

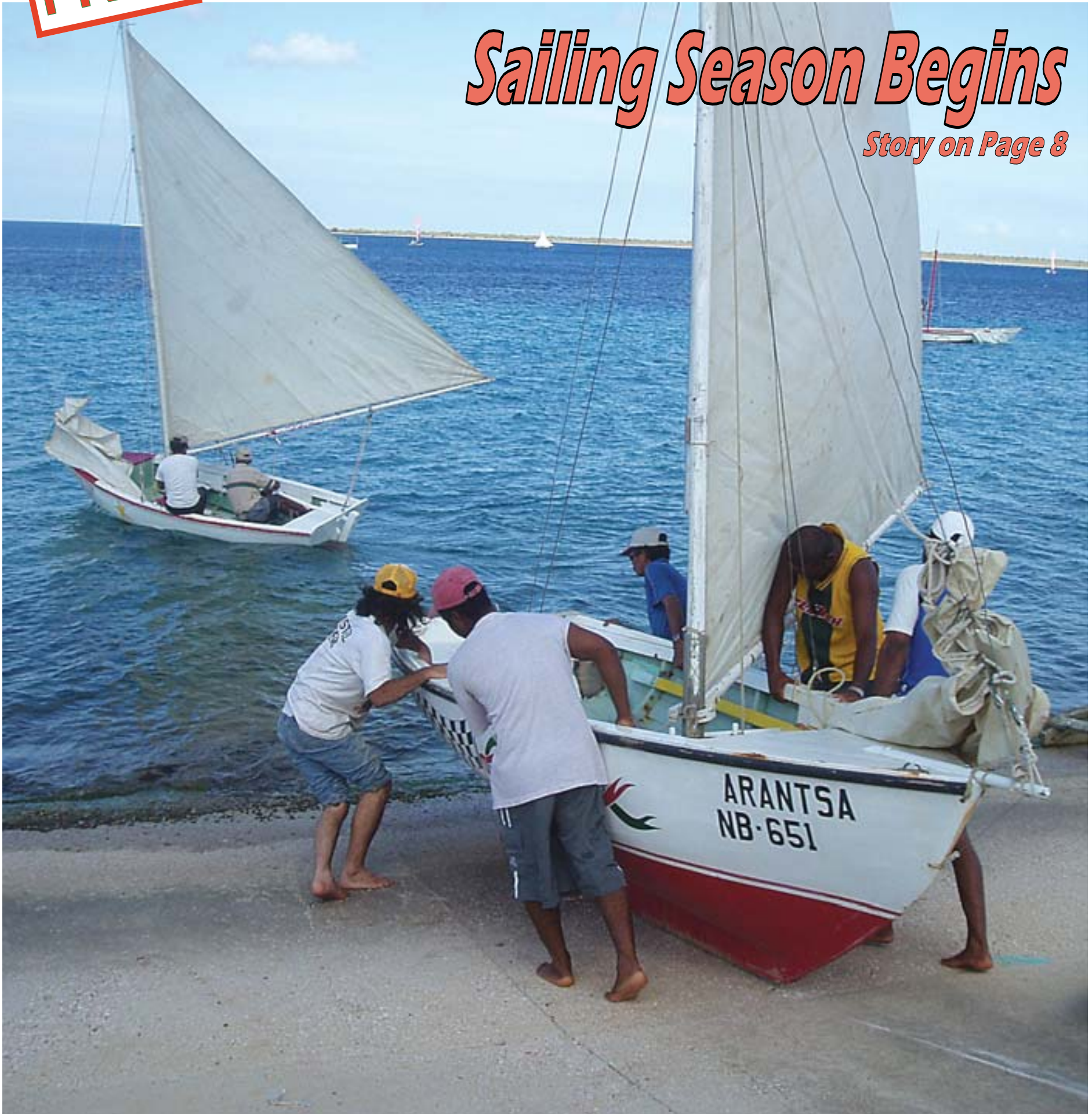
**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

August 19 to September 9, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 32

The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

Sailing Season Begins

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START AN NGO

**Make Bonaire a
Better Place**

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FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

As published several weeks ago in *The Reporter*, **BonairExpress** and **CuraçaoExpress**, the airlines that currently connect the larger Antilles islands, **will be renamed at the end of this month**. Director Floris van Pallandt wouldn't announce the new name of the airline, which is appearing on the Travelocity website as **Eco Air**, but he confirmed reports that the names BonairExpress and CuraçaoExpress would go. The orange and blue livery will be replaced by an all-white motif with the new logo on the tail.

Van Pallandt, a former top official at KLM and other airlines, took over management this past April. He said he was "very satisfied" with performance during the summer. He said his airline was on time 89% of the time in July, which he labeled "very good." He congratulated his staff, of which he said he was "very proud." He added that "slowly, but surely" the airline was starting to expand with one extra Curaçao-Bonaire and one additional Curaçao-Aruba flight which connects to a Delta flight to America and a flight to Brazil. The airline plans to open a call center in Bonaire on September 1. BonairExpress fares to neighboring islands were raised recently.



Ronella Croes

► Head of the TCB (Tourist Corporation Bonaire), Ronella Croes, is making **progress in providing accurate and timely tourism statistics**. She reported that the delay in providing the numbers was due to a seven-month backlog to be processed when she took over the position last January. The TCB had been functioning without a formal chief for several years.

Under a new system, arrival statistics are to be available at the end of every month. Only February and March '05 need to be integrated and then an assurance check that the numbers are correct will be done. She hopes to be able to release the statistics for tourist arrivals soon.

► **Continental Airlines has announced that its continental.com web site is generating record sales volume** for the airline, recently setting a single-day sales record and achieving record sales volume of \$2 billion last year. More than 30% of Continental's domestic tickets are sold on continental.com. Its flights to Bonaire, which begin in December, are already heavily booked.



Air Jamaica's hub at Montego Bay

► **Air Jamaica**, which industry insiders say now faces an estimated 25% reduction in passenger load, will, within months, **experience even more severe competition**. Air Jamaica provides an important link for Bonaire-bound US based tourists with its Saturday flight through Montego Bay.

Arch rival American Airlines is now adding more capacity on the Jamaican routes, travel sources have told the Jamaican newspaper *Business Observer*. There is a significant price differential between Air Jamaica and other airlines that provide service on key routes. In November low air priced service from Spirit Airlines will begin. Air Jamaica, under government control since December last year, lost over US\$60 million during the first five months of this year.

► On August 7, Venezuelan President **Hugo Chávez formally suspended cooperation with the US Drug Enforcement Agency**, accusing its agents of espionage. There is also friction between the Antillean Central Government and Venezuela over visits of US ships to Curaçao and ex-minister Errol Cova's volatile pro-Chávez statements. One source told *The Reporter* that the recent "security crackdown" at BOPEC, that restricts diving on the Windjammer wreck, is politically motivated and comes straight from the nationalized oil company's (PEDVESA) main office. PEDVESA operates the BOPEC oil terminal on the northwest shore of Bonaire,

► Dissatisfied with the progress being made towards the restructuring of the Antilles, **officials from Saba did the almost unthinkable: they visited the United Nations' Chief of the Department of Political Affairs' Decolonisation Unit**, Maria Maldonado, and her staff at UN Headquarters in New York last Wednesday. The Dutch Minister for Antillean Affairs, Alexander Pechtold, told Radio Netherlands he was surprised because (like Bonaire) Saba voted for close ties with the Netherlands.

The Minister added that he planned to discuss the reform of the constitutional relationships within the Kingdom in separate meetings with the five islands of the Netherlands Antilles. He denied holding up the process of constitutional change by wanting to talk about financial relations and good governance first.

Pechtold said he could understand the concern from the governments of Saba and the other smaller islands that the Dutch Government only wanted to deal with the Central Government. He said the islands' situations required an individual approach.

Observers commented that this was the clearest declaration of Dutch intentions toward the restructuring process and contradicted some earlier statements. The next steps towards restructuring will be round table talks, probably in Sint Maarten, on August 25 and 26.

► The inspection report about conditions at Curaçao's St. Elizabeth's Hospital (Sehos) still has not been made public. **According to accounts, the conclusions of the inspection are devastating**. The hospital is coping with all sorts of problems: conflicts between the specialists and the management and the committee, significant antiquated infrastructure, money problems, and antiquated administration. According to the specialists, there have been deaths due to all these problems. That antiquated infrastructure combined with money problems are most probably the cause of *pseudomonas* bacteria in the water pipes. This bacterium is dangerous for weak patients because it is immune to antibiotics. The hospital confirmed the presence of the bacteria but also said that the problem has been solved.

Sehos is Bonaire's primary care facility for serious illnesses.

► **Market protection costs each resident of Curaçao and Bonaire NAf100 a month**, stated Economic Affairs Minister Alex Rosaria. A calculation using the figure provided by the Minister means that Bonaireans were paying NAf1,440,000 annually to support Curaçao protected industries

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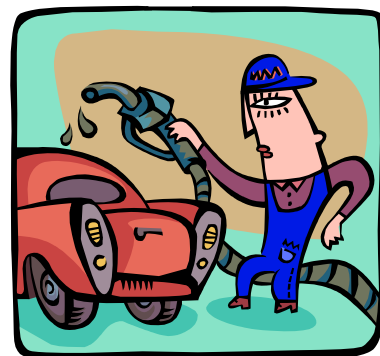
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racao's Amstel brewery was denied continued protection.

Market protection has been being phased out over the past few years, and some Curaçao businesses that were previously protected are failing because of the lower cost and better quality of imported products. Most consumers are

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Consumer Alert

The *Bonaire Reporter* has received phone calls recently from people getting cheated by some of the people pumping gas at the local filling stations. Following up, we were surprised to find out that most of the people we interviewed had their own story of filling station rip offs or attempts to cheat them.

These actions involved duplicate credit card billing from the "auto pump," being charged more than shown on the pump meter—the attendant blocks the view of the pump meter, incorrect change being given, dispute over the denomination of the bill presented after being given incorrect change. Three of Bonaire's four filling stations were accused (Rincon excepted).

To safeguard yourself ask for receipts, call the cashier's attention to the denomination of the bill presented, count change and verify amounts on the meter.

like paint and beverages. Recently Cu-

(Continued on page 3)



► Four of these SGB hotel school students will be chosen to go to the Emilia Romagna region in Italy to study culinary arts for four weeks in October. The girls did a professional job of serving at a fund raiser for the Italian study program last week. Their names are: Minosca Mercera, Angel Albertus, Mariana Cicilia, Gianna Martines, Danuska Craane, Shakira Matthew.

pleased that they are no longer captive to inferior Antillean products because of price constraints. Minister Rosaria considers removal of market protection was a step in fighting poverty in the Antilles.

► Twelve new doctors-to-be were graduated during Xavier University School of Medicine's fourth White Coat Ceremony at the Plaza on Friday night. Completing the Basic Sciences program qualifies them to enter Clinical Studies in the US and become eligible to take the US State Medical Licensing Examination. The ceremony, perhaps XUSOM's final one on Bonaire, was attended by well over a hundred people.

Despite the good humor that sparked the evening, the imminent relocation of XUSOM to Aruba cast a long shadow over the event. In his welcoming address Dr. Cecil Bennett, president of XUSOM, lauded Bonaire as a good site for the medical school and declared his intention to restart the school on Bonaire—if it gets accreditation from the government.

Keynote speaker, Lt. Governor Domacassé, assured the audience that every effort would be made to bring XUSOM back, and Education Commissioner Geraldine Dammers, confirmed those intentions. The exact reasons for the failure to grant XUSOM formal and permanent accreditation were unclear.

► Last week Bonaire's drug-interdiction "Flamingo Team" put an end to one of the most callous and depraved actions to ever take place on the island. They intercepted two Curaçao children who had been required to swallow cocaine-filled "bolitas" before flying to Holland. The 12-year old girl swallowed 63 bolitas, about 440 grams. The 13-year old boy had 57 bolitas in his stomach, about 470 grams. A suspicious member of the Team asked the children if they had swallowed anything. They admitted gagging down 120 cocaine-filled condoms to satisfy their mother's lust for the money it would bring. If just one of the bags broke during the long flight to Schiphol the child would have died a horrible death. After safely passing the bolitas in the hospital, the children were taken to a secure confidential location

in Curaçao. According to reports, the children had actually been successful in transporting bolitas from Curaçao once before.

The mother, S.K. (34), is a twice-convicted drug smuggler who had her passport taken away for trafficking at the beginning of this year. The mother's 19-year-old companion was also arrested. Public Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius plans to ask for a long jail term for the mother. According to him about 90% of the drug couriers caught in Bonaire originate in Curaçao.

► The "Social Education Duty" pilot project in Bonaire is off to a good start, reported project manager Roldando Pourier. Thirty-four youngsters between 16 and 24 years who dropped out of school and have no jobs are studying become general maintenance workers (handymen), activity personnel or hotel, bar and restaurant assistants. Satisfactory completion in the program or its equivalent is a pre-requisite for entry into Holland under Rita Verdonk's new admission legislation directed at Antilleans.

► The badly decomposed partial remains of a diver and his dive gear were found by the crew of the visiting yacht *Blue Star* at a depth of 58 meters (198') near the Harbour Village Hotel over the weekend. Five years ago two divers, in separate incidents, disappeared in the area and the remains are thought to be one of them. Positive identification may be possible when the serial number from the "dive tag," the

token of admission to the Bonaire Marine Park, which was attached to the BC, is compared with records. At this time the remains are thought to be those of Vlada Stojanovic, 24, a resident of Belgium.

The crew of the megayacht *Blue Star*, who assisted in the recovery, were presented with a Community Appreciation Award by Island Officials.

► The Marine Park Ordinance of 1991 was recently amended to make provision for a "one-day" \$10 (NAf17,50) dive tag. From 1991 until this year "admission" to the Bonaire Marine Park cost \$10 a year, with 100% of that fee going to the Marine Park. Early this year the annual fee jumped to \$25, which included free admission to the Washington-Slagbaai National Park (usually \$10). With the revision a person who dives for a single day now doesn't have to buy an annual \$25, just a one-day tag for \$10. This will be especially advantageous for cruise ship visitors.

► Bonaire, with its many fine restaurants, is at the forefront of the new wave of tourists seeking excellent food and drink. According to research by the US National Restaurant Association, "Culinary Tourism" is a new travel trend attracting people who want to explore food and drink as well as destination options. "Culinary tourism is an emerging concept and builds on the idea that visitors can experience other cultures through food and beverages."

► Good news for Bonaire's new emphasis in attracting American travelers: The US Department of Commerce

(Continued on page 4)

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)

reported new records for US outbound travel in 2004. Last year, 61.8 million US travelers went abroad, surpassing the previous record of 61.3 million set in 2000. It is also the first year of growth for US southbound travel since 2000 and the first year of double-digit growth since 1995.

► According to an upcoming survey report to be published in *The Reporter*, the Internet is becoming the Bonaire visitors' favorite way to book. This is in line with trends reported by Feedback Research, a division of the Claria Corporation (www.claria.com), a leader in online behavioral marketing. **They found that 88% of survey respondents who went or were planning to go on summer vacation use the Internet to research and/or purchase their summer vacation arrangements.**

► **The Bonaire Reporter will not be published for the next two weeks** to give the staff some vacation time. This is in line with its policy of producing 48 issues each year. The office will be closed and no customer or on-line support will be available. **The next issue is scheduled to be available on Wednesday, September 7.** Advertising closes Saturday, September 2.

► This week's **Benetton models from Jong Bonaire** are Marino Leonicia, Miangela Semeleer and Joemy Ribardo. The Benetton ad is on page 10.

G./L.D

STINAPA Rangers Get Police Training Certification



Graduates of police training are joined by officials from Professional Security Services at left and Prosecutor Wesselius, Governor Domacassé and Police Chief Daantje at right.

It's been many years in the coming – giving police authority to the rangers of the Marine and Washington-Slagbaai Parks. Until now, if a ranger came upon illegal activity he would have to call the police and wait for them to come to start the proceedings. Last Thursday at Fort Oranje, 10 persons, from STINAPA and DROB, were made official environmental police officers. They can now make arrests, start a case, prosecute – the same as regular police can do. They will not carry guns.

According to the Public Prosecutor, Ernst Wesselius, it was not easy for the students during the six-month training period because they had to take the

training after a full day's work. The classes and training were conducted by ex-police officer, Onny Gonet, director of Professional Security Services, Curaçao. According to Gonet, the students received "practical training in police work." His company has trained people in Aruba, Curaçao and Statia. According to Gonet, he and his associate will be checking in with the new officers during the next two months. AMFO provided financing for the project.

Graduates are Kerenza Rannou, Fernando Simal, Ramon de Leon, Elsmarie Beukenboom, Sixto Trenidad, Edwin Domacassé, Profilio Janga, Clifford Cicilia, George Thode and Peter Montanus from DROB. L.D.



ENVIROWATCH



Last week we reported that sand had been removed illegally from a turtle nesting area beach at Boca Onima.

Two days after the outrage, a group of people from Bonaire, many of them children, demonstrated in Kralendijk

and at the beach to demand the return of the sand. According to one report, "The removal of the sand was authorized by the Public Works Department (DROB) to provide improved drainage in the Rincon area and to gather a supply of sand to be used to fill sandbags to prevent flooding." The demonstration was

organized by Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).

In removing the sand two island ordinances were violated: sand mining, which is prohibited on government land, and destruction of sea turtle nests. STCB is pursuing the matter with the Public Prosecutor. G.D.



Start an NGO

Activities of AMFO and the NGO Platform



You have an idea that can make life better, richer, safer or more fun for people on Bonaire. How can you make it happen?

Of course, you can ask the government to take action. And if it's something that involves a violation of law or the rights of all people, you should get results.

But what if your idea focuses on a special group of people, say school dropouts or the elderly? Or if the idea just relates to an improvement, like what children get to do after school? How can you get started? How can **you** get the money and support to make the idea a reality?

Helping People

Look around Bonaire and you will see that lots of good work is going on and done many times before by people with a vision to help the less fortunate and improve Bonairean life in general. A foundation is the typical way for a group to come together to do a special job that government won't do and indi-

viduals alone can't do. For example: The BSaF Sailing Foundation, FPKD (to assist the handicapped), Jong Bonaire (after-school programs for high schoolers), STINAPA (to protect Bonaire's environment), even the Boy Scouts. In fact there are 90 organizations officially listed in Bonaire alone. These organizations are usually labeled NGOs-Non-Governmental Organizations- because they are doing jobs that some believe could or should be done by government. But they use little, if any, taxpayer money.

Thanks to the generosity of donor organizations, primarily but not always based in Holland, money for worthwhile social and environmental projects is available in Bonaire and the other Antillean islands. Because these donors want to make sure their money is being used properly they prefer to deal with established NGOs.

Start an NGO

You are on track to make your good idea come true if you can start an NGO. But most people can't even imagine

I think I know how to make Bonaire a better place.

If you do too just start here

how to begin. Fortunately, thanks to years of volunteer work of many of our Bonairean neighbors, it is a process that has been refined to be like a cookbook. Just follow the recipe and out will pop a working NGO ready to tackle the challenges that will turn your idea into a reality.

The process begins with the Bonaire NGO Platform, which makes available funding from the Antilles-wide organization, AMFO, (*Antillaanse Medefinancierings Organisatie*) which, in turn gets it from Dutch taxes (about NAf35 million last year), religious organizations, private funds, like the Prince Bernhard fund. Perhaps 80 in all are involved.

You don't even have to be an NGO to receive help, but you do need some recognized status to account for any

money received. But we still focus on setting up an NGO, since it's a proven way to work.

The NGO Platform is divided into eight areas: Sports and Leisure; Socio-Economic; Nature and the Environment; Education and Training; Community Development; Art/Culture; Care and Welfare; Youth and Family. Once you decide where your idea fits you may begin by contacting the coordinator for that area. Call the NGO Platform (information at the end of this article) with your questions and also to get the contact for where your idea fits.

The Steps

But before you do, prepare, get organized. Put down your objectives clearly:

(Continued on page 7)

“I have an idea to help the poor. I want to do something. Where do I start? Can I get help?”

(Helping the Poor. Continued from page 6)

For example: to rebuild a house destroyed by fire; to provide planned parenthood advice; etc. Bring together other people who think like you do. Involving well known citizens would add to your credibility. They may form the heart of your governing board. Can you use the facilities of a *Sentro di Barrio* or a local business for your meetings? Talk to people who have started NGOs or have knowledge of the area you will be working in. Talk to people you meet and ask them what they think of your idea. Go online and “Google” for information. Keep up on the news. And use the press to get your ideas out.

Once you start meetings, keep records. Once money is involved you will have to register at the Notaris. He is expert at setting up NGO non-profit foundations, but you will have to give him the specific details of your NGO so he can prepare your statutes (the constitution of the organization) – its purpose; directors; the rules under which the organization will operate which might include such items as, term length of officers, nomination process, committees, and meetings; officers' responsi-

bilities; monitoring and evaluation etc.; and how to amend the bylaws themselves.

Realization

Some of these steps may take months to perform. You may have setbacks. That is normal. You may get confused about the next steps; you may need seed money to take some steps, like the Notaris paperwork. But keep focused and keep talking to people who may be sympathetic to your cause. The NGO Platform will help if asked. Eventually your NGO will be active and you will be off raising money. Keep in mind raising money is a chore. Even if a 'donation' is made, it is often done with an objective in mind – publicity, advertising or sometimes simply to get good karma. This is critical to understand when you approach a potential sponsor. Why is he donating? What advantages can he obtain? What public relations effect can he receive from the act?

It is equally important to maintain professionalism within the NGO, to build adequate trust with the community, potential sponsor or donor. Trans-



Make a better future for them

parency, accountability, communication etc. should be an integral part of the NGO.

Now get your ideas into action. There are lots of things being done elsewhere in the world to help fight poverty and

improve social conditions or simply make our community more pleasant. Go for it. I wish you success. *G.D.*



AMFO: Kaya Gob. N. Debrot #31, Bonaire. Tel. 717-7776, Fax 717-7779, website: www.samfo.org, email: info-bon@samfo.org



NGO Plataforma Bonaire: *New address as of August 1:* Plaza Terras, Kaya Grandi 23, Rooms E,F,G. Tel. 717-2366, Fax 717-2367, website: www.ngobonaire.org,

The Sailing Season Begins



Dui Diaz baptizes the new radio controlled boat built by Farid Auybi (right)



Supporters of Bonaire's newest sailing event: Radio-controlled microboats.



Bonaire's new sailing season got a jump start from the Budget Marine Regatta this past weekend. Just about every class of boat competed from Optimists to Sunfish, catamarans, lasers, windsurfers and fishing boats. It was a really fun time for all on the waterfront near Regatta House and the Canti Awa Bar. Sponsors were Budget Marine, Canti Awa Bar and Hilltop at the Caribbean Club. Unfortunately, race results were not received by the time *The Reporter* went to press. L..D.



Dui sails again... by radio control.

TONKY TAKES SECOND IN BELGIUM



Tonky's last stop for the 2005 Freestyle Windsurf Tour was in Bredene (Belgium) where an EFPT competition was held from the 3rd to 6th of August.

Tonky:

"After the PWA competitions in Lanzarote I went to Germany where I stayed about two weeks awaiting the event in Bredene. Since my friend Kevin lives on the border of Germany and The Netherlands we traveled to Scheveningen to train. The brown water did not surprise me since I'd sailed there before. Kevin took me to several windsurfing businesses where I met people in the Dutch windsurfing business amongst which was one of Gaastra sail designers. We were talking about the Gaastra sails and what could be improved, and within just a few hours he'd made a draft version of the ideas that I had in my head for adjustments to the Gaastra sails. He promised to draw them professionally with his computer program and send them to me. To my surprise he sent them within days and in turn I sent them to Gaastra. Right now the proposal is being studied at Gaastra and I am looking forward to their reaction.

For the Bredene event Kevin and I hired a bus so we could take all the equipment along with us. We first had to pick up another rider in the Netherlands and after that we made our way to

Bredene. It was a five-hour drive. We arrived on July 28th so we had several days to train in Bredene waters.

On the first day of the competition there were many spectators on the beach. During the first heat I won and proceeded to the second round. Nevertheless, the wind was powered by a little depression system and only half of the second round of the single elimination could be completed. On day two the weather conditions were even worse. We spent a whole day hanging around the Bredene beach club, waiting for some wind that never came. Day three promised to have better wind conditions, and it did. In the late afternoon there was finally some wind and the elimination continued. I was also victorious in the second round and that brought me to the semi finals against Andre Paskowski. We were anxious for the wind to be back for the semi finals....And just around midday it did!"

The EFPT report reads:

"The wind came back around midday and the jury decided to continue with the elimination at 1:30 pm with the first semi final pitting Kevin Mevissen against Norman Günzlein. The team mates know each other from a couple of eliminations on this year's tour, and one more time both riders showed their outstanding skills. In the very difficult North Sea conditions both riders

showed a lot of the hottest windsurfing freestyle moves like Shaka, Funnel, Flaka and Grubby Diabolo as well as Willy Skipper Combinations and Shove it into Spock. It was just Kevin who felt a little bit more comfortable in the choppy North Sea conditions and impressed the judges with a very safe run at an incredible high level. In the second semi final tour leader Andre Paskowski was facing Tonky Frans from Bonaire. One more time this heat showed that the level on which the European tour is done at the moment is one of the highest in the world. Andre impressed the jury one more time with a very safe heat showing also a lot of the most difficult moves like switch chachoo, shaka, gozada, but it was the style of Tonky who had the crowds screaming on the beach. Willy Skipper sliding backwards 50 m on a choppy North Sea wave, or chacco planning on a wave so impressed the jury that Tonky (F2/Gaastra) moved on to the final."

Tonky:

"I started my heat against Kevin with full fury, showing all moves, one after another. But within three minutes after the start I unfortunately got too much into the beach break. While I was trying to get out, Kevin used the time to his benefit to show one move after another. It became clear that Kevin would win the final, but it really was an easy win for him. I got the second place in Belgium. This brings me to the 6th position in the European ranking.

The Mission

In the meantime it also became clear to me that I would not be able to attend the August event in Switzerland. There was a misunderstanding about the event dates in Switzerland and the event in the Netherlands called 'The Mission.' At first they would have taken place on

different dates, but now it seems that they are taking place on the same dates!

'The Mission' is THE windsurfing event in the Netherlands for all Dutch windsurfers. Since I am the only one on the F2 team who understands and speaks Dutch, I got a special assignment from F2 to represent them in the Netherlands at 'The Mission' and to give windsurfing clinics to the participants from August 19th to August 22nd. I will also give demonstrations to the participants and be participating in the 'Battle of the Windsurfing Giants' along with representatives of other windsurfing brands, amongst them Kevin Pritchard, Gollito, Cheo Diaz, Remco de Weerd and Peter Volwater. It is also a very good opportunity to do something other than just compete.

It is at these kinds of events that one meets the big names in the windsurfing world. Last year it was a huge success, and I am sure that this year it will be great again. But more of 'The Mission' within two weeks, when I will pitch in with my last report of the 2005 windsurfing season." *Tonky Frans/S.C.*

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
8-19	0:21	2.0FT.	97
8-20	1:14	1.9FT.	102
8-21	2:10	1.7FT.	103
8-22	3:19	1.5FT.	99
8-23	4:40	1.4FT.	91
8-24	1:52	1.0FT.	81
8-25	3:06	0.9FT.	68
8-26	4:06	0.9FT.	56

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alter Ego	Endorphin	Nelson	Saptivart
Andren	Eva Luna	Natural Selection	Sportivento
Angie	Flam	Orion	Sylvia K
Anything Goes	Flying Cloud, USA	Pamala Jean	Sylvestre
Augustine	Freestyle	Papeete	Thetis
Blue Star	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Pyewacket	Ti Amo, USA
Bright Sea	Jan Gerardus	Santa Maria	Tish
Camissa, Chan Is.	Josina	Sandpiper, USA	Tothill
Cape Kathryn	Key Lara	Seascape	Triumphant Lady
Catchloo	Luna C. USA	Sea of Time	Ulu Ulu, USA
Chalice	La Baronne	Sea Witch	Unicom, Norway
Criterion	La Serena	Shalimar	Varedhuni, Ger.
Delphinus	Marisol	Silvestre	Ventoso
Durchess	Mimo	Sintella	Ya-T, BVI
Elenoa	Moana	Sirius	Yanti Paratzi
Endangered Species	Moonglow	Sola 2	Zenitude

Picture Yourself with the Reporter

Gayle E. Kjorlien writes, "We left Bonaire on March 13 after visiting your island and our daughter for two weeks. It began snowing on our way home from the airport and didn't stop until we'd received 8 inches. The 9-foot mountain of snow in the enclosed photo is a result of plowing the yard. Love your island (for many other reasons).

P.S. It takes a long time to finish a roll of film up here. There's nothing to photograph except snow!"

Westeros, Alberta, Canada



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 2005 photos are eligible.)

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

Save Our Local Trees - Landscaping by Mother Nature

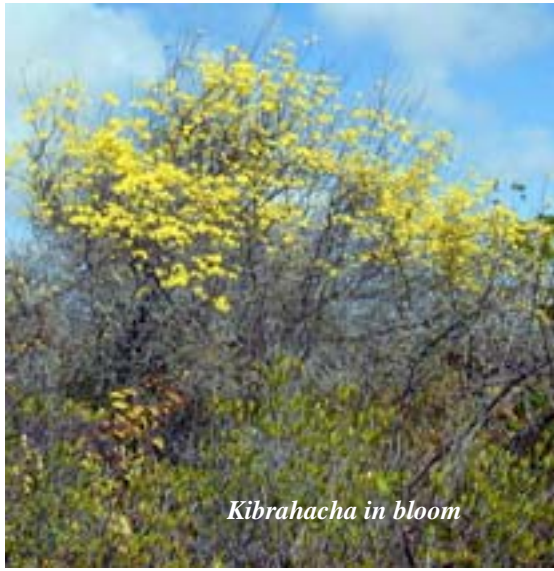
This week I had a meeting with STINAPA and that brings me to the idea of a new series of articles, namely using the natural resources of Bonaire in your garden.

Let's start at the beginning. **STINAPA wants to bring to the public's attention that when you buy a lot to build your house on, before you begin to clean the whole area, it might be wise to check first what natural plants you have on your lot.** This has my full

support! Maybe when the lot is covered with vegetation, it is difficult to recognize some nice trees and bushes underneath. But before you call the bulldozer, maybe you can have an expert see if there are any of those nice trees on your lot. **Some of them might be more than 80 years old.** Maybe they don't look so nice, but with some pruning and cleaning, you will be amazed at how big the difference can be.

Here are some samples of nice natural trees that you might find on your land:

- First of all, the nicest one, the **Divi-Divi tree**, or the Bonairean name, **Watapana**. Sometimes you have to "teach" this tree to be a real Divi-Divi as we know it, namely with its characteristic form, growing to one side, caused by



Kibrahacha in bloom

the wind. This tree you can find everywhere in the wild.

- In some places, another great tree can be found. Mostly it looks a bit shabby, but like I said, a little pruning does miracles! It's the **Watakeli or Bourreria succulenta**. All year round it has nice green leaves, the white blossom attracts many hummingbirds and its nice orange fruits are eaten by almost every fruit-eating bird on Bonaire, especially the Lora (parrots) and the Trupial.

- Some lots, especially uphill at Sabadeco, have some nice big **Kibrahachas**. This tree is not only nice when it spreads its spectacular yellow flowers after a rain, but when you prune it

(Continued on page 14)

Got something to buy or sell?

REACH MORE READERS than any other WEEKLY NEWSPAPER by advertising in THE BONAIRE REPORTER

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

FREE FREE FREE FREE

Commercial Ads only NAf0.70 per word, per week.
Free adds run for 2 weeks.

Call or fax 717-8988 or email 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>

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

Bonaire Images

Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lover's Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com

MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?

Make it more livable from the start. **FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS** Interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-9332.

LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981

SALT TREASURES BONAIRE

100% natural body salts "Scrub Me" 100% natural Bath Salts available at Chat-n-Browse, KonTiki and Jewel of Bonaire or call 786-6416 for more information.

JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/

WEB Water Bill Problems?

I am compiling a list of WEB customers who've experienced isolated, outrageous monthly water bill charges, so that as a group we can recover our excessive payments. The problem is not your "running toilet"! Please send a confidential email with your contact information to honestwater@yahoo.com

JODY'S FASHION

European vogue for the modern woman. Call for an appointment 717-5215.

JODY'S FASHION

Europese mode voor de moderne vrouw. Bel voor een afspraak 717-5215.

Help Wanted

For a construction company we are looking for an **all-round Airco specialist**. For information or to apply please contact Marieke Schmitz during office hours. Phone number 717-3630.

A HANDY-MAN/ CARE TAKER. ONE FULL TIME AND ONE PART TIME. PLEASE WRITE OR CALL VICKY BISESSAR. PO BOX 279 CEL 786-1592

For Sale

FOR SALE - Kichler Under Cabinet Lighting System - 1 stainless steel, two light frosted glass unit. Brand new. Paid \$59.99 USD. Best Offer. 786-3134

1989 Green Jeep Cherokee with automatic transmission. In good condition. NAf10.000 or nearest reasonable offer. Call 717-5571 or 785-9409

FOR SALE **Revolving CD-Stand**, made of wood, holds about 300 CDs, NAf75.00; for more information, please call 717-2848.

LADA NIVA (jeep) for sale 1991-4X4 drive 1.6 Cyl. 95.000km NAf5.400 **717-2844 or 786-2844**

Mitsubishi Diesel -double cabin pick up 4x4 for sale Year 1994 NAf 5.500 Call 717-0170

Nissan Micra for sale—good condition NAf4.500 Call 791-5190

Property, Sales & Rentals

For Rent: Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-privacy & security. Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293; (US) (570) 586 0098. **May 20 until Jan. 8th.** info@pelicanreefbonaire.com or www.pelicanreefbonaire.com

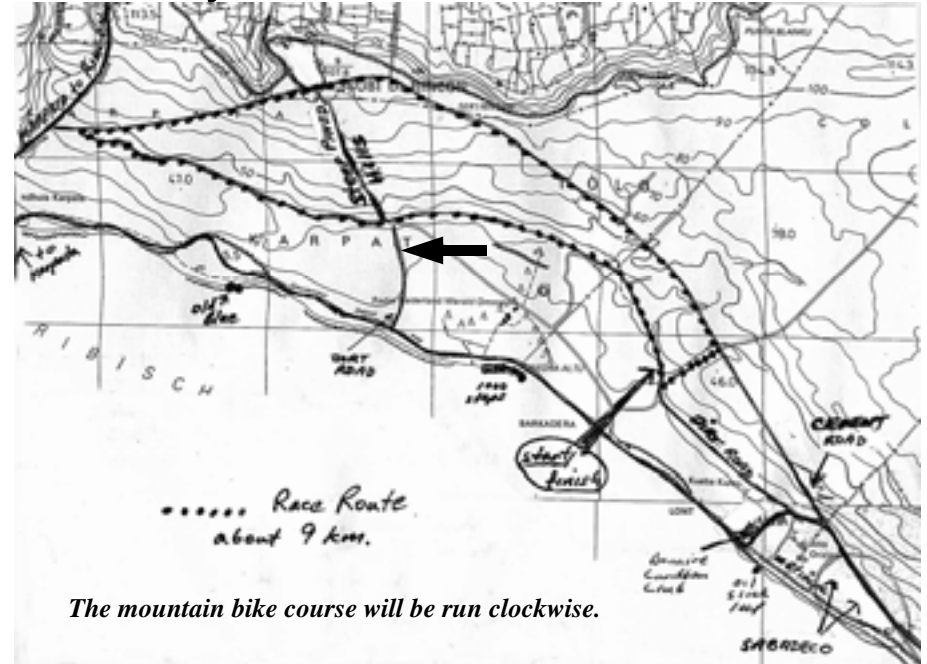
LOST WALLET

\$40 reward - No questions asked. Call Sam (09) 567 0777

PORCH SALE Sept-. 3 and 4

8:30 to 4 pm. ALL WELCOME
Kaya Mandolin #2

Get Ready For Another Mountain Bike Race



The mountain bike course will be run clockwise.

Cycle Bonaire is going to sponsor another mountain bike race on the afternoon of Saturday, September 10. That's a few weeks from now, so you've still got some time to get those cycling muscles in shape. Plan to be at the start line by 4 pm. The cost will be NAf10 and helmets are advisable. Like the race last month, there won't be any prizes or trophies, but last time Andre Nahr of Cycle Bonaire came up with T-shirts, and Brad Swanson still has some water bottles left. Put it in your agenda because we will only be able to remind you once more because *The Reporter* will be on vacation for two weeks.

This will be another low key, "fun race" type race and a good excuse to get out and discover parts of Bonaire that few people have ever seen. The course is about 9 kilo-

meters long and will cover the dirt roads and "donkey trails" north of Sabadeco and east of the Radio Netherlands towers. Unlike the race last month, there are no paved roads on this ride, and it will be almost impossible to get lost.

In years gone by, we've had two, three and four lap races on this course, but we want to start slowly and keep these first races squarely in the "fun" zone. There will be a one lap race for recreational riders and a two lap event for more ambitious riders. As I mentioned, the course is only 9 kilometers in length, but it is rugged in places. I think most riders will find that riding this course, at any speed, will prove to be an adventure that they will remember for quite some time. *Brad Swanson*

Wanted

Wanted: Dutch actor couple wants to **house sit** from Oct. 1 for 6 or 7 weeks. Call 717-2015 in Bonaire or Holland: 0031-20-673-6526

Wanted: Panasonic A 100 phone charger. Call 786-3134 or email ann@bonairewindsurfing.com

URGENTLY NEEDED FOR AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH PROJECT

Sandwich meats and cheese, Juice, Milk, Cookies, Pindakaas, Jelly, Board Games (8 yrs. & up), Softball & Bat, Drawing Markers, Pens, Pencils, Paper. Call Mick Smit 786-6816, Stichting Project, North Salina

NEEDED: Exercise equipment for Capt. Don. Do you have something that would work for us? Call Janet or Don, 786-0956.

Wanted: Black bookcase. Please call 786-3134

LOOKING TO RENT OR SHARE - SAILBOAT- around 10 meters (30 foot). Call Maarten 717-8285, ext. 481

Volunteers to index back issues of *The Bonaire Reporter* (English) and *Extra* (Papiamentu). Call 717-8988 or 786-6125.

Island Fishing Tournament



The 2005 Tournament is dedicated to 65 year-old Dario Janga (right) pictured here in an early photo with Dui Diaz (left)



Last year's weigh-in



This year's tournament logo

Bonaire's local fishing tournament is one of the island's most important annual cultural events. The gathering of families to spend the day fishing is a flashback to old times. And all the fish caught are consumed, even the marlin which is smoked. No reef fish, sharks or tarpon are permitted to be caught. Hook and line are used and the methods have proven sustainable over the years. Prizes consist of fishing gear, safety and other equipment that over the years have upgraded Bonaire's fleet of fishing boats.

The 14th annual tournament will be held this year on Sunday, September 4th. All are welcome to enter. The only requirement is that you fish from a Bonaire (NB) registered boat equipped with proper safety gear. Sign up by 5 pm on Saturday, September 3rd, at the house of Dui Diaz in Playa Pariba (next to Richard's Restaurant). There is no entry fee. Prizes are awarded September 8th, feast day of the Virgin of the Valley, the Patroness of Fishermen.

Organizers of the event are Richard Beady, Dui Diaz, Pancho Cicilia and Papi Antoin. Prizes are contributed by Richard's Restaurant, Botu Blanku Marine, the Bonaire Government, Krioyu Paint, Achie Tours, local banks and many others. If you want to contribute pass by Richard's Restaurant or Dui's house and let them know. This year AMFO is supporting the event and suggested that it be optional for the fishermen to donate part of their catch to Bonaire's poor families. G.D.



New GM at Divi Flamingo Maarten Van Wijk

He's been here just since June but already he's made some differences at Divi Flamingo Resort. The new Divi General Manager, Maarten Van Wijk, says, "I want the Divi to be more of a hotel for Bonaire. I want it to breathe Bonaire culture!" So on Sunday nights they offer "Bonaire Night," with local food, arts and crafts live music from groups like Pal'i Wiri, Tutti Frutti, Watapana, Glen y Su Geng, Cana Brabu or dance groups like the Ginies. He wants more Papiamentu on the menu, describing the dishes. "I want to give an element of fun and interest to our diving tourists – offer them a different flavor and culture."

Van Wijk most recently spent 12 years with the famous Hershey Entertainment and Resorts in Pennsylvania. He was project coordinator for the opening of the Giant Hershey Center and general manager of the Hotel Hershey.

Maarten comes from a long line of hoteliers. Both sets of grandparents were in the hotel business. "I'm the third generation," he says proudly. His dad, one of nine children, went into the hotel business along with four of his siblings. Three of his mother's brothers are in the business. His parents owned a hotel in Maastricht, where young Maarten was raised. "My 'toys' were in the kitchen," he says. (Maybe that's where he gets his affinity for the F&B industry!) When he was about six years old he was asked to show the tourists around the town. "I could say 'turn left' or 'turn right' in about five languages," he says! "And I made great tips!"

His formal education was at The Hague hotel school, where, not surprisingly, one of his grandfathers was involved. In the early days of his career he came to the Caribbean to work at a resort in St. Martin. "I didn't like it," he remembers, "but then again maybe I was too young and impatient to enjoy it." So when he had an opportunity to go to the States he jumped at it. His career includes illustrious hotels like the Mayflower in Washington DC, opening of the Regent of Washington, the Philadelphia Hilton and Towers. He worked with conventions and catering – opening of the French Embassy in DC, the Monterey Conference Center in Monterey, California. Then in 1992 he began his long career with the Hershey group as the GM of the Hershey Country Club.

After the September 11 tragedy, he, like many others, wanted to take a break and re-evaluate his life and career. Just about that time he was offered an invitation to work for the Dutch Olympic Committee at the 19th Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

He did return to Hershey, but he still wanted to look for something new to do with his life. The invitation came: come back to the Caribbean – to the Divi Flamingo. "I looked around," he says, "and I thought to myself, now this is a beautiful place!"

L.D.



Maarten Van Wijk

Horeca Education

In September the Small Business Organization (CKB) and the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association will offer its members an opportunity for professional hospitality training for their staffs. EU funding is subsidizing half the cost.



The Hospitality Training Program has been developed by Match Consultancy with BONHATA members' needs in mind and consists of six inter-active training seminars, with the participation of the students as a primary goal. A few of the topics in-

clude:

- spirit of hospitality
- developing self esteem
- effective communication
- guest services
- listening skills
- telephone skills
- courtesy rules
- time and task management
- achieving guest satisfaction
- hygiene
- proper cleaning

Most of the training seminars are 40 hours long and class size will range from 5 to 15 persons.

For further information on the training possibilities, please contact Annette van Rooijen at Match Consultancy, tel: 786-5711 or E-mail; info@matchconsultancy.com Match Consultancy is a locally established consultancy with first-hand knowledge of the people and culture.

Pet of the Week



Ryan

One of the most relaxed and easy going cats at the Bonaire Animal Shelter right now is "Ryan." Sometimes he's reclining in the plastic baskets, but the other day, when we were in the cat cage with our camera, Ryan hopped up on this little red chair, settled down and looked right at us. It was if he purposely wanted to call our attention to him – and to say, "I am such a great cat and such a loveable one. Can't you put me in 'Pet of the Week' because I'm looking for just the right person or family to adopt me?"

The Shelter staff does agree that Ryan is such a cat and he's just so nice and mellow to have around. He comes highly recommended! He's healthy, having had his check up by the vet, his shots and testing, and he's been sterilized. And he's a handsome fellow too. Stop by and see for yourself what a fine pet he'd make for a loving owner. We're happy to say that our Pet of the Week from August 5, "Sandra," the cat, has been adopted, thanks to the column! We wish all the best to pet and new owners!

This column's aim is to introduce you to some of the great and amiable pets at the Shelter, but you have to meet them in person to really appreciate their fine

(Gardner. Continued from page 11)

right, it is also a great tree, although it loses its leaves during the dry period.

- Even the well known **Brasia or Brasil** is an important tree to protect from the bulldozer. On most lots where there are a lot of them, pick some nice full grown ones and let each of them be a nice solitary tree.

- A tree that you mostly will not recognize when it is small is the **Palu di Sia** or **Saddle Tree**. When it has enough space it grows remarkably fast and it seems to respond if you water it every now and then. It loses most of its leaves after the rainy season, but the shape of this tree is just too nice to take down.

Of course there are more, as I've written other times on this topic, but I think this is a good reminder.

Many of these trees will be as good if not better than any newly planted trees, and as I've said, some of these trees have had such a long history that their characteristic forms can never be replaced by any new tree!

Ap van Eldik

Ap van Eldik owns *Green Label Landscaping* which designs, constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. Two nurseries and a garden shop in Kralendijk carry terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410. **NOW OPEN SATURDAYS, NON-STOP 9 -4.**

qualities. Stop by and meet some of the best behaved, handsomest and healthiest pets on the island.

The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. *L.D.*

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Published weekly. For information about **subscriptions, stories** or **advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, phone (599) 717-8988, 791-7252, fax 717-8988, E-mail to: **Reporter@bonairenews.com** **The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Dark Water
(Jennifer Connelly)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
War of the Worlds

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)
Children under 12 - NAf12

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
CLOSED MONDAY TUESDAY AND
WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM
Herbie: Fully Loaded

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 21- Sentro di Bario Nikiboko Cultural Festival. For more information pass by the Sentro or call Edichi Agostien at 717-3905

Saturday, September 3—Rincon Marshé—big outdoor market, local foods, music, gifts, plants, fruits and vegetables, more- 6 am to 2 pm. Rincon is the "heart" of Bonaire. Special guest speaker on the terrace (*bou di ramada*) at 10 am.

COMING

August 28-30 - 3- day Women's Windsurf Clinic NAf250 per person includes 3-day clinic and gear rental. 8-student minimum. Contact Ann Phelan at 786-3134

September 1-6—Annual Bonaire Motorcycle Tour.

Tuesday, September 6-Bonaire Day, celebrate in Rincon

Tuesday, September 6— C-run, 2/4/5 km., 7:30 am. Sponsored by COM-CABON 717-8629, 780-7225

September 28-29- Bonaire Investment Conference

October 9 - 15- International Bonaire Sailing Regatta

Sunday, October 9—Jong Bonaire Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire, 8 am, Bongo's Beach

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

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen in
Movieland Cinema:



WAR of the WORLDS, by Steven Spielberg starring Tom Cruise and Dakota Fanning. I have to admit I'm a sucker for disaster movies, and this is one of the best I have seen. Spielberg did it again. There are some intense acting performances by Dakota Fanning and Tim Robbins. The film is as relentless as its villains, only occasionally allowing us to catch our breath before once again elevating the level of suspense. Spielberg has populated his film with vivid images, such as a mass of dead bodies floating downstream on a quiet river and a flaming train. There are no heroes in this film, just truly scared and fleeing people. However, the ending is weak, with everything being resolved in a few minutes, but I think the movie is a real feast for the eyes and very recommendable. *Dodo*

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**-great prizes, 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

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.

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

Thursday from June 16 to July 28, Basic Fish ID Yellow Submarine Dive Shop at 6:30 pm

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts and Crafts (*Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano*) 717-5246 or 717-7117

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

Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. Call 717-7103.

Bonaire National Marine Park -717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4303.

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

Special Olympics - Contact Roosje 717-4685, 566-4685

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 - 6:30 pm** - 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 **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 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

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

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

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
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; Monday: Caribbean 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 Open 11 am -2:30 pm 5:30-9 pm Closed Saturday and Sunday	Lots of parking in big mall lot Kitchen Open 11am-2:30 pm, Dinner 5:30-9 pm Breezy terrace with airco inside—Also serving big sandwiches at dinner
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.
Croccantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight! Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes with authentic ingredients. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
Den Laman On the water, just off the traffic circle 717-4106	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch Dinner Open 7 days	Creative cuisine on the seaside. Top chefs from Amsterdam cook in an open modern kitchen featuring induction cooking. Seafood a specialty.
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. Caribbean cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 am to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
Hilltop at 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, BBQ on Tuesdays Gourmet chef creates unique daily specials
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 until 6 pm 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.

ART GALLERY

Cinnamon Art Gallery non-profit gallery for local artists has continuous shows. Each month a new artist is featured. Stop by. Free entry.

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.

COMPUTERS

Bonaire Automation B.V. fills all your computer needs: hardware, software, supplies, service, repair and more.

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.

Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine) -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

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, DVD rentals, 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, slides, items and services. **Now-full digital services.**

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

Mike Boom & Associates - Broad assortment of homes and properties. View on their website www.bonairerealty.com or office in town

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.**

SUPERMARKETS

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/WOMEN:
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

ON THE ISLAND FOR. . .

20 years

Malva Thielman

“I was born in 1947 in Curaçao, but both my parents were Bonairean. There were 11 children; I was the second. My father, Julian Margaritha, was from Tera Cora. The first *Sentro di Bario* in Tera Cora was my grandfather’s house. My mother, Theodora “Chichi” Thielman, raised us according to Bonairean tradition. She was a real chauvinist: if we ate fish it had to be from Bonaire, and only Bonairean goat meat was good enough. She was always homesick for Bonaire and the Bonairean way of life. Bonaire meant everything to her, and until the day she died Bonaire was always on her mind. She was also a very social person, always helping people. Besides her own 11 children she took care of countless other foster children.

Every summer holiday we were shipped to Bonaire on the sailing boat, *Niagara*. We’d spend the holidays with the Martijn family in Tras di Montana or in Antriol with the Gomez family.

My childhood was a happy one and life was very simple. School was until three in the afternoon. You had to speak Dutch, and you were punished if you spoke Papiamentu. There were even A and B classes. The A classes were for children with fairer skin! Father made us read a lot. He was a well-read man and knew all about geography. He would buy slides with photos of foreign countries and show them to us every Saturday night. We’d learn about different places and cultures without a single day’s travel!

I was a very quiet girl, shy and withdrawn. I didn’t open my mouth at school. I guess it was because we lived far out and didn’t see many people except for the Bonaireans who would stay over at our place; we only mingled with people we knew.

I loved to study and finished high school in 1963 when I was 16 and left for Holland with a scholarship. I remember there weren’t that many people of African descent in Holland at the time. I went to boarding school in Den Bosch and did my bachelors in teaching in four years; then to Wageningen for two more years for my master’s. It was a fun time; I rode my bicycle through Belgium and Germany and traveled to Paris on a moped! I did all kinds of things and worked all kinds of jobs. After almost 10 years in Holland I returned to Curaçao.

I started working in special education and was put in charge of managing the school. It was a great challenge: to discover the capacities of the pupils, to get the juice out of them! Eighty percent of the students did well - opening their

own hairdresser salons, becoming taxi drivers - things like that. They were real hard workers and they made it. I didn’t achieve that alone; we had a great team. If the team doesn’t function everything falls apart. I was very motivated because for me equal opportunity comes first. Anyone can accomplish anything at his own level and make the best out of it. ‘Reach for the stars,’ I tell my students, ‘and when you fall, you fall in the clouds!’ When I experience something and I feel it’s worth it, I want other people to experience it as well. I hate injustice, and I always stand up for people who have less.

“Reach for the stars,
I tell my students,
‘and when you fall,
you fall in the
clouds!’”

After four years in Curaçao I left for the US. First I lived in Brooklyn, then in Manhattan, then New Jersey. I worked at Mc Donald’s, for the Curaçao tourist office in New York and at a lawyer’s office as a receptionist. I worked myself up to legal assistant and office manager. I helped a lot of people for free by giving them instructions and answering their questions. Because of the job I traveled to the British Caribbean islands- Grenada, Barbados, Trinidad and Barbuda. However, teaching was still on my mind, so when I got the opportunity I started teaching information processing at a private business school, Katherine Gibbs School, in Montclair, New Jersey. It was an elite school, a junior college, but they also gave short courses for graduate students. The school is highly recommended; we had graduates who worked at the White House.

In my free time I worked at a travel agency so I could travel every six weeks to the Antilles, Puerto Rico or the Bahamas for only \$6! I lived in the States for 15 years, and then when my mom became very ill, I came back to Curaçao. I started working with the blind and went to Panama where I worked briefly as an intern in blind care. A week after I’d returned again to Curaçao my mom passed away. On her death bed she told me, ‘You’ve been working everywhere, but you never worked for your own people. Don’t forget Bonaire; Bonaire also has people

who need you.’

I went to New Jersey and came back to Curaçao to work for *Sentro di Siego*, the blind care center. Later I started teaching at MAO (Middle Administration Education). Every week I flew to Bonaire to help the children here in an after school program. I rented a house in Antriol and started Rayvah N.V., a high tech and training institute. I began with computer lessons and business administration. After

a little while I moved to Bonaire. Next year will be my 20th year with Rayvah.

People asked how I could leave New York to come to live on Bonaire. I didn’t see it that way; I lived according to our slogan: Unhurried, Unspoiled and Unforgettable. The way I feel, I am a Bonairean to the core!” *Malva Thielman is a very bright and spiritual person; a strong woman. Although she’s down to earth and realistic, she’s still a great believer; she’s never lost her faith in people.*

“What I want to accomplish is to improve the quality of life by showing people the importance of education, education in all its different aspects. A human being is complex. You’re dealing with the spirit, the body and the mind. My motto is: ‘Turn them into a better human being first, because only then can they absorb knowledge and change and become flexible.’ Nowadays money is of great importance. Often both parents work, but they forget about education and the children go wrong. Then they put the blame on the SGB (high school) or the government, but SGB or the government does not have children, the children are their parents’.

People should learn to live on a budget and stick to it and be more creative and live more from the heart. I always tell people and children: ‘It starts with a dream - follow your dream and learn how to plan, but... be realistic and don’t set any goals you can’t achieve.’ For the last five years I’ve taught information processing and hospitality and providing service at SGB at the AGO group, the special care group. What I’m doing with Rayvah has to be affordable and attainable for everyone. We’ve had programs for dropouts and young delinquents. We always start with a motiva-



Malva Thielman

tion week. After that they could choose to join the program but also the obligation to stick to the rules. They had to cut off their dreadlocks, remove all the piercings, speak in a decent way and respect each other. The effect was that after a while all those things became normal.

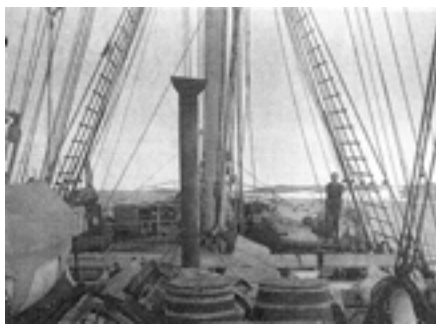
I always work with the children who nobody else wants. I am very strict, but I can be as sweet as I am strict! In fact, I’m more of a social worker. People can count on me 24 hours a day and that’s what they do. I’ve been on sick leave for the last two years because they ruined my knee during an operation in Curaçao, but not to sit still! I’m studying ‘coaching and counseling,’ to be productive. In September I’m going to Venezuela for two months to have my knee repaired, hopefully, so that I can come back healthy to work for my people for 200%. I have plans to create work for youngsters and grownups, for housewives and single mothers.

I enjoy life and I’m making the best of it. I’m glad I came back to Bonaire, I’ve got my American passport, I’m a US citizen, but if you want to live in peace you have to be on Bonaire. Business wise Bonaire is a disaster, but I’m not a business woman, I’m a social catalyst. Bonaire will always be my home base. I have a lot of sailor’s blood that forces me to go, but I will always come back. My life, my dedication is to the young ones and the elderly, and my plans are ‘To improve the quality of life of my people and to help them until I die!’”



photo and story by Greta Kooistra

AN ENIGMATIC ENCOUNTER- EXPLORING THE NEW WINDJAMMER



Deck of the Mairi Bhan

As my partner and I descend over the collapsed, ruptured and twisted hull of the new "Windjammer" wreck off the northwest coast of Bonaire, my thoughts return to her first voyage over 131 years ago ...

A ship built for endurance and speed

We know that she was a majestic sight to the thousands of immigrant families she carried to their new homes. The gigantic curved iron hull, 239 feet (75 meters) long, and stout teak decks, 39 feet (12 m) wide, were fitted with three tall masts, over 110 feet (35 m) high, draped with huge, billowing square sails, and topped with triangular topsails that guided her through the waves over the great oceans of the world. At 1,378 tons, she was at the pinnacle of technology for her time. Booking the passage was a monumental decision for the poor laborers, tradesmen and domestic helpers seeking a new life and opportunity in a distant, unfamiliar land. Getting there was also a great adventure for some, and for others, I am sure, it was a distressing, dangerous and frightful experience.

The captain and crew organize the vessel

The Master of the ship for the first voyage of the *Mairi Bhan*, the famous "Windjammer" shipwreck of Bonaire, was Captain J. Massen. He hand picked and trained his crew to handle the gigantic sails and hundreds of sheets to harness the power of the wind. The ship was provisioned for a three-month, non-stop, open water passage from Scotland to New Zealand, more than 15,000 miles. Her massive rectangular shaped fresh water tanks, located below the main deck, on each side of the main mast, were topped off. The passengers, with all their possessions, were welcomed aboard and assigned their space.

Relocating immigrant families prepare for their journey

At one time or another we have all been faced with the task of moving from one place to another. Put yourself in this situation. The year is 1874; you are Matilda Dunn, 38 years old, the wife of John, a blacksmith. Together you have decided to leave your home in Lanark, Scotland, and seek new opportunities in New Zealand, with your family of six children, three boys, aged 12, 10 and 8, and three girls, aged 6, 4 and 1. You must bring everything needed for the anticipated three-month, non-stop voyage on a sailing ship. On board, there are no restaurants; there is no refrigeration, electricity, washing machines, private cabins, toilets or showers. All your personal needs are packed in huge, heavy trunks and placed near your sleeping hammocks. Any other items such as household goods, tradesman tools, furniture and excess clothing are packed and stowed in the cargo holds with hundreds of others.

You are sharing space below the main deck with 431 strangers, who, like you, have never been to sea before. With 182

youngsters on board, there are plenty of playmates for your children to get acquainted with over the next three months. This may be a blessing in disguise since there are no organized games or activities scheduled and there are no "electronic" distractions to occupy their young minds. The rest of the passenger list consists of farm laborers, carpenters, mechanics, boiler makers, plumbers, miners, shoemakers, tailors, painters, nurses, cooks, dairy maids, domestic servants, bricklayers, engineers, and firemen. Everyone has the same hopes and dreams of prosperity and adventure. The close confined space below decks bonds all the passengers into one large family sharing food, domestic chores, child care, medical attention and the frightening realization that nature and the sea, for the moment, are in control of their future.

The long non-stop voyage

The *Mairi Bhan* was towed to sea on May 5, 1874, and started her sail late on May 7. The *Otago Daily Times*, referring to her arrival at Port Chalmers, New Zealand, stated: "Her performance during this, her maiden trip, entitled her to take rank amongst high-class clippers; she made the run out in between 75 and 76 days from Glasgow. The voyage, starting in the North Atlantic Ocean, south to the South Atlantic Ocean, around the Cape of Good Hope sailing to the east into the Indian Ocean and making port on July 25, 1874, in the South Pacific, was made 'without incident.'"

That official report, filed by the Captain and the port authorities, was for the benefit of the trade. It did not mention the many hardships endured by the crew and passengers. The weather and sea conditions were ideal for the crossing. The winds were favorable and kept the ship moving at a record pace, covering more than 150 miles every 24 hours. For a large sailing ship that continuous, extraordinary pace means the crew was constantly on watch and under pressure from the Captain and officers at every moment. No mistakes were tolerated and strict discipline was imposed for those who did not perform their assigned tasks.

For most of the passengers, the rapid movement and continuous motion of the ship was a living nightmare. The main deck was "off limits" for the most part, and below deck, the pitching and rolling of the ship in the great waves caused almost all to be seasick at one time or another. The cramped quarters and lack of modern sanitary conditions added to the misery of the human cargo. Cooking, eating and satisfying the basic needs of daily life were the greatest challenge for all. The mix of people and personalities, in this confined space, created difficulties that, at times, required intervention by the Captain to maintain order.

We are back inside the wreck

... Perhaps the waves above, that tossed our small dive boat and gave us some difficulties, have triggered these thoughts about sailing on the *Mairi Bhan*. Or, possibly, the sight of the recently deformed hull that collapsed this past March 23, 2005, after almost 93 years of peaceful sleep since her sinking in December of 1912, has awakened me to the fact that the ship is still moving and will always be tortured and subject to the powerful forces in the sea.

We are now entering the hull at mid-ship through the huge crack that has cut the wreck in half. In the past, you could swim inside the open hull for the entire length of

the ship from bow to stern. That is no longer possible. On a previous visit we viewed the interior of the bow section and exited at the empty forward chain lockers, above the bowsprit support, now lying on the sand, 18 feet (6 m) below its original position. Today, we turn left and swim toward the stern in search of the gigantic port-side fresh water tank that was attached to the main deck beams and the portside hull ribs. We have meticulously measured this tank and were able to swim under and over it on previous dives.

It is very dark inside the confined space and our lamps only penetrate 3-4 feet (1 m) ahead of our slow advance. We are being very careful with our flippers to minimize any swift strokes that will raise recently fallen sediment clouding the still water inside this giant sausage shaped, iron tube. There are tangled and broken cross beams all around us in a chaotic jumble. Some have fallen below us. Others, severed in half, are hanging like rust colored stalactites from the curved plates above our heads. Suddenly, out of the gloom, I see the outline of the straight, sharp corner of the massive, rectangular tank. It has fallen. It remains in one piece, lies askew in the tunnel, and blocks our passage. It is a shock to see, even for us, who are prepared for this sight.

As we stare in disbelief, I hear a beeping sound and realize we have exhausted all our down time inside the hull. We must turn around and retreat, in an orderly fashion, careful not to disturb any of the hanging beams overhead. As we turn, one at a time, and slowly make our way toward the jagged gash, the sight of the open, blue sea beyond is a very welcome relief from the black cave we are leaving behind.

We exit the hull and rise over the distorted, buckled shape of the once beautiful and graceful lady of the sea. We make our way to the adjacent reef and complete all our decompression and safety stops deep in thought. How many more secrets of her ordeal lie within her broken body? What will we encounter on our next visit? Join us when we return to uncover the mysteries of the new Windjammer wreck. ©

Albert Bianculli 2005



The bow of the 'Jammer is now on the bottom/ Previously it was 3-4m. above.



The rudder used to be sideways. It has tilted upwards with the roll of the ship as it collapsed.

Albert Bianculli has been visiting Bonaire since 1970 and now lives on Bonaire full time. See his show every Sunday night at Captain Don's Habitat Aquarius Conference Room beginning at 8:30 pm.

All images are original, unretouched slides, shot on location and composed within the viewfinder.

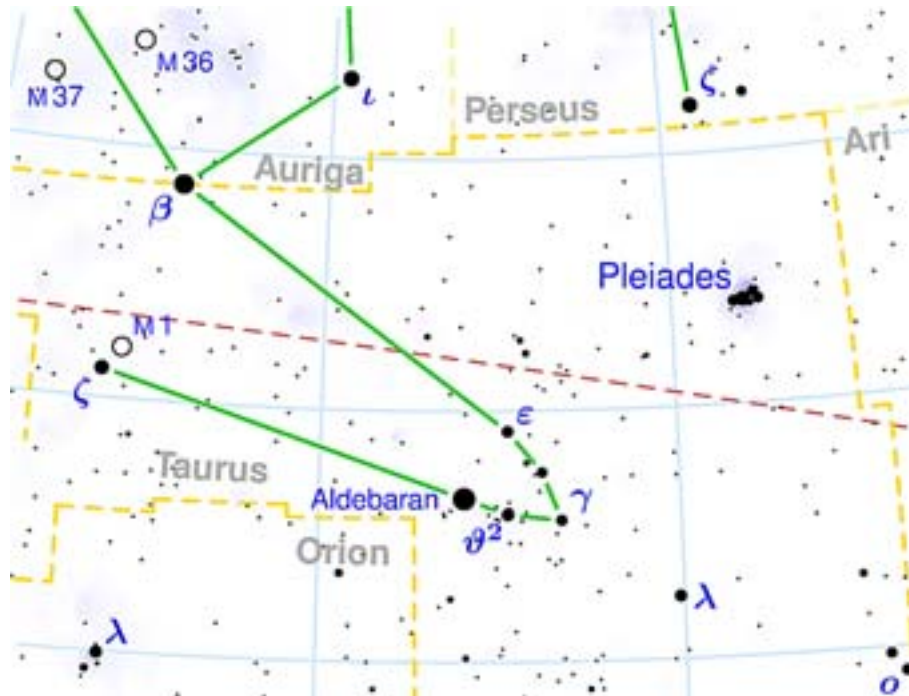




BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

A Preview of Winter's Stars in August and Saturn and Mercury are Visited by the Moon



The constellation Taurus' relationship with nearby constellations

If you know when and where to look you can get a preview of the brightest stars of winter in the sultry days of August. Plus the Moon pays a visit to two morning planets to close out the month. This weekend, Saturday, August 20th, about 45 minutes before sunrise, face east where you'll see several bright stars covering a huge area from east to southeast. In fact almost due east you'll see winter's super bright star, **Procyon**, which marks the eye of **Orion**, the hunter's little dog. And to its right, just above the southeast horizon, is the brightest star we can see from **Earth** - **Sirius** - which marks the eye of Orion's big dog. And of course right above **Sirius** are the unmistakable three stars, evenly spaced in a row, which mark the belt of winter's most famous constellation Orion himself, his two knee stars to the right and his two shoulder stars to the left. And directly above his shoulder stars, **Aldebaran**, the reddish star which marks the eye of **Taurus the Bull**. And to Taurus' left is **Capella**, the brightest star of winter's **Auriga the Charioteer**. Directly below him are **Castor** and **Pollux**, the two brightest stars of **Gemini the Twins**.

So even though at the end of August, when nights may still be hot and sultry where you live, if you get out just before sunrise you can see all of the brightest stars of winter above the eastern horizon.

This year something has been added because directly below Castor and Pollux you will see two additional bright lights which usually aren't there. Closest to the horizon is the first planet out from the **Sun**, tiny 3,000-mile-wide **Mercury**, and just above him the exquisite ringed planet, 75,000-mile-wide **Saturn**. And as always, may I remind you that whenever we look for Mercury we always need a clear, flat, unobstructed horizon because Mercury never gets really very high above it. Now if you watch both of these planets through the very end of August you will notice that Saturn is a little bit higher above the horizon each day while Mercury is slowly moving closer toward it.

And if you're one of those who never really knows for sure whether or not you've found the planets, you can use the Moon at August's end as a finder. On Tuesday, August 30th, an old crescent Moon will be parked very close to Castor and Pollux, and on Wednesday, the 31st, it will be between Pollux and Saturn. On Thursday, September 1st, an extremely slender crescent Moon will be parked right between Saturn and Mercury, and if you've got a really clear flat cloudless horizon on Friday, September 2nd, you may see one of the slenderest Moons you'll ever see parked right next to Mercury. So there you have it: all of winter's bright stars visible in the east just before sunrise at August's end. *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:
August 15 - August 21, 2005
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Difficulties with females you live with could cause emotional stress. Lovers may not be truthful. Romantic encounters are evident through travel or educational pursuits. The locks, stove, gas, or electric wires may not be secure. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Reciprocate by offering helpful hints. Think before you act if you wish to avoid friction. You will need to work diligently in order to accomplish even the smallest amount. You may be able to get some good advice about your personal problems. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You can make headway in the workforce if you put your mind to it. You must use discretion when it comes to lending money or making donations. If they're really interested, they'll wait. You can make a big difference to children if you understand the difficulties they are experiencing. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. You will be able to get to the bottom of things this week. Professionalism will be of utmost importance. You won't impress anyone by being overly generous. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Socially, you need a fast paced form of entertainment. You would be wise to consider attending lectures that will broaden your awareness concerning your professional direction. In-laws or relatives may oppose your personal intentions. You can sell your ideas to those who have the money to back them. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You need to focus on yourself, not on others. Rewards for past good deeds will highlight your day. Others may want to steal your thunder when they realize your ideas are pretty solid. You can buy or sell if you're so inclined. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. Delve into your work if you can't make amends at home. Don't vacillate about asking for assistance if you need it. You must be careful not to reveal secrets or get involved in gossip. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Secret activity is evident. Your financial situation may be draining and it's time to make some serious changes. Joint ventures might prove to be unfavorable. Opportunities will unfold; however, you must be willing to pay the price. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may not see your situation clearly. Changes in your home may be disruptive and upsetting. Romantic opportunities will develop through friends or relatives. Don't expect romantic encounters to be lasting. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't spend too much in order to impress others. Be careful not to confuse issues when discussing the matters at hand. Set a limit on the amount you're willing to spend, and be sure to stick to it. Erratic behavior at home may be hard to handle. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Exercise is always a good way to relieve stress. Take whatever time you can to get to know each other all over again. Take the time to sort out your personal papers and double-check your financial investments. Keep the promises you've made or you can expect to be in the doghouse. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Think about starting your own small business, Take whatever time you can to get to know each other all over again. Unexpected events may upset your routine. Communication will be your best bet. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.