted scorpionfish -- were industriously spawning. As we watched, a scorpionfish glided up and settled within lunging distance of a couple of mating pairs.

Spotted scorpionfish can lunge a distance of half their length. They hang out just about everywhere around underwater Bonaire, from the reef slope to the flats, resting on or next to rubble, dead coral heads, or even sand. Sometimes I notice a spotted scorpionfish by its shape, sometimes by the regularity of its camouflage, and almost always by its remarkable eyes. In photographs, scorpionfish eyes usually appear flat black, but when you're in the water with them, a scorpionfish's eyes look as deep as the channel between Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. Maybe prey fish are mesmerized (like I am) by those bottomless eyes. Or, perhaps the eyes are adapted for nocturnal activities such as mating, which takes place at night for at least one species of scorpionfish.

I haven't heard anything about anyone observing the mating of spotted scorpionfish, so such mating may never have been observed, at least by divers wishing to share their observations. What we do see



occasionally is two or three scorpionfish near each other. Much more rarely -- I've seen it once and heard of it being seen only a couple of times -- is scorpionfish mouth-fighting behavior: two scorpionfish grab each other's mouths, the first holding the second's lower jaw in its jaws, and the second holding the first's upper jaw. This is definitely some kind of contest, probably between rivals although none of the observers has noticed a third scorpionfish. (I envision the third as a Scarlet O'Hara-type, murmuring, "I declayah, are you boys fighting over little ol' me?")

Sometimes the mouth-fighters seem to be pushing, sometimes they seem to be pulling, and in one memorable video sequence they rolled right over a mini-cliff, never releasing their holds on each other!

Just a few years ago very little was known about the private lives of frogfish, but last week I saw some amazing photos of frogfish mating -- at night! -- and divers have also observed frogfish mating in the daytime on Bonaire. I have high hopes that we'll unlock the scorpionfish's secrets, too -- it's just a matter of time. □ *Story and photo by Dee Scarr*

Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her slide show "Touch the Sea" Capt. Don's Habitat, Mondays, 8.30





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

**\*to find it, just look up**

What a way to begin a new month because several cosmic goodies get April off to a fabulous sky gazer's start. **Jupiter** will be at **opposition** on Sunday the 3rd. You can use the **Moon** to find **Mars** on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup>, and on Friday the 8th even a **partial eclipse of the Sun**.

On any night this week, about an hour after sunset, face southeast where the brightest star you'll see in the sky will not be a star but the biggest planet in our solar system: 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter. And although it will be almost at its very best it will officially be at its best this Sunday the 3rd when it is at what astronomers call "opposition," which in plain language means that on Sunday Jupiter will be directly opposite the Sun as seen from **Earth**. This further means that it will be seen in the sky all the hours the Sun is not, which further means that it will be visible all night long. Additionally, whenever a planet is at opposition it is at its best for viewing because it is then at its biggest, brightest and closest to Earth for the year.



*Jupiter*

Watch it all night long as it slowly rises in the east just after the Sun sets. It will then climb the southeastern heavens hour after hour until at midnight when it reaches its highest point due south. After which it will slowly descend toward the southwest and set just as the Sun rises in the east.

Now for all practical purposes Jupiter is really great for viewing two to three weeks before and after opposition. So if you've got a small telescope get it out now. You'll be able to see several of its equatorial bands of weather plus you'll be able to watch its four biggest Moons change places in respect to Jupiter as they orbit around it, night after night, which is something really fun to see! Many people can see it with just a pair of binoculars if they're held real steady. So happy Jupiter gazing this weekend and throughout April.

And now for those of you who'd like to find a planet which will be getting steadily brighter week after week and which will reach stunning brilliance in October, might I suggest you start your Mars watch now. You can use the Moon as a finder on both Sunday morning the 3rd and Monday morning the 4th. Just face southeast about 45 minutes before sunrise on Sunday and an exquisite crescent Moon will be only 8 degrees to the right of tiny 4,000-mile-wide Mars. And the next day, Monday, an even skinnier crescent Moon will be on the other side of Mars but still only 8 degrees away from it. What could be easier?

And for those of you who'd like to experience an eclipse of the Sun, on Friday April 8th a total eclipse will occur over the Pacific Ocean, and its partial phases will be seen over the Caribbean. What a way to open April! An eclipse of the Sun, a sure way to find Mars and Jupiter at its best! □ *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

**For the week:  
April 1 to April 8, 2005**  
*By Astrologer Michael Thiessen*

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Investments may be misrepresented this week. Your moneymaking opportunities will flourish. Don't overload your plate. Be careful not to divulge secret information this week. Your lucky day this week is Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't make large purchases or investments. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities that exist. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. You can't make things better if you don't know what to fix. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Your magnetic, outgoing personality will capture hearts. You may need to make a choice. Protect your interests legally if necessary. You have been going through a period of change that no doubt caused problems with your loved ones. Your lucky day this week is Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Don't get so wrapped up in being rich that you overlook the fact that your plan may not be as solid as you thought. Emotional situations could bring out your stubborn nature. You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances. You have been going through a period of change that no doubt caused problems with your loved ones. Your lucky day this week is Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Try to communicate if you wish to help. You can make money through your creative efforts. Discuss your problems and complaints if you wish to rectify them. Don't trust others with private information that could be used against you. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Do your own thing. You can certainly gain popularity; however, don't do it by paying for everyone else. Your ability to talk circles around your colleagues will help you forge ahead in the workforce. Watch your weight gain due to water retention. Your lucky day this week is Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Short trips may be tiring but rewarding. You can pick up information that will give you an edge. Organize all the responsibilities that have to be attended to and make sure everyone knows what to do. You will feel so much better about yourself if you can control your addictions. Your lucky day this week is Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Be careful not to hurt the ones you love. Tone down and put some of that hard earned cash into a safe, long-term investment. You must use discretion when talking to others. Gambling should not be an option. Try to keep an open mind. Your lucky day this week is Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be cautious not to get involved in office chatter that will cause problems for others. Heart to heart talks will clear up vague issues. You will learn valuable skills if you sign up for seminars this week. Go out with close friends who understand your situation and your needs. Your lucky day this week is Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) They will jump at the chance to do something without you if it sounds like more fun. Put your energy into home renovations. You are likely to reveal information unintentionally. Finish those changes you've been talking about making to your residence. Your lucky day this week is Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Do not borrow or lend money or belongings to friends or relatives if you wish to avoid any hassles. You may have major blowups with someone you love if you don't back down. Don't hesitate to go ahead with any plans for entertainment. Help children with important projects. Your lucky day this week is Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Things have been moving so quickly that you need to do something physical to release your tension. Do not be surprised if your partner doesn't understand your needs. Accomplishment is yours if you direct yourself accordingly. Debates will stifle passion and result in estrangement. Your lucky day this week is Thursday. □