

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

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The **BONAIRE** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Rincon Day Festival

**Tarina and Demi Holkenborg show
off their Rincon Day dresses**

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FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Last week, Lars de Brabander, Country Manager- Caribbean Area for KLM, announced the airline had signed an agreement with Dutch Antillean Express guaranteeing that BonairExpress would serve as a feeder to KLM flights to the region, to take care of the flights between the ABC islands and Sint Maarten. Just what that guarantee means was not explained. But it seems to be good news for Bonaire.

► **BonairExpress is short of air-crews and pilots.** That's the most frequent cause of recent delays. Some pilots have been announcing that fact to the passengers when apologizing for late takeoffs. According to one report, there are only five pilots remaining on the payroll.

► A former Caribbean diplomat (from Barbados) is urging the region's governments and tourism organizations to mount an aggressive marketing campaign to cushion the negative impact expected to result from US citizens having to be holders of a passport for all overseas travel.

In accordance with a new US law, from January 1, 2006, all American citizens re-entering their homeland from this and other regions must be in possession of a valid US passport. Currently a birth certificate and valid Government ID are sufficient for travel to most Caribbean destinations.

► It has been reported on a Dutch airline affairs website that at times the air traffic control of Bonaire's Flamingo Airport is insufficient. As a result, some flights have had to land without local ground control when staff is not available due to sickness or vacation. Recently appointed Airport Director, Marco van der Kreeke, said that when a Bonaire air traffic controller called in sick last week a controller from Curaçao filled in. More controllers for Bonaire are to be recruited.

► Sebastiaan Houthuijzen, who follows fuel prices for RNWO (Radio Netherlands), reports that effective April 28th the island government dropped all fuel prices. The changes were made to smooth the drastic increases announced early last month.

While market costs haven't changed, the new prices modify the correction factor. This is an adjustment to the prices to correct for energy price changes in a previous three-month period. The government is supposed to adjust prices every three months if the cost of fuel changed during a prior period. Since the government-set prices

weren't changed for a year and market prices have gone up, the year's worth of correction was to be paid over the next three months. To ease the burden on users of diesel fuel (gasoil) the increase will be averaged over 12 months instead of three. Another correction downward was made for the gasoline, octane 92 and 95.

Even with the new adjustment for diesel, the electricity prices will still rise significantly but not as steeply as before. The new fuel surcharge (*brandstofclausule*) on WEB electric bills is to be 24,73 cents per kilowatt hour. It was set at 39,4 before this "reduction." It was just nine cents last month. This is still an increase of about 37% on our energy bills for the next 12 months.

For other fuels the current prices are:
92 octane gasoline - NAf 1,8975 per liter

95 octane gasoline- NAf 1,9325 per liter

Kerosene- NAf 1,3903 per liter
Diesel- NAf 1,1257 per liter
(Diesel users "prepay" road tax with their license fee annually)

LPG 100 lb cylinder- NAf 66,19
Non-commercial price

LPG 20 lb cylinder- NAf 15,24
Non-commercial price.

► Holland's newly appointed Kingdom Relations Minister, Alexander Pechtold, does not see debt restructuring for the Antilles as a near term objective. Pechtold said he regarded putting order to the islands' financial affairs a much more important issue than constitutional reform.

He made the statement



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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) in the Upper House of the Dutch Parliament during the discussion of the 2005 budget of Antillean and Aruban Affairs last week. It is either "Kingdom Island" or "Status Aparté" for the islands of the Netherlands Antilles, he added.

He said he was not keen on discussing the constitutional future separately with the individual islands. "We cannot have a Kingdom with seven different (constitutional) flavors," he said.

► **Dive resorts in the tiny Central American nation of Belize, rich in jungles and coral reefs, are being affected by the country's worst crisis since independence from Britain in 1981, with riots, looting and strikes testing the government.** Belize has been thrown into turmoil by a telephone workers' strike, bomb threats, power outages and opposition calls for the government to step down. Army troops and police are patrolling the streets following looting last week.

► **The Netherlands Antilles, the present union of five Dutch Caribbean islands that has lasted for 50 years, should cease to exist by 2007, an inter-island constitutional summit meeting in Sint Maarten proposed last week.** The Kingdom of the Netherlands consists of three parts: the European Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

The delegations from Curaçao (192,000 population), Sint Maarten (35,000), Bonaire (11,000) and Saba (1,500) agreed that Curaçao and Sint

Maarten will be granted a status aparté (as is Aruba), home rule, by 2007. Bonaire and Saba want to become royal islands, although that term is undefined. The delegation from Sint Eustatius, whose voters opted to preserve the current Netherlands Antilles structure, refused to sign the final document and staged a walkout.

The public on each of the four islands opted for either Statue Aparté or direct ties with Holland in recent referendums. The present Antillean government is based on Curaçao. The Netherlands is responsible for defense and foreign relations. Despite the fact the conference has concluded, all key issues are yet to be resolved by agreement between parts of the kingdom.

► If the objectives of the Antilles inter-island constitutional summit to restructure the Antilles held last week are to be met, **a timely approach is needed.** Intermediate steps towards an **October Round Table Conference between the islands and Holland** were defined and are to be accomplished by 11 work groups in the coming months. If the October target is missed, the island governments will have the right to start bilateral talks with the Netherlands for achieving the desired status. However, Bonaire, Saba, and Statia have already stated that they want to confer with the Netherlands no later than next month and want the Central Government to cooperate in making it happen.

(Continued on page 4)



**BONAIRE
JAZZ
FESTIVAL
MAY 20-21-22, 2005**

Countdown

Only NAf30 for the
FULL 3-DAY PROGRAM.

Tickets for the main concerts are
now on sale at City Cafe, TCB, Kon Tiki
Restaurant, Bongos Beach, Plaza Re-
sort and the Bonaire Boekhandel.

One of the headline performers at the Harbortown Bonaire Jazz Festival, May 20, 21 and 22, is Ced Ride. One could write an entire book about him. He is a phenomenon, a multi-talented artist - painting, singing, writing - and he's also a theatrical performer. His musical interest is broad- from tumba to jazz- but always connected to the place where his heart, home and his cultural identity is: the Antilles. Ced Ride is just one of the more than 25 musicians who will be on hand for the Festival. The Festival organizers will give away 20 tickets for the main concerts to SGB high school students with musical talents and interests. In addition they will donate 25% of the profits of the Festival to SGB and Centro di Barios for music education.

At each of the events a stand will be set up to sell commemorative, very stylish tee shirts, caps and posters - all at reasonable prices. BonFM and Digital (91.1 FM) will broadcast all the events live. Commercial spots, created by Hershel Rosario, will be aired. Posters are now on sale in Curaçao and Aruba.

TV Channel 11 and Kiko ta Kiko star Trevor, will be videotaping the event.

Omni Electronics will provide wide screens. Don't miss your chance to be a part of Bonaire history. □ Guus Gerritsen/G.D.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)

► Since late March a group of prominent currently elected and retired officials have already been **working on a framework for direct relations between Bonaire and the Netherlands:** Joop van Kessel, who will look into the fiscal and financial consequences; George Curiel, for public health and education matters; and Miro Croes for constitutional and administrative law.

Former Prime Minister Miguel Pourier, former Antilles Government Jaime Saleh, and former Bonaire Governor Richard Hart assist them. Johan Afman, previously Bonaire Island Secretary, is the coordinator of the work group. A counseling committee made up of Ramonsito Booi, Arthur Domacassé and Ibi Martis, follows and tests the process. Finally, a sounding board group made up of representatives of business, unions and the social sector will examine the proposals of the group. Finally the proposals will be presented to the Island Council.

► The official government Economics Department (DEZA) website lists the **maximum permitted heights of buildings** as follows: "The government of Bonaire has an established guideline to limit the height of improvements constructed in Bonaire. The following height restrictions apply. The height of the improvements is measured from the surrounding average ground height and shall not exceed 12 meters (40 ft. or three useable levels) in the case of buildings." You can find the complete document at http://www.bonaireconomy.org/investment_guide/Bonaire%20Invest%20Guide.pdf Many people have been asking why several seaside buildings under construction exceed that height significantly.

► As a result of a great deal of complaints about the treatment of corpses, the Executive Council (BC) of Bonaire has asked the Ministry of Public Health to **investigate the operations of the undertaker** and give suggestions for permanent solutions to the problems. Families of the deceased have complained about the procedures with the treatment of their loved ones. El Señorial, the Curaçao-based sole undertaker on the island, admitted in a newspaper interview that the low volume of deaths on Bonaire (about 100 a year) makes it difficult for them to provide a

high level of service.



► **Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, House of Orange, celebrated her Silver Jubilee, 25 years as monarch, this past Saturday, April 30.** Her son, Crown Prince Willem Alexander, was 13 years old at the time. Opinion polls show that the monarchy is still enormously popular with the Dutch, and some - including royalty expert Harry van Wijnen - attribute this in no small part to the way in which Queen Beatrix has fulfilled her role as monarch. "She has done a very solid job. She has been able to strengthen her position and the royal household in the past quarter century, and there is no doubt her son - when he becomes her successor - will be able to exploit her capital in this area. I think she has done a very good job in her lifetime."

Bonaire celebrated by festivities all day, including some vivid displays of orange at the Rincon Day Celebration. A short, magnificent fireworks display, perhaps the best ever seen on Bonaire, put on Bonaire's Orange Club, capped the holiday. Congratulations!

► During the month of May the **Bonaire Culinary Team will be serving three-course "Competition Dinners" on two Wednesday evenings – May 11 and May 25.** Your contribution will help send the Bonaire Team to the "Taste of the Caribbean" in June in Miami. Enjoy a haute cuisine meal with wine and sample the competition cocktails. Both dinners will be at Blue Moon restaurant at 7 pm. Donation is NA\$50. Call Laura at 717-8988 or 791-7252 or Sara at 786-9299 for reservations. Please note that during the month of May due to the dinners being served there will be no Sunday lunches served by the team as previously announced.

► **CHATA (the Curaçao Hotel Association) wants to host the annual regional hotel conference, CHIC.** This conference, which coincided with the culinary event, "Taste of the Caribbean," in the past years, requires about



► STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom reported that **an attempt to remove an anchor from Marine Park waters was thwarted last week.** Two Dutchmen were accused of the action and charged by the police. The anchor was returned to its resting place by Chief Marine Park Ranger Din Domacassé and his Rangers. It is forbidden to remove anything from the Bonaire National Marine Park without permission. □ *Elsmarie Beukenboom*

1,000 hotel rooms and has always been held in either Miami or Puerto Rico.

► **Outdated Bonaire license plates** have proved to be a fun and simple-to-pack souvenir of the island for many tourists. Why not donate yours to a good cause. Take them down to the Carib Inn where they're selling them for \$5 each and all the proceeds go to the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

► Congratulations to Cinnamon Art Gallery on its first birthday. The Gallery has brought us monthly exhibitions of talented Bonaire artists in residence. It's a non-profit project and has enriched our lives. Keep up the good work! The Gallery is on Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi behind Banco di Caribe.

► **Healing Touch** classes are about to begin again on Bonaire. If you missed the orientation class on Thursday, May 5th, from 7-8 pm at the Bonaire Caribbean Club at Hilltop, **you can still show up for the first Level 1 training class on Saturday, May 7th at 8 am.** See the notice on page 2 for more details and contact numbers.



► **Buddy Dive's Bella Vista Restaurant** has discontinued its Wednesday Mexican Night. **It's been replaced with a Caribbean Night with live music on Mondays starting at 7 pm.** Stop by and meet the resort's **new General Manager Jan Willem 't Hooft**, shown above, right, with Managing Director Ruud van Baal.

► The children in the Benetton ad this week are **Jonathan and Crestely Cranston.** The ad is on page 12. □

L./G.D.

MORE IS NOT BETTER

Dear Editor:

It is a very sad time for Bonaire and the Bonairean people who live here (that does NOT include anyone not born here). A handful of people will make some money, one or two politicians will probably make a lot of money, but for the average Bonaireans, they will lose.



More hotels? It is strange how definitions change and how soon we all forget. At one time the cry was for more rooms, otherwise we could not get the airlines we need. It was simply more rooms. Then it changed to more hotel rooms. And hotel now has changed to a major name. So we have gone from needing just more rooms to needing one or two major hotel names.

According to the way you want to persuade people, Bonaire has only 400 rooms, while others count closer to 2,000. And what will more large hotels do for Bonaire? Chase away all those people who like Bonaire the way it is. Small and unique. Now it will slowly become an Aruba, and for those who like Aruba, then go there. Bonaire will also see an ever increasing number of foreigners, another definition that has changed to fit some peoples' needs. And it is guaranteed, even though the claims are otherwise, that these big hotels will be mainly staffed with foreigners, or better said, non-Bonaireans. These non-Bonaireans bring with them their own social desires and make Bonaire change to fit their needs.

More and more non-Bonaireans are opening businesses, hiring foreigners and quite simply pushing the Bonaire people out. Are the people here happier than they were 15 years ago? It is doubtful. Is the quality of life greatly improved? Doubtful. More traffic, more social conflicts, more pollution, more economic problems, more taxes. And why? Because someone thinks that getting bigger and having more is better. With an increase in foreigners Bonaire will need more housing, more schools, more infrastructure, bigger roads, more water, more electricity- which will cost a lot more money, which will mean higher taxes. It is a vicious circle that needs to be stopped.

Leave Bonaire alone and it will work fine just as it did years ago. Or will that hurt a few pockets????

BA

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Ruud Vermeulen photo

Elena and Alfio at Bonaire's Rose Inn

Good friends of Bonaire and its culinary crowd, Elena Pazquazzo and Alfio Calovi, were married in Trento, Italy, on March 28. The couple was here in Bonaire for the first SGB Hotel School Student Competition in 2002, when Elena was a judge, and Bonaire continues to be their favorite place to be. They both work for the Mezza Corona winery in Trento. Alfio is the Purchasing Manager; Elena is the Export Manager. While they were on the island they served a lot of MezzaCorona wines to a lot of appreciative people, and introduced the popular Rotari sparkling wine which has become the wine of choice for those sailing on the sea. □L.D.

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

Finding Balance for Bonaire Part 2



A combination mid and high rise 550-room hotel. Is it a design for Bonaire?

How Many Beds Does Bonaire Need?

Claims have been made recently that Bonaire needs more and bigger hotels. This claim naturally raises questions. For instance:

1. How many hotel rooms are there now?
2. How many tourists will the current inventory support?
3. What is the current occupancy rate?
4. When is a room increase needed?
5. Can the island's infrastructure support a major increase?

This article will try to address these issues in the hope of helping our politicians and voters make sane, sustainable decisions on Bonaire's tourism growth—both short-term and long-term.

Existing Market Reality

According to TCB (Tourist Corporation of Bonaire) records there are only

1,175 'units' available to tourists since almost 100 have been taken out of inventory because of KLM contracts at Divi and Plaza Resort. In addition, Buddy Dive went from 68 units in 2000 down to only 46, reasons unknown.

But more important than 'units' is the number of beds, since about one third of our units have two or more bedrooms. The total TCB bed count is 3,258, but a quick search on the Internet uncovered another almost 150 'units,' or 300 more beds, available from individual owners who do not appear in the TCB list. Thus, the current 'bed count' for Bonaire is closer to 3,500 beds available for tourists, or over **1.2 million bed-nights available each year** (365 x 3,500).

Below acceptable occupancy rates

With just under 63,000 visitors to Bonaire in 2004 and an average stay of 8.9 days, (from the available data) this means that the 2004 occupancy rate of existing bed nights was only 46.5%.



Even if the average stay is increased to 9.5 days, a level reached in past years, the 2004 bed occupancy rate is only **about 55% overall**.

Naturally, some hotels and apartments do better than others, and the high season is better than low. But the question must still be asked: Does an island with an average occupancy rate of only 55% (or less) really need more beds or does it need to increase occupancy of current beds?

Given the arrival figures, an estimated US \$3.3 million should have been raised by the government via the \$6.50 room tax in 2004, assuming 85% of visitors stayed in paid accommodations. It is estimated that only about 1/3 of this was put toward efforts to bring people to Bonaire. Perhaps more effort and money should be used to bring more tourists to raise the current occupancy rate.

When to add rooms?

An ideal average occupancy rate for a city or destination seems to be in the 70 to 75% range, with 65% barely acceptable. When rates fall below the 65% level (as they did after 9/11), there is reason for concern. Rates at 85% and above for destination areas are rare today, and Hawaii seems to enjoy one of the highest rates in the US right now at about 84%. (Hawaii also has the highest average room rate of \$161 because of a room shortage.) Florida's occupancy rate is 75% and is second best in the US.

To achieve a 75% occupancy rate for the existing beds on Bonaire, we would need 95,000 tourists a year—that's 30,000 more tourists, or a 50% increase over the 2004 level. This is a tremendous stretch, but should be well underway before new beds are added.

Provision must also be made to add the KLM reserved rooms back into inventory when the airline reduces their Bonaire flights. One source expects the

Lima flights to be gone by October, adding 50 more rooms or about 100 beds before the end of the year. The government and TCB have two key responsibilities: they must fill existing beds to acceptable rates and they must prevent a glut of too many rooms that will depress current room rates and harm existing businesses. Bringing new hotels to the island only to see the people who have worked for years to build our economy hurt is self-defeating.

What can the infrastructure support?

Water and electricity are key issues here, along with sewage collection and security. Right now WEB has difficulty providing uninterrupted service for the existing residents and tourists. One new, luxury 570-room hotel, with its many shops, restaurants and other air conditioned indoor facilities is likely to double the current hotel demand for electricity.

Until WEB has the capacity to deliver water and electricity to 20,000 people

Continued on page 7

each month (residents and current tourists), new rooms should be added very cautiously. Once that goal is achieved, large blocks of rooms should be added only as increased capacity at WEB is funded. It is possible that land sales could fund the needed increases, but it must be planned.

The same standard should be applied to other infrastructure services. Can SELIBON handle increased sewage loads? Can the police handle increased numbers of tourists, cars and the security issues involved? Until current levels are under control, adding large numbers of new rooms will only make the problems worse. Funding for these services should be planned in synch with long-range capacity growth.

(Continued on page 7)



A nine-story 550-room hotel. Is this a design for Bonaire?



A 550-room hotel at night. Can WEB handle it?

Finding Balance (Continued from page 6)

Why the rush?

So why is Bonaire in such a rush to add hotel rooms? One force seems to be coming from the airlines, which say they won't add direct flights until there is a big name resort on island. Aruba was faced with a similar demand in the past and, after providing the new rooms still found itself required to guarantee seats to the airline. Certainly, Bonaire would benefit from direct flights to the US, but it will be easier and less expensive to encourage more people to come here on the existing airlift than to build grand hotels that could change our island forever.

Bonaire today has more rooms than its occupancy can support. There is no reason to believe that tourists are not coming to Bonaire because they can't find hotel accommodations. If they are not coming, there are other reasons. These reasons should be identified and addressed so that we can make our existing hotels more profitable and, hence, more able to train and expand their staffs.

Conclusions

There are too many critical questions unanswered regarding Bonaire's need

for new rooms and its ability to generate and absorb the tourist load that the new rooms would require. It seems essential to pause and carefully evaluate before running ahead. There are enough acknowledged experts in the hospitality and financing fields living on the island (not all of whom have a vested interest to protect), that it should take little time to assemble a group to provide guidance on sustainable development goals, measuring standards, and plan for infrastructure improvement.

Bonaire already possesses a long-range vision for sustainable development that was put together and accepted in 1997. And DEZA has sent out development guides in 2003. The current rush to add more and larger hotels flies in the face of both these documents.

The economy is growing and the construction industry is already short of workers. Is it time to abandon the vision of a safe, peaceful, eco-oriented and flourishing economy? Or is it time to think, to plan and to do it right? □

Special to the Bonaire Reporter

Contributors to this series are market research professionals.

Some of the topics to be covered in coming articles:

Who gets the jobs and what kind of jobs will they be? What TYPE of new rooms should be added when the time comes and where should they be?



MAY 20-21-22

Harbour Town Bonaire Jazz Festival 2005







3 MAIN CONCERTS FOR ONLY 30 NAF!

May Wilhelmina plein
19 Welcome concert
7:00 PM

May Plaza Resort
20 Denise Jannah, Ced Ride
7:30 PM Cedric Dandaré,
Avila Blues Houseband

May Bongo's Beach
21 Cuban Express
7:30 PM X-Hale

May Kontiki Beach Club
22 Freewinds Band
5:00 PM Stacey Francis
Delbert Bernabela Band





Sunset & late night sessions at City Café
Jazzbrunch Rum Runners 11:30 AM May 22

Also thanks to:
 · Toyota · Russel Insurance · Telbo · Benetton · Don Andres
 · BonaireNet · BonaireExpress · Bonaire Reporter · Omni Electronics
 · Plaza Resort Bonaire · City Café · Bongo's Beach · Kontiki Beach Club
 · TCB · Bonaire Jazz Foundation · Rum Runners · Budget

The Italians Were Hereand Loved It.



Italians in the Kitchen of SGB's Chez Nous
Governor Domacassé and Coordinator of the Stage Program, Sara Matera,
join the Italian delegation in the kitchen of the SGB hotel school, Chez Nous
after a sensational lunch.
(L to R) Lt. Governor Hubert Domacasse, Sara Matera, Morena Sartori,
Natalia Bedeschi, Emanuele, Andrea Biondi, Debora Pezzi

Bonaire has had a close relationship with the Emilia Romagna region of Italy since 2002 when a group of SGB hotel school students went there for a month to study cuisine, Italian style.

Our students made such a grand impression on the school officials that another invitation was extended for the following year. However, due to time and money constraints the Bonaire students weren't able to go. But last year, students from Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba were all invited for the month-long training program, a very generous offer: The Vocational and Educational Department of the Emilia Romagna region hosts the students for a month, which includes private teachers, materials, shoes and room and board, as well as all weekend excursions expenses, including hotels, tours, food, etc. This costs the department approximately Euro 75,000/per year for the students from the ABC islands.

Last fall representatives from the ABC islands were invited to be their guests in Italy.

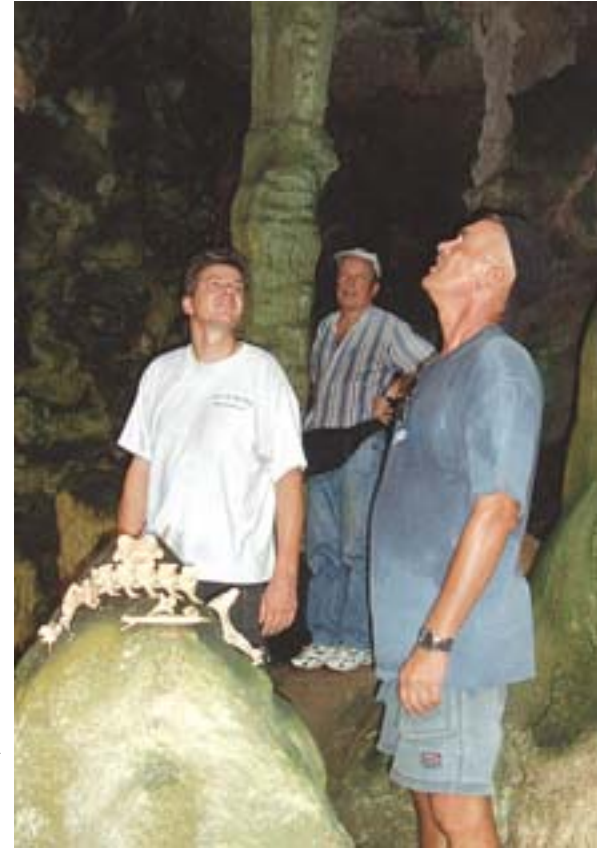
To reciprocate, the Italian delegation of Emilia Romagna was invited by the ABC islands to come visit. Each island hosted the group and looked forward to continuing the ABC Island "Stage" program for the next three years. The group especially fell in love with Bonaire where the people and the underwater life are so beautiful. They snorkeled in the sea, ate iguana soup and kabritu and chicken stoba at Rose Inn, and had an elegant luncheon at Chez Nous that was cooked by the students.

The delegation included: Debora Pezzi, President of AECA; Morena Sartori, Manager of the project department in AECA; Natalia Bedeschi, Coordinator of the ABC project in AECA and liaison with regional schools. Director of AECA, Andrea Biondi, is a long time visitor to Bonaire and the initiator for their office to start this exchange program. □ Sara Matera/L.D.

A Visit to the Virgin's Cave

Twenty-one of us met at 6:30 in the morning to be guided to a cave recently re-discovered after an exhaustive search. We were to be led by Bòi Antoin, the most ardent preservationist of Bonaire's cultural past and the chief editor of the Papiamentu language daily newspaper, *Extra*. Fortified by steaming coffee and *pan dushi* (sweet bread) we began a relatively rugged 45-minute uphill hike to the cave. We followed Bòi on the trail from Puerto Spaño that wound through valleys and steep inclines that were invisible to my eyes except for some widely spaced markers. We had to watch our footing very carefully, and in fact one of the group had a nasty fall but recovered OK.

The first view of the cave was breathtaking. A cavern five times the height of a



Some of the group gaze up at amazing formations



It doesn't take much imagination to see an image of the Virgin Mary kneeling with her back to the cave entrance.

man, carved into the hillside, framed with colored rocks and filled with stalactites and stalagmites, led deeper into the earth. The home of the Virgin was just inside. After we paid her our respects we squeezed into the subterranean opening. Probably fairly unique to Bonaire, almost everyone was using dive lights to find their way although the cave was dry had no bats in residence. We lingered at the entrance to enjoy its shade before returning to Puerto Spaño. We had eye-expanding views of the south-east coast as we wound our way down.

At the bottom we exchanged memories and filled up on watermelon and chicken soup. The cost for the trip organized by Bonaire's

Friends of Nature was only NAf20, which benefited Bonaire's walking team for the famous Dutch Four Days of Nijmegen Walk held every July. We'll tell you of future Friends of Nature walks via *The Bonaire Reporter*. □ G.D.





Preview of the Schedule for the King of The Caribbean Windsurf Freestyle Competition



This year Bonaire Sailing Foundation and PWA thanks to Maduro & Curiels Bank and many other sponsors are holding the 3rd King of The Caribbean Windsurf Freestyle competition and for the first time ever there's going to be a junior championship for professional kids; Pro Kids.

- The event will take over the island starting from **Saturday May 14th** when Juan Marino will be crossing over the Caribbean from Venezuela to Bonaire. Our own heroes, Taty and Tonky, will exchange flags with Juan Marino as he enters Bonairian waters. The celebration continues as the whole crowd moves to **The Great Escape at 18:00** where the public can treat itself on a deluxe \$15 BBQ.
- Sunday May 15th** all interested can register for the competition from **10:00 – 15:00 at Sorobon**. On the same day the press and all who are interested can enjoy **happy hour at Kontiki** while we wait for the **press conference** to start at **17:00**. We then quickly rush to Wilhelmina park where the official opening ceremony will take place, followed up by **Taste of Bonaire from 19:00 to 21:00**. Taste of Bonaire is an open air food market where you can indulge yourself with some of Bonaire's most succulent dishes by local restaurateurs for only NAf5 (\$3) a plate.

- The windsurf freestyle competition blows off on **Monday May 16th at 10:00** and will go on all week until **Sunday May 22nd** depending on the weather conditions. If there is good wind the competition might finish earlier. The award ceremony for the professionals will take place as soon as the races are over.
- Thursday May 19th at 19:00** **Coco's restaurant** will be hosting the opening ceremony for the **Pro Kids championships** which will start **Friday May 20th at 10:00** all through last event day **Sunday May 22nd**.
- Saturday May 21st** all competitors will join Bonaire's cultural Marshé in Rincon at night.
- Sunday May 22nd at 18:00** the award ceremony for **Pro Kids and Amateurs** will take place and we'll be closing the event with a **Beach Bash at Bonaire Windsurf Place**.

- The **Paranda bus** will be driving from hotels (**10 am**) to the event site and back (**4 pm**) through the whole week, so if you want to be there

GET ON THE BUS!



KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
5-06	7:46	1.0FT.	82
5-07	0:03	1.9FT.	87
5-08	0:44	2.0FT.	90
5-09	1:24	2.0FT.	89
5-10	2:05	2.0FT.	85
5-11	2:48	2.0FT.	78
5-12	3:32	1.9FT.	70
5-13	4:12	1.9FT.	60

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Andiamo	Justine, Curaçao	Santa Maria
Adventure Quest	Klsey	Sandpiper, USA
Angelos	Lava	Sirius
Argo	LaVida, Curaçao	Sylvia K
Baby President, Curaçao	L'Quila, BVI	Take It Easy
Bernard	Lucky Lobster, Curaçao	Ti Amo, USA
Bright Sea	Luna C. USA	Tish
Calacanto	Lusistra	Tomorrow
Camissa, Chan Is.	Maki, France	Ulu Ulu, USA
Cape Kathryn	Mañanita, Curaçao	Ulysses
Clemencia	MU III, Curaçao	Unicorn, Norway
Felicity	Nails	Varedhuni, Germany
Flying Cloud, USA	Natural Selection	Ya-T, BVI
Gabrielle	Ouf	Yanti Paratzi
Galandriel	Pelo, Curaçao	Zahi, Malta
Guaicamar I, Ven.	Paranda, Curaçao	Zipper, Curaçao
Honalee, USA	Pyewacket	
Infinity	Rusty Bucket	
Jan Gerardus	Sabbatical	

Rincon Day Festival

This year's Rincon Day was one of the best ever with crowds that seemed to get bigger and bigger as the afternoon slipped into early evening. There were groups from Curaçao and Aruba as well as South and North Americans and Europeans. The stands selling food, drinks, gifts, sweets, snacks were beautifully crafted of sorghum stalks and seeds, agave flowers and stalks and driftwood. As the afternoon cooled and in expectation of the final Simadan Parade, more and more people in traditional dress joined the crowds.

The traditional Simadan song and dance is always a very heartfelt experience. People of all colors and backgrounds link arms and dance and sing together. Congratulations to the organizers for a great 17th Annual Rincon Day. □ L.D.





China Doll



Some of our favorite parade girls



At the Rose Inn Vernon "Nonchi" and his mom, Malvina, fed the crowds



Charley Anthony has the best time



Beautiful girls in traditional Dutch dresses



Sounding the Rincon trumpet

Picture Yourself with the Reporter Easter Island

Easter Island is considered the most remote spot on Earth. It is 3,700km (2,294mi) west of the Chilean mainland-a five-hour flight and over 2,000 miles from the nearest inhabited island.. A triangle of volcanic rock in the South Pacific - it is best known for the giant stone monoliths, known as *Moai*, that dot the coastline. The early settlers called the island *Te Pito O Te Henua* (Navel of The World). Today its mostly Polynesian people call it *Rapa Nui*. The Dutch Admiral Roggeveen, onboard the *Arena*, was the first European to visit the island on Easter Sunday, 1722, and gave it its present name.

So who else would visit it, and remember to get photographed holding *The Bonaire Reporter*, than Bonaire's most intrepid traveler, Marlis Seelos-Schmid of Marlis Sail & Canvas. She told us it was a dream come true. □ *G.D.*

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



Bonaire's Culinary Team and Bartender



Special Invitation

The Bonaire Culinary and Bartender Team invite you to a Tasting of their competition skills & masterpieces;

Seating available May 11 or May 25, 2005

Place : Blue Moon Restaurant

Time: 7 pm

Donation is *only* NAf 50/pp

Includes a 3-course meal plus samples of Competition Cocktails and, of course, wine

All proceeds go to the Bonaire Culinary Team
call Laura at 717-8988 or 791-7252
or Sara at 786-9299 for reservations

"ACTION CAPITAL" A Naturalist's Wonderland



Susie Swygert at the reef

There are rare occasions when you feel something special is about to happen. It's just a feeling. Sometimes a chance encounter triggers an emotional response that heats your body. Other times it may be the fragrant aroma of cooking food that instantly recalls a pleasant memory at a gathering of friends or family. It can also be an image on a painter's canvas or a photo that reminds us of a wonderful experience we shared with others.

The scene at the Action Capital dive site ("*Action Capital*" is a real Bonaire dive site, only the name has been changed to protect it from over-visitation) instantly arouses many memories of thrilling dives at another famous place under the sea, "Blue Corner" in Palau, Micronesia.

It is also a reminder of my transition from simply being a diver and inter-

(Continued on page 22)

Got something you want to buy or sell?

REACH MORE READERS THAN ANY OTHER WEEKLY
NEWSPAPER BY ADVERTISING IN
THE BONAIRE REPORTER

FREE FREE FREE FREE

Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20 words)

Commercial ads are only NAf0.70 per word, per week. Free ads run for 2 weeks.
Call or fax *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988 e-mail ads@bonairereporter.com

JANART GALLERY

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

BONAIRENET

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. 8000m² 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**



Big porch sale: Saturday, May 7, 2005 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at Kaya Hurlanda 16. Various households together: furniture, baby crib, clothes, toys, books, household items and much more.

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

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

LOST LORA



Lora with ID ring lost near Vos di Bonaire. Says "Hola, Mami," "Sabroso." Call Marlis, 717-7741.

FOR SALE

For Sale: **Ocean going, live aboard, steel SAILBOAT (38 ft).** Located Plaza Resort, good condition. Asking \$17,500,- Call 786-4666

Ex-rental SCUBA equipment from Cressi Sub and Tusa for sale at Buddy Dive Resort Dive Shop. Prices start as low as US\$20. Opening hours 8 am - 5 pm 7 days a week.

WANTED

Scuba Vision is preparing for a new film production and is **looking for adult male actors** able to perform in front of a camera with a good voice to express emotions. It will be a short film, subject is still a secret, the acting will be very easy and the best performance will be used. For more information e-mail info@scubavision.info or call 786-2844

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

PROPERTY, Sales & rentals

CARIBBEAN COURT APARTMENT FOR RENT- Large 118m² 1-bedroom apartment. Penthouse, fully furnished, large bedroom, loft style dining/living room area, fully equipped, 2 balconies, Air conditioning throughout, very breezy. NAf1100 per month, cable TV (with TV set) included, utilities extra.. Contact Anja at Sunbelt 717-6560 or Catherine at 791-6777. Available June 1.

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. **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



DOG TRAINING CLASSES

Dog training classes by Elly Albers will begin soon. Sign up before May 15. **786-5161**

Pet of the Week

Looking for a sweet, gentle dog that's smart and easy to train? "Audrey," our featured pet is the one. She's easy going, social and tuned into everything going on around her. She's about eight months old and was found wandering the streets of Nikiboko, looking for a place to call home. Since she's been to the Bonaire Animal Shelter she's impressed the staff with her good character and how well she gets along with everyone. She's short, sturdy and has the sweetest face. The vet has given her a clean bill of health; she's had her shots and tests and is ready for adoption by a loving owner. Visit the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Telephone 717-4989.

If you'd like to learn more about the Shelter and its activities, log onto the website: www.bonaireanimalshelter.org. It's a totally up-to-date, well organized site hosted by two very valuable Shelter volunteers, Bea and Marvin Jones of Colorado. We can thank them for getting the Shelter message out to the world! □ L.D.



Audrey



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

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



Airport:
Car Rental Agencies, Airport Arrivals Area

Banks:
MCB (Playa & Hato branches), RBTT

Restaurants:
Bistro de Paris
Brasserie Bonaire
Capriccio
Chez Lucille
City Cafe
Croccantino
Wil's Tropical Grill
Garden Café
Kentucky Fried
Chicken
Lost Penguin
Lover's Ice Cream
Pasa Bon Pizza
Seahorse Cyber Café
Subway

Shops:
Bonaire Gift Shop
City Shop

DeFreewieler
INPO
Paradise Photo
Photo Tours, Playa
Exito Bakery
Bonaire Super Store (old 7-7)

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

Supermarkets:
Cultimara
Consaes
More for Less
Progresso
Sand Dollar Grocery
Tropical Flamingo
Warehouse

Others:
Bonfysio
Botika Korona
Bestuurscollege
Caribbean Laundry
Customs
Fit 4 Life
Hair Affair
Harbour Village Marina
Parliament
Rocargo
San Francisco Hospital
TCB
Telbo

Bookstores:
Bonaire Boekhandel,
Flamingo Bookstore

Realty Offices:
Harbourtown
Re/Max
Sunbelt

RINCON:
Chinese Store,
Joi Fruit Store,
Lemari Grocery
Rincon Bakery.

Still can't find a copy? Visit our office at Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6 or Call 717-8988

Divi Before, After and Now



Divi Photo

The Divi Flamingo resort dive dock #2 before Hurricane Ivan

Last week during a celebratory party for guests and staff of the Divi Flamingo, the Divi Dive Dock #2 was officially open. This new structure, with lighting, rinse tanks, lockers and boat docking, replaced the old one that was destroyed from the swells of Hurricane Ivan's high seas on September 7, 2004. In addition to what's seen in the photo there will be tables, benches and sunroofs. The completion of the dock was delayed due to so much bad weather in November and the seas coming all the way up to the walls of the dive shop onto the shore.

Serge DeGroot, head of Divi Dive Operations, is proud to say that the work was done totally by the Divi maintenance staff, many of whom got their open water certification before working on the project. So not only is there a new building, but the resort now has a team of underwater maintenance men: Philip, Nilo, Rupert and Elmer.



Divi Photo

The Divi Flamingo resort dock #2 after Hurricane Ivan



The Divi Flamingo resort dock #2 now

Currently, Divi has the largest fleet of dive boats in Bonaire, five boats, carrying up to 90 people.

Next on the hotel's remodeling agenda is the large meeting room and the dive shop itself. □L.D.



Dive Manager Serge DeGroot cuts the ribbon, officially opening the new dive dock



Serge with some of the Divi staff that rebuilt the dive dock #2. Four of them are now open water divers.

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Wannadive Bonaire Digs Its Own Cave!

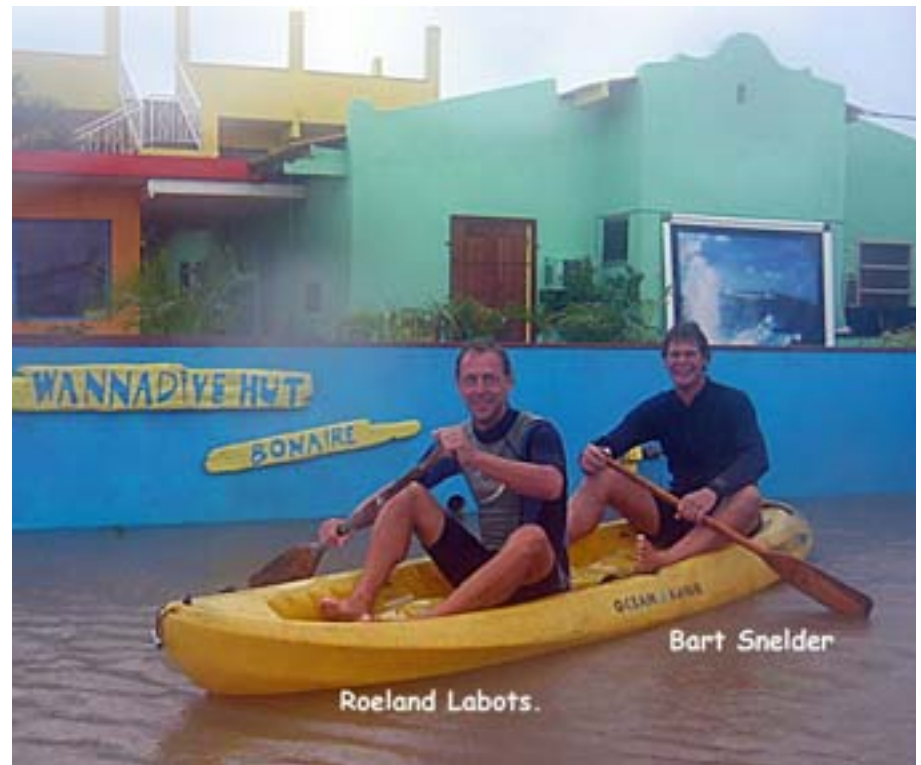


Bart Snelder at the controls of the cave digger

After the huge success of programs such as fresh water snorkeling and fresh water kayaking (reported in the April 1, 2004, edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*) Wannadive knew: Fresh water activities are here to stay. The problem is that fresh water is only available during the short rainy season.

Enter our own fresh water cave!

Based on our past explorations we knew that Bonaire has a huge fresh water reservoir that floats on salt water in natural caves under most of the island. The problem was that most of these caves are justly protected for their natural beauty and the preservation of our fragile bat population, and entering is restrictive or difficult. So we at Wannadive decided to dig one ourselves next to our hotel, the Wannadive Hut!



Wanna Dive owners on the move

The advantages are numerous. We can create it at our own specifications, regarding depth, size and accessibility.

Says Wanna Dive co-owner, Roeland Labots: "It is awesome. We can now offer fresh water activities year round in stable conditions. We plan to give cave diving courses as well as snorkeling tours." Adds his partner, Bart Snelder: "We do not have to go to Yucatan or Florida anymore to dive in caves. We now have our own, right next door."

The problem was the prohibitive cost, but Wannadive found a remarkable machine that is able to do the job at reasonable rates. (The machine was on display at the corner of Kaya Niagara, off Kaya Gob. Debrot at press time.) In the picture at left you see some eager divers ready to have a first glance at the result.

For more information

Please call 1- 800-caveman

Or contact your activity desk. □

Text and photos -Bartman

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mother's Day Dinner At Croccantino Sunday, May 8

Enjoy a sumptuous 4-course Special Mother's Day Dinner at Croccantino Restaurant, prepared by Tuscan Chef David. Includes a free glass of Spumante.

Appetizer-Choice of Tuscan soup or Mixed Fresh Salad

Pasta Course -Pasta Putanesca

Entrée-Choice of Fish or Meat

Dessert-Tiramisu

Price is \$25 (NA \$42,50) Call for reservations 717-5025.



and what's coming . . .

Saturday, 21 May- Clean-up Dive with BBQ and Latin Jazz at Yellow Submarine

Several times a year Yellow Submarine and Photo Tours, together with Nettech, organize a clean-up dive. This dive always includes a free tank for the dive. Afterwards there is a free BBQ at Yellow Submarine. Yellow Submarine and Photo Tours are official sponsors of the Jazz Festival. The clean-up dive will take place during the Festival. That is why there will be live Latin jazz during the BBQ. Briefing will start at 1 pm at Yellow Submarine. The clean up will probably be at the town pier from 2 until 3:30 pm. Music and BBQ start at 5pm. □



WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm

**Miss Congeniality 2:
Armed and Fabulous
(Sandra Bullock)**

Early Show (usually 7pm)

Hitch

**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
Robots**

THIS WEEK

Saturday, May 7—Rincon Marshé in the center of Rincon-food, drinks, gifts, crafts, music, friendliest people on the island 6 am to 4 pm

Sunday, May 8—Mother's Day - Special 4-course meal at Croccantino Restaurant 717-5025.

Wednesday, May 11-Bonaire Culinary team serves "Competition" dinner, Blue Moon Restaurant, 7 pm. Donation: NAf50 includes 3-course meal, wine, taste of competition cocktails. Reservations: Laura at 717-8988, 791-7252 or Sara 786-9299.

COMING

May 15th to the 22nd - 3rd Annual King of the Caribbean at Lac Bay. Freestyle Windsurfing Competition Pro and amateur races in Lac Bay. The event will kick off the 2005 PWA Freestyle Tour. For info, see www.pwaworldtour.com or www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com More on page 9.

May 15-22 Bonaire Beach & Culture Week

Sunday, May 22—C-Run 2/4/5 km. 7:30 am. Sponsored by COM-CABON. More information call 717-8629, 780-7225.

Wednesday, May 25—Bonaire Culinary team serves "Competition" dinner, Blue Moon Restaurant, 7 pm. Donation: NAf50 includes 3-course meal, wine, taste of competition cocktails. Reservations: Laura at 717-8988, 791-7252 or Sara 786-9299

OCTOBER 2005

The International Bonaire Sailing Regatta October 9 – 15, 2005.

EVERY WEEK

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

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

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:
Hitch



"VERY FUNNY!" □ Dodo

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

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 (**no show May (—back on the 16th)**). Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30–9:30pm.

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

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

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

Darts Club plays every **other Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

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,

BONAIRE JAZZ FESTIVAL

MAY 20-21-22, 2005

May 19 to 22
Bonaire-Harbourtown
JAZZ FESTIVAL
(more on page 7)

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

Kaya International, every **other Tuesday**, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every **2nd and 4th 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 .

DINING GUIDE See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Brasserie Bonaire Royal Palm Galleries Kaya Grandi 26, Next to Re/Max, 717-4321	Low-Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday and Monday	Lots of parking in big mall lot The place for a Quick Lunch and a Cozy Dinner Breezy terrace with a/c inside
Caribbean Club Bonaire On the Tourist Road 2 mi. north of Town 717-7901	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Quiet country setting, lovely landscaping, friendly staff Happy Hour from 5-7 pm Gourmet chef creates unique daily specials
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar 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 highest standard of cuisine.
Crocantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes. 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.
Garden Café Kaya Grandi 59 717-3410	Moderate Monday-Friday, Lunch & Dinner Saturday, Dinner. Closed Sunday	Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties. Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and Latin Parilla
The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open 7 days	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Cuban Chef prepares Caribbean cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 am to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
The Last Bite Bakery Home Delivery or Take Out 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers gourmet class items -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The Lost Penguin 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 Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
Pasa Bon Pizza 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 Real Thing! 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.

Yellow Submarine—low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.

FITNESS

Bonfysio offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals.

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

The Bonaire Gift Shop has a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

HOTELS

Golden Reef Inn is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk to diving and the sea.

The Great Escape

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

METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

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

PHOTO FINISHING

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

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

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

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

REPAIRS

Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345

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.

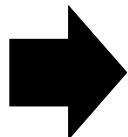
WINES

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



Mother's Day is THIS Sunday 8 May.

BE GOOD TO MOM!

Born on Bonaire....

Margarita Djojopawiro-Winklaar

"When the parents get impatient and ask me, 'When is the baby going to come?' I always answer, 'A mango doesn't fall from the tree until it's ripe. The child will come on its own time. Have patience!'" *She laughs. A big beautiful smile. Margarita Djojopawiro-Winklaar is Bonaire's sole midwife, the one and only for 30 years. She has delivered 3,000 babies on the island and still she finds:* "The moment I hold the baby in my hands is the most beautiful feeling of it all. If someone had told me that I would be doing this for 30 years I would have said, 'That long! I'll never make it!' But looking back I feel that the time has flown. It's been worth it, without any doubt I can say now that I've been doing what I like best.

I was born June 10th 1948, in the old hospital in Playa, where the Cas di Sosiego is now. I grew up in Rincon, went to Lourdes MULO in Playa and when I was 18 I left for Holland to complete my studies. Except for a friend who knew the director of a hospital in the South of Holland, I didn't know anybody there, and I had never been in Holland before. It was November 11th and it was raining when I arrived. I thought: 'How nice, rain!' But when it didn't stop raining for days I found out that things were not the same as on Bonaire. I was terribly homesick, cried my eyes out for one whole day! After that I was okay; it never bothered me again.

In the hospital I started working and studying to become a nurse. It wasn't what I had dreamt about when I was still at MULO on Bonaire. My dream had always been to become a doctor, but as it was impossible to get a scholarship, I settled for things as they were. During the training it appeared that the lessons were in fact too easy for me. The director of the hospital told our mutual friend: 'That girl doesn't belong here! She's far too smart. She should be in a university!' They wanted me to become a professor, but there was no possibility at the time to teach in the Antilles and I never planned on staying in Holland. I wanted to go back to Bonaire as soon as I could.

After three years I returned to Bonaire to visit my parents for their 25th wedding anniversary. But first I went to Surinam to meet my pen friend, Soeramin Djojopawiro, whom I'd been corresponding with since I was at MULO. He came to Bonaire to meet my parents and together we left for Holland. September 5th 1970 I graduated as a nurse and September 10th I started at the training college for midwives. As it had proven to be financially impossible to become a

doctor, I had decided to become a midwife, to be independent but work for the people."

The bright eyes behind the glasses smile. "Now, after so many years, I know I did the right thing. In my work I am very close to my clients, I go to their houses, I witness their deepest emotions and I listen to their doubts, their worries and their hopes. I think that when you're a doctor the relationship between you and your patients is much more formal in many cases. The training to become a midwife was as easy for me as the one to become a nurse.

The week I was supposed to graduate I heard from the doctor in Bonaire that my father had been operated on and that

"In my work I am very close to my clients, I go to their houses, I witness their deepest emotions and I listen to their doubts, their worries and their hopes. I think that when you're a doctor the relationship between you and your patients is much more formal in many cases."

there was nothing they could do for him any more. Two days before my exams I got the message that he was dying and I left for Bonaire. I didn't make it. My father died July 28th, 1972. I stayed for six weeks, then I went back. I graduated December 15th that year, Soeramin and I got married December 19th, we drove around Holland for a week, and then I thought, 'Let's get out of here!' On December 26th we left Holland for good. That's how I am. I do everything: One, two, three, Ready!" *She roars with laughter.* "Well... before I even passed my exams I'd received a letter from the Bonairean government in which they invited me to come and work for them. So I started working- 50% for the government and 50% for myself. That first year I delivered 50 babies, in people's homes and in the hospital. Only the ones who were referred to the gynecologist in Curaçao I didn't help. At the time I worked together with Dr. Welvaart. Now there are several doctors who do deliveries, so when I am not on the island Dr. Lont takes my place, but she only does deliveries at the hospital. We are re-organizing the obstetric care on the island so that everybody knows which doctors are available. In the end we want to have a team of obstetricians that everyone can count on.

My whole personal life has always been planned around the deliveries. You know, more or less, the time the baby is supposed to come, but pregnant women have a mind of their own. Many times I told a client, 'I'm going off the island for a couple of days, but everything is arranged with the doctor and the hospital.' The night before I leave I get their

call, 'Margarita, it has started!' Or they hold on until the very moment that I come back! This odd behavior has been proven to be a fact over the years! Birth is a natural thing and the one who is guiding it should keep it normal. In the old days there was a lot more to explain; now everyone can see it all on TV. I have never had an expectant father who fainted. When the moment is there and the child is about to come I see those fathers so amazed, so inspired by the birth that their mind is completely with the mother and the baby and not with themselves. The most difficult thing, the worst that can happen, is when you have to tell a mother that her baby has died. There's nothing to be done about that. It happens. We've been taught that statistically a certain percentage won't make it. There are defects, diseases and cases you can't do anything about. Not all babies live." *She puts her small, strong hands on the table and says quietly,* "Although it's very difficult, one has to be realistic. If you realize what can happen, you won't lose your head if it happens to you. For me as a Catholic there is always hope. It can be that bad, but in the end everything will turn out right. My faith is my life, my motive and my joy. It's all I live for.

We have three children ourselves, three boys. Igemar, who is 24 years old, studies informatics, mathematics. Daryl, who's 20, is studying to become a chemist and Kamal, who's 19, studies at MTS (Secondary Technical School). The two eldest are living in Holland, Kamal in Curaçao. When you live on this island you know from the beginning that at a certain time your children have to go away to complete their education. If you keep on realizing that it is not so hard when the time comes. I find that more parents should take that into consideration so it won't come to them as a blow when the moment is there. During the years I've been working I



Margarita Djojopawiro-Winklaar

have had an average of 90 to 100 births a year and that was just enough to keep the balance between my private life and my profession. I never stopped working. For a long time I've been a mother, a wife and a midwife at the same time. I've got patience. The baby comes whenever it wants to come and I got used to that.

For 30 years my life has been this way. One time I was at a party during carnival, all dressed up, with make-up and full of glitters when I got a call. The woman who gave birth that night talked for a long time about the way I looked when I arrived! They've called me when I was swimming and another time I delivered a baby of an American tourist at Capt. Don's Habitat. I delivered one on a yacht in the marina and once, when I was having guests for Christmas, we all went to church for the midnight mass. I got the call the moment the priest walked to the altar. After the baby was born, a boy, I went back to church, just in time to receive the last blessing. That Christmas I won't forget. To me it was a beautiful experience to bring a child into the world on Christmas night. Sometimes I think the time has come to stop working, but we'll see. To help a woman give birth can be very tiresome, especially the waiting, but when the crucial moment is there, I always feel this tremendous energy. Life is always beautiful. It hasn't been easy through all these years, but you have to be realistic and honest. When you know what you're living for, there is no fear of death. My faith in God keeps me going. Without His help, I would not have continued. He is my support and my trust." □ Greta Kooistra

First published in *The Reporter* in December 2002



Greta Kooistra

Action Capital (Continued from page 13)
 ested observer of nature to a self educated naturalist. My quest to know how and why natural behaviors have evolved has prompted me to research published reference material and seek the aid of trained, professional specialists of many disciplines. This process started years ago with casual on-site field observation and continues today with documentation in print and photography. My wonder about the answers that are uncovered has prompted me to share the process and the experience.

But now, here I am on Bonaire, the tranquil “Shore Diving” Mecca in the southern Caribbean.

Is it possible to make a valid comparison of a sensational dive experience at a destination in the western Pacific that required 24 hours of flying time, \$10,000 of travel expense, a one-year advance reservation for my chosen charter live-aboard vessel, with the same exhilarating experience here, at my new home on Bonaire, only a two-hour flight from Miami (*if we had direct airlift. Ed.*)?

For me it’s surprisingly unexpected but true. What I have recently experienced at Action Capital has transported me back to those memorable, action packed dives at Blue Corner. It filled me with such pleasure that I wanted to terminate my dive after only 13 minutes; get to the shore, change my air bottle, wait for sufficient surface interval, and go back for more. That is rare for me, since I usually spend 70 to 90 minutes on each dive to explore the marine environment for new experiences.

Fishermen have long known that there are places under the sea that attract congregations of fish. Old timers refer to them as their “secret spots.” Modern sport fishermen chart them with GPS coordinates and advanced depth sounding equipment ready to return at every opportunity. Sometimes they are natural formations such as shallow reefs or coral pinnacles rising from the ocean floor. Others are wreck sites that are a haven for schools of bait fish hunted by undersea predators.

Action Capital is what seasoned divers live for. Clear warm water, a gently sloping reef festooned with colorful soft coral gardens, huge mountainous star coral formations in the background and an overhanging cavern with black coral trees as a visual frame. There are several thousand schooling bait fish swirling in a never ending ballet trying to avoid the inevitable attack of hungry Horse Eye Jacks patrolling their perimeter. All of this is available from your car or jeep, as a shore dive and welcome break, during a daylong excursion into a wonderland of naturally preserved terrain, unlike any other place on earth.

We enter the water from a secluded beach of pink speckled sand and coral rubble that has been tumbled and ground smooth by the gentle waves. The only sounds, aside from our excited voices, are the gurgling sea washing the shoreline and the songs of birds

roosting in the nearby bushes. We are gently lifted off our feet by the surge. The sea has freed us from earthbound gravity and the heavy load of our dive gear. As we are bathed in the bright midday sun, the surface swim to the drop-off takes us over the sandy bottom of the bay surrounded by the crystal clear turquoise blue water that entices visitors to this tranquil island paradise just 12° above the equator.

My companions signal their eagerness to drop to the reef below, and we start our dive together. The first thing we notice is the utter silence of the underwater world broken only by the rhythmic sound of our breathing. As we advance into a very mild current we are stunned by the sheer beauty of the reef slope with hundreds of undulating sea fans and soft corals in shapes and colors only nature can fabricate. The folds, curves and bumps on the seafloor are a welcome contrast to the sharp rocks and spiny cactus we have seen all morning. Continuous visions arouse our senses and keep us focused in this liquid environment. Tropical fish of every species surround us.

As we reach a point we encounter a noticeable change in the reef population and get our first glimpse of Action Capital. It is a magical place. Prey and predator are locked in a dance of life and death. A swift brigade of Horse-Eye Jacks, several Tuna and a lone Great Barracuda are circling a nervous mass of Boga and Creole Wrasse. The attack is lightening fast. The large school rushes out in all directions and we feel a wave of water overtake us as a blur of silver bodies shoots past. In a few moments, just enough for us to catch our breaths, the bait fish reorganize and the patrolling squadron of hungry killers starts the round-up again. They move around in an ever decreasing circle, condensing the living ball of fish into a black cloud.

This behavior, by two natural, interacting groups of individuals, has been rehearsed and played over and over again for eons. It has been practiced, refined, and adapted to all the different environments on earth by prey and predator alike. Prides of lions and tigers and packs of wild dogs and hyenas organize themselves and use the same method to surround, intimidate, separate and capture a single wildebeest from a great herd on the plains of the Serengeti in Africa. Wolves, foxes and coyotes, in all locations throughout the world, attack the domestic herds of cattle, sheep and other animals in a similar fashion.

The marine environment affords the diver a unique opportunity as an individual to observe and enter into the scene with relative ease. The prey, on the alert and organized in their great numbers, accept the presence of a



Susie among the fish at “Action Capital”

slowly approaching diver and will actually open their ranks and permit you to go inside the protective confines of their enclosure. The predators, focused on the target and circling the perimeter, are little or no threat to the human intrusion. As divers, we are free from gravity and can adjust our position, with little effort, to monitor the ebb and flow of the action as nowhere else on the planet.

Anyone, in reasonable good health and physical condition, can join this pursuit of knowledge and participate in the communal understanding of our natural environment. The only criterion is your desire.

You may also join us in our passionate pursuit as we begin a naturalist series of memorable encounters. □

© Albert Bianculli- stories and photos

Free Multi-Media Show Every Sunday
Bonaire Holiday Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don’s Habitat. Windjammer photos, old and new are featured. □



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Arc to Arcturus, Then Speed on to Spica, An Easy Way to Find Two Wonderful Stars by Using the Big Dipper

You know spring time is always a good time to play the old "Big Dipper, follow the arc to Arcturus, then speed on to Spica" game which is simply the easiest way to find two of the most wonderful stars of spring. Let me show you.



During the first two weeks of May, around 9 to 10 pm Sky Park

Time face due north where you'll see the Big Dipper almost directly above the North Star, its cup pointed down in such a way that if it were filled full of water the water would be pouring out directly on to the ground below. And, as always, if we shoot an arrow through the two end stars in the cup about five and a half times the distance between them, we always land smack dab on the North Star. About the easiest way to find it I can imagine.

But aside from using the cup as an easy way to find the North Star, we can use its handle to find two even more wonderful stars. Simply draw an imaginary line through the handle of the Big Dipper and extend it in the same curve or arc and you'll arc to the bright star Arcturus. Then, if you extend that arc from Arcturus, you can speed on to Spica, the brightest star of **Virgo the Virgin**. Once again, using the handle and its curve, arc to Arcturus then speed on to Spica. Now brighter Arcturus is relatively close, only 35 light years away, which means we actually see the light that left it 35 years ago, whereas Spica is almost eight times farther away than Arcturus, 260 light years away, which means we see the light that left it 260 years ago.

And while Spica is a whopping eight times as wide as our Sun, Arcturus is a staggering 21 times as wide. But size isn't everything because even though Arcturus is much, much larger than Spica, it is a much, much cooler star with a surface temperature of only 9,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Spica, on the other hand, has a surface temperature of 46,000 degrees, which actually makes Spica 20 times intrinsically brighter than much bigger Arcturus. The reason Spica doesn't look as bright is because it is so much farther away.

But the really mind boggling thing about these two stars is their incredible speed in relation to our **Earth**. You see, while more distant Spica is flying away from us at a speed of 2,000 miles per hour, Arcturus is actually racing toward us at the incredible speed of 12,000 miles per hour, so fast that Arcturus will eventually pass us in several thousand years. In fact in a few hundred thousand years Arcturus will no longer be visible to the naked eye.

So before it's too late, see it now. Remember, find the Big Dipper first, arc to Arcturus then speed on to Spica. And by the way, as an added treat this year you'll see the super bright, biggest planet **Jupiter** parked right above Spica. Wow! What could be easier and more fun? □

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
May 6 to May 13, 2005
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your tendency to vacillate will drive everyone crazy. You must not make unnecessary changes this week. Don't let your partner goad you into wearing your heart on your sleeve. You're in the mood to party. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Enjoy taking courses or lecturing others. Try to deal with it quickly; don't dwell on past regrets. Spend time with youngsters this week. If you are in the midst of a financial deal, this is your lucky time. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your involvement in sports or entertainment will lead to new romances. Be professional, and you will advance much more quickly. Your personal life is going through a state of confusion. You will be emotional about money matters. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You can spend a passionate evening with someone you cherish if you make your plans early. If it can make you extra cash, it will be even better. You are best to do something energetic with friends instead. Take the whole family and make it an enjoyable outing. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Changes in your home will be positive. Property investments should pay off. Make sure that you have covered yourself legally and try not to let your temper get out of hand. Try not to hesitate; act on your initial instincts. Your ability to organize and get everyone together will enhance your popularity and bring interest from potential mates. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Digestive disorders will be a result of family squabbles. Time is money and you must be ready to take action in order to reach your highest potential. Problems with fire, gas or oil may cause disruptions and annoyances. Your ability to ferret out secret information will lead you to an inside scoop on an amazing financial deal. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't start any arguments unless you're prepared to accept irrevocable results. Listen to the complaints of others. Plan a nice evening for two. Overindulgence will be a problem if you are out in a social setting. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Make a point of working on yourself. Do things because you want to, not because someone else thinks you should. Attend to things that you should have done yesterday. Your mate will be pushing you to do things that you really don't want to do. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Tempers will mount if you are too pushy at work. You can win points with children if you take the time to show interest in their accomplishments. Go out with friends. You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will be a real chatterbox this week. Your best efforts will come through hard work. You would be best to work late in order to avoid such disharmony. Your nerves are frazzled. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try not to donate to organizations if you can hardly afford to take care of yourself. Visitors may relieve the tension. Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative. You will be viewed as a sensitive, compassionate individual and others will ask you for advice. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your courage and willpower will enable you to get rid of destructive habits as well. Enjoy the company of relatives this week. Try to visit a country that excites you. Listen to a good friend who is truly looking out for your best interests. Your lucky day this week will be Friday. □