

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

April 15 to April 22, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 15

# **The BONAIRE<sup>1</sup> REPORTER**

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**SINCE 1994**



**Jong Bonaire at LVV for Simidan**

**Page 13**



# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

**A**irExel was declared bankrupt by the court of Maastricht, Holland, last Thursday. The bankruptcy is somewhat unexpected because the company had said it was working on restarting with an unnamed new investor. Whether this also means an end to AirExel's claim against the companies behind BonairExpress (formerly BonairExel) depends on the bankruptcy trustee.

AirExel director Harm Prins says he will continue to work on starting a new airline despite the bankruptcy.

► **CuraçaoExpress operated its flights between Curaçao and St. Maarten this past weekend and Monday with a Boeing 737-200 jet rented from another airline.** The reason was that its turboprop aircraft was undergoing engine maintenance. BonairExpress can provide current information on both Bonaire and CuraçaoExpress flights. Call 717-0707.



► **There seem to be warning notes being sounded by Air Jamaica, one of Bonaire's most important links to the US.** It unceremoniously suspended flights to the Eastern Caribbean for 30

days on the eve of the Easter holidays.

It said it has no plans to resume its St. Lucia run. Air Jamaica is recovering from a public relations nightmare after negotiations with the former airline head, Butch Stewart, and his team stalled and the carrier returned in full to Jamaican Government hands.

No less than international development expert Lelei LeLaulu of Counterpart International is calling for a commission of inquiry into the positive economic impact Air Jamaica made while it was privatized.

"Some day some smart researcher will add up the total amount of money, jobs, investment, and yes, happiness, that was generated by 'Butch' Stewart," said LeLaulu, who ridiculed any attempts to discredit Stewart's contribution to the tax coffers of the region. "As for Air Jamaica – all they have to do is to look at the turkey that they have squeezed out of the golden goose 'Butch' Stewart built."

Stewart forced foreign airlines to come back or expand service to Jamaica and to the other islands because of the exponential growth of traffic Air Jamaica brought into the region. "What people tend to forget is that the whooshing sound they had heard before was US-based carriers leaving the region to try and make profits elsewhere," said LeLaulu. The eminent Jamaican Professor, Rex Nettleford, once described Caribbean carriers as development imperatives, arguing that losses

(Continued on page 4)



**Guitarist Cedric Dandare is one of the new featured artists at the Harbourtown Bonaire Jazz Festival.**

**T**he Harbourtown Bonaire Jazz Festival set for May 20, 21 and 22, is getting bigger and better. New venues for music and at least one new artist have been added. And the connection with the concurrent PWA Championship/King of the Caribbean Windsurfing event will be made at Zee Zicht/Karel's Beach Bar on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The windsurfers have been especially invited to hear the music.

Then on Sunday, May 22, there will be a Jazz Brunch at Rum Runners at 11:30 am. Dine and listen to some of the artists. In addition, the cruise ship *Freewinds* will make a special trip to Bonaire and hold a fundraising jazz event. Right now 25 musicians are set to perform, headlined by jazz great Denise Jannah.

There's a lot more happening so keep reading *The Reporter* for updates.

□ G./L. D.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

2005 Jazz Festival	2
Opinion (Pope's Passing, Recreational Fishing & BMP Rules)	5
Healing Touch	6
Bonaire Bikers Invade Costa Rica	7
Special Cave Excursion	7
Tonky's Photo Shoot	8
Get Ready for the King	9
Snorkeling at Massbango Time	11
Yoga (Feet are the Foundation)	11
Triple Arrest	11
Dietitian (Cooking Vegetarian)	12
Countdown Fashion Fundraiser	12
LVV Harvest	13
Bonaire Culinary Team	13
LVV Gardener Graduates	14

Press Awards Shelter	15
Mairi Bhan Enduring Shipwreck	17
Bonaire Sponges (Dee Scarr)	22

## WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Picture Yourself (Hawaii)	14
Classifieds	14
Reporter Masthead	18
Pets of the Week (Girls and Kittens)	18
What's Happening	19
Micro-Movie Review (Be Cool)	19
Shopping & Dining Guides	20
On the Island Since (Julia Klug)	21
Bonaire Sky Park (Eclipse, Great Saturday)	23
The Stars Have It	23

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2) incurred seldom outweigh the social and economic benefits to destinations.



► If you looked sharply, you would have seen it flying over Bonaire last week. **The Coast Guard put its first Fokker-60 patrol plane into service** after it arrived from Holland. The planes will be used for aerial surveillance flights and SAR for the next two years. Civilian aircraft may be used after that.

► **Will the new Minister of Kingdom Relations, Alexander Pechtold, ignore the smaller Antillean islands as did the ministers prior to his predecessor, Thom de Graaf?** It's been announced that Minister Pechtold will visit only Curaçao and Aruba next week. He will not be able to visit the other islands during a three-day visit but expects to do this soon, a press release stated. Pechtold has been on vacation in Aruba but has never set foot in the Netherlands Antilles.

► **Curaçaoans convincingly voted for Option A, for Curaçao to become an autonomous country in the Dutch Kingdom.** That choice in their April 8<sup>th</sup> non-binding Constitutional Referendum won 68% of the vote. Option D (integration with Holland) had 13%, Option B (Independence) 5% and Option C (stay in Antilles) 4%. Voter turnout was 54% (62,245). The majority option was the one supported by all political parties in the Island Council.

Only St. Eustatius of the other four Antillean islands chose to remain part of a federated Antilles. St. Maarten also wants to be an autonomous country in the Kingdom. Saba and Bonaire voted to be Dutch Kingdom islands with direct ties to Holland.

► With 596 votes, or 76.6% of the valid votes, **St. Eustatius chose to remain part of the Netherlands Antil-**

**les.** Some 790 voters, or almost 56% of the 1,411 eligible persons, voted in the Constitutional Referendum. Option B, or direct relations with the Netherlands ranging from Kingdom Island to Status Aparte, finished second with 160 votes, or 20.6%. Option C, or integrating into the Netherlands won 2.2%, five people voted for Option D, Independence.

► It seems that everybody is getting into restructuring these days. **There is a possibility that the Roman Catholic churches on Saba, Statia and St. Maarten will be split off from the Diocese of Willemstad** and group with either the diocese of Antigua or Trinidad, Father Johannes Janssen told *The Daily Herald*. That would make Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao the total Willemstad diocese.

► According to the Central Bank, the **economy of the Netherlands Antilles grew moderately** (0.8%) in 2004. A relatively low inflation of 1.4% made it possible to achieve modest real growth. The bank anticipates a "one-plus" percent growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or national income for 2005. The report can be viewed at [www.centralbank.an/qb/20043/index.htm](http://www.centralbank.an/qb/20043/index.htm).

At the same time the total debt of the Netherlands Antilles rocketed to almost 4.7 billion guilders. The debt is 95% of the Antilles Gross Domestic Product. European Union guidelines consider 60% of the GDP a maximum. The bulk of the Antillean government debt is from Curaçao Island and Central Governments. Bonaire's debt is 2% of the total.



► Bonaire government leaders are encouraged by the Curaçao vote to be a separate territory in the Dutch Kingdom, leaving a clear path for Bonaire to follow to establish the closer ties with Holland that its citizens voted for. **One has even recommended an almost immediate switch to euro currency** since the Antillean guilder would be

meaningless if each of the Antilles islands go its separate way.

► The Meteorological Service of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba is **predicting above average rain as well as an active hurricane season this year.** The overall global outlook indicates warm to extremely warm conditions in the Caribbean Sea and the Northern Tropical Atlantic for 2005. Near neutral "La Niña/ El Niño" conditions means that oceanic and atmospheric conditions will be favorable for the development of deep convection in the Caribbean.

Hurricane watchers in the Caribbean are expressing serious concern over what many consider a "gloomy and worrying" forecast. Dr. William Gray, a climatologist at Colorado State University, expects an above average 2005 hurricane season with 11 named storms of which six should become hurricanes and three major hurricanes. The long-term averages are respectively 9.6, 5.9 and 3.0.

In its climatic report for 2004, the Met Office states that Bonaire, with an average of 29.9 degrees Celsius, was the warmest of the three ABC islands. **The Met Office said the lowest and highest temperatures measured on Bonaire in 2004 were 21.1/34.6 C. (70/94.3F)**

► **The Bonaire Executive Council wants to construct a new building that would accommodate all the departments of the island government.** Island government offices are currently scattered in several locations which makes for a lack of internal communication and high rents. The government currently pays about NAf900.000 in rent a year. The idea to centralize has been around for over 20 years. While a Master Plan is in place, financing of about 15 million guilders is a problem. During a press conference last week, Commissioner Jonchi Dortalina announced that the Council had decided to consolidate government services in one building. Financing sources were not revealed.

► **There still doesn't seem to be a resolution to the prohibition on diving at the entrance to the BOPEC property.** Several weeks ago we reported that signs were posted in the area used by divers to visit the popular Windjammer wreck. Subsequently for-

mal permission was requested but BOPEC officials refused. BOPEC spokesman Errol Rienhart says he has concern for the security status of the BOPEC port and ships should diving be allowed. If you have ideas on the subject we welcome your letters. (See the box on page 5.)

► As we go to press word has come of **a tragic dive accident at the BOPEC site.** Scant details are available at this time. The diver who lost his life, Lester Diamond, a part time Bonaire resident, was said to be quite experienced. The reason he died is under investigation but may have been due to a heart attack suffered while under water. Several local and visiting divers risked their own lives in the futile rescue effort.



► In September 2005 **the island of Bonaire will hold its first Investment Conference,** inviting investors to come to Bonaire to check out investment opportunities. For more information, view or download the Investment Conference Press Release at [http://www.bonaireentrenous.com/2005\\_issues/images/issue%2063/Press%20Release%2021.3.05.pdf](http://www.bonaireentrenous.com/2005_issues/images/issue%2063/Press%20Release%2021.3.05.pdf).

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► **A film crew for the BBC was on the island last week,** led by Series Producer Karen Bass. "This is the biggest thing that the BBC is doing," Bass said. "We're doing the natural history of the whole Caribbean – the islands, reefs, hurricanes, the coast from Panama to the Yucatan. We'll be covering the different ecologies: in Cuba, the caves and the bats; in Dominica and St. Lucia, the volcanoes; in Bonaire and Aruba we'll cover the desert – the geological and topographical points, with an emphasis on cactus."

Hendrik Wuyts of Scuba Vision advised and joined the crew for underwater filming.

(Continued on page 6)



THE PASSING OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> the world lost one of its great leaders when Pope John Paul II died following hospitalization for his many physical problems. The events surrounding his funeral and burial were exhaustively covered in the world press. His popularity was emphasized by the cries for his immediate sainthood chanted by the crowds witnessing the interment. (The last pope to be named a saint was Pius X in 1918.)

Pope John Paul II, born Karol Wojtyła, was proclaimed the head of the 1.1 billion-member Roman Catholic church on October 16, 1978, the year when the church had three popes: Paul VI (Giovanni Battista Montini) and John Paul I (Albino Luciani, who spent only 32 days as head of the church and died a somewhat mysterious death.) Pope John Paul II's term witnessed great changes in the world.

Now 117 Catholic cardinals are to elect a new pope in a conclave beginning on April 18. Of the 262 men named pope, 205 were Italians, with 57 foreigners comprised of 19 Frenchmen, 14 Greeks, 8 Syrians, 5 Germans, 3 Africans, 2 Spaniards, 1 Austrian, 1 Palestinian, 1 Englishman, 1 Dutchman, and 1 Pole. The most commonly taken name is John (23 times), followed by Gregory (16 times), Benedict (15 times); 43 names were used only once. Only two Popes have taken two names; John Paul I and II. According to some prophecies the next pope will call himself Benedict XVI.

Pope John Paul II paid a visit to Curaçao on Mother's Day, May 13, 1990. In little more than six hours he toured the island and said a Mass in the Curaçao Sport Center where he addressed thousands of people about the importance of the family. He spoke in Papiamentu, which was very much appreciated.



After the visit of Pope John Paul II to Curaçao in 1990, the Central Bank issued a special silver commemorative coin. In connection with his death, they are being sold at face value for NAf25 at the Central Bank in Willemstad. □ G.D.



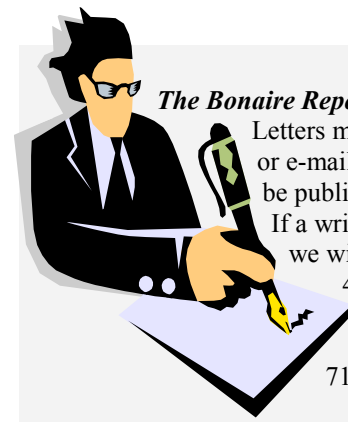
JUST FISHING FOR RELAXATION

In the April 1 edition of *The Reporter* we printed a Letter to the Editor critical of the response the Marine Park was giving to complaints from a dive operator. The letter mentioned some of the enforcement actions the Park was responsible for - like spear fishing, cutting mangroves and collecting conch. To illustrate his point the writer included a photo of a lone man in small boat fishing in the vicinity of a dive boat.



The fisherman contacted *The Reporter* to tell us he was unaware of any rule prohibiting him from fishing at the spot the photo was taken and that he was not involved in spear fishing, cutting mangroves or conch collecting. He was upset at the implication that he was doing something wrong.

While most of Bonaire's professional fishermen are well aware of Marine Park rules, it seems that its recreational fishermen are not. Perhaps some emphasis can be placed on that education in the future. □ G.D.



**The Bonaire Reporter welcomes letters from readers.**

Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number or e-mail address. Letters without that information will not be published.

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

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)



► **Incredibly, after about a year, the short stretch of Kaya Korona between St. Bernardus Church and Kooyman Hardware is nearing completion.** The road will be smooth blacktop and the sidewalk is brick “clinkers. It should be very attractive.



► Earth Day is almost here. We know of only two events scheduled: **April 20, Wednesday**, 8 – 9 pm, at Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don’s Habitat: “Underwater Caretaking.” A slide presentation and talk. And **April 22, Friday**, 2 pm: Underwater Caretaking dive with Dee Scarr.

(Continued on page 10)



## The Power of Healing Touch

Bonaire is an island that possesses a strong connection to spiritual growth and healing. It provides a perfect place to study healing for yourself and others. Healing Touch, a worldwide organization devoted to healing using the body’s natural energy fields, has developed a program that has a 16-year history of success. At the beginning of May several Healing Touch classes will be held on Bonaire that are open to everyone.

The work of Healing Touch is described as an energy-based therapeutic approach to healing thus affecting the body, mind, emotions and spirit through touch. Its goal is to bring balance and harmony so the body can heal itself. The program’s root theories and philosophies are based on the studies of five talented individuals who have blended their experience to come up with a program that almost anyone can learn.

These techniques, blended with your own gifts, open up possibilities to help heal yourself and others. The different levels of courses are created for people who know little or nothing about energy work all the way to those who are already advanced energy workers.

Healing Touch is the only International Certification Program in the world for Energy Healing. It is taught extensively in the United States and in over 30 different countries including The Netherlands. There are International Standards of Practice, International Code of Ethics and a Scope of Practice to establish and maintain credibility in the world of western medicine. All who attend these classes will receive a “Certification of Completion” after each level is completed.

Healing Touch is effective for:

- Relief of acute and chronic pain
- Systemic and localized disease
- Reduction of anxiety and stress and increased relaxation
- Prevention of illness and promotion of health
- Acceleration of the healing process
- Support for the dying
- Pre and Post-op
- Spiritual Growth

### LEVELS

In each level students will be introduced to different procedures that have been time tested and proven through research. These techniques are done on and off the body.

Each level strongly focuses on self healing.

Level 1- Concentrates on techniques for balancing and opening the chakras, clearing the auric field, pain management, mind clearing, and sacred work for transitions.

Level 2 -Works with spiral energy, assessment skills, back work techniques and long distance healing.

Level 3 -Is the advanced training to learn to raise our vibrations so we can contain more light/energy. This is where we learn spiritual surgery, chelation, advanced back work and lymph work. This level is a quantum leap as a light-worker.

What better place to do this work for yourself and others then in Bonaire!

On **May 5th** there will be a free **introduction to the Healing Touch work** at 7:00 pm at the Bonaire Caribbean Club, Hilltop. The training schedule for each level is:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| May 7th       | Level 1 Training -all day and into the evening intensive sessions  |
| May 10 and 12 | Level 2- Training -two evenings of intensive sessions              |
| May 14        | Level 3- Training -all day and into the evening intensive sessions |

All classes will be hands-on style of teaching. Students will be giving treatments as well as receiving them. Your immune system will get a boost from just doing the work. You will feel clearer and more connected to source energy. You will leave each level with skills to work on yourself as well as others. Many students over the years have stated: “This work has changed my life”; “I have found the work I have been looking for”; “I have healed myself!”

I taught the first Healing Touch class was taught two years ago on Bonaire and received a very positive response. Healing Touch procedures are nurturing, relaxing, non-invasive, and loving. Clients remain fully clothed during the treatments. Healing Touch works well in combination with traditional, alternative and complimentary health care. Healing Touch assists clients and practitioners with healing on emotional, spiritual, mental and physical levels. □ *Susan De Salvo-Reed*

The class instructor, Susan, is a Nurse, Certified Healing Touch Instructor, Practitioner, Reiki Practitioner and a Massage Therapist. She has been active in the Healing Touch program since 1995. Susan holds workshops in the western United States as well as internationally. She teaches Healing Touch in hospitals, long term care, home care and spiritual centers. Susan actively works to bridge allopathic and holistic medicine bringing the greatest benefit to her students and clients. Susan is a spiritual activist and is dedicated to spreading the healing light through education and practice.

For more information about Healing Touch go to the web site at [www.healingtouch.net](http://www.healingtouch.net). It offers examples of articles, research and international recognition. On Bonaire you can sign up or get more info about the program through George and Laura DeSalvo, phone: **717-8988, 791-7252, 786-6125** or contact Susan before April 27<sup>th</sup> at [blueskyz@idiom.com](mailto:blueskyz@idiom.com) and after May 4<sup>th</sup> on Bonaire at 785-9332.



# Bonaire Bikers “Invade” Costa Rica



Actually, they were invited! Last week most of the 24 members of the Bonaire Bikers Club left for Costa Rica. (Their bikes left by ship the week before). This was their eighth rally tour and they were being joined by bikers from Curaçao, Aruba and the US.

According to biker member Carlos Rodriguez, the tour will go for nine days, 1,600 miles round-trip from San Jose, Costa Rica, to Panama and back, chalking up about 300 to 400 kilometers a day. “We’ll ride along the Atlantic Coast and the Pacific Coast,” says Carlos. “And we’ll stop along the way to sightsee and visit the volcanoes, do river trips and go through the jungles by swings.” Interestingly, the bikers of Costa Rica are expanding their “guest list” to the east. Last year the most easterly island that they invited was Curaçao. This year it’s Bonaire. □L.D.

## Special Cave Excursion



Inside the Kueba di La Birgui

On Saturday, April 23, Journalist/Historian Bòi Antoin will lead an excursion to the cave locally known as *Kueba di La Birgui* (Cave of the Virgin). This trip is especially for Dutch and English speaking people.

The cave is not easy to find, and it's not so easy to get there. Very few people know this place and it will take about a 30-minute walk to get there. If you want to enter the cave you have to bring a flashlight with you.

*Kueba di La Birgui* got its name because of the formation there that appears an image of the Holy Mary.

The price is NAf25 which includes breakfast before the walk to the cave. After the walk there will be plenty of soup, fruit and water. However, every participant should bring bottles of water for the walk to and from the cave. Proceeds go towards sending the Bonaire Team to the *Nijmegen 4Daagse* (4-Day Walk in Nijmegen in The Netherlands).

Meet between 6:30 and 7 in the morning at Porta Spaño, for coffee, tea, juice and bread before beginning the walk. For more information call Extra at 717-8482. □  
Bòi Antoin



## Tonky's Photo Shoot in Hawaii

*Many people wonder what this windsurf world is all about, especially from the point of view of someone who's ranked in the top five in the world. With a series of articles I'd like to give the readers of The Bonaire Reporter a peek into this world. In this edition I will be writing about the setup of a photo shoot.*



**Tonky in the Super-X Session-**  
*Notice the cameraman in the water.*

I was in Maui, Hawaii, from March 20<sup>th</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup> for a photo shoot. In order to get to Maui from Bonaire I had to take a flight to San Juan, then to Miami, followed by one to San Francisco and ultimately to Maui. Altogether it took me about 23 hours, not counting the waiting time at the several airports, in order to get to my destination.

### Modelling Is Not a Breeze

I was met at the airport in Maui by the representative of F2, which is my board sponsor. Even though I arrived late at night that wasn't an excuse for me to stay in bed a little longer the next day. There was work to do, and everybody had to get up and get ready to go to the photo shoot locations. The locations were never planned until that morning because they have to check the weather to see where the sunniest spots are for making great pictures.

By 10 am we are already at the spot. First there is a meeting to explain the schedule. Each rider is assigned a certain hour to be photographed or filmed. This does not mean that you can just leave and come back. You have to be around all the time just in case something changes. All the cameramen have been flown in too so there's a very tight schedule in order to get all the necessary pictures and videos by the end of the period. This was a challenge for the cameramen, especially since the weather wasn't very cooperative during those days.

After the morning meeting every rider prepares his or her sails and gets their boards ready. If it is not your turn to be in the water, you are allowed to do some free sailing as long as you don't interfere with the riders being photographed.

My photos were being taken for Free-

style, Wave Sailing and Super-X. Freestyle and Wave are well known. Super X is a new speciality which is gaining more and more popularity. Super X is a mix of slalom and freestyle. You have to jump over these sausages (see photo above) in the water, and in between you have to do some freestyle moves that they will tell you to do. I enjoy doing the Super X. It promises to be the speciality of the future. For freestyle, I did some of the old school moves as well as some new ones.



**Hey, that's Tonky out there!**

The most important thing during the photo shoot is trying all the manoeuvres. It doesn't matter whether you land them or not, as long as the move looks great in the picture. The crazier the position in which the board brand and the sail brand can be seen, the better.

Photos and filming are done from a helicopter, from the beach and in the water, with the photographers standing

in the water wearing helmets. Sometimes the cameras will be attached to the mast to get the rider's facial expressions. It all may seem like fun. We do have fun, but if you are busy like this from 10 in the morning until about 6 in the evening, doing the same moves over and over again, it's not that much fun anymore. The fun is whenever you get the chance to do some free sailing, which is not very often because if you're not scheduled to be on the water, you are supposed to be on land giving interviews and demonstrating windsurfing moves. A photo shoot is quite intense and it requires a lot of concentration. But it is part of the job!

ing: knowing the right people in the right places. And once you are in you have to do your best to keep your position.

The relationship with your sponsors is very important. You must maintain contact on a regular basis and send reports of your progress every month. The sponsors like to know how many hours you spend training on the water and whether you can master the new moves. One very important thing for them to know is whether the sails, boards and booms are functioning well. If not, they want to know what they have to do to make sailing with their products as flawless and easy as possi-

*Continued on page 9*



**Happy Birthday breakfast for Tonky**

### More than Photography

I celebrated my birthday during the shoot. Breakfast was prepared that morning by the representatives from F2, and we all had chocolate cake along with our breakfast. We had a great time. But work had to be done! So, too, on my birthday I was on the Speed Beach in Kihei, giving interviews, sailing from the north to the south and doing crazy moves while jumping over sausages. There was the additional stress of getting perfect pictures because this was my last day in Maui and whatever they still needed from me, they had to get it on this day!

After the shoot we went to the theatre in Lahaina for a great cultural show about the myths of the Hawaiian Islands. This was one of the few leisure activities I had during the shoot since there is practically no time to do anything else. I did enjoy Maui though and we did some great things such as going to the bamboo rain forest and whale watching.

### Sponsors and You

The photo shoot in Maui was for F2 flying fast. I have a different sponsor for the sails-Gaastra. And my booms are sponsored by Fiberspar. Being sponsored means that I get the products to sail with, to participate in events with and to promote them at all times. You will be rewarded if you manage to be photographed by certain windsurfing magazine photographers who publish the pictures in the magazines. This windsurfing world is all about lobby-

ble. I also have to see to it that I'm in as many events as possible in order to fulfil my part of the promotion.

### Bonaire is on the Map

I'm very proud that I've come so far in windsurfing and that I'm competing with the best in the world. In my first year competing outside of Bonaire everybody would ask where Bonaire was. But now, after three years, most people know about Bonaire and say that they've read interviews with the Bonairean windsurfers. Some people I met were so enchanted with the videos of Bonaire that they've come to the island to see for themselves. On my way back to Bonaire from Maui I even met some people I know in the windsurfing business who were on their way to Bonaire. More and more you see people coming to the island for windsurfing. I'm sure that the name of Bonaire as a windsurfing paradise is becoming more and more famous, helped by our performances around the world.

Last, but not least, I want to send a message to all the young guys and girls out there who have a certain passion. It does not necessarily have to be windsurfing. Keep trying whatever you are doing. Remember that everybody has a dream of his own, and by trying over and over again while doing your very best you will increase the chances for your dreams to come true. □ *Tonky Frans*



## Get Ready for the King



**PWA Press Conference: Elvis Martinus, Joanny Trinidad, Ann Johnson, Kazandra Rodriguez, Ronella Croes, Gabrielle Nahr, Ann Phelan. Seated: Jaeger Sint Jago, Arthuro "Payo" Soliano**

Final preparations for next month's Professional Windsurfing Association's (PWA), "King of the Caribbean," (KOTC) are in high gear. Virtually all the top names in freestyle windsurfing are expected to compete to be able to take a lead position in the World Standings. It is the ONLY professional freestyle event scheduled this year in the Caribbean.

The Pro-Kids class will be introduced for the first time which should provide a showcase for the skills of Bonaire's youngsters who have made windsurfing a national sport.

At a conference to brief the press held at Le Flamboyant Restaurant last

week on the progress towards the Maduro and Curiel's Bank 3<sup>rd</sup> Bonaire PWA "King of the Caribbean Wind-surfing Competition, young Bonaire-ans, Jaeger Sint Jago and Payo Soliano, Team Riders for Angulo Boards, were special guest speakers. They spoke about their sponsorship and about the upcoming event.

The competition is important for the island because it serves to introduce Bonaire as a vacation destination and to reinforce Bonaire's reputation as a windsurfers' Mecca. As windsurf promoter, Bajan windsurf competitor and promoter Brian Talma says, "Bonaire is the windsurf capital of the world." □

L./G.D.

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

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
4-15	6:10	1.8FT.	46
4-16	6:58	1.8FT.	36
4-17	7:42	1.7FT.	31
4-18	8:20	1.7FT.	31
4-18	8:20	1.7FT.	31
4-19	2:28	1.3FT.	37
	16:46	1.0FT.	37
4-20	4:12	1.3FT.	47
4-21	5:35	1.2FT.	58
4-22	7:02	1.1FT.	69

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Andiamo	Gabrielle	Sandpiper, USA
Angelos	Galandriel	Sharki
Antigone	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Sirius
Barbara Ann	Honalee, USA	Storm Song
Besame	It's Good	Sylvia K
Bettina	Jan Gerardus	Take It Easy
Bright Sea	Lava	Ti Amo, USA
Caravela	L'Quila, BVI	Tish
Camissa, Chan Is.	Luna C. USA	Tomorrow
Cape Kathryn	La Escotilla, Caymans	Ulu Ulu, USA
Catalyst	Maki, France	Ulysses
Cherry Bowl	Natural Selection	Unicorn, Norway
Clemencia	Pisces	Varedhuni, Germany
Dawn Piper	Rusty Bucket	Wandering Albatross
Doodah	Sabbatical	Ya-T, BVI
Dragonera	Safari	Yanti Paratzi
Felicity	Samba	Zahi, Malta
Flying Cloud, USA	Santa Maria	

(Flotsam and Jetsam.  
Continued from page 6)



**Sunset Beach**

► Despite the announcement that the former **Bonaire Sunset Beach Hotel property** has been sold to a big name hotel chain some Bonaireans are calling on government to again give the beach to the people as a recreation area. Under the former management of the hotel Bonaireans were welcome, but there is no guarantee the new developer will continue the practice. Some say a public beach will do more for Bonaireans than a big hotel.



► Do you know **Lito the Lion**? He's the MCB Bank's mascot and his special job is to encourage youngsters to save their money. Last Friday he paid a surprise visit to the Playa Branch of the bank with goodies for the kids.



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 6)

► **April 30th has been designated World Tai Chi day** and for some years now events have been running World-wide on this day to promote the art. Tai Chi is a range of movements designed by ancient Chinese for several purposes. In practicing Tai Chi, one makes a series of slow, flowing movements that exercise every part of the body and free up all of the pathways to improve the flow of blood and energy, thereby improving the health of the practitioner.

Tai Chi is said to mean "Supreme Ultimate." Many martial arts are based on the Tai Chi movements and all movements are designed to be defensive against attack and immobilize any opponent. For Bonaire's first known contribution to World Tai Chi Day, Bonaire resident, Ron Sewell is hoping to organize an open meeting for anyone interested in talking about what Tai Chi may have to offer them. Anyone already practicing Tai Chi will be especially welcome. If you would like to know more about Tai Chi and/or this meeting call Ron at 717-2458.

► **On April 23 and 24 of there will be an introductory course in Feng Shui at Lagoen City.**

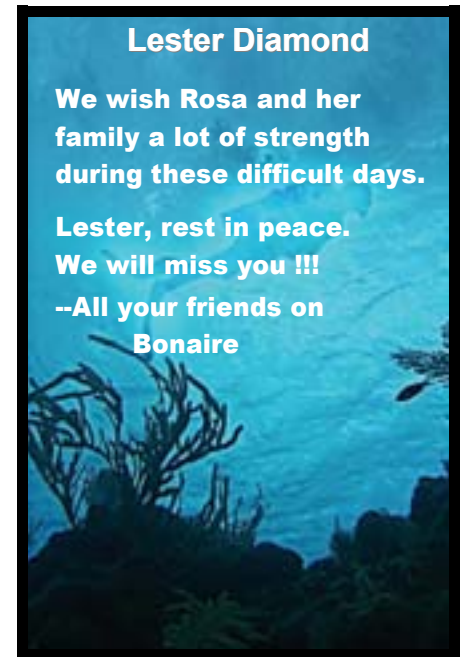
Feng Shui is the Chinese art of how to harmonize your house or business in order to maintain optimal energy and to create love and prosperity. Sign up by April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Tambu shop in Kaya Grandi across from the Harbourside Shopping Mall or call 717-3855 or 786-8908. □ L./G.D.



**Lester Diamond**

**We wish Rosa and her family a lot of strength during these difficult days.**

**Lester, rest in peace.  
We will miss you !!!  
--All your friends on Bonaire**





# Snorkeling at Massbango Time

This is the time of year when the Massbangos are shoaling and growing in the shallows around Bonaire's coastline. So it's a good time for snorkelers to see some large fish that they won't see too often otherwise.

On entering the water from the shoreline I encountered large dorsal fins chopping the water back and forth, right there in front of me, not three meters away.

With my head in the water, I could see only a few feet. In fact, I couldn't even see the sandy bottom that I knew was only a few feet below. Cautiously edging into deeper water, I was startled by a huge fish gliding past - about six feet long and slender, with a large bulldog shaped mouth, lower jaw projecting out and up over the upper jaw. Big red eyes surveying me as it passed. Or was it flashing a warning?

Then another and another with multiple large shadows passing with them in the murk a few feet further away.

As the water became deeper, the visibility improved slightly until I was in the middle of a giant silver ball - a shoal of Massbangos (Big Eye Scad), part of the Jack family. Then the big fish appeared again, one after the other, until I counted 20 Tarpon, all feeding on the Massbangos. The shoal moved swiftly into deeper water, pursued by the predators, and the visibility became ever clearer, and now I could see a group of 30 or so Bar Jacks, also feeding voraciously. Then there were four fat Horse Eye Jacks, darting back and forth taking their share, but no sign yet of the larger Crevalle Jacks that have been seen feeding on the Massbangos in previous years. Then at the fringes of the shoal, several Barracuda, hovering menacingly, awaiting their opportunities.

The Barracuda is the fastest moving species on the planet over a short distance, so when they decide to attack, their movements are merely a blur.

*Massbango* is a Papiamentu word. The common English name for the Massbango is Big eye Scad, or Mackerel Scad or even Round Scad, depend-



ing upon which variation it is. They are all part of the Jack family.

The current Massbango shoal comprises mostly small fish about 4 to 6 inches long and slender. Amongst the shoal, there is a small group of more adult Massbangos that have escaped the previous harvest, when some fishermen came over from Curaçao and surrounded the shoal of adults with a net and pulled them all into their boat before sailing off into the sunset.

## The Birds at Massbango Time

Part of the spectacle while snorkeling amongst this turmoil includes the Pelicans, folding their wings from about 50 feet above the water and diving into the middle of the shoal for a large mouthful of whatever doesn't escape as the crash of the Pelicans' heads reaches their hearing receptors.

Interspersed amongst the Pelicans are Terns, all looking for a morsel that escapes the jaws of the larger fish or perhaps a small even younger fish that has been driven to the surface by the constant swishing back and forth of the hunters below.

We have four species of Tern here in Bonaire: the Royal, the Common, the Least and the Sandwich.

I often think that birders in Europe would give their right arms to see just one of the everyday birds that we have here.

Then, finally on raising one's head out of the water to check one's bearings, a flock of 40 flamingos were seen on their early morning return to the salt pans from their overnight stop on Gotomeer. □ *Barry Kuda*

## YOGA FOR YOU

# The Feet Are Our Foundation

*You have to learn to listen to your body and go with it, not against it. You will be amazed to discover that if you are kind to your body it will respond in an incredible way.*

*-Vanda Scaravelli*

**T**he feet are our foundation . . . They connect us to the earth. Yet an awareness of the relationship between our feet and the health of the whole body is often the *farthest thing from our minds*.

Every architect realizes that the structure of a building depends on a solid foundation for its strength. When the foundation is weak or flawed, problems arise throughout the building. Likewise, many aches and pains -backaches, headaches, leg cramps - can be traced to the body's foundation, the feet. There is a lot of truth to the adage, "When your feet hurt, you hurt all over."

Aching feet are one of the first reasons that many older people stop walking - just at a time in their life when the body most needs some healthy, stimulating exercise. The feet need regular stretching and strengthening exercises such as you experience in yoga.

One of the best ways to strengthen your feet is to walk barefoot on natural safe ground. The more uncomfortable walking barefoot is for you, the more you probably need it! If your feet are very sensitive, start on smoother, grassy or sandy surfaces. Then as your feet toughen, walk on more uneven, pebbly or rocky ground. This gives the feet a natural stimulating foot massage. Try also to spread your toes wide apart like fingers. Or separate your toes with your fingers and make them free and happy. And stretch your toes in all your yoga poses.

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

*Don and Desirée of "Yoga For You" offer classes from beginners to advanced. Call 717-2727 or 786-6416*

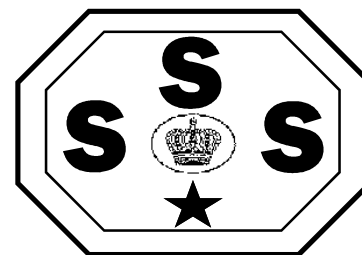


## A Triple Arrest

**P**riate and government police cooperation resulted in a triple arrest last week. When the Special Security Service (SSS) central alarm system detected a break-in at a house on E.E.G. Boulevard in Belnem a patrol was immediately dispatched to the site. Upon arrival they observed three persons leaving the scene on bicycles. The owner of the house returned at about the same time and reported some personal items were missing. The SSS patrol began chasing the three bicyclists along the road near the airport, finally apprehending them near Goddard Catering.

SSS contacted Bonaire Police who sent a patrol to arrest the suspects, aged 18, 20, and 21, who were taken to police HQ for questioning.

Following interrogation the Zero Tolerance team searched three houses in Tera Korá last Thursday evening and confiscated stolen goods: Sony Diskmen, car radios, and sunglasses. The investigation will continue. □ *B.R. Dirksz*



## Ask the Dietitian

### Take Time to Cook Vegetarian



Vegetarianism has always been equated with health. Rightly so because the diet is lower in animal fats (saturated fat that helps increase blood cholesterol), high in fiber and naturally high in vitamins, minerals and others nutrients.

And of course besides considering the healthy side we cannot miss noting the other beautiful part of eating vegetarian – **Eating a Peaceful Meal, where no killing has taken place.** All fruits, vegetables and grains have been picked without killing the plant. All fruits, vegetables and grains that stay too long without being picked will rot away. So isn't it a beautiful thought to recognize that the vegetable world exists mainly to offer us food to keep our bodies healthy?

Once or twice a week try to introduce a vegetarian meal into your diet. Vegetarian substitutes for meat can be beans, soy chunks, tofu and soy products.

**Here is an example of a delicious vegetarian meal:**

#### Tofu burgers

30 ounces tofu  
6 Tab. grated carrots  
4 Tab. minced leeks, scallions, onions or ginger root  
2 Tab. ground roasted sesame or sunflower seeds, peanuts or chopped nuts  
¾ tsp. salt  
Vegetable oil or olive oil

Cut tofu into thin slices and arrange between double layers of cotton toweling. Set aside for 15 minutes, then place pieces at the center of a dry dish towel. Gather the corners and twist to form a sack. Squeeze tofu in sack firmly to expel as much moisture as possible. Combine tofu with next 4 ingredients in a large shallow bowl. Mix well, then knead mixture about 3 minutes, as if kneading bread. When dough is smooth and holds together well, moisten your palms with a little oil or warm water and shape dough into pat-

ties, each 3-3½ inches in diameter.

Heat the oil and fry the patties, turning them until both sides are golden brown.

Serve the burger with brown rice and vegetables.

Have a peaceful lunch or dinner!  
□ *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* □

# COUNT DOWN

Fashion Show Fundraiser for  
Special Olympics Bonaire

# IT'S HERE!



**Get Your Tickets Now  
Padrino Haute Couture  
Fashion Show  
Croccantino 717-5025**

**Padrino Haute Couture Fashion Show** at Croccantino Restaurant Saturday, April 16. All to benefit Special Olympics Bonaire. Theme this year is "Broadway of the 50s," with singing star from Curaçao, Monica Millar.

**A very few tickets remain available.** If you want to go, call Croccantino Restaurant at 717-5025 immediately. Your contribution of NA/125 includes show, multi-course Tuscan dinner prepared by Chef David and wine. □ *L.D.*



*2004 teen model Fleur*



On the COVER

# LVV Harvest Bonaire's Culinary Team



The cleaning area

About 20 teens, mostly girls, from Jong Bonaire who have been studying agriculture at LVV (agricultural department) swarmed into the *maishi* (sorghum) fields at LVV last Saturday to help harvest the grain. Using short sharp knives and special techniques the students and LVV staff cut off the fat grain tops from the stalks and put them in bags. The bags were spilled into an area for cleaning and threshing. The resulting grain is ground into flour. LVV will sell the flour which can be made into bread, funchi, pancakes or hot cereal.

After the field has been harvested the goats and sheep are let into the field to eat the leaves and stems, according to LVV Head, Rocky Emers. "What's left is plowed under by the tractor to enrich the soil, and the rain does the rest!" He adds that the *maishi* does have enemies: ants, mosquitoes (which suck the milky moisture from the seeds), cutworms and birds.

Harvesting the grain is a social time. Groups of friends come together before sunrise to work and enjoy camaraderie, and last Saturday was no different. The young workers sang the traditional harvest song, and at the end of the day they enjoyed a *Simidan* party with music by the Kultur Band from Jong Bonaire, dancing, drinks and food.

Other teens from Jong Bonaire and kids from Papa Cornes and Louis Bertran grammar schools have been coming to LVV once a week to learn about agriculture: planting, growing, care of and harvesting of vegetables and fruits. This year they'll be part of the *maishi* planting at LVV. □L.D.



LVV staff with agricultural students



The Team that's going for the gold at the culinary Olympics – "The Taste of the Caribbean" in Miami in June. Pasty Chef Isidoor van Riensdijk (Rum Runners), Team Manager Floris van Loo (Rum Runners), Tico Marsera (Den Laman). Front: apprentice chef Andres Cicilia, Rolando Janzen (Chibi Chibi at Divi Flamingo)

From a "Mystery Basket" of ingredients the pro team, who will represent Bonaire at the summer culinary Olympics, "Taste of the Caribbean Competition" in Miami, came up with a three-course meal for 30 lucky diners at Le Flamboyant last Sunday. The practice luncheons will continue on Sundays, starting this Sunday, April 17, at 1 pm at Le Flamboyant. The donation of NAf30 includes the three-course meal and wine. Proceeds go towards sending the team to the "Taste" event.

All you "Foodies," come support our team by dining and helping to critique the menu. For tickets call Sara Matera at 786-9299 or Laura DeSalvo at 717-8988 or 791-7252. □L.D.

## Culinary Team Invites You to Lunch Sunday, April 17



Get your tickets now for the three-course gourmet lunches prepared by Bonaire's Culinary Team.

The Bonaire team will be preparing, for 30 lucky diners, their three-course competition meal this **Sunday—April 17**. Lunch will be served at 1 pm at **Le Flamboyant** on Kaya Grandi. Wine is included.

Tickets are NAf30. More lunches on more Sundays coming up!

Call Sara Matera at **786-9299** or Laura DeSalvo at **717-8988** or **791-7252**. □L.D.



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

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

**PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE BONAIRE.** Consultation, Supervision, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy **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**

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FOR SALE; **43' STEEL, LONG KEEL SAILING SHIP.** IMPORTED into Antilles; ALL DUES PAID. REGISTRATION NB-50. Valid sailing permit. Legal for Charter ASKING NAf17,500 **CALL OR FAX, 717-6609**

**VEHICLES FOR SALE**

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

**FOR SALE**

**HP Notebook model:** ze5400- P4 (2.4Ghz), 40GB, 512mb, Wireless e-card. Almost brand new, carrying case included, 1,350\$(US). **Info 791-6009 after 3pm**

**For Sale Olympian Generator** (Power Plant) Caterpillar brand (like new) New price: NAf38.500, *Asking price:* NAf28.500, Call: (09) 511-2110

**For Sale - Aluminum storage building** - 8 feet wide, 10 feet long, 6 feet high. New in the box. NAf1.300. Call **565-6779**

**For Sale: Laser Printer HP-** 1012 NAf400.00 Less than one year old, like new. Call: M-F 8-5 **717-8800** other times **717-8127.**

**Freezer** (vertical, 280 liter) NAf 300;- **Carpet** (Persian type) 195x295 cm NAf 125; **Two single beds+** mattresses NAf 25,- each; **Heavy trafo 1500 Watt**, 127/220 Volt NAf 50,- tel. 717-5068

**For sale:-Stroller** as good as new. From 175Naf for 100Naf -**Sony prof. stereo surround system VAC5** with warranty , 7500 Watt, MP3, mic, c.d., double tape deck etc from 1,100NAf for 700NAf

-**Asahi Pentax K2 DMD prof. photo camera set:** Pentax lenses, tripod, motor drive, prof. case, filters remote etc. Absolute bargain: Was 7,500Naf, 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., aircro, 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. **May 20 until Jan. 8th.** info@pelicanreefbonaire.com or www.pelicanreefbonaire.com -

**LVV Gardener Graduates**



*Proud New Gardeners*

Here are some of the LVV Gardener Graduates who include Nilda, Amparo, Aura, Lucrecia, Maria, Lionel, Engrasia, Maria, Genaro, Villana, Agustin and Medaly.

It's not just the youngsters who are learning how to garden in Bonaire. A group of adults calling themselves *Mi Mes Hofito* (My Own Garden) has just completed a course given at the LVV. Their study was theoretical and practical and covered all the aspects of growing fruits and vegetables on the island. It's a proud group that received their certificates. The *Mi Mes Hofito* group has now become a foundation.

If you are interested in taking a course, you must form a group of six persons or more and call Rocky Emers or Gracia at LVV, 717-8836. □L.D.

**Picture Yourself with the Reporter Hawaii**



While Tonky Frans, Bonaire's top-ranked windsurfing pro was in Hawaii for a photo shoot (see pages 8 and 9) he kept in touch with Bonaire by phone and *The Bonaire Reporter*. It must be a serious conversation because he doesn't have his usual great smile! □

**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.) □

**WANTED**

**WANTED: Volunteers** to index back issues of the *Bonaire Reporter* (English) and *Extra* (Papiamentu). Call George at 717-8988 or 786-6125.

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

**LOST DOG**

**Heart-broken family still looking for dog missing in**



**Bolivia area. "Kimba" If you find her call 785-9013 or 786-2844** □



# Press Awards to Mellema and Clementina

In a ceremony at the LVV last week, the **Bonaire Press Certificate of Appreciation** was awarded to two men whose efforts have made life on Bonaire better by taking action to reduce the number of unwanted animals on the island. It is an excellent example of how cooperation between the Government (LVV) and NGOs (Bonaire Animal Shelter) makes Bonaire a good place to live.

Jurrie Mellema, the Bonaire Shelter Manager, and Gary Clementina, the island's dogcatcher, were presented awards by Laura DeSalvo, *Bonaire Reporter* Editor and Papi Antoin, *Extra* Editor.



*Jurrie Mellema receives his Achievement Award from Papi Antoin of Extra and Laura DeSalvo of The Reporter*

## In the presentation

**Mrs. DeSalvo said,** "Through the gates of Bonaire's Animal Shelter funnel dogs and cats in trouble; the sick, the lame, the lost, the psychologically damaged. Those that have wandered off, or grown old, or have to be left behind. For five years those animals have been taken in by Jurrie Mellema, the Shelter Manager, volunteers and the Shelter staff including Gary Clementina, who is responsible for removing stray dogs from Bonaire's neighborhoods.

Jurrie makes painful decisions about our animals that the rest of us want to avoid making. He takes sad but necessary actions we are reluctant to perform ourselves. And what comes back out of the Shelter gates are healthy, happy, friendly pets who get adopted into new homes. They are also sterile pets. Their owners know they will contribute no more troubled animals to the island dog and cat population.

The special event celebrated by these awards is the six-month anniversary of the free Canine Sterilization Campaign organized by Jurrie Mellema at the Shelter in October, 2004. More than 200 female dogs were neutered at that time. As a result, an estimated 1,200 unwanted puppies have NOT been born on Bonaire in the past six months. When we consider the additional litters that those 200 mothers will *not have*, and the litters that their unborn daughters and granddaughters will never produce, we are dazzled by the impact the single sterilization program will have on the island for decades."

In response, Jurrie said he could not have done it without the help of the volunteers, the local and the foreign vets and the sponsors.

A party for LVV staff, volunteers, the award recipients and their families followed the presentation. □ *L./G.D.*

*Gary Clementina receives his Achievement Award from Papi Antoin of Extra and Laura DeSalvo of The Reporter*



*The Achievement Awards were presented at LVV*

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# MAIRI BHAN, the Enduring Ethereal Shipwreck

My dive partner glances at me with anxious trepidation etched on his face. Are we courageous enough to enter this eerie, mystical space? Gazing into the darkness, through a gigantic gash in the side of the once proud clipper ship, *Mairi Bhan*, I shudder with a wraithlike feeling of apprehension. What we have just observed on the outside of the great hull has shocked all our senses. On an emotional level, I'm consumed by sadness and tears form inside my diving mask. Intellectually, I'm obsessed by the need to explore, uncover and identify the cause of what we are witnessing. Physically, I'm haunted by a spine-chilling fear of the sinister environment we are about to enter...

This adventure had begun with ominous overtones. The sea is rising and we are two hours behind our schedule. The high winds and mounting waves cannot deter us from our mission. We are determined to overcome the seemingly paranormal phenomenon that is dragging us into this otherworldly place. We have planned every move with precision, like a commando raid on an unsuspecting enemy. However, we are not prepared for the visual impact of a new shape and unfamiliar surroundings on "our pristine wreck."

We arrive at the site and descend. Our first glimpse of the overturned hull tells us that we are in unfamiliar surroundings. As individuals we have logged more than 500 previous visits to the grave of the "Windjammer." Now what we see is new. The hull has split open. The jagged gash starts at the port side rail and continues through the keel and around to the starboard side. The iron hull plates have split apart and collapsed. The weight of this shifting metal has bent and buckled the bowsprit and the "tumblehome" around the poop deck at the stern. The entire ship has a new profile. We know, over time, it is doomed to lie flat on the bottom. Recent events confirm this certainty. Our hearts are stunned by the power of the sea.

Today, unlike the first telepathic warning to stay out, I am drawn into the ship by an unnatural force. The *Mairi Bhan* calls and reassures me... "I am at rest, you are safe to enter". The interior has completely changed. The huge,



*Inside the Windjammer you can see the gaping new crack and the sheared metal framing.*

open cavern shaped cargo space has been compressed. The sagging and bent port side hull touches the bottom, leaving only small glimpses of the inviting blue water outside. There is chaos everywhere. The gigantic, rectangular, port side fresh water tank has fallen and is partially crushed. Underneath, a tangled network of broken cross beams forms its berth. Some severed beams hang like stalactites from above. They are securely fastened to the hull frame, but are a silent testament of the forceful guillotine action that chopped them in two.

Drawn forward by the signal light of my partner, I pass over the bow mast stub, securely held in position by the hard tar and interior support structure. I join him outside and the bowsprit comes into view. It has moved and is distorted. In a single incident, the stress from the powerful bending force on the entire 239 foot (73 meter) length of the port rail, now concave instead of the gentle convex curve conceived by the ship architect and carefully fabricated by the builders at Barclay, Curle Company, Glasgow, Scotland, in 1874, has altered much of the clipper ship. Fortunately, the structural elements at the bow and stern were not damaged by the dismasting at the mid-ship area, at the time of her sinking in December of 1912. The bow and stern sections have

additional cross beams, bulkheads and floor plates for strength and extra support in these high stress areas. At the bow, they house the massive chain lockers below the forecabin and in the stern, the galley, ship's officers' and captain's cabins under the poop deck. It will be many more years before the sea will play another major role in this living drama.

With only minutes remaining on this survey dive, we re-enter the ship through the gaping, zipper-like opening. Vivid detailed evidence emerges of the strength and power of the destructive forces that shook the ship as she slept.

Around the edges of the ruptured hull plates, we clearly see rows of holes where the rivets have been pulled out. They resemble holes punched in paper; however the iron plates are almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (2 cm) thick. Pulling the flattened rivets through these holes required enormous energy. The surfaces of the buckled plates are clean and smooth. They appear to be new with an orange dust-like coating of rust, resembling a coat of primer paint from the fabricating shop. Overhead, bubbles from our exhausted breath dislodge small particles of orange colored fluff that silently rains down on us, much like the large snowflakes at the beginning of a snowstorm.

Our time on the great ship has ended. As I gaze up, the blue water beckons, framed by the zigzag edges of the great gash in the side of the "Bonny Mary." We simply rise and emerge from the cut in her belly, a "cesarean" exit. Turning to shore, we glide over her overturned body that exposes her misshapen profile. As I reach the adjoining reef and turn back to give her my customary parting wave good bye, I am melancholic at the sight of the unnatural slope of her back. She responds with a telepathic message... "I know I am no longer beautiful, please return and visit me"...

I experience mixed emotions as we pass the time of our decompression and safety stops. The spiritual nature of this encounter continues to haunt me. Is there a psychic connection between the wreck and her human explorers? Does she wish to be released from some in-



*This photo taken from outside the hull shows the expanded crack. Note the rivets popped from the thick hull plates and the bare metal exposed where the coral sheet slipped off.*

ner torment? Are the unanswered questions surrounding her sinking on Bonaire denying her a peaceful grave? I wonder if Maurice Coutts, so elegantly remembered in the book, "Dream Wrecks," authored by our diving companions Dominique Serafini and Catherine Salisbury, knows the answers or is now a witness to these events? We safely reach the surface and are planning our return before we remove our dive gear.

Join us on our next adventure to search for the answers. □ *Story and photos* © Albert Bianculli

## **Free Multi-Media Show Sundays**

*Bonaire Holiday* Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat. Windjammer photos, old and new are featured.

## Pets of the Week



Even more kittens have been brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter in the last week. Here are some of them posing with volunteers Deborah, Roxanne and Chananja. The girls volunteer every Saturday at the Shelter, learning how to take care of the pets and having a good time socializing with them.

Three adult cat sisters were brought into the Shelter with a total of eight beautiful kittens in nearly all colors. It's not known who is the mother of whom, and in fact it's suspected that only two of the ladies are mothers and that the third just helps out by nursing the kittens even though she may not be a mother herself. Could this be considered a "commune" in the cat kingdom? Whatever it's called, everyone seems to accept it and is content.

This also is a lesson for how important sterilization is. Two mother cats had eight kittens. Within just a few months those kittens that are female will go into heat, breed and have more, who in turn will mature, breed and continue the process.



Cats are particularly fertile because even while they're still nursing their litters they go into heat. So if you have a cat that needs to be sterilized, call the Shelter and talk with the manager, Jurrie Mellema at 717-4989. There is a Sterilization Fund that can help out

**Good News: There have been 48 adoptions from the Shelter since the first of the year.**

The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. □L.D.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

### Million Dollar Baby (Clint Eastwood)

Early Show (usually 7pm)

### Be Cool

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  
Racing Stripes

### THIS WEEK

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

Friday, April 15—Bonaire Dream-wrecks—paintings by Dominique Serafini- and Windjammer slide show by Albert Bianculli, 7pm, Cinnamon Art Gallery

Friday, April 15- Presentation and Discussion on the consequences of cerebral hemorrhage. 8:30pm, Sentro di Bario, North Salina (Papiamentu)

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 (see page 12)

Sunday, April 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 (see page 13)

Wednesday, April 20—Krusa Laman Festival—poetry, music, 7:30 pm, Fort Oranje. Information call SKAL 717-8868

### COMING

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Saturday 23 April. Earth Day Events in Bonaire. 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 .  
April 22, Friday, 2 pm: Underwater Caretaking dive.

Saturday, Sunday, April 23 – 24 - Feng Shui Introductory Course (in Spanish) at Lagun City (end of Kaminda Lagun) from 2 to 5 pm. The cost is NAf95. Sign up by April 18. Please call 717-3855 or 786-8908 or pass by Tambu shop in Kaya Grandi in front of Harborside Mall for information or enrollment..

Sunday, April 24– Laying the first stone of the new Dare to Care Public Park. Kaya Sur Bartola 11 am – 2 pm. All invited. Free snacks, drinks, games, music.

Saturday, April 30—Rincon Day  
Saturday, April 30—MCB run, 7 am, 17.5 km. Comcabon. 717-8629

Saturday, April 30 - World Tai Chi Day. Ron Sewell is hoping to organize an open

### MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in  
Movieland Cinema:

**BE COOL** by F. Gary Gray, starring John Travolta, Uma Thurman and lots of Hollywood stars. It’s based on a novel by Elmore Leonard, written as a sequel to ‘Get Shorty’ which first brought the brilliant cool character of Chili Palmer on screen. There are lots of references to “Get Shorty” in the first 20 minutes so if you haven’t seen that film you’re going to miss quite some jokes. Gray keeps getting tied up in Leonard’s complicated plotting, which affects the film’s pace at times, and results in about nine endings for the picture. John Travolta has lost a lot of his “Get Shorty” coolness in this film. Quite often I wondered if it was poorly acted or poorly cut. The actors sometimes seemed to wait before saying their lines. Overall it’s a mediocre crime comedy and not very recommendable. □ *Dodo*



meeting for anyone interested in talking about what Tai Chi may have to offer them. Anyone already practicing Tai Chi will be especially welcome. Call Ron at 717-2458 for information.

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

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: Welcome Concert at Wilhelmina Park. Happy hour and late night jazz in cafes and restaurants

May 20: Main concert at Plaza Resort. Happy hour and late night jazz jam sessions at City Café and other places

May 21: Main concert at Bongos Beach. Happy hour and late night jazz jam sessions at City Café and other places

May 22: Main concert at Kon Tiki Beach Club. Brunch concert on location not yet decided. Jazz all over the place plus three main concerts for only NAf30! Website: www.bonairejazz.com

### OCTOBER 2005

The International Bonaire Sailing Regatta 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 Flamingo 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 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 Topsy Seagull , 5 pm. 717-2500.

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

AI-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.

JCI. First Wednesday of the Month-Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire or formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions are welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Rendez-Vous Restaurant, Kaya L.D. Gerharts #3. All Rotarians are welcome. Tel. 717-8454

### BONAIRE’S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from “The King’s Storehouse.” Learn about Bonaire’s culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

Visit the Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors’ Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

Sunday at Cai- Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire’s popular musicians.

Rincon Marshé- every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Bonaire’s historic town.

Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area. Alta Mira Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am. Town Walking tour at 9:30, Bus Tour at 10. Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.

### CHURCH SERVICES

International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle)  
Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332  
Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.

Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on Sundays at 10 am.  
Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm. Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services on Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu 717-8304 . Saturday at 6 pm at Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

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

New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

\* \* \*

Send events to The Bonaire Reporter  
Email reporter@bonairenews.com  
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

# DINING GUIDE See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Brasserie Bonaire</b> Royal Palm Galleries Kaya Grandi 26, Next to Re/Max	Low-Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday and Monday	Lots of parking in big mall lot <b>The place for a Quick Lunch and a Cozy Dinner</b> Breezy terrace with a/c inside
<b>Caribbean Club Bonaire</b> On the Tourist Road 2 mi. north of Town 717-7901	Inexpensive-moderate Breakfast Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Quiet country setting, lovely landscaping, friendly staff</b> 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 prepares 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

## APPLIANCES/ TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

**City Shop**, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances. Fast service and in-store financing too.

## 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 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 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.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.**

## SPA—DAY SPA

**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.** 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*.  
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

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## Julia Klug

“I was a flight attendant for Lufthansa as well as working for a travel agency. Ralf worked for a pharmaceutical company, giving information about medicines to the pharmacies. We were traveling all the time. He had 40 days vacation every year and I could get all the discounts. All our friends envied us. They’d say, ‘You’re only traveling!’ But they had nice houses and fancy cars. We hardly had any furniture and a very cheap car as we spent everything on vacations!

After we’d been together for two years my mother said, ‘I think this relationship will last, but to stay together you need a mutual hobby.’ So, at a big water sport exhibition we found a stand where you could sign up for dive lessons. Ralf got hooked and became a dive instructor that same year. He was only diving in cold lakes in the Bavarian mountains around Munich where we lived. Horrible! I couldn’t do that! So, because of the traveling and the diving we ended up on Bonaire in May 2000, and we lived here for two years.

We were very, very lucky when we came here. I didn’t realize it then, but now I know. Although we couldn’t speak English very well and we didn’t speak Dutch, we both got jobs almost immediately. Ralf started working for Bruce Bowker at the Carib Inn and I got a job at Sorobon Beach Resort as a receptionist. It was fun in the beginning, but after awhile it seemed to me that Ralf had the perfect job; he was at sea all day in the sun and had a nice tan. I was working a lot; I looked pale and stressed out; and I guess, yeah... I was jealous of him! So, after two years I said, ‘Let’s move!’ And as always, Ralf went with me.

We went to New Zealand, which had always been our Utopia, but we were very disappointed. It wasn’t at all what we thought it would be and we really fell in a hole. For six months it rained non-stop, not rain showers like you have in Europe, but more like the ones here – tropical downpours. We were living in a camping trailer. It was small and everything was always damp. So, after six months we changed our tickets and went to Fiji. We loved it, but we couldn’t find work there. It was like a third world country, and even the local people couldn’t find jobs. We went through our savings and tried to hang on, but after three months we had to give up. But, without knowing, we brought something really good with us because our daughter Jasmine was ‘made’ there on an Easter Sunday!

We went back to Germany, to our par-

ents. We didn’t have anything anymore. I went to the doctor and found out I was pregnant. I didn’t tell my husband because we didn’t have work or a house - no money, nothing. So, I kept it to myself for four weeks. When Ralf found a job as a dive instructor on Cyprus, I finally told him, and we left and stayed there for six months. Then we went back to Germany and Jasmine was born on Christmas Eve.”

*Julia Klug (28) is a very pretty, open-minded girl. While she’s breastfeeding her youngest daughter, six-week-old Julianna, and telling me her story, two-year-old toddler Jasmine also needs a lot of attention, but Julia handles it with patience and a good sense of humor and everybody is having a good time.*

“We were very, very lucky when we came here. I didn’t realize it then, but now I know.”

“After Jasmine was born, we went to St. Martin. Ralf got a job at a diving school where most of the clients were people from cruise ships. The dive school didn’t follow the PADI instructions at all. They would wash the engine at sea and spill all the oil in the water. It was against everything Ralf stands for, so after lots of arguments he quit after one month. There we were, with a two-month-old baby, no work and no money in a foreign country, but we didn’t tell our parents. We counted our savings and Ralf said, ‘We have three months to find something.’ I didn’t want to go back to Germany; it would have been like we’d failed. There were many weeks of worries: the car broke down and we had problems with the landlord because the baby was crying a lot and the other tenants were complaining. Then Jasmine got very sick and we had to take her to the hospital. She recovered and then one day, Ralf came home and told me we were both offered a job on Anguilla. I was going to be the food and beverage manager at Cocoloba Beach Resort and Ralf was offered another managing position at the same resort, and together we would make \$5,000 a month! It was unbelievable!

We were very young, naïve and desperate! Shortly after we arrived we felt something was wrong. It seemed like the resort staff couldn’t stand our presence, like they hated us, but we had no idea why. However, it was obvious that the general manager didn’t want us there. Later on it turned out that he was fid-



*The Klugs: Julia and Julianne, Ralf and Jasmine*

dling with the money for his own personal benefit and he certainly didn’t need some newcomers nosing around. Before he’d become the general manager he’d been a politician and he was still a man with influence. So, after two months, only two days before our tourist permit expired, we went to the mayor. He said, ‘Okay, I looked up your files; come back in two days with the money for the permits and the papers will be ready.’ Two days later we went. They kept us waiting for three hours and when we carefully asked if they maybe had forgotten about our appointment, suddenly it came out that there were no permits at all and that we would never get them because the general manager of the resort had talked to the mayor. We couldn’t contact the owners of the resort because they were in the US. The mayor told us, ‘Your tourist permit is expired and you have to leave within 12 hours.’

It was like a nightmare. Jasmine was five months old, I was crying and Ralf was furious. At five o’clock we were on the boat that took us back to St. Martin. We felt like illegal aliens. Now we understand what it means to be deported; it’s a terrible feeling. All our money, all our savings were gone; we had \$200 left.

Then I did something I’d never done before: I called my father and said, ‘Please, send us money to buy some tickets for Bonaire. We were so lucky there the first time!’ We called our friends in Bonaire, Ralph and Annabel Sobers, and told them the whole story. They immediately said, ‘Come, you can stay with us until you find something!’

So, in 2003 we were back on Bonaire. Ralf talked to Bruce and Liz of Carib Inn. They didn’t need anybody, but they told him that Bon Bini Divers needed people, and in five days Ralf had a job.

And Ans and Rob Schut loaned us their car, so we also had transportation. Bonaire really is our lucky island! We won’t leave ever again! The people here are just so nice, and after all our experiences in other countries and on other islands, we know that it’s not a matter of just being nice, the people here are three times better than anywhere else in the world!

The first year was tough as we had to start from the bottom and live from hand to mouth, but we didn’t want to leave anymore. We knew what we had on Bonaire, and with all the advantages and disadvantages it is the perfect island for us. After one year Ralf got his dream job back at Carib Inn with the help of Kitty, the manager. He is so happy and... I’m not jealous anymore! I have a good life too, because now I really appreciate it. I became pregnant with Julianne and because it was risky to have her here, she was born in Germany this year, February 22. And with the help of my parents we got a mortgage and we’ve started building our house on Bonaire.

I feel we have come full circle, back to our lucky island and we’ll stay here. You shouldn’t say ‘forever,’ but I am quite sure! However, one thing is certain: we could have never done it without the help of our friends, our parents and the government. Without all these people we would not be here. Bonaire is beautiful: its nature, its sea, its reefs and all the space we have, but the greatest beauty of the island we found is in its people.” □

*Photo and story by Greta Kooistra*



**Greta Kooistra**

# DIVING with DEE Sponges: Bonaire's the Best

For years I saw sponges, but didn't actually look at them. They were good for photos, of course. I learned that from Dave Woodward when we both worked on San Salvador. Dave would tell his underwater photography students that "Sponges are big, so they fill the frame. They're colorful, so they make a visually rewarding photograph. And they don't swim away!"

Here on Bonaire we have plenty of large sponges: bright orange elephant-ear sponges, purple tube sponge formations with multiple tubes, even the occasional brown barrel sponge.

Sponges give Bonaire's reef most of its color. In addition to orange and purple, sponges come in plenty of other colors. We have azure vase sponges; purple, green, and yellow tube sponges; black, red, and blue encrusting sponges; burgundy-colored rope sponges. My vote for the most visually striking sponge goes to the green rope sponges with brilliant orange colonial anemones living with them. Especially at night the sponges look like they're on fire.

I guess it's the *not swimming away* part that gets sponges "no respect." That, and not having eyes. Although sponges are animals, they sure seem like plants until you know them well. Except for Sponge Bob, sponges have no organs (eyes, heart, lungs, etc.) at all. They're comprised of a few different kinds of cells, which all work together to pull seawater in through small openings, take for themselves all the organic matter and oxygen and send the filtered seawater out a larger exhaust opening.

In addition to those basics, some sponges have commensal single-celled organisms within their own cells, which can perform photosynthesis. The waste products of those organisms, including oxygen, are used by the sponge cells, whose waste products, including carbon dioxide, the tiny organisms use in their turn. The commensal relationship is similar to the one that reef-building corals have with photosynthesis-performing organisms, except the corals can't survive without the organisms.

Sponges get their shape from structures called spicules. Some sponges, with appropriate names like Fire Sponge and



*Is this colorful enough for you?*

Touch-Me-Not Sponge, have spicules that irritate human skin. Before dive computers (and BNMP guidelines against glove-wearing), I knew a diver whose hands began to itch like crazy after a dive to 80 feet. The diver had been at 80 feet for only a few minutes, but decompression sickness had to be considered. He was treated in the recompression chamber for a few hours and felt much less itchy when he emerged. He'd been told no more diving that trip, so he rinsed his gear – and as soon as he touched his gloves his hands began to itch like crazy again! We showed him a photo of a Touch-Me-Not sponge and he remembered leaning on one with both his gloved hands. So at least one person had the diving on his vacation shortened by a few days (and his wallet lightened, too) because first, he pawed something he knew nothing about, and second, the thing he pawed was a Touch-Me-Not sponge.

Sponge spicules also have a bad effect *internally*. A reminder to divers and snorkelers: no matter how hungry you get, don't eat a sponge.

Turtles eat sponges, as do some angelfish and filefish. But aside from those three exceptions, very few reef creatures can eat sponges. Which means sponges can be very useful defensively. For example:

Frogfish are camouflaged to look like sponges, their sole defense mechanism. Their lumpy, dumpy shape looks like a sponge more than anything else, and frogfish rest on sponges more than they do other places. A sponge-eating fish probably wouldn't eat a frogfish, and a fish-eating fish wouldn't eat the sponge it

would think the frogfish is. Perfect!

Gobies live within Touch-Me-Not Sponge cavities, looking as if they're swimming a continuous marathon against this type of sponge's especially strong exhaust current. Other gobies live inside tube sponge tubes, as do shrimp like the veined shrimp.

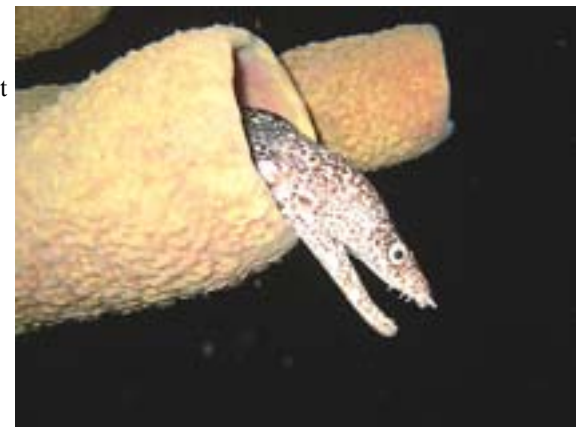
Various brittlestars live on and inside sponges. Some spend their days resting within the tubes, and their nights on the outside of the tubes, filtering the water for food.

Sponge crabs pinch off pieces of living sponge and carry them around. The sponge camouflages the crab, and/or provides it with a mobile hiding place. Several species of decorator crabs grow sponges, primarily encrusting sponges, right onto their shells. In each case, the sponge actually protects the crab in two ways. First, the sponge hides the crab by camouflaging it or simply by breaking up its outline. But even when its camouflage is recognized by a crab-eating predator, the crab is protected by its sponge's distastefulness!

I've got a dive buddy who's a professional decorator and an amateur underwater photographer. She doesn't ask to see seahorses or scorpionfish. In fact, she doesn't ask to see specific animals at all – she asks for colors: "Today I need pink," she'll say, or "What can you show me that's orange?" She might not appreciate sponges as animals, but she certainly appreciates them!

Here's one final observation about sponges: as far as my personal experience goes, Bonaire is the Sponge Capital of the World. We have a huge variety of sponges here, and they're common; that is, even a new diver can easily find many types of sponges here. Their sizes vary from tiny to sponges in the six-foot range, including several members of the Bonaire Over-40 Purple Tube Sponge Club. Their colors vary, from bright colors to pastels, hot colors to cool ones. Sponge colonies are smooth or bumpy or even shaggy; they're hard as leather, soft as jell-o, or any density in between; they can be tube-shaped, or rope-shaped, or spherical, or flat.

You've seen them. Don't miss the wonderful opportunity to really look at sponges. □ *Story and photos by Dee Scarr*



*Moray and Sponge at night*

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







# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

Success Viewing Bonaire's Latest Eclipse and a Really Terrific Saturday Night Coming Up

**B**onaire's Brad Swanson reports on Friday's, April 8, 2005, Solar Eclipse: "It was cloudy and hazy, but we got to see some of the solar eclipse this afternoon. We saved our solar filter eclipse glasses from the total eclipse of 1998 (I think) so Sandra watched as much of the eclipse possible through gaps in the clouds. I took pictures with my ETX 90 telescope and solar filter. I have pictures on my blogsite <http://www.bradtwr.blogspot.com/>. You can click on the pictures to see them bigger too."



Photo taken at 6:21 pm. At maximum, 84% of the sun was covered.

This week, telescopic viewing of **Jupiter** is at its very best for the year. It's also a great time to view the exquisite craters of an eight-day-old **Moon** and the wonderful ringed planet **Saturn**.

This Saturday, April 16th, one hour after sunset, face southwest where the brightest thing you'll see will be an exquisite eight-day-old Moon. And just below, a very bright light which our **Cassini spacecraft** is visiting right now, the magnificent 75,000-mile-wide ringed planet Saturn, which will blow you even farther away with its moon, **Titan**, which is larger than the planets **Pluto** and **Mercury**, and which we just landed on for the first time in human history.

Then if you turn around and face east you'll see the largest of all the planets, 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter, as it gets ready to travel across the sky all night long. Jupiter came into **opposition** on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, which means that right now it is at its closest, biggest, brightest and best for viewing from **Earth** for the entire year. If you have a telescope, not only will you be able to see its many equatorial layers of atmosphere but you'll also be able to see all four of its four largest moons Saturday night, three of which are larger than our own Moon.

Who could ask for anything more? Jupiter at its best, the Moon at one of its most beautiful phases and ringed Saturn with Titan, all available for viewing for free through telescopes around the world. And that's just what's happening Saturday night. □*Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:  
April 15 to April 22, 2005  
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**AIRES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Family get-togethers will be interesting. Travel will be exciting. Emotional partnerships may develop through projects you initiate. Disputes on the home front may be hard to avoid. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Wait and get all the information before consulting your boss. You can bet that you'll draw attention to yourself. Your self esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the lime light. Try not to hurt your partner's feelings. Your lucky day will be Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You are best to move quickly and to get in good with the boss. Family outings will make you feel secure and happy. You might find it difficult to control your emotions. You will find yourself tied to the phone. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Discuss your objectives with peers or lovers. Don't exhaust yourself or minor health problems will set in. Travel should be on your mind. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. You can get phenomenal returns if you present your ideas to those who can back your interests. Don't let any money slip through your fingers this week. You would be wise to socialize with as many people as possible. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You should include children in your activities. Your charm and generosity will bring new friends and romantic opportunities. Secret affairs may be tempting, but keep in mind that they will damage your reputation if you decide to indulge. Rest and relaxation may be required; minor health problems will prevail if you don't watch your diet. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You might want to spend some time by yourself in order to decide exactly how you feel. Changes in your home are apparent, and you must be willing to bend if you don't want to find yourself alone. Don't let children hold you back from doing things you enjoy. Concentrate on your job. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your ability to charm others will bring added popularity. Avoid any petty ego confrontations; they could lead to estrangement if you aren't careful. You can make new friends who could turn into intimate connections if you join clubs or take creative courses. Avoid conflicts with in-laws or other family members. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) This week was meant for love. Make creative changes to your residence. Be careful when dealing with female members of your family. Real estate investments will pay off. Concentrate on your job. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Unexpected events may upset your routine. Don't be too shy to promote your own interests. Romance will come through involvement with fundraising organizations. Groups you belong to will not only enjoy your company, but they will also share your interests. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Promote your ideas now. Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you. Do not let them blow situations out of proportion. You will enjoy physical activities more than you think. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Spend a quiet day with the one you love. Look into career choices and courses being offered. You will have original ideas for ways to make extra money. Be careful not to come on too strongly. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □

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