

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

October 21 to October 28, 2005 *Volume 12, Issue 39*

The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



A fast start for the yachts-
Regatta 2005

Els Kroon/Photo

The Two Faces of the Bonaire Regatta

Pages 8-13



Tonky Frans /Photo

Baby Kids Class Lac being followed by their instructors

Flotsam and Jetsam

Franklin Antoin reports: Last week **Divi Divi Air**, which has been flying for about four years between Curaçao and Bonaire, **added another aircraft to their fleet.** They now fly four planes of which three are 10-seater Britten-Norman Islanders, while the other is an eight-seat Cessna 402. There are plans for 2006 which will be announced in the near future.

Divi typically flies 16 flights between Bonaire and Curaçao every day. The new aircraft is registered as PJ-SEA. Thursday, October 6, the aircraft flew to Bonaire landing at 16:04 pm local time. The pilot aboard this flight was Captain Reginald Richie who together with his wife, Germaine Richie, own the airline. Divi Divi is known as the most reliable company providing flights between Bonaire and Curaçao.



The new Divi-Divi airplane (top photo) First passengers on the flight – Photos/ Franklin Antoin

Leeward Islands Airline, LIAT Ltd., says they are now the **Caribbean's first low-cost carrier**, mirroring the concept of international low cost carriers such as Ryanair and JetBlue which offer passengers lower fares, more options and easier booking. For example: A one-

way ticket from Barbados to Antigua used to cost from \$205 to \$78. The new fares, as of this week, will range from \$130 (highest fare) and \$30 (lowest depending on early booking). LIAT receives government subsidies as did ALM.

A labor union leader in Curaçao informed the Curaçao press that KLM will soon abandon its Bonaire operation in favor of Curaçao because of the inefficiencies and high cost of operation in Bonaire. **The statement is unfounded and is simply inaccurate, said a spokesman for air services in Bonaire.** Bonaire has, and continues to set, KLM records for low cost, fast and efficient operation in its worldwide system.

KLM switched major South American connecting flights a few years ago from Curaçao and Aruba to Bonaire and has been operating at near capacity with the fastest turnaround time in the fleet.

There have been numerous complaints recently about **BonairExpress not providing meal and accommodation payments** for its passengers who miss their flights because of late arrival to connecting airlines. *The Reporter* has been advised that a regional carrier is not obliged to do so unless the passenger's ticket is specially coded, which is not the case for most US-destination BonairExpress passengers.

According to the 2006 budget of the Dutch Defense Ministry the **two Fokker-60 military aircraft stationed in Curaçao will continue their recon-**



Fokker-60

naissance flights at least until 2007. After that civilian air reconnaissance will be employed by the Coast Guard.



Last Tuesday, the **Antillean Coast Guard introduced new uniforms.** The uniforms are reportedly more appropriate for the tasks that the service carries out such as stopping drug traffic, illegal immigration, illegal fishing and environment destruction. The uniforms will be produced in the Netherlands Antilles.

Last Friday, construction of the Spanish-based Pinero Group's 1,918-room Bahia Principe Clubs & Resorts at

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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

Pear Tree Bottom in St Ann in Jamaica began. Upon completion it will be the island's largest resort. The project is estimated to cost some US\$200 million. **It has more rooms than all of Bonaire's resorts combined.**

► According to published reports, as of January 1st **Curaçao's St. Elisabeth Hospital (Sehos) will no longer be insured for liability.** Insurer MediRisk, with dozens of hospitals in The Netherlands included in its portfolio, considers that the risk of a Sehos patient filing a claim has become too great. Sehos is the hospital most Bonaireans must go to for serious medical treatment.

► **Between October 26th and November 5th at various locations in the Caribbean region, Caucasian people will walk in replica yokes and chains** as a symbolic sign of penitence for the sins of their forefathers in the Atlantic slave trade. Africans and Africans of the Diaspora will accompany them. The Africans are also ready to apologize for selling their brothers and sisters to the European traders. This action is also a means of raising awareness of slavery and racism in our own day and marks a beginning of a pilgrimage toward healing, hope and peace. The first events will take place in Barbados and then teams will disperse to important entry points for the French, Dutch and Spanish slave trades in Martinique and Guadeloupe, Curaçao and Cartagena, Colombia. The Expedition is a series of reconciliation journeys, which constitute a Christian response to the legacy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. For more information: Contact Helge van der Loo, (5999) – 522-0032, Email: helge@carib-online.net



► The sailing yacht **Hotel California Too**, which holds the speed record for the **Around Bonaire Race**, was **damaged** after being driven onto the beach at Klein Curaçao during an unexpected

wind reversal. The captain, American Steve Schmit, who was sailing the boat single-handedly, was not hurt. The yacht was on the way to Bonaire for last week's sailing Regatta. The 70-foot yacht was pulled off the beach by the Antilles Coast Guard cutter *Jaguar* and towed to Curaçao.

► **Hurricane Wilma** formed Monday in the western Caribbean, tying the record for **the most storms in an Atlantic season** and following a path that menaces Central America and the US Gulf Coast later this week. Wilma is the 21st named storm of the season. Only one other Atlantic season had more tropical storms since record keeping began in 1851 - there were 21 in 1933. The hurricane center will turn to the Greek alphabet if Wilma is used and another storm forms - it would be called Alpha.



► **Four people were arrested last week during a house raid on Kaya Shivaro.** Police found marijuana, hashish and cocaine, a scale and other materials to make "bolitas," as well as dive watches, a large sum of money and several cell phones.



► **Bonaire Automation, the island's reliable and competent computer service company, just celebrated its first birthday.** It's been serving our island with quality system administration and network maintenance for businesses and homes. Bonaire Automation offers quality name-brand computers and computer parts as well as custom built units. They are celebrating their anniversary by offering incredible deals on printers. See their ad on page 22.

► This **Friday, October 21, is Antilles Day, an official holiday.** Ironically, Holland, the Central Government and five Antilles islands will be in conference discussing the dissolution of the Nether-

lands Antilles on that day..

Antilles Minister of Constitutional Affairs and Interior, Richard Gibson (from St. Maarten), is optimistic that the July 1, 2007, deadline for a reorganization of the Netherlands Antilles will be met. However, the minister seemed less optimistic that when meetings are held between the Antilleans and the Dutch later this week the parties would be able to reach a so-called headlines agreement (*Hoofdlijnenakkoord*).

"**The Dutch position feels like a straitjacket,**" Gibson said. "They want us to deal with matters such as debt and the socio-economic situation first, before dealing with constitutional change. I think that is setting the bar too high." Dutch Minister of Kingdom Relations Alexander Pechtold said he is hopeful that all parties will be able to come to a headlines agreement when they meet in Bonaire on Friday.



► **While debating the budget of the Department of Kingdom Affairs many parliamentarians in the Dutch Second Chamber insisted on a better protection for monuments in the Netherlands Antilles, especially Bonaire.** Recently demolished monuments include Hausmann's Folly (*Kas di Ma Didi*), *Kas di Yen* and the Brion Barracks. Unfortunately, the Central Government 1989 Ordinance for Monument Care only applies to Curaçao and St. Maarten.

Coincidentally, next week will mark the start of a new *Reporter* bi-monthly feature column, "**Living Houses of Bonaire,**" by **Wilna Groenboom.** Wilna, an artist, a photographer and an art teacher at the SGB (high school), noticed that on Bonaire there are some simple old buildings – the unsung heroes of the unique architecture of Bonaire - with very attractive details. These antique buildings are not ruins; they are still being lived in or used in some way. Wilna will be capturing them in her photography.

At the escalating rate that so many of our old buildings and houses on Bonaire are being torn down we felt some sort of photographic record should be made of

these historical places and especially their interesting details before it's too late.

► The handsome model in the **Benetton ad this week is Jomar Vlijt** from Jong Bonaire. He's shown by one of the fascinating pillars at Harbourtown Realty. The Benetton ad is on page 24.

► Don't miss the very spooky **Haunted House at Capt. Don's Habitat this Saturday, October 22, Sunday, October 30 or Monday October 31 (Halloween).** The creepy place is open from 8 to 11 pm. All proceeds will go to Special Olympics Bonaire. Entrance is NAf10. Wonder how spooky it really is? They are recommending that anyone under 12 years old NOT enter! See the advertisement on page 22 for more information. □ G./L. D.

Sea Turtle Update *Turtle Jenni Equipped to Transmit*

A female Hawksbill turtle nesting on Klein Bonaire's No Name Beach was fitted with a satellite transmitter last Thursday night by a team from Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) and Stichting Nationale Parken – Bonaire (STINAPA). She has been named "Jenni" by her sponsors, Michael and Jenni Stanfield.

Based on the pattern of Hawksbill turtle nesting activity observed on Klein Bonaire during the last few weeks, STCB staff predicted the possible return of a turtle to the beach last Wednesday or Thursday night. A field team consisting of Fernando Simal (Manager, Washington-Slagbaai National Park, STINAPA), Patricia Gorrin (film crew), Gielmon

"Funchi" Egbrechts and Mabel Nava (STCB), set out each night to monitor No Name Beach. On Thursday, around 9:15 pm, "Jenni" was discovered on the beach, digging a nest. As soon as she began laying eggs she was measured (93.6 cm/36.85 in straight carapace length) and tagged on her front flippers. An hour later, after she finished her nesting activity, the approximately 130 kg/286 lb turtle was inter-

cepted by the team on her way towards the sea and a transmitter applied to the top of her carapace. At 12:30 am, "Jenni" was released and she quickly departed into the calm waters off Klein Bonaire.

The pattern of nesting Hawksbills is to lay about four to six nests per season with an interval of 14 to 16 days in between nests. "Jenni" is expected

(Continued on page 8)



Mabel and Funchi attach the transmitter

Minister Pechtold Visits the Bonaire Marine Park



Photo / STINAPA

STCB researcher, Gielmon "Funchi" Egbrechts, shows and tells Minister Pechtold about Bonaire's sea turtles

Last Sunday, Dutch Minister of Kingdom Relations, Alexander Pechtold, in Bonaire for meetings regarding constitutional status for the Antilles later this week, paid a special visit to the Bonaire National Marine Park at the invitation of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). In 1979 the WWF was instrumental in establishing the Bonaire Marine Park and over the years it has given substantial support to the Park. Carel Drijver of WWF, who accompanied the Minister, explained that the

Bonaire Park is not only important to Bonaire, but that its corals have special significance to the planet.

During the Minister's visit, Imre Esser of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) explained about the STCB's in-water sea turtle survey project and its importance in understanding and protecting this endangered species.

Elsmarie Beukenboom of STINAPA spoke to the Minister about the importance of the mangrove ecosystem of Lac

(Continued on page 8)

Bonaire's Sentro di Barios:

Tera Corra Part 1



A Candidate for Funding from
AMFO and the NGO Platform

“With funding from governmental and non-governmental groups, like the present-day organizations of FESBO (foundation in support of community centers), funded by AMFO, as well as from the community itself, Tera Corra has continued to maintain its facilities and develop programs for the people. Thus, it has been able to fulfill its purpose to strive for educational, social, and cultural programs to benefit the people of Bario Tera Corra as well as Bonaire.”

Edith Clarinda DePalm

In Tera Corra, the tamarind tree is the traditional meeting place. Here are Ubaldo Anthony and Richard Goeloe talking with us.



1950, Tera Corra, southeast of Kralendijk, 55 years ago

“See that big tree in the middle of our village? It must be as tall as a church bell tower and is 300 years old. It’s our Tamarind tree. My name is Pieter and I will be able to climb it before I’m 15 years old. It’s kind of a traditional rule for boys here. Already I’m pretty strong for my size and do a lot of work at our kunuku where my family grows our food - maize, green beans, watermelon - along with some goats. How much we have to eat depends on whether we get enough rain. I go there to do my chores before I go to school, but first my sisters and I get pails of water from the well at Pos Nobo. Sometimes it takes six trips to the well to get all the water. The girls take their baths at home, but they make me wash up from the bucket before our last trip home! The water from the well is also used to wash clothes. When we have rain, that water is used for drinking and cooking. My mother works very hard, I think, but she says it is nothing compared to the work of my great-great grandparents, 100 years ago.”

It was back then, on January 31, 1850, my mother says, that a government decree sent 45 families out of Rincon. Some of them, her great grandparents included, settled in an area that is now our village of Tera Corra. There were no houses here. They had to build shelters out of the few things that were available: mud and clay from the earth and wooden sticks. There was no cement like we have today and the roof was a thatch made from the maize leaves. They also had to work the ground and try to grow food to eat along with the fish, conch and crayfish they sometimes caught in Lac Bay. This new land was close to three wells - Pos di Domingo, Pos Nobo (near the present day airport), Pos Wanapa (on the way to Lac). Many of the men worked either growing aloe or harvesting the salt. We put the aloe on our cuts or those of the animals. When I had a bad cough, my aunt made me drink aloe syrup.

Our families gathered here by the Tamarind tree, the *pal'i tamarein*, to pray, share news, visit and make music. My grandfather told me about the *tambu* and *bari* songs, which described how the government was being bad. Sometimes this made the government angry and they sent the police to beat them up. Some people had to run for their lives. But great-grandma believed that God would never tolerate injustice and that someday we would all receive what belongs to us. It was a difficult time for my relatives, and I’m proud of how my family survived. I think it’s because of their stories that I always take out history books when I go to the library at our community center each week.”

1850, The Early History of Tera Corra, 155 years ago

On August 1, 1850, a new village, called *Mundo Nobo*, “the New World,” was established by a small group of families from Rincon. Others went to Antriol or Nikiboko. These first families were: Coffie, de Palm, Domacassé, Emerenciana, Janga and Thomas. In the beginning of the 20th century it was officially named Tera Corra, the Papiamentu

A neighborhood rich in folklore and history, built on the solid foundation and spirit of its passionate ancestors

words for “red soil,” and included the area that is now Belnem. That name had been used informally since 1864, according to church records.

The first houses were built with their backs facing Rincon. This was a symbolic gesture and an early sign of the defiant spirit of the people who wanted to turn their backs on the bad memories of slavery life. These early settlers worked to produce aloe resin which was exported for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products, collected the pods from the watapana, or divi-divi trees for their tannin which was used to process animal hides into leather, and worked at the salt ponds. Other domestic work included collecting manure, making charcoal and lime, raising pigs, goats, sheep and chickens and cutting wood for cooking. There was no refrigeration, so meat and fish were preserved with salt. Meals were cooked in big pots over wood fires. Charcoal was also used, but only for parties or other special occasions. Life was difficult. Accidents and sickness took many lives.

1925, There were 75 houses in Tera Corra 80 years ago

Traditional family values were central in Tera Corra daily life. Everyone participated in household chores including cooking for the family meals. Some typical foods prepared were funchi (cornmeal) with tamarind soup, funchi with beans, banana, papaya, goat or tripe stew, goat head and iguana soup, grilled salted fish, and conch. Many people liked tamarind juice with brown sugar for breakfast.

Children were not expected to participate in the adult conversations. They were supposed to go outside if company came to visit their parents. Girls couldn’t go to parties unless accompanied by their mothers as chaperones. Parents always stayed with their children until a party was over. Youth needed permission to go anywhere, and they might be disciplined by other adults besides their parents. Children also had to do jobs for any neighbors who didn’t have their own children.

Children no longer had the job of carrying water when the government installed pipes to pump water from the well to Kralendijk. Although the main pipe ran through Tera Corra, no pipes gave water to Tera Corra. Instead, they purchased the water from a truck which came through the neighborhood.

The community of Tera Corra played a key role in the WWII internment camp at what is now Divi Flamingo Hotel by supplying some of the wood from Lac for the cooking fires as well as doing the cooking for the 461 prisoners.

1968 The First Community Center, 37 years ago



Tera Corra's first community center

The area near the Tamarind tree, a beautiful shade tree with wide spreading branches, was the first community meeting place. Children climbed the tree and adults played dominoes and volleyball there. The tree produces pods that contain seeds and pulp which can be made into a delicious syrup or jam, or they can be enjoyed right out of the pod, as the birds do.

Edith Clarinda DePalm, a member of the first board of the Sentro di Bario says; “We got the idea for a community organization while on a picnic at Willemstoren. We planned Christmas and New Year parties. In 1967-8 we started a board that planned the Sentro di Bario. With the help of Commissioner Raymundo Saleh, we wrote our statutes and by-laws. Julian Margaritha offered his house, which is near the Tamarind tree, for a community center. That’s where we held our celebrations. We were the first community center on Bonaire!

The neighborhood has always had an independent spirit, so in the beginning, it maintained the building and paid the bills without any government assistance. Some neighbors went house to house to raise money to start repairs and cut some of the trees. Teachers at the high school donated money to buy cement for the building and the community made the brick stones.

In the renovated community center, courses were organized in sewing, and cooking. Later, Janchi Janga and others from the community organized craft classes. Udo and Berni Lusse were among the volunteers from Tera Corra who taught some of the classes working

(Continued on page 7)

(Tera Corra, Continued from page 6)
with leather. It was in this community center that the first commercial tanning of leather was done on Bonaire. The women were also interested and they learned another method of leather making. Additional classes made crafts using wood, seeds, black coral, conch and tortoise shells. Like the goat skins for leather, all the materials came from Bonaire, and they were all legal then! The youngsters sold these "souvenirs" in



Sentro di bario entrance

Playa when the cruise ships came in as well as to other visitors. In this way, money was earned for the community center. Berni explains the far-reaching effects of the community project, "Representatives from the United Nations came to see Tera Corra's success!" They eventually sent experts in gold and silver jewelry work, ceramics, wood-working, leaded glass work, and leather making to train more people. In this way Tera Cora led the way to Bonairean art and industry!

"The Governor of Bonaire and Mr. Bakker from Holland visited our center," Edith continues, "and liked what they saw. They proposed to build a new community center for us and, to be fair, for the other barios. That's how we helped all the barios get centers!" □ Story and photos by Barbara Mason Bianculli

Next Week- Tera Corra today

Thanks to the kind and generous help from Ubaldo Anthony, E. F. Goeloe, Richard Goeloe, Sue Ellen Felix, Arthur Sealy, Hubert Vis, Felix "Papy" Cicilia, Jeanne Emmers, Udo & Berni Lusse, "Chiki" Chirino, Jiri Lausman, and community members who contributed to Tera Cora's Sentro Bario's Information Book



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OP ED PAGE — LETTERS

RAVES FOR RAYVAH

Dear Bonaire Reporter:

May I give just a small report on how good we feel to have the Rayvah Institute here in Rincon? We'd like to tell everyone how good it is to have the opportunity for information



Some proud Rayveh grads

and education so close to home, like we now have in Rincon.

Before Rayvah officially opened in Rincon, some ladies and gentlemen participated in the "Windows Introduction" course during the morning and afternoon hours. Also the FKPD "visitors" (handicapped center members) did the Introduction course, and both groups were very happy to receive their certificates at the official opening of Rayvah in Rincon last month.

We are sure that in Rincon many more persons want to get out of their homes to learn more about computing and whatever more.

Also for our school kids it is a blessing that they can come back home earlier, take a shower or a nap, and then visit Rayvah to use the Internet or to get information for their homework.

On Monday, October 3, another group finished the course, "Getting Acquainted with Microsoft Excel." Our instructor was Mr. Wesley Chirino. We all hope to move on to Level One of Microsoft Excel.

We are sure that we are moving forward, with everyone's help, and that we are achieving our goals.

Maria Koeks Sint Jago

(Sea Turtle Report. Continued from page 5)

to lay one or more nests before departing to her feeding grounds. She will be the third turtle to be tracked from Bonaire during the 2005 nesting season. Earlier, the female Loggerhead "Happy" was tracked from her nesting beach at Klein Bonaire to her feeding area in the Vieques Passage off Puerto Rico, over 730 km away. Male Hawksbill "Albert" is still currently around Klein Bonaire and we expect him to leave soon.

As this year's turtle nesting season comes to an end, STCB will try to find one more nesting turtle to track. If you are interested in sponsoring a turtle for next year's tracking program please contact Mabel Nava (599-717-2225, 780-0433, stcb@bonairecturtles.org) for details. STCB exists to ensure the protection and recovery of Bonaire's sea turtle populations throughout their range. Founded in 1992, the STCB is a Bonaire-based, non-governmental and non-profit organization, part of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network. □ Story & Photo by Mabel Nava-STCB



(Pechtold Visits BMP. Continued from page 5)

Bay and its relationship to the coral reef. During a stop at Klein Bonaire, Kalli de Meyer of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance detailed the significance and the function of coral reefs.

After snorkeling along with Bonaire Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé and the Park staff at Klein Bonaire, Minister Pechtold said he enjoyed the water very much and was very impressed how clear it was. □ Elsmarie Beukenboom

Who Owns That Big White Yacht?



M/V Tatoosh

The stunning 330-foot white yacht that arrived on the last day of Regatta and is tied up at the North Pier this week is *M/V Tatoosh*, owned by Microsoft's Paul Allen. The yacht, built in 2000 in Germany, carries a 30-person crew, as many as two helicopters, a swimming pool, a spa, a private movie theater, six other surface boats (including a separate 54-foot racing yacht and two Hobie catamarans) and a submarine.

Allen bought the *Tatoosh* in 2000 when it was America's second largest privately owned yacht. Three years later, he added the 413-foot-long *Octopus* (aptly named for a Microsoft man), enabling him to leapfrog the founder of Victoria's Secret to own the largest yacht in the world.

Forbes magazine in October 2004 dubbed Allen the third richest American, after Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, estimating Allen's personal fortune at \$20 billion. □L.D.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)							
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides							
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		HEIGHT		COEF	
10-21	1:24	0.7FT.	15:40	1.9FT.			81
10-22	2:07	0.7FT.	16:30	1.9FT.			70
10-23	2:42	0.7FT.	17:26	1.9FT.			58
10-24	3:15	0.7FT.	18:11	1.8FT.			46
10-25	3:41	0.8FT.	19:00	1.8FT.			37
10-26	3:59	0.9FT.	19:43	1.7FT.			31
10-27	4:09	0.9FT.	11:25	1.4FT.	14:47	1.4FT.	20:21 1.6FT. 32
10-28	4:10	1.0FT.	10:57	1.5FT.	16:15	1.3FT.	21:10 1.5FT. 38

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Aeson	Destiny	Makai	Synergy
Altair	Double Buggy	Maggi	Tish
Alter Ego	Elenoa	Mascalzone	Theis
Amorita	Ete Infini	Noorhinder	Ttuut lele
Angie	Flying Cloud, USA	Papyro	Ulu Ulu, USA
Angelique	Freestyle	Paranda	Unicorn, Norway
Annke	Gallivanter	Propinquity	Valkerie
Aguila	Good Hope	Rache VSamba	Varedhuni, Ger.
Augustine	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Santa Maria	Ventoso
Baku	Guerdo	Sandpiper, USA	Volare
Bright Sea	Jan Gerardus	Seascape	Water Musik
Calliope of Arne	Jomi	Sea Horse	Whitewings
Camissa, Chan Is.	Josina	Sho Fun Time	Ya-T, BVI
Cape Kathryn	Key Lara	Scintella	Yanti Paratzi
Casse Tete	Luna C. USA	ShalimarSirius	
Cruzincat	La Baronne	Sol Y Mar	
Dauntless	Lazzorone	Sparti Vento	
Delphinus	Live Your Dream	Sylvia K	

REGATTA WORLD OF WINDSURFING

Story & Photos by **Tonky Frans**, Bonaire's Champion Freestyle Windsurfer



Jurgen Saragoza and Farley Cleofa

MONDAY

The Regatta competitions started on Monday, October 10th. Like forecast there was not much wind that day. Light wind is ideal especially for the Big Kids windsurfers (Archuendro Finies, Bjorn Saragoza and Hendrik Balentien) who have lightweight boards. It was obvious that not only the Big Kids windsurfers but also the Wind-

surfer Juniors, particularly Payo Soliano, Choko Frans and Kiri Thode, would do very well on Monday. For these lighter youngsters it is relatively easy to pump up the wind with their bodies in order to get the board sliding on the water. On day one it was Choco who won the first place in the Windsurfer Juniors. For the "elder" windsurfers it is a drama when

(Continued on page 9)

(Regatta's Windsurfing. Continued from page 8)

there is no wind because even if you try to pump up the wind with your body, your board will barely move. But Ethienne Soliano knew to sail faster than the rest in order to win the leading position that day.

TUESDAY

On the second day of competition it seemed as if the wind conditions would be the same. The first start of the day also began under these poor conditions. But on the second start we were surprised by a rush of wind and all competitors were sailing as if their lives depended on it. Ronald Mayer: *"I had a very good start but I made the mistake of sailing too far before making my first tack. This definitely has had its influence on my position on this day. My sail was big enough for this light wind condition but I think that my board was too big which gave me a hard time making it to the inflatable marks!"*

Ethienne Soliano kept his leading position in the Formula category. Ethienne: *"I had a very good start right off, but during the race I discovered that my sail was not well adjusted. To add to this, I started to feel my left shoulder aching. Last month I had an injury and I was told by my doctor that I am not supposed to be sailing or racing for a while. Nevertheless, I will do my utmost best to sail till the end! The wind has been light so far, but this is in my favor since I am very light and I am used to these conditions. I feel great being in the lead but it's not the end yet and lots of things could still happen."* In the Big Kids category it was Archuendro Finies again who stole the show this day, while in the Junior Windsurfers it was Choko's day again.

WEDNESDAY

While Wednesday was a day off for the Formula competitors, it was THE big day for the kids competing in the several categories at Sorobon during the Freestyle event. I coordinated this event with the help of several people and my brother Taty. The judges for this event were Ronald Mayer, Choko Frans and Taty Frans. The scoring official did a good job keeping the score very efficiently so that we could have the results as soon as possible at the end.

The Baby class was a lot of fun to see: the kids had to race on a course of about 50 meters starting in the middle of the water at Sorobon beach and ending just in front of the King of the Caribbean judging tower. The kids were racing in very light wind conditions with their coaches running right behind them just in case anything might happen. It was a great sight! It was a pity that there were



Payo Soleano gives instructions to his sister

not many spectators at the beach to encourage these kids. Hopefully, next year more people will attend the event.

For the category of Baby kids, all participants were declared winners and they all won a first prize. Both groups of racers for the Windsurf Super kids and the Windsurf New Boys had three racing courses to complete at the Sorobon Beach. Initially the idea was for them to do Freestyle also, but we ran out of time, and on top of that there was practically no wind. For these two categories the racing course was adjusted and they had a longer trajectory to complete. The competitors showed great skills and promising talent during their performances. Amado Vrieswijk won the first prize for Regatta 2005 Windsurf Super kids after a great battle with Charles Martijn, Dylan Robles and Jurgén Saragoza. In Regatta 2005 Windsurf New Boys it was David Lee Winklaar who won the battle from Ezri Heijmans and Farley Cleofa.

THURSDAY

On Thursday the races for the older racers continued. It was the day where each participant could make a difference in his/her position for the end results. On Thursday, too, the wind was very light. When I asked the question, what would they do to try to move faster, they all had the same answer: pump to get more wind. When pumping with your body to get more wind you will gain more speed under normal circumstances. On the first start of the day the wind was so light that the competitors were not even moving on the water. Some of the riders were paddling with their feet. This paddling resulted in a big discussion after the finish! Participants were also protesting against this action. In the end the scoring officials decided that paddling was not permitted, and the participants who were guilty of this act were disqualified. On Thursday, I stole Ethienne's leading position in Formula while in the Big Kids windsurfers Archuendro maintained his first position and in the Junior Windsurfers Kiri Thode took away the leading position from Choko Frans.

FRIDAY

Friday was the decisive day with a very



Winner Amado Vrieswijk and his sister, Chanel

good start in the morning. Wind was cooperating very well and windsurfers were enjoying the last Regatta race day. The second start was less successful though because the wind died. All the competitors were floating on their boards around Klein Bonaire while making great efforts to get back to Bonaire. Again, lightweight participants were privileged. Kiri: *"This was my weather. I always get good results in light wind."* For the people who know Kiri, it is no wonder that he was one of the first to get back on land and win the first prize of Regatta 2005 for category Windsurf Junior, followed by Choko Frans in second place and Payo Soliano in the third place. In Regatta 2005 windsurfing Formula Class it was Taty who took first after winning both races on the last day. The second place was for me while Ethienne Soliano ended in the third place. In the Regatta 2005 Big Kids it was of course Archuendro Finies who won first place (he won every day), followed by Hendrick Balentien in second place and in third place Bjorn Saragoza. And just like this Regatta 2005 came to its end.

Especially on the last day there were many spectators and the Regatta spirit was vividly present on the boulevard and in front of the Kas di Regatta. There was also a big crowd of spectators during the prize giving Friday night. I think that Bonaire can look back to a great Regatta 2005 when it comes to the competitions. Compliments for the organization!

For the windsurfing world it was a great Regatta where we had lots of fun together. We compete with each other regularly, but in the end we are all one big windsurfing family where we all are considered champions in our own right. Congratulations to all the winners of Regatta 2005 in all the different categories.

See you again in the Regatta 2006! □



Tonky photographing winners at Regatta awards.

Klein Bonaire Swim A Hit!



The hard workers and organizers of the Klein swim

The Fifth Annual Klein Bonaire Swim sponsored by Jong Bonaire last Sunday was an outstanding success with 308 participants of all ages, the youngest of which was two! Numerous others, families and friends, thronged the beach cheering the swimmers. After being postponed for a week due to thunder and lightning last Sunday, this event had absolutely perfect weather.

The two who swam the fastest to and from Klein Bonaire were Ethiene Soliano, 23 minutes, who swam with fins, and Pieter Zweers, who swam without fins, in 26 minutes.

Special thanks go to Bongo's Beach and the rest of the sponsors who made it all possible: Bon Fysiotherapie, Harbourtown Real Estate, More for Less, Crocantino Restaurant, De Freewieler, CURO with STINAPA, EHBO, and all the volunteers. The Director and staff of Jong Bonaire encourage everyone to begin training for the Sixth Annual Swim in October 2006! □ Press Release/L.D.



Chaz and her mom, Simone, made the swim together.



The Simal-Nava family relaxing before the swim.



The guys prepare. Peter Zweers (right) was the first to finish (without fins) and Frank Bohm (rear) was second.



Mary, Connie, Francey and Malin, all dive instructors, swam well and fast

Overall Regatta Winners

AWARD WINNERS - BONAIRE INTERNATIONAL

SAILING REGATTA 2005



Oswin Margaritha took first in Class B Fishing Boats



The sailing Solianos took 1,2,3 in Class C Fishing Boats- Papichi, Jopie and Giovanie holding trophies



Sunfish winners – 1st Place winner, newlywed Sipke Stapert (2nd from right), holds up his new wedding ring from bride Dianir Rivas-Torres

OPTIMIST C	3	Ruben van Eldik	Bon	KID OF LAC BAY	3	David-Lee Winklaar	Bon
	2	Arnd Chirino	Bon		2	Amado Vrieswijk	Bon
	1	Boy Ottens	Bon		1	Jürgen Saragoza	Bon
OPTIMIST B	3	Nanouk de Jong	Bon	PRINCESS OF LAC BAY	3	Mallory de Palm	Cur
	2	Robin Jansen	Bon		2	Anais Pauletta	Bon
	1	Desiree Baaleman	Bon		1	Arantsa Boezem	Bon
OPTIMIST A	3	Louis Hendrixx	Cur	PRINCE OF LAC BAY	3	Archuendro Finies	Bon
	2	Deion Van Rooijen	Cur		2	Harvey Piar	Bon
	1	Eugene Hendrickx	Cur		1	Björn Saragoza	Bon
SUNFISHES B	3	Franzl Domacassé/Robbyëll Bernabella	Bon	QUEEN OF LAC BAY	2	Samantha Diaz	Bon
	2	Nicolas Maciel/Emanuel Martina	Bon		1	Andreina Figaroa	Bon
	1	Bryan Bart/Jamal Trinidad	Bon	KING OF LAC BAY	2	Demenson "Kiri" Thode	Bon
SUNFISHES JUNIOR	3	Kevin Dijkhoff	Bon		1	Evertson "Choco" Frans	Bon
	2	Vianco Serberie	Bon	WINDSURF FORMULA MEN	3	Ethienne Soliano	Bon
	1	Tirza van der Straaten	Cur		2	Everon "Tonky" Frans	Bon
SUNFISHES A	3	Rene Brandt	Cur		1	Elton "Taty" Frans	Bon
	2	Tijn Siebels	Cur	VISSERBOTEN C	3	Morgen Ster - Giovanie Soliano	Bon
	1	Sipke Stapert	Bon		2	Aranza - Jopie Soliano	Bon
WINDSURF BABY KIDS		Mitchell de Palm	Cur		1	Unico - Karel "Papichi" Soliano	Bon
		Julia Martinus	Bon	VISSERBOTEN B (Fishing Boats)	1	Barabas - Oswin Margaritha	Bon
		Alexson Bloem	Bon	VISSERBOTEN A (Fishing Boats)	1	Laurita - George DeSalvo	BON
		Yannick Finies	Bon	THE LAC BAY RACE			
		Anais Pauletta	Bon	OPEN		SYNERGY SXM	
		Arantsa Boezem	Bon	RACING CRUSING I		WINDHUSH II	CUR
WINDSURF NEW KIDS GIRLS	2	Mallory de Palm	Cur	THE ROUND BANAIRE RACE			
	1	Chanel Vrieswijk	Bon	RACING II		CHAMBA II	CUR
WINDSURF NEW KIDS BOYS	3	Ezri Heymans	Bon	RACING I		VOLARE	VEN
	2	Farley Cleofa	Cur	ROUND BONAIRE RACE(OVERALL)		CHAMBA II - Jan Ackermans	CUR
	1	Rodderick Boekhoudt	Bon	OPEN	3	AESON - Piet Postma	NED
WINDSURF SUPERKIDS	3	Dylan Robles	Bon		2	CRUZAN CAT - Anthony Hagedoorn	ARU
	2	Jürgen Saragoza	Bon		1	SYNERGY - Lea de Haas	SMX
	1	Amado Vrieswijk	Bon	RACING CRUSING I	3	MARVIN - Chris Hellburg	CUR
WINDSURF WOMEN	2	Samantha Diaz	Bon		2	VENUS CALLIPYGE - Hans van Straaten	CUR
	1	Andreina Figaroa	Bon		1	WINDHUSH II - Zeno Lotman	CUR
WINDSURF KIDS	3	Clifton Piar	Bon	RACING II	3	LA DOLCE VITA - Arrien Lekkerkerker	CUR
	2	Raimyson Ellis	Bon		2	DEMARGE - Henri Hernandez	CUR
	1	Linomar Isebia	Bon		1	CHAMBA II - Jan Ackermans	CUR
WINDSURF BIGKIDS	3	Björn Saragoza	Bon	RACING I	3	MASCALZONE - Mauricio Constanzo	VEN
	2	Hendrick Belentien	Bon		2	VOLARE - Thomas Pollehne	VEN
	1	Archuendro Finies	Bon		1	RBTT - Karel van Haren	CUR
WINDSURF JUNIOR	3	Arthur Soliano	Bon	OVERALL RACING I & II			
	2	Demenson "Kiri" Thode	Bon	NIKI TROMP TROPHY		RBTT- Karel van Haren	CUR
	1	Evertson "Choco" Frans	Bon				
LASERS	2	Augusto Montbuun	Bon				
	1	Chris Marinus	Bon				
CATS	1	Pieter Zweers	Bon				

Tight Racing in the 2005 Regatta

At 6 am on Monday morning, the first day of the Bonaire Regatta, a fierce storm hit Bonaire; the sea was rough, waves crashed on the shore. An hour and a half later, at the start of the Around the Island and Lac Bay Race, conditions changed to almost no wind. The yachts' start was quite sedate and the finish unprecedented.

The Regatta officially started the previous evening at with the traditional Captain's Meeting followed by the colorful All Nations Parade.

A total of 27 yachts, divided into four categories, sailed across the starting line. Among them past competitors like *RBTT* of Karel van Haren, last year's overall winner, Jan Ackermans' *Chamba II*, plus *Volare*, *Papyro*, *Windhush II*, *Melody* and *Venus Callipyge*. *Cruzancat*, from Aruba was a first time entry.

A sole Catamaran, sailed by Bonaire's Pieter Zweers, two Lasers, 20 Sunfish and 14 Optimists made up the small boat contingent. Plus, since this is the Caribbean's windsurfing capital, a host of windsurfers participated. For a report on the hotly contested windsurfer classes check out Tonky Frans' story on page 8.

"This is a first in the history of the Bonaire Regatta," said race official Ivo van Doorn about the after-dark finish of the 50.3-mile-long Around the Island Race. During the day Aruban Captain Anthony Hagedoorn called in to say that he was "being overtaken by a jellyfish!" Eleven



A few of the popular microboats on display

boats completed the course, the last, *Demarage*, having gone aground near Klein Bonaire, crossed the line to cheers at around 11 pm.

Day two was not much different. An



Yachts set their spinnakers for a downwind run

early-morning rain shower accompanied by heavy thunder and lightning woke everyone up to another day without much wind. The Optimists, Lasers and Sunfishes sailed a shortened course, but the yachts sailed the full route. Last in, a little before 6.30 pm, was the *Sirena V* from Venezuela. The racer *RBTT* and the J-24 *Chamba II* did not give each other much leeway and finished close together in first and second place.

On the Wednesday lay day for the yachts and small boats, microboat racing drew the crowds to the waterfront. Bonaire's microboat racing is an ABC island affair, with 19 Aruban boats locking horns with 46 Curaçaoans, 44 Bonaireans and 3 surprise Dutchmen. This year radio-controlled microboats tried their luck but were frustrated by a lack of wind. Unhappily the south wind discouraged the racers; only one microboat reached the finish line during Wednesday's first heat. After the finish line was moved, things changed and the fun started. Lots of shouting, local music and *ambiente total* surrounded this first day of microboat racing.

Thursday was also the first day of racing for the Fishing Boats. Five wooden beauties crossed the starting line. Captain George De Salvo with his *Laurita* came in first both times.

The small boats and yachts were able to sail normally, as the winds were variable and light, but at least they held. The microboats had some difficulties once again, with a shifting wind that caused the organizers to reposition the finish line

Weird Winds Challenged Racers in the 2005 Bonaire Regatta



The traditional fishing sailboats all in a line

a number of times.

Tight starting line action highlighted the starts on the Regatta's last day. Sizzling starts, really close to the starting boat, made these races most interesting. One would think that the captains of these gorgeous, expensive yachts would sail very cautiously across the line, but no, they sailed past with just inches to spare. The yachts sailed a course which took them to Wecua at the furthest point of the island and rounded the Salt Pier buoy before heading back to Kralendijk and finishing before the wind died.



The Boat Parade Winner—Divi Dive

Continued on pg 13



All Optimist sailors seem to be adorable youngsters

Photo/Els Kroon

(Regatta Winds. Continued from page 12)

The *Laurita* and *Barabas* fought for the lead in the Fishing Boat class. Toward the end of their race the inshore breeze failed for a time, stranding all the boats out on the course. But after a few anxious moments a zephyr came up and allowed a sure finish.

The awards for all classes were presented at Regatta House that evening.

While the Regatta didn't provide the heart-stopping action of past years, the races tested the skills of the participants and the smooth organization of the events and entertainment caused most people to pronounce the 2005 Regatta, the 38th an unqualified success. □

Regatta Website/G.D.



Lots of action on the Kralendijk waterfront



Desirée and Margo at the super state-of-the-art digital photo processing machine

Congratulations to Paradise Photo on their 10th year anniversary of bringing quality photo finishing to the island! Desirée Philips and Margo Sterkens would like to thank all those who've been their local customers all these years.

For nearly a year now Paradise Photo has been processing digital photos from CDs, memory cards and sticks. All the work is custom, not just run through a machine as in the supermarkets and drug stores in the US. They can burn photos on CDs and are specialists at processing slides, especially those from underwater. The shop also has a lot of photography-related items: albums, frames, stationery, post cards, and greeting cards. And they do passport photos too. Stop in and say "Happy 10-year Birthday" to these friendly people who are doing such a fine job.

□ *L.D.*

RE/MAX Anniversary Party Celebration



Greeting the guests at the anniversary party, some of the RE/MAX staff: Elia-Rosa, Bob, Zwanet and Donna, flanked by bartenders Martin and Stephan

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It breaks my heart to sell the



undefeated Bonaire Sail-Fishing boat-class A winner, Laurita. Would cost \$20,000 to replace. Refit at Blonk Boat works completed October 2nd. No reasonable offer refused. Call George 786-6125/717-8988.

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Working partner with writing/editing skills, business sense, and energy desired. Call The Reporter at 717-8988, 786-6518.



Picture Yourself with The Reporter

At the Dive Equipment Show (DEMA), Las Vegas, Nevada

Thanks to Dee Scarr of Touch the Sea and Bart Snelder of Wanna Dive, *The Bonaire Reporter* was at the recently completed Dive Equipment show (DEMA) in Las Vegas. Dee arranged for these notables to be photographed with their copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. □ Text and photos by Dee Scarr



Bonaire environmentalist and Women Divers Hall of Fame member, **Dee Scarr**, who is also an undercover *Bonaire Reporter* activist, with world-class environmentalist Phillipe Cousteau.

As part of the BHG booth at DEMA, **Monique van Berge Henegouwen**, represented Lagoen Hill, Divers' Paradise and AB Car Rental while **Hilbertus Hargting** represented Buddy Dive Water Sports. They too showed off *The Reporter* to the DEMA crowds.



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.) □

Women Divers Hall of Fame members **Cathy Church** (famous underwater photographer), "Her Deepness" **Dr. Sylvia Earle** (environmentalist and former Chief Scientist of the US), **Dr. Genie "Shark Lady" Clark** (who, among other things, studied razorfish on Bonaire), author **Paul Humann**, co-author and photographer for the "Divers' Bibles" in the background. They seemed to like *The Bonaire Reporter* very much! □



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to a very valuable person on the island, Elisabeth Silberie. Elisabeth, with assistance from her granddaughter, Gina, delivers *The Bonaire Reporter* every week to all our outlets, and she always does it with a smile! Pabien, Elisabeth. □

Elisabeth Silberie with her granddaughter and assistant, Gina



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

New Deep Wall Discovered

A new deep wall has been discovered by Roger Haug of Dive Bonaire while training technical divers. The training dives were all performed on a Tri-Mix of gasses (helium, oxygen, nitrogen mixture) rather than the normal compressed air. The mix allows deeper depth exploration without getting nitrogen narcosis. Haug and his students explored four sites on Klein Bonaire at a depth range to 200 Ft (60 meters) and a bottom time of 25 minutes each dive. Each dive had a follow up of staged decompression stops performed on NITROX mixes.



The really deep water is just behind the diver

Just off Klein Bonaire, while cruising south at a depth of 190 feet, they spotted a huge eagle ray cruising at an estimated depth of 140 feet. Its silhouette was projected down to them by the sunlight exposure from the surface. What a great view.

Looking down they could see a huge vertical wall dropping down from 200 feet into the blue abyss. With a "Donald Duck voice" caused by the helium Roger spoke into his regulator to his students. They clearly understood, "Awesome." They agreed with smiles and all mentally planned more dives there.

At the beginning of the wall the deep-water color was light blue and the sand bottom was visible at an estimated 300 feet. But further down the deep-water color was dark steel blue. They could only guess about the depth, but the fact remains that it is a straight-down wall.

The next dive is planned to go to 280 feet for 20 minutes bottom time. Anyone certified for this range is welcome to join Roger on the next adventure. If you would like to join, contact him at stingerdiving@yahoo.com. □ *Photo and story by Roger Haug*

Roger warns:

"No one should attempt these kinds of dives without proper training and gear. Doing so without these will be FATAL."

Perfect Holiday Solution for You!



The Perfect Holiday Solution crew: Shirley, Rien, Henk and Marjolijn

Let Perfect Holiday Solutions show you the perfect solution for your next vacation. It's a new Vacation Club being offered on Bonaire that gives its members an opportunity to save on vacation costs not only for resorts all around the world but also here on the island. Members can take advantage of discounts at Windsock, Yacht Club Apartments, Lagoen Hill Bungalows, and at the new Sea Side Resort opening next year. Not only can members save on accommodations, but they can take advantage of lower rates on diving, car rentals, windsurfing, boat rentals, dining, outdoor adventures, sailing, fishing and more on the island. For tourists it's an incentive to return to Bonaire.

Island residents who join the Vacation

Club may take advantage of these savings too. As a member of the Vacation Club, you may receive discounts, up to 65%, on cruises. And Vacation Club members are part of RCI whereby you can exchange your vacation weeks for time in more than 3,700 resorts in 100 countries around the world. All bookings may be made by Internet.

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Their motto: "Save money and have better holidays!" □ *L.D.*

AMFO Payments From Holland Suspended

Dutch Development Aid payments to AMFO (Antilliaanse Medefinancieringsorganisatie – the Antillean Co-Financing Organization) have been suspended pending further investigation. Administration and financial activities require further examination, said a Dutch spokesman. However, NAf2,4 million is still available for NGO projects for the rest of this year.

AMFO has provided money to deserving non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through NGO platforms since 2004. Previously it was done through Central Government channels and only a trickle reached islands other than Curaçao. Its objective was to spend available resources more effectively and efficiently.

In 2004 The Netherlands transferred NAf20 million to AMFO. The payments were subject to controls, conditions and reviews by accountants. Last month the financial reviews of AMFO and the NGO-Platforms for 2004 were evaluated in Holland. "These are somewhat worrisome. It was ascertained that funds were not spent in a justified and appropriate manner," Minister Alex Pechtold wrote in reply to questions from members of the Dutch Second Chamber. "Until such time as AMFO can demonstrate that they have their administrative and internal organization in order, The Netherlands will not transfer any more funds to AMFO."

The AMFO suspension may have been initiated by an incident in St. Eustatius, where the former treasurer of the Statia NGO Platform put AMFO funds in her personal account. AMFO Director, Werner Wiels, told reporters the woman had held the NAf8.000 for three months. When AMFO learned what had happened it took measures to remove the woman and have her sign a debt acknowledgement. She has started repaying the money. AMFO also took the case to court.

In a press release, AMFO says it's aware of the VNW examiner's analysis of 2004 transactions. "AMFO had reached the same conclusions (as the Dutch Examiners) at an earlier stage, which led the organization to implement various changes and improvements in 2005. AMFO also agrees to further professionalize these young organizations and shall intensify the measures already taken to meet all requirements.



AMFO Director Werner Wiels

Now that it has become clear that one of the donors has reached the same conclusions, this in fact strengthens AMFO in its conviction that it is on the right track, but also needs to help develop a strong and professional NGO sector," the release goes on to say.

The VNW examiners said that the Netherlands had stopped payment of the funds for the third and fourth quarter of 2005. "In the meantime, both AMFO and the NGO Platforms have to improve their administration and internal control before the end of this year; if necessary, with the assistance of the Netherlands." AMFO, as the funding agency for most Antillean NGO projects, emphasizes that this is a temporary measure. Payments to NGOs that have already received approval of their financing requests are at no risk at all, and funding will take place according to the plan. AMFO and the NGO Platforms on all Antillean islands are new and learning organizations. AMFO has been operational for only approximately 18 months.

For Bonaire, which is acknowledged as having the most organized and professional NGO Platform and NGOs, AMFO's distribution of funds has meant the difference between poverty and humane survival for many people, provided opportunities for youth that make the difference between criminality and good citizenship, made the lives of the elderly more fulfilling and bettered the lives of countless Bonaireans. After all, what development assistance is all about is the "haves" helping the "have nots."

□ G.D.



Playa Clean Up Dive a Rousing Success



An enthusiastic group of 20 divers plus shore support met on Saturday, September 17 to assist with the quarterly underwater cleanup held in conjunction with International World Clean Up Day.

After a comprehensive briefing, which included information on what trash to bring up, as well as information on how to avoid harming the reef or other marine animals, the group prepared their gear and headed off to clean an area south of the Yellow Submarine Kralendijk location.

The group then was divided into two main working groups. One half began on each perimeter of the clean-up area, and then worked their way inward, to meet in the middle. The area of the cleanup was from the shoreline to approximately 40 feet/13 meters.

Shore personnel made up of Yellow Submarine crew stayed on shore to assist with receiving, sorting, and counting the trash. While doing this, they ensure that no marine animals are inadvertently caught and brought to the surface. Any marine animals, no matter how tiny, are immediately returned to salt water and carefully replaced in the ocean.

During this cleanup, the following trash was collected and removed for proper disposal: 17 bottles, 5, caps or lids, 35 pieces of fishing line, 15 pieces of fishing net, 13 pieces of rope, 51 pieces of foam plastic, 115 pieces of glass, 15 pieces of rubber, including one automobile tire, 54 pieces of metal, 23 pieces of paper, 9 pieces of wood, and 19 pieces of cloth.

The Clean Up was declared a success at the Pot Luck BBQ which followed that evening at the Yellow Submarine. The BBQ was sponsored by Yellow Submarine and NetTech, and clean up participants feasted upon chicken and ribs, along with side salads and other accompaniments provided by participants.

The next quarterly underwater cleanup will be conducted on Saturday, January 14, 2006--all are welcome, divers and non-divers alike. Meet at Yellow Submarine at 1 pm. □ Susan Davis Press Release

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Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN)

Pet of the Week

This lovely calico cat is "Elaine." She's just over seven months and is very gentle. She was adopted from the Bonaire Animal Shelter, but it turned out the people were not able to keep her and had to return Elaine to the Shelter. But during the time she spent with the people, Elaine was very well looked after, and she is still a very mellow soul. As are all the other pets up for adoption at the Shelter, Elaine is in excellent health, has had her shots and is sterilized. You may see Elaine at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out at the Animal Shelter booth at Wilhelmina Park during Regatta. It was a rousing success!

Thanks also go to good Samaritans: a couple from Holland who donated dog toys and brushes to the Shelter and an American lady who spent every morning for a week of her vacation helping out at the Shelter.

Attention dog owners: Since the rains it's tick season once again. Please be diligent in checking to see whether your dogs have picked up any because in worse case scenarios the ticks carry disease. There are a number of remedies. Check with your vet (the Shelter uses Frontline). □*L.D.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

The Skeleton Key (Kate Hudson)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Transporter 2 (Jason Statham)

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
Sky High

THIS WEEK

Friday, October 21— Holiday – Antilles Day

- Market & cultural activities all day long, Nikiboko Centro di Bario
- Washington Park CLOSED
- Governmental Summit meeting with Dutch Minister of Antillean Affairs, Alexander Pechtold, in Bonaire

Saturday, October 22, Sunday, October 30, Monday, October 31 - Halloween Haunted House at Capt. Don's Habitat, 8 to 11 pm, NAf10. All proceeds go to Special Olympics Bonaire. Not recommended for children under 12!

Until October 24— Art Exhibit by Sipke Stapert and Dianir Rivas Torres at Cinnamon Art Gallery.

COMING

Saturday, October 29 – Art Exhibit Opening – Edith Foks-Ferrageau de Saint Amand – at the Cinnamon Gallery, 7 to 9 pm. Exhibit until November 30

Saturday, November 5—Rincon Marshé—Big Monthly Version – outdoor market in Rincon, the soul of Bonaire. Criollo food, drinks, gifts, music, fruits & vegetables, plants, candles. Friendliest people. Opens at 6 am until 2 pm.

November 24-26— Bonaire Investment Conference

Saturday & Sunday, November 26, 27-

Long Distance Walk—29/44 km & 29/41 km. Comcabon 717-8629, 780-7225

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

Saturday—Mountain Bike Ride— Everyone is welcome, no matter what your skill level. It's free. Just bring a bike and your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel Angel Brito leads the pack. Telephone him at 785-0767 for more information.

Saturday -Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse, 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Wine NAf2,50 a glass.

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.

Every Tuesday Night @ 6:30pm - BonaireTalker Dinner/Gathering at Gibi's, known for great local food. Call Gibi at 567-0655 for details, or visit www.BonaireTalk.com, and search for "Gibi."

Friday -Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort, 5:30-6:30 pm

Friday- 5-7 pm Social Event at JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7. Meet artist Janice Huckaby and Larry of Larry's Wildside Diving. New original paintings of Bonaire and diver stories of the East Coast every week

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

Slides 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

Wednesday -Buddy Dive Cocktail Video Show by Martin Cecilia pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. 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. 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 9:30 pm. 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 - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Restaurant Zeezicht. 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.

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. 786-6518

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 11 am-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.
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 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 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 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, 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.

Nature Exploration

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapeling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 717-4555 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

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.

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.

VACATION CLUB

Lower the cost of vacationing in Bonaire. Visit Perfect Holiday Solutions to discover how you can get discounts and more. Free gift for learning how.

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 786-6518

ON THE ISLAND SINCE . . .

July 2003

Jeroen Beumer and Justine Gongrijp

“When I met Jeroen in Holland, it was two days after I’d heard that I’d gotten the job as an assistant public prosecutor on Bonaire. In spite of the fact that I was leaving in three months we fell madly in love. We didn’t know what to do about it so we decided to play it by ear. The three months became four, then five, then six. Every month was like a beautiful gift, but after nine months the time was up and I had to go.

By then it was very serious between us and we cried our hearts out at the airport. I arrived in Bonaire July 2003. Jeroen was supposed to come six months later. However, after six weeks he came for two weeks and he broke up with me.”

“When Justine had gone,” Jeroen says, “it caused such emptiness and it made me realize, what am I going to do on Bonaire? We’d only known each other for nine months. I had a very good job as a consultant in health care, and when I met Justine I had everything to be happy for: a good job, a nice house, great friends and a loving family. Was I supposed to leave all this behind and go to Bonaire to be with her? And another reason was that I didn’t want to mess up this opportunity for her.”

“From the moment I arrived here I was waiting for Jeroen,” Justine says. “I was working, but I didn’t see a lot of people and I hardly knew anybody here, so when he came and broke it off, I wanted to go back to Holland. I was about to leave, but luckily around that time I found a wonderful roommate, Veronique! Together we explored the whole island and its people, and from that moment on I really began to like it here and started enjoying all aspects of Bonaire.

But...Jeroen and I were calling each other at least three times a week as we were still very fond of each other. In December I went for vacation to Holland and we met again.”

“Justine was becoming more and more positive about Bonaire,” Jeroen says, “so I started thinking about my future and decided to go for a month. April 2nd, 2004 I arrived at Flamingo Airport and... when I saw her, when we held each other, it was incredible... like we were 10 feet high. We were radiating! And so I exchanged my secure life without Justine for an uncertain future with her. I gave up my job, rented my house out and gave a party, and on July 18th 2004 I came to live on Bonaire.

I worked for a while for Elvis at Tjin N.V. but then I realized, I am on a

tropical island and I want my feet in the sand! I felt depressed, but Justine was a great help and very encouraging. She told me, ‘There are so many fun things to do here,’ and she showed me an ad from Plaza that said, ‘Looking for a kayak guide...’ I got the job. Two months later the manager of sports and entertainment left and I was given the opportunity to take over.

In Holland I had been successful: a cool guy in a Tommy Hilfiger suit, always busy with my career, always very strict with my appointments. Here the Dutch approach wasn’t appreciated at work. The social aspects were far more important. I got frustrated, but after three months my friends told me, ‘Chill out! Open your eyes and look at the beautiful things! Take it as it comes!’ So, on Bonaire I learned to enjoy my life while I was working! I am surrounded by tourists who are looking for a fun way to discover the island and I have a super great team! My life has changed because Bonaire taught me how easy it can be to get the most out of life and that every day you can choose over and over again to sincerely enjoy life.”

“... and the best thing is to lead a big criminal investigation, like now with the double murder case... from the beginning to the end and you’re successful, which means for us prosecutors that the perpetrators get prosecuted and punished, you feel that you made the world a bit safer, and that’s a wonderful feeling!”

Jeroen Beumer (34) and Justine Gongrijp (27) are a very warm, loving couple; both handsome young people, promising and enterprising. She’s thoughtful and deliberate but open minded as well, and he is romantic, impulsive and fast and it’s great to see how they obviously adore each other.

“In Holland I was an assistant to the prosecutor in Amsterdam,” Justine says. “I graduated very early, when I was only 21, and I thought it was great to work at the prosecutor’s office. But after three years I felt I was still young enough to see something of the world

and to do something exciting! But I didn’t want to give up my job, so the only possibility was the Antilles. I’d been to Aruba once for work, and that was it. So, rather daringly, I started calling the head prosecutor’s office in Curaçao which handles all the Antilles. They told me they were looking for someone to handle the Hato drug cases in Curaçao for six months. Eventually they blew it off, but then I received a call about a job on Bonaire where the prosecutor needed an assistant. I thought, let’s give it a try! And to my great surprise I got the job!

In the beginning I had to ‘fight’ to be accepted by the police and the judicial chain as my appointment was unknown here. They probably were thinking, what is this girl going to do here? Luckily I had the support of Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius. He was happy with me. He helped me tremendously and encouraged me and made it very clear to everyone that I did know what I was talking about. So, little by little, it went better and better and it became more and more fun. At the moment my work is a great pleasure, and I have a very good relationship with the police corps and the other partners involved in the island territory.

In Holland you have many different teams doing specialized cases. Here you do everything, from goat theft to murder cases and from traffic offences to drugs. In Holland I was with this ‘general’ team, but if we got a very serious crime case, for instance, they would take it away from us and hand it over to a specialized team. And that’s what makes the job on Bonaire so special: you’re in it from the very beginning to the very end.

Every aspect of life passes by under your nose as people come for divorces, fights with the neighbors or relationship problems. It’s open house every day although that’s not the purpose at all! But we give advice to everyone and send them to the various places where they can get professional help. Nevertheless, it makes your day very interesting and not one day is the same.

Now I feel my job is what I hoped it



Jeroen Beumer and Justine Gongrijp

would be. It’s great that I function here completely as public prosecutor next to Ernst, and the best thing is to lead a big criminal investigation, like now with the double murder case. When you work on such a case from the beginning to the end and you’re successful, which means for us prosecutors that the perpetrators are being prosecuted and punished, you feel that you made the world a bit safer, and that’s a wonderful feeling!

Because my start on the island was difficult I have become stronger, and just like Jeroen, I realize that here you can enjoy life more. We’re very busy now organizing our wedding which is going to be February 24th, 2006. We want to get married here because on Bonaire we found each other again, and the island has given us the opportunity to meet wonderful and very special people who have become our friends.

My contract is ending next year, so we’re going back to Holland because I want to become a public prosecutor there as well. For that I need two more years of work experience, and I can’t do it here. I have to do it in Holland. I am still very young, and it’s much better to work for a certain length of time in Holland. But I’m not dismissing the thought that we’ll return to the Antilles again. I think we’re going to have a real difficult time and that we’re going to miss the island very, very much. We’re still young and flexible and there are so many things to do in Holland. But in spite of all that I know we’re going to miss Bonaire so much... but... maybe I’ll come back as the ‘new Ernst Wesselius.’ You never know!” □ *story and photo by Greta Kooistra*



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Johnny Helmund
athlete

It is not uncommon to find Johnny in a very relaxed and calm state.

He is just that kind of a guy. When he speaks, an instant peace overwhelms you.

Johnny is also an observer and a very fast learner.

At the moment he practices bowling, but used to be a swimmer. The change of sports has been good for him, especially since bowling is less tiring than swimming.

He is happy with the little things of life and will give you a high five even when there are still 9 pins standing!

Johnny is an inspiration to us, because he takes pride in what he does. He will not be disappointed by the 9 pins still standing, he takes pride in the 1 he hits!

High five for you Johnny!

Athletes oath:

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".

Become a volunteer today!

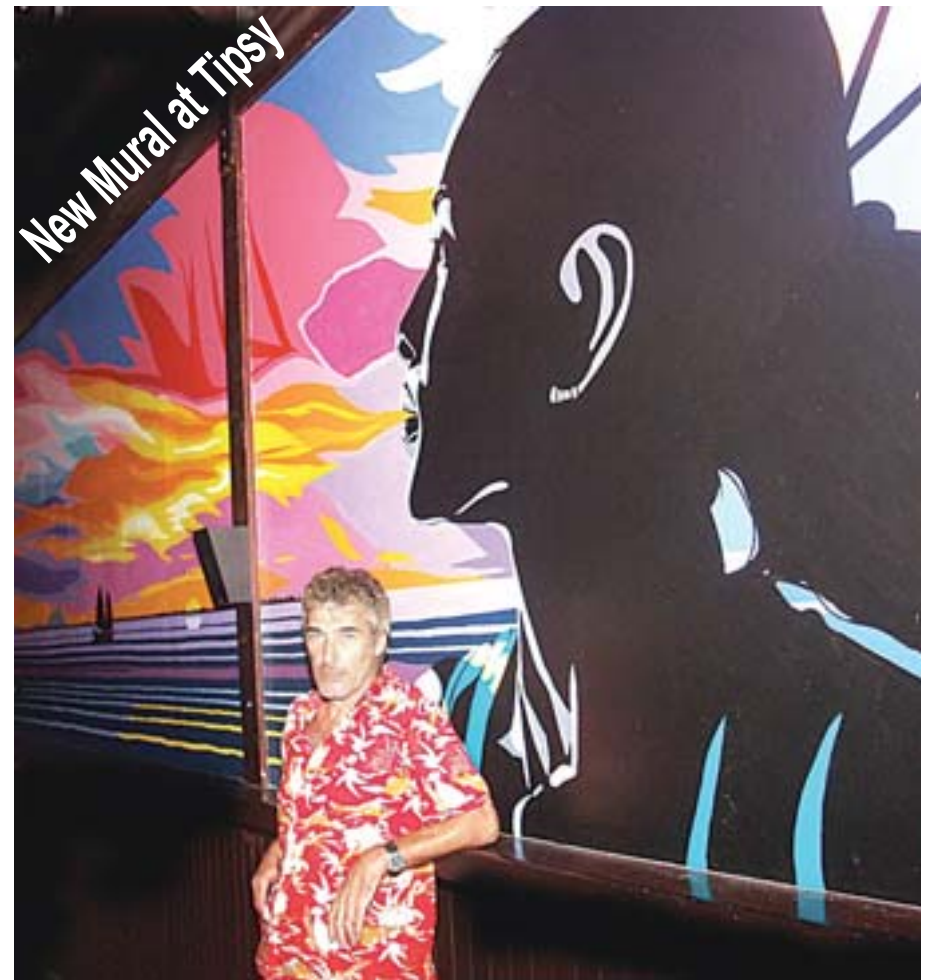
Join our enthusiastic group of volunteers. Your help is very much needed. Contact Roosje van der Hoek at 786-7984 or mail at info@specialolympicsbonaire.org

Be a sponsor!

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Our account number is 105.780.04 at Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire N.V. or if you wish you can mail a check to:

Special Olympics Bonaire
Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V.
P.O. Box 366
Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles

Special Olympics
BONAIRE
DUTCH CARIBBEAN



Henk Roozendaal, one of Bonaire's most prolific muralists, unveiled his latest work, a 15-meter long painting on the wall of the Topsy Seagull at Plaza Resort last Sunday. "At first I had no idea what I'd paint," declared Henk. "But because I'm a musician too, I felt like 'playing a solo.' I had to have the sunset, the flamingoes in the sky, the skyline and the seagulls. I looked for a model and I found a hotel school student from Curacao working as a trainee at the Topsy Seagull. The painting became 'The Ballad of the Topsy Seagull!'"

Friends and the press were invited to the opening, with jazz, of course, being played by Henk's musician cronies, Guus, Lando, Chris and Pieter. □ L.D.

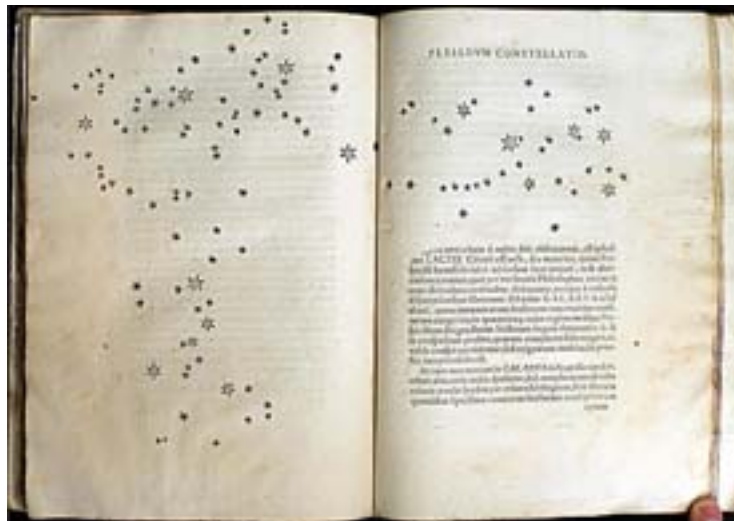


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Celebrate this Halloween with Mars at Its Brightest until 2018
Accompanied by the Seven Sinister Sisters

This Halloween we'll have two very special objects for you to see in the sky all night long: **Mars**, at its closest and brightest, and the **Seven Sisters**, which historically have been viewed in a sinister light at this time of year.



Galileo recorded the movements of the Pleiades

For Halloween week and the week after, face south at midnight, and if you look up almost overhead you will see super bright, bloody red Mars which on the 29th will be at its closest and brightest for 13 years. And off to its left, also almost overhead, the legendary tiny cluster of stars called **The Pleiades**, the **Seven Sisters**, which for hundreds of years have been associated with Halloween and other traditional days of the dead. Indeed, many ancient peoples believed that whenever the Seven Sisters reached their highest point at midnight, which happens every year about this time, it was a cosmic signal that this was the time of the year to honor the dead.

Now, astronomically speaking, whenever the Seven Sisters reach their highest point in the heavens we call this their "**culmination**." And whenever they culminated at midnight some ancient cultures held great ceremonies in honor of this cosmic occurrence. Several myths tell us that there was a widespread belief that some great cataclysm occurred in ancient times when the Seven Sisters culminated at midnight. And the superstitious and gullible have speculated that this great cataclysm might have been the great flood of the Bible or the 10 plagues of Egypt or even the sinking of Atlantis. In fact the ancient Aztec and Maya conducted spectacular ceremonies to celebrate the Sisters' culmination. And every 52 years when their two great calendars coincided they had a very special midnight culmination sacrifice because they believed that the world would actually come to an end on one of these "Seven Sisters overhead at midnight" nights. Indeed they actually believed that the world had already been destroyed and recreated not once but four times and always when the sisters were overhead at midnight.

Now although they no longer culminate at midnight on the exact same nights as they did long ago, you can still see them almost overhead at midnight every Halloween as a modern reminder that our ancestors were a lot more superstitious about the stars than we are. Today we know the Seven Sisters for what they really are. Because, as seen through a telescope, there are not just seven stars there but over one hundred, all much bigger and brighter than our **Sun** in a sphere 14 light years wide. Wow! And this Halloween we can see them almost overhead at midnight in the company of the planet Mars at its closest and brightest until 2018! Have a heavenly Halloween! □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: **October 17 to 23, 2005**
By Astrologer *Michael Thiessen*

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your interests could lead you down avenues you never realized existed. Talking to those you trust and respect will help you sort out any problems. It might be best to spend time fixing up your premises and making changes that will be appreciated. If your lover tries to curtail your freedom, it may lead to conflict. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You have been going through a period of change that has caused problems for you with your loved ones. You will be in the mood to socialize. You may find yourself caught in a triangle. You will find the perfect outfit, and the greatest new accessory for your house. Your lucky day this week is Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You can get a lot done if you get your hands on the right equipment. Try not to take everything so seriously. Residential moves will be in your best interest. Your depressed mood has been hard to shake. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) They won't pay you back and you'll be upset. Any financial limitations will probably have to be dealt with on your own. You will take on too much if you aren't careful. Stick to basics. You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully this week. Your lucky day this week is Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Relationships will form if you get out and do things that you enjoy. You may want to get a little extra rest. You are prone to infections and fevers. Tell them to get out of the mess they are in and then you'll consider getting together with them. Your ability to be a self starter will help get things done and motivate others. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Travel will entice you; however, a tendency to overspend is quite possible. Your personal life will be under the gun and you may want to avoid the questions your lover is going to want to ask you. Go over your finances and figure out a solid budget. You can make new connections if you play your cards right. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Plan events like camping or white water rafting. There's lots to be done and if you meet your deadline you'll be in your boss's good books. You can ask for favors or run your ideas by those who will be able to support your objectives. Your mate may not be too sure about your intentions. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Put your efforts into making changes to your domestic scene. Don't let criticism upset you. Hassles will delay your plans. Plan events like camping or white water rafting. Romance and social activity will be a promising combination. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Difficulties will result if you have to deal with controversial groups this week. Rest and relaxation will be more favorable than you think. You need to keep everyone on your domestic scene too busy to complain. Your intellectual charm will win hearts and bring opportunities that you least expect. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Physical activity will help defuse your frustration. Travel if it's needed to start the ball rolling. You may want to pull out some of those unfinished project you've got tucked away. You are likely to be left alone if you aren't willing to bend just a little. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Make plans to attend group discussions or get together with friends who like to talk as much as you do. Lowered vitality could affect your work. You will earn recognition for the work you are doing. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You should be able to get a lot done. Secret affairs will come back to haunt you. Set aside any decisions regarding your personal life this week. You can make profitable investments if you purchase an art object for your home. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday. □