

IT'S
STILL
FREE

BONAIRE

December 2-9, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 45

The REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: reporter@bonairenews.com • 717-8988

SINCE 1994



Sanikolas Comes
To Town
page 12

Flotsam and Jetsam

Another major step was taken in the restructuring of the Antilles following the first "Round Table Conference" (RTC) held at the Breezes Resort in Curaçao last week. The major result as far as Bonaire, Statia and Saba were concerned might have been the sealing of recognition of a new status of "specific nature" within the Kingdom with direct ties with the Netherlands. Relations were cordial among the participants who included all Antillean islands, Aruba and The Netherlands. Holland showed flexibility in resolving the NAf5 billion debt of the islands by stating they would forgive some and offer low interest rates on the remainder. Target dates for future meetings were established. The next RTCs will be in March 2006, July 2006 and January 2007 with a restructure target of July 2007.

► **A 10 m³ load of hospital supplies for Bonaire's San Francisco Hospital was flown to Bonaire on Sunday afternoon's KLM flight from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport.** The shipment from the Haaglanden Medical Center included infusion pumps, feeding pumps, needles, gloves and catheters. This one-off action was financed by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations for the hospital's acute situation. The hospital reopened with full services last week.

► Ramonsito Booi and his UPB party **changed their mind about resigning from the Antillean Government** thus preventing the fall of the Ys cabinet before new elections on January 27th. The Central Government came up with money to temporarily relieve the fiscal crisis at the hospital. Other situations which factored into the decision were the upcoming Round Table Conference and the fact that the Bonaire Government is out of cash to pay the November and December government worker salaries.



► Minister of Finance Ersilia de Lannooy, Bonaire and Saba Commissioners Burney Elhage (right) and Will Johnson respectively, are all smiles after signing the protocol to **decentralize the federal tax departments on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius** during a short ceremony in Curaçao last Saturday morning.

► **The Island Government of Bonaire said it does not have money to pay its civil servants' salaries** for November and December. Ramonsito Booi says that he informed the Central Government of the situation months ago. The Central Government is behind in its payments to Bonaire. A meeting with the Central Bank and Finance Minister, Ersilia de Lannooy, was held last week to discuss a short-term solution for the problems of liquidity of the island in anticipation of a more permanent approach.

Reportedly agreement was reached for the Central Government to cover the shortfall. Island Governments depend mostly on Income Wage Tax and Hotel tax. Bonaire collects about NAf2.5 million a month, while the island normally spends about NAf4.5 million.

► **The incumbent UPB (Patriotiko party) government will be facing a beefed-up opposition in the coming January national elections.** The Democratic Party (PDB) has included candidates from the Paboso (Socialist) and Obrero Nobo (New Workers) parties to its candidate list for the elections: Obrero Nobo leader Theo "Kabuki" Frans at number 11 and Paboso's Jona Chirino-Felida at number five. PDB leader Jopi Abraham heads the list, with Marugia Janga at number two followed by Councilman Robby Beukeboom.

The incumbent Patriotiko Party (UPB) presented its list of candidates headed by Ramonsito Booi and included popular Councilmen James

Kroon and Jonchie Dortalina.

The successful candidates will most likely be the last Antillean senators as the Antilles will be reorganized in 2007 which would eliminate the National Government.

► **BonairExpress has been re-named Dutch Antilles Express but flies planes in the BonairExpress, CuraçaoExpress and an all-white livery.** Its reservations call center in Bonaire has made making flight reservations over the phone easier. The call center, which can be reached at 011-599-717-0808, is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm. Payment can be made with debit or credit card, with an e-ticket sent by email or fax. Reservations on DAE can also be made by emailing reservations@flydae.com or faxing 011-599-717-0880. DAE will be launching a new website with an online booking capacity.

► Antilles Minister of Justice David Dick says **people residing in the Netherlands Antilles illegally have until the end of December to leave without being labeled as illegal.** The Minister wants to take measures to put an end to the flow of illegal immigrants to the islands. "The pressure this brings continues undiminished," he wrote in a letter to the Lt. Governors of the five islands, adding, "This is not a grace period. Illegal residents will continue to be arrested and repatriated." The consulates of the countries of origin of the

(Continued on page 4)

BONAIRE The REPORTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

Where to Find <i>The Reporter</i>	5
Bonaire Investment Trade Show	6
Special Olympics Team Excels	7
Young SGB Chefs' Appreciation Night, Book gifts	8
Tracking Turtles	8
Sailing School Grows	9
G.U.E. Presentation	9
Turtle Mountain (Bianculli)	10
Turtle Facts	11
Santa Arrives	12
Logos II Visit	14
Children Donate Art	15
Cinnamon Gallery Open House	17
SGB Christmas Fair	17
Ars Cantandi Concert	17
Karnaval Schedule	18
Surinam Festival	22
Envirowatch (sea damage)	22

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Special Olympic Spotlight (Jurney Martis)	7
Mega FM Schedule	7
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Classifieds	14
Picture Yourself (Moab, Utah)	14
Pet of the Week (Knabbel)	15
Reporter Masthead	18
What's Happening	19
Movieland Film Schedule	19
December Cruise Ship Schedule	19
Shopping & Dining Guides	20
On the Island Since (Henk Bielderman)	21
Sky Park (Moon, Venus)	23
The Stars Have It	23

©2005 The Bonaire Reporter

Published **weekly**. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, phone (599) 717-8988, 786-6518, 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. Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

Reporters: Albert Bianculli, Barbara Bianculli, Jack Horkheimer, Janice Huckaby, Greta Kooistra, Ditta Morrison, Mabel Nava, Benji Schaub, Michael Thiessen, Andy Uhr, Roosje v.d. Hoek, Yvette v.d. Moolen

Features Editor: Greta Kooistra **Translations:** Peggy Bakker, Sue Ellen Felix

Production: Barbara Lockwood

Distribution: Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa);

Housekeeping: Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao**

(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2)
 illegal immigrants have also been informed. All foreigners currently residing illegally in the Netherlands Antilles can leave the country voluntarily and at their own expense until December 31 at the latest without this departure being registered. They will have the right to submit a request for residence from their home country. An illegal immigrant is a person residing in the Netherlands Antilles without a residence permit or without a current application for a permit.

► The Hindu community initiated the **construction of a chapel and crematorium in Curaçao** that is now open to people of all faiths. It will be run by the Crematorium Foundation of the Netherlands Antilles under the name Crefona Funeral Chapel.

► Every year for the past three years a few good Samaritans and Elisabeth of Croccantino Restaurant have sponsored a nice Christmas dinner for the **Senior Citizens of Ka'i Mimina from Tera Kora and the 60 plus Flor di Orkidia group from Nort di Saliña**. There will be 50 senior citizens and the dinner will be on two different days – the 15th and 16th of December.

This year they are looking for kind sponsors to make this a special day for them. All you have to do is to donate \$20 (NAf35) per person for as many as you can. It's a small price to give to bring a lot of joy to those whose income is miniscule. As the organizer of the event, Delno Tromp, says, "For every \$20 for each Senior Citizen you will be given 5 points on your Mileage Card to Heaven!" Stop by and give your donation to Elisabeth at Croccantino Restaurant.

► The shipment of new Beaujolais wine set for last Saturday's wine tasting got stuck in Schiphol Airport due to the extreme wintery weather and arrived on Bonaire early this week. **So Antillean Wine Company will have their Beaujolais party next Saturday, December 3rd**. See Happenings for details

► Bonaire's **Benetton Shop will be celebrating their 15 years on Bonaire with a Gala Fashion Show on Saturday, December 10**, at the Barracuda Club. Models from all continents will

be showing a collection of the latest Italian fashions for women, men and children. The Ginies will present a dance show and there will be a musical presentation by a very special guest star. General tickets are NAf35 (includes one drink); a VIP ticket is NAf65 (includes two drinks and snacks). Proceeds go to Bonaire's charitable foundations. Tickets at Benetton shop or call 510-0710.

► Attention beer lovers! Deepak Daryanani of **Bonaire Gift Shop** reports that they are now stocking the following **imported beers**: Foster's, Budweiser, Bud Light, Stella Artois, Miller Genuine Draft and Guinness. As well, he says, they have **high end champagnes** like Bollinger, Tattinger, Piper Heidsieck, Perrier Jouet and Roederer Estate from France and Korbel from California. Coming in are Dom Perrier and Crystale. Bonaire Gift Shop is located on the main street, Kaya Grandi 13.

► **Bonaire's Rotary Club is the founder of the successfully run Bonaire Breakfast-in-School Program**. Their goal is to make sure all young students receive good nutrition, firstly by a good breakfast. As they say, "Feed the body and the mind." **The Rotary Club started this project but they need donations – both from companies and individuals – to help keep this very worthwhile project going**. Please help! You may make donations to the MCB Acct # 831-088-02, Rotary Club Bonaire, PO 240, Bonaire NA



► **Artist Germaine Nydam has done it again – another unique, very Bonaire calendar for 2006**. Nydam's inimitable, whimsical driftwood crea-

tions have been photographed by fellow artist, Ronald Verhoeven, in various dramatic locations on the island, including the rugged east coast, the placid west coast and in the *mondi*. Check out the local birds perching on the pieces. Calendars are available at Bonaire Gift Shop, Paradise Photo, Best Buddies, Bahia, Alantis and Le Flamboyant, or call Germaine at 717-2203. They're \$10 each or wholesale, NAf10 for 10 or more. While you're looking at the calendars check out Germaine's new original post cards at the shops too.

► Please note that the ever popular **Pasa Bon Pizza Restaurant and Bar has a new telephone number – 780-1111**. Put it in your address book or cell-phone now so you won't be disappointed next time you need a pizza fix. By the way, it's not just pizza that they serve. Try their super delicious Pasa Bon Salad or that tasty, savory lasagna. Great bar drinks too.

► The Jong Bonaire models shown in the Benetton ad is week are **Rhoda Celestijn and Jomar Vlijt** at Karel's Beach Bar. The Benetton ad is on page 20.

► It's the **first of the monthly jazz brunches at Den Laman Restaurant this Sunday, December 4**. The music will be by the acclaimed Bonaire Jazz Group (Lando, Guus, Chris and Benji) plus guest musicians from the island and abroad. For info and reservation call 717-4106 because advance bookings get 10% discount on the \$25 menu which includes Champagne, Mimosas, Bloody Marys and the famous delicious food of the Den Laman

► **Divi Flamingo will be presenting another one of their incredible Bonaire Nights at the Calabas Restaurant on Sunday, December 4**, from 6 to 9 pm. Join them for a genuine Bonaire experience – a bountiful buffet and live entertainment – all from the island. Music is by Kanja Brabu and dancing by Grupo Kayena. A special guest star will be there, our own John Janga, who won the Divi Song Festival in Aruba recently. Price is \$20 (NAf35). Kids pay their age in dollars.

► **Activity in the restaurant scene continues**. There have been ownership

changes, management changes and some exciting new restaurants are set to open. We'll report in an upcoming issue.

► Check out the **Mega FM 101.1** schedule on page 7. A new feature is **island information in English every half hour on the hour**.

► The **Bonaire Tourist Office issued some details that show how the island is preparing for the 2005-2006 high season**:

- Every Saturday evening from 6 to 8 pm the **Antillean Wine Company hosts a surprise wine tasting** with a different wine each week. The wines featured are top quality. Glasses of wine cost just NAf2,50 (\$1.40). For more information call 560-7539, email wine@antilleanwine.com or visit <http://www.antilleanwine.com>.

- **A new restaurant opened at the Bonaire Windsurf Place**; the beach-front Wind & Surf Beach Bar offers a full bar and serves snacks as well as sandwiches, salads and more for lunch seven days a week from 10 am to 6 pm. Wednesday nights at 7 pm there is

a multi-cultural Beach BBQ with food and live music. For more information call 717-5091 or visit <http://www.bonairewindsurfplace.com>.

- **AB Car Rental added 45 new vehicles** to its fleet. This will now expand their current rental fleet to approxi-

Continued on page 5

mately 200 vehicles.

- **Budget Car Rental upgraded its fleet** with 31 Toyotas, including twenty new HiLux double cab pick-ups.

- The **Caribbean Club Bonaire will add six apartments in December**: two ground floor studios, two ground floor one-bedroom apartments and two top floor two-bedroom apartments.

- **Dive Friends Bonaire upgraded its services**. All of its instructors are now trained to teach Nitrox courses, and they have just completed the installation of a new Nitrox filling station at Photo Tours Divers at Caribbean Court. Bon-

(Continued on page 5)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)
 aire Yellow Submarine and Photo Tours
 Divers are divisions of Dive Friends
 Bonaire. Tel.717-2929, email
 info@dive-friends-bonaire.com or visit
 http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com.

- **Divers Paradise renovated its apartments.** The seven renovated units feature TV, radio, ceiling-fans, personal safe, a fully-equipped kitchen, spacious bathroom with shower and a large bedroom with air-conditioning.

- **Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino has completed renovations to its meeting room.** The room, which can accommodate 90 people and is located above Divi Dive Bonaire, the resort's on-site dive center, now offers air-conditioning and a complete high tech audio visual system with digital projection. Tel.1-800-367-3484 or visit http://www.diviflamingo.com.

- **Golden Reef Inn and Villas Continues to expand.** Effective December 1, Golden Reef Inn and Villas will add eight newly acquired one-bedroom condominium apartments, along with a roomy two-bedroom villa. Guests can also now enjoy the new swimming pool and wireless internet access at no additional cost. In addition, WannaDive, the full PADI facility, has a dive shop on-site. Call 1-866-790-7333, email info@goldenreeffinn.com or visit http://www.goldenreeffinn.com.

- **WannaDive Hut Bonaire has repainted and redecorated** its two-bedroom/two-bathroom apartments, built a new roof over its bar, renovated the front office and introduced a new

menu at its restaurant. WannaDive promises more announcements in coming months. For more information call 011-599-717-8850, email info@wannadive.com or visit http://www.wannadive.com. □ G./L. D.



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

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

Airport:

Car Rental Agencies

Airport Arrivals Area

Banks:

MCB (Playa & Hato),

Restaurants:

Bistro de Paris

Brasserie Bonaire

Capriccio

City Cafe

Crocantino

Lost Penguin

Lover's Ice Cream

Pasa Bon Pizza

Shops:

Benetton

Bonaire Gift Shop

Cinnamon Art Gallery

City Shop

DeFreewieler

Exito Bakery

INPO

Paradise Photo

Photo Tours, Playa

Hotels:

Buddy Dive

Capt. Don's Habitat

Carib Inn

Caribbean Club

Caribbean Court

Divi Flamingo

Eden Park Hotel

The Great Escape

Harbour Village

Plaza Resort

Sand Dollar

Supermarkets:

Cultimara

Montecatini

Progresso

Sand Dollar Grocery

Tropical Flamingo

Warehouse

Bookstores:

Bonaire Boekhandel

Flamingo Bookstore

Realty Offices:

Harbourtown

RE/MAX

Sunbelt

Government

Offices:

Bestuurscollege

Parliament Office

Customs

BVO

Others:

Bonfysio

Botika Korona

Caribbean Laundry

Fit 4 Life

Hair Affair

Harbour Village Marina

Rocargo

San Francisco Hospital

TCB

Telbo

Yellow Submarine

RINCON:

Chinese Store,

Joi Fruit Store,

Lemari Grocery

Rincon Bakery

Still can't find a copy?

Visit our office at Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6 or Call 717-8988, 786-6518

Bonaire Investment Trade Show Conference

The first-ever Bonaire Investment Trade Show Conference held on November 24 and 25 appeared to result in some new business for Bonaire and created an awareness of the island. Booths describing Bonaire opportunities and vendor offerings filled the casino and auditorium at the Plaza Resort. Representatives came from Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Surinam, the Antilles and Europe, especially the Netherlands.

The main objective of the conference was to boost Bonaire's entrepreneurs and to bring in investors and show them opportunities for doing business on Bonaire.

In conjunction with the trade show, in adjacent meeting rooms, related sessions ran all morning and afternoon for two days. The fee to attend was \$195 per person.

One of the exhibitors was Chris Goodwin, Manager of International Projects for Croon TBI Techniek, a company already operating in Aruba and Curaçao which is one of the big-



Bonairean Alvin Obersi (center) has business interests not only in Bonaire but also elsewhere in the Caribbean. He's shown with some St. Maarten businessmen.

gest Dutch construction and technology groups. Croon does jobs in security, water treatment, logistics, building, maintenance, the environment and infrastructure. It is eager to do jobs in Bonaire. His company, Goodwin said, was approached by Government leader Ramonsito Booi last year to come up with ideas to make Bonaire a "Green Island."



Chris Goodwin of Croon TBI Techniek hoped to find some Bonaire projects

Was it a success? Gianni van den Heuvel, Project Manager for Multifunction Management, Antilles NV which put on the Conference, told *The Reporter*, "What I can tell you is that we have many things to learn. To put this event together was a major operation taking into account that it is the first time, so everybody wanted to remain in their comfort zone.

But after all we went through, I can look back to an event for which we received so many compliments that I was astonished myself. These coming two weeks we will be evaluating the conference and tradeshow, and based on this we will send out a press release."

The true measure of a conference



Daisy Thode represented Bonaire's Economics Department, DEZA.

such as this is the opportunities it provides for the people of the island and the spin-offs it generates. But regardless of the immediate results it may deliver, it is a significant step in moving Bonaire from a passive business environment to one that seeks opportunities and pursues opportunities. □

G.D.

Bonaire's Special Olympics Team Excels in Aruba



Proud Special Olympics Team Members arrive in Bonaire: Back row: Felix Martijn, Aura Engelhart, Kenneth Piar, Revelino Engelhart, Roosje v.d. Hoek, Archibald Martijn, Front row: Marion Melaan, Margriet Anthony, Hellen Agostien, Leonard Angela, Journey Martis, Jean-Pierre Winklaar

Special Olympics Bonaire teams met great success at the fifth edition of the Special Olympics National Games in Aruba. Teams from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and St Maarten participated. Bonaire team members were set to compete in the Running, Swimming and Bowling events. Awards included Running; 3 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze, Swimming; 3 gold, 2 silver and a bronze in several categories. Lawn bowling events were rained out by heavy rains. □ *Roosje v.d. Hoek, photo by J. P. v.d. Hoek*

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Journey is one of the smaller athletes at Special Olympics Bonaire but he takes every sports event like a big player.

At the bowling alley he plays with an élan and style like a pro bowler.

Also at the latest National Aruba Games he collected 1 gold and 3 silver medals at Track and Field and 2 gold and 1 silver medals with swimming in three different disciplines.

We also noticed that he even has a precise aiming ability at the pool tables.

Now we know Journey a little better we can say that size doesn't matter to perform and while physically still growing the performance will gradually grow with him if he maintains performing.

G(r)ow Journey, g(r)ow.

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



SGB Young Chefs Show Appreciation – With a Dinner

Last Saturday night at Chez Nous, the hotel school restaurant, diners, many of whom are supporters of the students, were treated to a four-course authentic Italian dinner. It was created by the students (Channethon Jansen, Minosca Mercera, Angel Albertus, Shakira Mattew and Gianna Martines) and their teacher, Vernon “Nonchi” Martijn, recently returned from four weeks of studying cuisine, Italian style, and was a thank you to many of their sponsors. The courses – Antipasti, Due Pasta, Fileto Balsamico, Vernon’s Tiramisu – were each paired with an appropriate wine.

This is the third year that a group of Bonaire culinary students has been invited to the Emilia Romagna region of Italy as part of a cultural student exchange. Culinary students from all over the world are steeped in Italian gastronomic lore in the region which is considered the finest in the country. Some Bonaire students from previous visits are still working in Italy in fine hotels and restaurants. More on their new website by NetTech:

www.infobonaire.com/culinary-school □L.D.



SGB Young Chefs: Channethon Jansen, Minosca Mercera, Angel Albertus, Shakira Mattew, Gianna Martines and waitresses - Estefani Pabon and Varenia Richards.

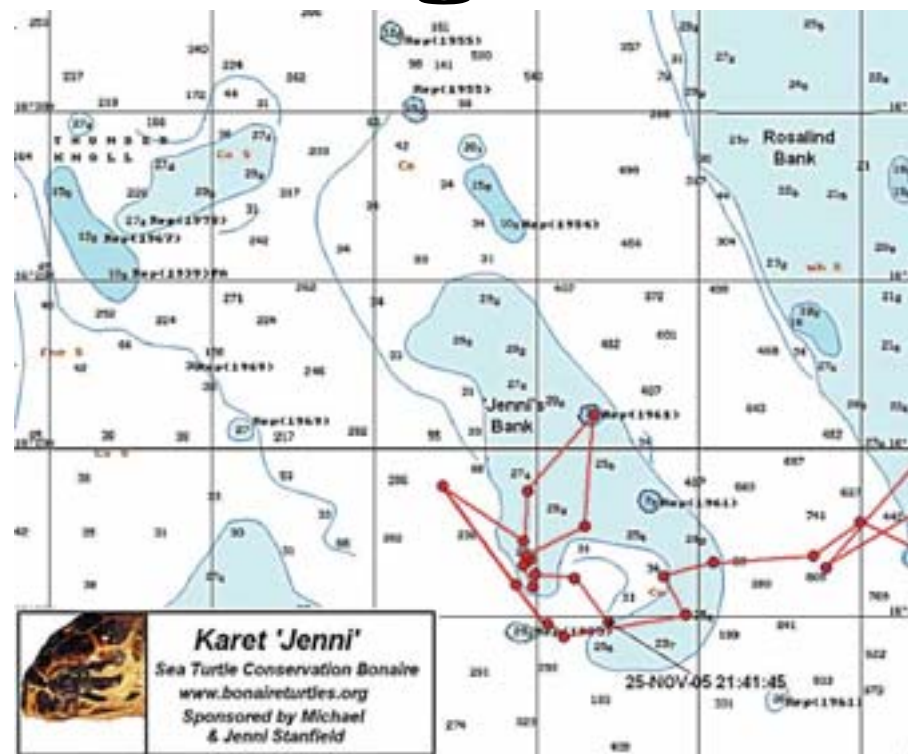


Jacinto Cicilia (l) presents his mini library of cook books to the SGB Chez Nous – with Minister of Education Geraldine Dammers, SGB’s Ann Leong, and Culinary Instructor, Vernon “Nonchi” Martijn

During the Italian Dinner event last Saturday night at Chez Nous, ex-chef Jacinto Cicilia, presented the SGB hotel school with his library of cook books. Jacinto, now in the “airline business” working with Divi Divi Air and Transaven, spent the early 80s at Richard Dove’s Beefeater Restaurant, then during the years 1983 to 1996 in St. Martin he was a chef at the Port de Plaisant and the Pelican Resort. Returning to Bonaire he worked in airport catering – a bridge apparently to his current employment in the airline industry.

In speaking of his gift, Cicilia said, “I wanted to give the books to these children to use in their studies. After all, they are our future.” □L.D.

Tracking Turtles



One of Bonaire's turtles, Jenni, appears to have reached her home feeding grounds while the others are still en-route;

Mariposita continues to move in a generally westerly direction. She is swimming quite a bit faster. Her rate of travel is over 90 km per day and she's now approximately 930 km from Klein Bonaire.

Albert is transmitting a weak signal but the data has him 245 km off the coast of Honduras and 1430 km from Klein Bonaire.

Jenni is home, The last good signal received from Jenni has her in the same location. We have obtained a nautical chart of the area which provides some additional information about Jenni's home. The bank is un-named and in at least two places may come to within 7 plus meters of the surface. The average depth of the bank is about 27 meters and the bottom appears to be comprised of sand and coral. Since this chart and other maps we have seen do not indicated any name for the bank, henceforth, we will refer to it as Jenni's Bank. Many thanks to Jan Kloos for the charts and suggesting the name. □ *Andy Uhr & Mabel Nava*

Bonaire Sailing School Grows Global Underwater Explorer Presentation



The Sailing Club escorts Sanikolas

The Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA) is working hard to expand its fleet. A new project of the club is "Project Splash." The Splash sailboat is about five meters long and is specifically for young people between 12 and 18, built by Roel Westra in Holland. The BSSA is trying to get six to 10 boats to Bonaire. The Regatta Committee is willing to introduce this new type of boat as a separate class at the Regatta.

Karel de Regt, chairman of the board of the BSSA, says: "I am talking to two potential sponsors, AMFO-NGO here on Bonaire and Startburo in Holland. The Club has become very well organized since we introduced a new board with Jan Henk v.d. Wier as treasurer, Irma Nadorp as our PR and communication person, Mary Ann Koops as secretary, Artie de Vries as member and coach, and I as chairman of the board. We really worked hard to expand the Optimist fleet, and with the help of two sponsors, the Netherlands Antillean Sailing Federation (NASAF) and several interested businessmen on the island, we were able to buy eight new Optimist sailboats.

Next we put up a new member administration and a web site - www.

BonaireSailingSchool.com - and we started bringing in new members. As a result our youth membership went up from eight to 20. We also looked for new challenges, and this past January we went to the Curaçao Regatta with 10 kids and 10 parents and organized two camping weekends.

The Sunfish sailors are very busy preparing to participate in the World Championships September 2006 in Aruba. We're looking for sponsors, we're giving training programs and we're making a selection of who's going to participate. So, we're doing well, also thanks to the parents who are very much involved.

Bonaire is an exquisite place for sailing as you only need the basic elements: wind and water and a sailboat. It's a beautiful experience, and we want every child to have the opportunity to feel what it's like. Therefore we're very conscious of keeping the contribution affordable for everyone. It's only NAf200 per year per child; that's NAf5 per week—two small bottles of coca-cola at the shops! For that money your child can sail a whole year and learn what it is - the phenomenon of sailing!" □ Greta Kooistra

A new diving business is about to start up on Bonaire - Caribbean Gas Training (CGT). Bonaire Dive & Adventure, based at Den Laman, will offer mixed gas diving, one of the most fascinating developments in modern sport diving, using the "Doing It Right" philosophy, DIR for short.

Ever since its inception about 15 years ago this extremely successful teaching, research and exploration tool has been offered to individuals or groups within diving circles. Stemming from the most extreme cave exploration projects, DIR has been shown to be applicable to every conceivable underwater environment.

Caribbean Gas Training, the future Bonairean DIR/Global Underwater Explorer (GUE) support and logistics center, is thrilled that Dan McKay, one of the most active GUE Instructors, is offering some of his private time to give an evening presentation in a casual, relaxed atmosphere, during which he will be open for questions and exchange of opinions for anyone interested.

This presentation will be held on Wednesday, December 7. Doors will open at 5:45 pm at the new retail facility of Bonaire Dive & Adventure, located in the Den Laman Apartments, next to the traffic circle. The presentation will start at 6 pm. □ Story & photo from Benji Schaub



Dan McKay, Global Underwater Explorer support instructor

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alter Ego	Galivanter	Santa Maria
Always Saturday	Goeie Mie	Sandpiper, USA
Andrea	Go Bucks	Sapristi
Annka	Goril Two	Scintella
Angie	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Sirius
Arcadia	Jan Gerardus	Spartivento
Augustijn	Jennifer	Syjoli
Aurora	Kamana	Sylvia K
Batje	Karminda II	Tatoosh, Cayman Is.
Blue Moon	La Baronne	Ti Amo
Camissa, Chan Is.	Lazzorone	Tigger
Cape Kathryn	Longo Mai	Ulu Ulu, USA
Carisea	Maggi	Unicorn, Norway
Cheers	Manera	Umiak
Corail IV	Natural Selection	Varedhuni, Ger.
Delphinus	Nexus	Vilje
Double Boggye	Nirvana	Water Musik
Eclipse	Noorhinder	Williwaw
Endorphin	Okura	Ya-T, BVI
Flying Cloud, USA	One Way Wind	Yanti Paratzi
Freestyle	Pacific	Zahi, Malta
Future	Samba	Zeezot

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
12-02	12:56	2.2FT.	94
12-03	13:43	2.1FT.	97
12-04	0:26	0.6FT.	96
12-05	1:05	0.7FT.	92
12-06	1:35	0.7FT.	84
12-07	1:58	0.8FT.	74
12-08	2:12	0.9FT.	64
12-09	2:14	1.0FT.	57
12-10	1:56	1.1FT.	56
12-11	1:10	1.1FT.	60
12-12	10:31	2.0FT.	68

Turtle Mountain

The sea is an extraordinary place. The excitement of entering this domain for a chance to have a new, unfamiliar encounter is thrilling and invigorating. When you SCUBA dive, there is always the possibility of experiencing something unique on every plunge into the water world. This wondrous liquid environment contains secrets waiting to be discovered by anyone who desires to enter, regardless of age or experience. Some say a new discovery is luck, a chance encounter. I say you make your own "luck" simply by being there. Today, after 35 years of diving on the Bonaire reefs, I will see another spectacular, totally unexpected vision.

Micky, my diving partner has a conservative and well established underwater ritual based on safety and experience. She tolerates my idiosyncrasies and enthusiasm quite well. Over time, we have established a unique set of non-verbal, hand, audible, and body language signals to keep each of us informed during our dives. Sometimes,



excitement overrides these well established protocols. I tend to soar over the reef drop-off, and swim out into the blue water on a moment's notice in search of elusive creatures, real or imagined.

The Beginning of a New Adventure

At our dive site, the water is flat calm! The wind is non-existent! The huge bay looks like a giant reflecting pool of azure water or a secluded lake at dawn without a ripple. These are not the usual conditions on the east side of Bonaire, where the trade winds blow and the waves pound the shore. The atmosphere has changed; the air is thick and heavy. We assemble our diving gear and hurriedly pull on our wet suits to escape the stinging bites of millions of tiny sand flies, *lembe-lembe*, that now have a chance to taste our flesh, due to the lack of wind. We enter the cool realm of the sea to our great relief. Our surface swim takes us across the channel, where we turn to the southeast, out toward the deep blue water off the sloping reef. Swimming on my back reveals a turquoise sky littered with pale, pink wispy clouds veiling the hazy sun, reminding me of the

sweet, torn filaments of cotton candy favored by children.

I am aroused from this dreamy vision by a shout from Micky, signaling our arrival at the edge of the shallow reef shelf. It is time to start our descent. The last sound from the terrestrial world is the hiss of air escaping from my BCD. The silent, comforting embrace of the sea releases us from the limitations of gravity, freeing us to navigate unrestricted in a three dimensional world; an environment known only to divers and astronauts. We signal OK and proceed into a slow moving, warm current at a depth of 30 feet (10 meters). Micky descends to 45 feet (15 m) to observe a familiar Tiger Grouper, floating motionless, with gills flared and flashing alternating stripes and color patterns, during his grooming session at a "cleaning station." As she moves down, I blink several times, because her image becomes distorted. She has passed through a "thermocline," a cooler current of water, resembling the icing or custard

filler between two layers of a cake. Here, in the clear sea, it's like looking through an ice cube with shimmering effects, warping physical forms and the features that define familiar objects. For me, it is a signal to stay above her in the warmer, more comfortable layer near the surface.

The First Encounter

As I shift my gaze forward, I see an old friend swimming toward me at my level. It is a Hawksbill Sea Turtle I have named "Eve." She is calm and friendly and swims directly to my face to confirm my identity, as I signal Micky to join me. We have had many previous encounters with Eve. On one occasion, Micky was repeatedly inspected as Eve circled her, eye to eye, front to back. They greet each other cordially and with great respect. Suddenly, emerging from the reef above, I see a stranger approaching. It's a new acquaintance. A slightly smaller Hawksbill Turtle with a humped shell approaches us with an inquisitive attitude. The two animals nonchalantly nudge each other and swim off in dif-



ferent directions. We watch their departure, one to the depths and the other to the surface for a breath of air.

I decide to go up, over the crest of the reef, to explore the flat shelf in the sea fan zone, where the waves are usually crashing. We have never thoroughly explored this area. At first arrival everything seems normal. We hover over a flat shelf of rock slabs at a depth of 15 feet (5 m), lined with thousands of sea fans, all swaying in silent unison, to the rhythm of a soothing, symphonic symphony, produced by the marching surge passing above us. I glance at Micky, and she seems to be entranced by the gentle rocking motion of the ebb and flow. We swim further toward the southwest and are startled out of our trance-like state by the vision before us.

Our Tour of Discovery

Nestled, among the swaying fans encompassing our entire field of vision, I count 31, and may see as many as 50 sea turtles, at rest or sleeping! They are a mixed group and their front flippers seem to be untagged. As we approach, two individuals emerge from the middle of the

group that further shocks our senses. They appear to be **pure white** and immediately rise from the bottom, swimming away at top speed. The others, lethargic and unconcerned by our presence, wait to be catalogued by size and species. I immediately bolt in the direction of the "**albinos.**" Questions are already forming in my brain; Are they real? Why are they white? Do they travel with this group for protection? Were they born on these shores? Have they returned to mate and nest at their birth place? What species are they? Is this possible?

(Editors Note: See "Turtle Trivia" side bar, page 11 for answers)

Returning to our "Arribadas"

Large congregations of Sea Turtles, usually associated with mating and nesting, have been witnessed ever since humans took to the sea. In the Caribbean basin, the early navigators noted their habits and captured many thousands for their meat and shells. Undoubtedly, these very predictable behaviors have been contributing factors in the drastic reduction of adult Sea Turtle populations throughout the world. Over many decades, human predation of the beached adults for meat and the gathering of eggs from the incubating nests for human consumption, now threatens several species to the point of extinction.

Perhaps on our recent dive, we have encountered a mixed group of turtles seeking refuge and new nesting grounds. Are these individuals confused, after returning to Bonaire shores from their long sea journeys, because those once familiar beaches have been changed by recent storms and continued development? Are they displaced individuals seeking refuge from other nearby islands, adversely affected by the same natu-

ral environmental forces and human intervention?

Protection, Education and Conservation are Necessary

Gentle capture, tagging, recording of physical data, affixing tracking transmitters, and release by the trained experts and volunteers of STCB, may reveal some answers to these vital questions.

We support all efforts to protect these magnificent, docile creatures. We encourage all fishermen, snorkelers and

Colleen and Dave Page



(Turtle Mountain. Continued from page 10)

divers to report their sightings of untagged turtles to a dive center, directly to STCB by using the Sea Turtle Sighting Sheet or on-line at sightings@bonaireturtles.org . We will continue our investigation of the elusive “albino” turtles that we have repeatedly sighted on Turtle Mountain. All our observations will be revealed in future articles. We hope you join us in our conservation enterprise to protect this vital natural resource. □ Story & photos by © Albert Bianculli 2005

Sea Turtle Facts

Bonaire Sea Turtle Population

According to the Bonaire Marine Park Guide, scientists and volunteers, under the sponsorship of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), have been conducting independent studies about the distribution and nesting habits of turtles in our waters and on the beaches. Their efforts reveal that 50% of the turtles sighted are Hawksbills (*Karet*), 30% are Green Turtles (*Tortuga blanku*), 4% are Loggerhead (*Kawama*) and only 1% are Leatherbacks (*Driekiel*). (The remaining sightings were not positively identified). Most nesting takes place on the northwest coast of Klein Bonaire, between June and September. All turtles are fully protected on Bonaire and International trade in turtles and turtle products is controlled by the “CITES” Convention of 1973, with 116 countries banning import or export of sea turtle products.

Migratory and Feeding Habits

Most sea turtles migrate, repeatedly returning to nest and feed in the same geographic regions. With uncanny homing instincts and superb navigation, some species travel long distances across the great oceans, with the Leatherbacks as the champions, traveling more than 3,000 miles (4,831 km) from nesting beaches to feeding grounds. Exact population figures are unknown, but researchers tracking and surveying the changing numbers of nesting females from year to year, indicate an overall population decline among all species, worldwide. The feeding habits of the turtles visiting Bonaire are quite varied with the Hawksbills foraging on the reefs for sponges, tunicates, shrimps, and squids. The Green Turtles, being strictly herbivores, eat sea grasses and algae and get their name from the color of their flesh, which is prized for soup. Loggerheads, with jaws adapted for crushing and grinding, consume crabs, shells, shrimps, and sea jellies. Leatherbacks, with delicate scissor-like jaws, dine exclusively on soft-bodied animals like tunicates and

sea jellies.

Biology: Size, Swimming & Respiration

Adult males and females are equal in size. Leatherbacks are, by far, the largest sea turtles with one individual recorded at 2,019 pounds (916 kg). Sea turtles cannot retract their heads or flippers into their shells as land turtles can. The long, paddle-like front flippers are used for swimming and have one or two claws (nails) on each. The rear flippers are twin rudders and the females also use them to dig and bury their nests. Most sea turtles are solitary individuals and are not considered social animals, but some species gather in great numbers, called *Arribadas* (Spanish for “arrival”), to mate and nest. All are strong, fast swimmers, excellent divers routinely reaching 1,000 feet (305 m), and, with adjustable metabolism and heart rates, can

remain underwater for as long as five hours. Green Turtles can slow their heart rate to one beat every nine minutes! Sea turtles do not need a fresh water source and their salt gland purges their bodies of excess salt by secreting it around the eyes as “tears.”

Mating, Nesting & Hatching

Sexual maturity may take as short as three years for a Hawksbill or as long as 20-50 years for a Green Sea Turtle. Once reaching maturity they usually have a 30-year reproductive life, easily making an 80-year lifespan feasible. Mating takes place three to four weeks before nesting, just offshore in open water, with internal fertilization. Most females return to the same nesting beach each year, possibly to their own birthplace. During the night, over a two-hour period, a female will come ashore; dig a “body pit” with her front flippers and then an “egg cavity” with the rear flippers, as deep as she can reach down. She will lay 50–200 soft shelled, ping-pong ball shaped eggs, surrounded by a thick layer of clear mucus. She then covers the “clutch” with sand, protecting them from predators, keeping them moist and at the proper temperature during incubation. This nesting ritual may be repeated up to nine times each nesting season and it is possible, with sperm storage in her oviducts, that all the clutches may be related to a single male partner without repeated mating. Hatchlings emerge from the nest after 45–70 days, digging out under their own power usually at night. They make a mad dash for the hazy light of the sand at the surf zone, ready to begin their long journey on the open ocean with a swimming frenzy that is non-stop for the first 48 hours. During this initial period they may be setting an internal magnetic compass of sorts which may be used for all its future navigation.

Albino Sea Turtles are rare animals but not unknown to the scientific community, as I found out in my research. At the Brazilian, Atafona Beach Conservation and Research Station, just north of Rio de Janeiro, multiple hatchlings of “Albino” Green and Loggerhead sea turtles have been documented. Over the past 11 years, researchers have determined that one of every 30,000 Green Sea Turtle hatchlings is likely to be an albino. One nest produced 22 normal, healthy, Albino Loggerhead hatchlings from a total clutch of 98 eggs! The Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida, features “Shelly,” an Albino Green sea turtle in a very popular exhibit, for the delight of visitors and researchers. □ © Albert Bianculli, 2005

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, un-retouched slides, shot on location and composed within the viewfinder.



**COVER
STORY**

Santa (Sanikolas) Comes to Town



Sint Nicolaas (*Sinter Klaus, Sanikolas*) and his Black Petes (*Swartepiet*) arrived on Bonaire this past Saturday, November 27, at the North Pier at 10 am on the antique sailing boat VD-17. Of course, as most people know, Sint Nicolaas came all the way from Spain.

Sint Nicolaas is associated with gift giving and his coming is close to the Christmas season, but he has nothing directly to do with the Christian holiday. It originated more than 600 years ago when the Bishop of Madrid, Spain, gave gifts to everyone on his birthday,

December 5. This bishop, it is said, originally came from Turkey with his helpers who were black (*zwarte*). At that time Holland was ruled by Spain so when Sint Nicolaas comes he arrives from Spain by boat.

This year in keeping with tradition he arrived in Bonaire by boat at the North Pier. Activities for the children began at 9 am in Wilhelmina Park and Sint Nicolaas arrived just after 10 am. After being greeted by the Governor, Sinter Klaus and his entourage of *Zwartepieten* (Black Petes) held court in the Park then toured Kralendijk. The



Some of the people enjoying Sanikolas' visit

festivities are organized by the Foundation Ata Sanikolas and Zwartepiet (FASIZ) and SEBIKI and are one of the cultural highlights of the year. □

L.D.





Logos II Book Ship Visit

Following welcoming speeches, a short performance by crew members from India (dance), Africa (drums) and Venezuela (dance), a video about construction help given to Grenada after Hurricane Ivan, and a gift presentation to Deputy Lt. Governor Ubaldo Anthony, the *Logos II* book ship opened shop. There were all sorts of books: cookbooks, kids' books, Christian living books plus some health, sports, hobbies, and reference volumes. The *Logos II* book ship was in port from November 23 to the 30th and was visited by many. Thank you for coming! *Story & photo by Barbara Bianculli*

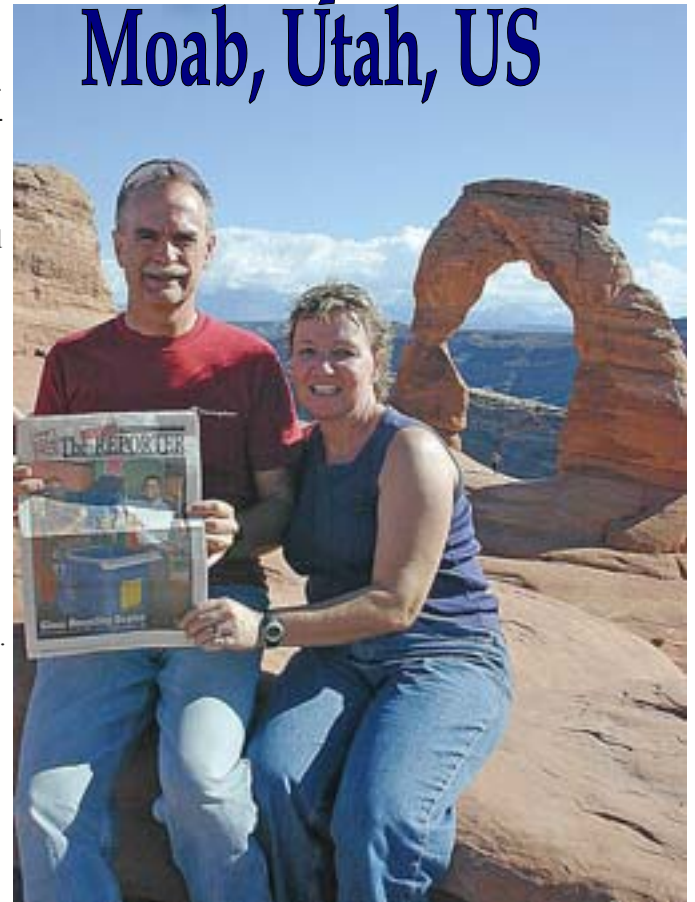


Deputy Lt. Governor Ubaldo Anthony at the opening

Picture Yourself In The Reporter

Moab, Utah, US

Longtime Bonaire residents Brad and Sandra Swanson write, "We've been visiting my brother in the Denver area and made an outing to Moab, Utah, this week. We got in some world class mountain biking on the Slick Rock trail and in the desert behind Arches National Park. The desert reminded me a little bit of riding on Bonaire, only it wasn't killer hot out. There aren't any four-mile long hills on Bonaire either, ha-ha. We met our wives in the park and then saw some amazing rock formations including the Delicate Arch, which is pictured here, complete with an issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*. □



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.) □

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

LUNCH TO GO

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

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.

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/

Is your computer slowing down, not responding the way it used to? It might be a virus or spyware. Let the professionals fix it. Bonaire Automation (next to Hites) Call 717-4306

For Sale

A 1996 Tappan stove. NAf200. Call 717-6098 before 4.30pm.

For sale: Stroller NAf75 and kid's seat for bicycle NAf75, Items are as new. Tel. 717-7977

For Sale: Refrigerator: A big refrig-

erator with 2 sliding doors. Height: 59 Width: 30 Depth: 19 Inches \$1.672; Slicing machine: To cut meat and cheese \$ 500; Freezer: Height: 3 Width: 4 Depth: 2.5 Ft \$ 175; Horror movies \$1 a piece; Christmas Decorations/ Jeans size 32 and 38, Food warmer small.: Food Cooler: Food processors: Food mixers: Letter Board: And more. PHONE: 790-7674

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

Boat for



Sale

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. Asking NAf14,000

Call George 786-6518/717-8988.

For Rent

For rent: for upcoming six weeks. Nicely fully furnished 1-BR apartment, incl. cable TV/internet, airco, alarm, washing machine etc. with big porch and nice garden in quiet neighborhood. Tel.- 717-7977

Modern house Santa Barbara www.posada-bonaire.com +599 785-0918

Wanted

PARTNER WANTED



The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a partner. Join us to "Publish in Paradise."

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

Looking for house sitter 17th December to 6th January. Clean, centrally located house. Must be responsible animal lover. Please call: Donna 785-9332

WANTED- We are looking for a full-time experienced Assistant to the Operations Manager for a small-scale resort on Bonaire. For more information or to apply please call Marieke Schmitz phone number 717-3630.



INDONESIAN DINNER AND ART AUCTION

to benefit the Bonaire Animal Shelter

Thursday, December 8, Bongo's Beach

Dinner 6 pm, Auction 8:30 (you may attend just the auction) **NAf45** - Get your tickets now: At the Shelter (717-4989), from Lydia Duijn (717-8721), Hans Wennenk (717-3207) or Paul Wichers (787-0466)

CHILDREN DONATE ART

The Art School of JanArt Gallery has been very busy preparing for the **Bonaire Animal Shelter Art Auction**. Donations from the children will be available at the auction as well as from many adult artists. The event will be at Bongo's Beach on Thursday, December 8, optional dinner at 6 pm, followed by an art auction at 8:30 pm. More information on this page and page 19. Photos are some of the pieces.

□ Janice Huckaby



Pet of the Week

What a look! What a personality! That's "Knabbel," one of the most unusual cats on Bonaire because she's such a fuzzy one. At first we thought this wonderful puss was from off island because of her extra furry look with two different lengths of hair, but then we found out that on very rare occasions this look has been seen on Bonaire on occasion.

But there's more to her than just looks. Knabbel is totally tuned into people and loves to be held. She even puts her paws around your neck to show how much she appreciates being loved. She's spent time with children and enjoys any personal attention. She can be a real pal!

Knabbel is about two years old, she's sterilized and has had all her shots and testing. You may see her at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

Thanks to volunteer Melody Hamilton for making the "Kitty Directory."

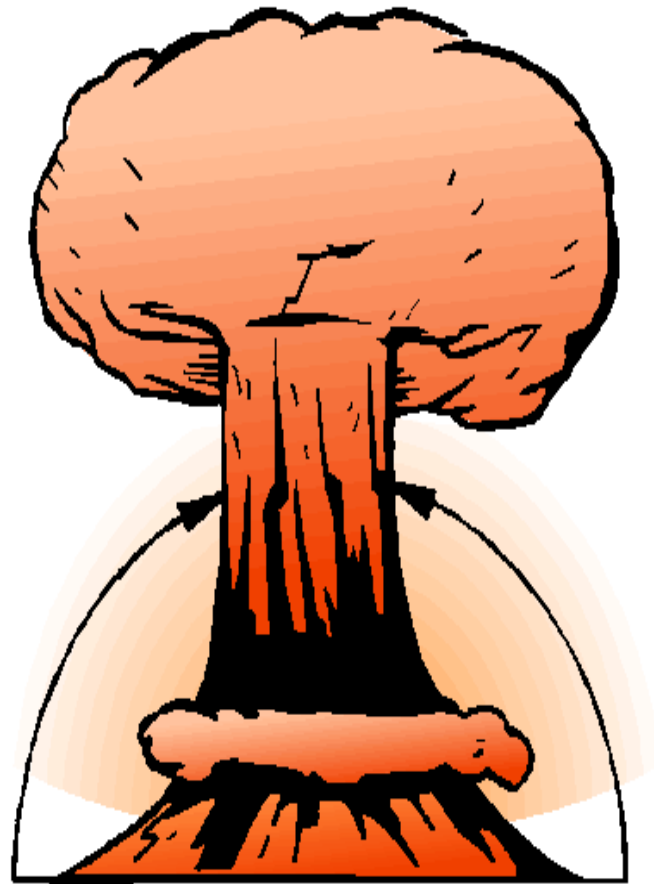


"Knabbel"

This is an awesome tool that's being used at the Shelter to identify each of the members of the population in the cat cage. Melody photographs each cat, showing its identifying markings, and puts it with the file card which documents its history (age, where its from, etc.). Can you imagine when there are a bunch of all black cats or a group of tabbies and you have to determine who is who? Well, now it can be done with a photo id showing just that little difference, like a white spot on the chest, on the foot, wherever.

Thank you Melody! □L.D.

Question:
**WHAT IS BONAIRE'S SECRET
BUSINESS WEAPON ?**



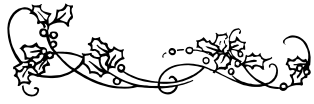
Answer:
**An Advertisement in
The Bonaire Reporter**



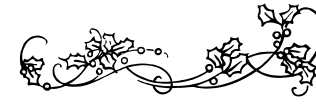
Read by Locals and Tourists
72,000 copies every year
6,000 copies every month
1,500 every week

Affordable Advertisements
From Business Card to
Full Page available

Call 717-8988 / 786-6518 / 786-6125 to make an appointment
Or e-mail advertise@bonairereporter.com



Holiday Page



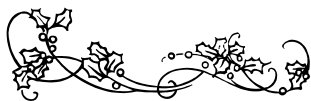
Cinnamon Art Gallery Open House



On Saturday, December 3, Cinnamon Art Gallery kicks off the opening of the Bonaire holiday shopping season with a special day dedicated to art and gift ideas handpicked to please the most discerning person on your holiday gift list. With a special Saturday Open House, from 12 noon to 8 pm non-stop, to allow those who normally work Monday through Friday to come in and browse for their holiday shopping.

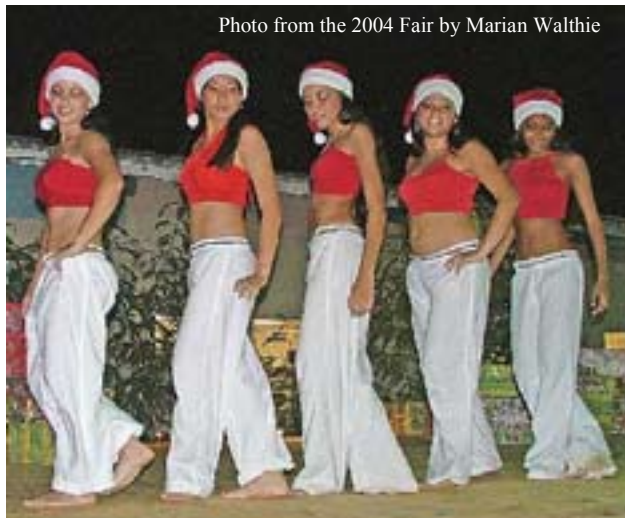
Snack on home-made cookies, snickerdoodles (cookies with cinnamon), gingerbread, and cinnamon candies along with coffee, tea, juice, eggnog, and winter rum punch while choosing your holiday gifts. In addition to the original artwork by Linda and Jake Richter and Avy Benhamron, the Gallery will also be well stocked with holiday goodies in a wide range of prices— handmade cinnamon soaps, Christmas ornaments, 2006 calendars, mugs, postcards, posters, and placemats. The Gallery also has many items which can be easily shipped, such as posters or small framed prints. Holiday items will continue to be available through January 5, 2006 during normal Gallery hours for those who cannot come for the special opening.

The Cinnamon Art Gallery is located at Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1 in downtown Kralendijk, just off of Kaya Grandi. For more information, contact the Gallery at 717-7103 or info@CinnamonArtGallery.org. The Gallery's web site is at www.CinnamonArtGallery.org. □ *Press Release*



SGB Christmas Fair-Kerstmarkt

On Monday, December 19, the SGB (*Scholen Gemeenschap Bonaire*), our local high school, will present its **Fourth Annual Christmas Fair**. It is a new SGB tradition that will put all its visitors into a Christmas spirit. There will be stands where you can buy lots of things like those last-minute Christmas gifts or decorations and where you will be able to buy a lot of food, all in the true Christmas tradition. Entertainment will be provided all night on a big stage, and everything will be decorated to get that nice holiday feeling. The only thing missing of course is.....snow.



It will be held on the grounds of the SGB itself and there is an entrance fee of NAf1. And keep your entrance ticket safe, because every year there is a lucky winner who will leave with a very nice prize. All the proceeds from the entrance fee will be put to good use for the school and its students. **The fair opens at 7 pm and ends at 11 pm.** So come and visit us at our Christmas fair and join us for a good Christmas spirit! We will be expecting you! □ *Yvette van der Moolen*

Ars Cantandi Christmas Concert

After two years of silence, Bonaire is about to hear the happy voices of Ars Cantandi raised again in Christmas spirit. Next Saturday, December 10, at 8 pm in the auditorium of SGB, the community choir will present *Nochi di Lus* (Night of Light), a Christmas concert of traditional and modern songs in several languages. Tickets can be purchased in advance from Ars Cantandi members (tel. 717-8257, 717-8526, 790-7272) or at the door for NAf10 for adults

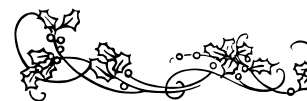
Ars Cantandi began singing in 1974, soon becoming a favorite choir in Bonaire and our sister islands. For over a generation this choir has been singing for community celebrations, performing in song festivals, representing Bonaire in competitions and bringing their joyful music to hospitals and nursing homes. You might even have caught them in impromptu caroling during the Christmas season.

Ars Cantandi's founders have always upheld a standard of professionalism for the choir members and directors, while creating music for the diverse people of Bonaire. When former director Farley Weber left Bonaire in 2003, the founders decided to wait until they could find a director who met their standards. Eventually they found their next director when Jon and Debbie Savage of Trans World Radio moved to Bonaire. Both Jon and Debbie have extensive and varied musical backgrounds. Jon graciously accepted the baton to conduct this Christmas concert, and Debbie has added her beautiful voice to the soprano section.

So if you've been waiting for that touch of holiday joy that makes Christmas such a special season, don't miss the chance to enjoy this *Nochi di Lus* with your friends and family. The members of Ars Cantandi can't wait to entertain you once again and to wish you all a musical *Bon Pasku*. □ *Ditta Morrison*



T's the Season.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



January 7	Opening Carnival
February 4	Tumba Festival
February 17	Youth Parade Rincon
February 18	Youth Parade Kralendijk
February 25	Adult Parade Rincon
February 26	Adult Parade Kralendijk
February 27	Farewell Youth Parade
February 28	Farewell Adult Parade

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

The 40-Year-Old Virgin (Steve Carell)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Flightplan (Jodie Foster)

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

Saturday, December 3—Big Rincon Marshé outdoor market—6 am to 2 pm, gifts, fruits & vegetables, plants, candles, criollo dishes, music, more. A Real Bonairean Experience!

Saturday, December 3 – Antillean Wine Company (AWC) Beaujolais Nouveau Wine Tasting -6 to 8 pm, at their warehouse, Kaya Industria 23, NAf2,50 per glass

Saturday, December 3 – Special Holiday Opening at Cinnamon Art Gallery, 12 noon to 8 pm. Snack on homemade Christmas cookies, eggnog and winter punch while shopping. Page 17

Sunday, December 4 – Bonairean Night at Divi Flamingo- music by Kanja Brabu and dance by Grupo Kayena. Special guest star, our own John Janga, who won the Divi Song festival in Aruba, 6 to 9 pm, \$20, Calabas Restaurant.

Sunday, December 4 - First edition of a **Monthly Jazz Brunch at Den Laman**. Music by the Bonaire Jazz Group (Lando, Guus, Chris and Benji) plus guest musicians from the island and abroad. Broadcast live on Bon FM 102.7 For info and reservation call 717-4106. Advance bookings will get 10% discount on the \$25 menu. More on pages 4 & 15

Wednesday, December 7 – Global Underwater Explorer Talk (Mixed Gas Diving) - Bonaire Dive and Adventure, Den Laman Apartments, at the traffic circle, 6 pm, free. Page 9

Thursday, December 8 - Indonesian Dinner and Art Auction to benefit the Bonaire Animal Shelter, 6 pm -NAf45. Tickets available at the Animal Shelter (Tel. 717-4989), Lydia Duyn (Tel. 717-8721), Hans Wennenk (Tel. 717-3207) Paul Wichers (Tel. 787-0466). Page 15

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Dec.5, *Veendam*; Dec.6, *Silver Whisper*

COMING UP

Saturday, December 10 – Benetton Fashion Show to celebrate their 15 year anniversary in Bonaire, Dance Show by

the Ginies and a musical presentation. General price: NAf35; VIP price NAf65. Benefit to Bonaire Foundations. Tickets available at Benetton Bonaire or call 510-0710. Page 4

Saturday, December 10, Ars Cantandi Christmas Concert at 8 pm in the SGB High School auditorium of SGB. See story on page 17.

Sunday, December 11—Jong Bonaire Kaminata (walk) - A Teener Parade Fundraiser for anyone who can walk. NAf7,50 includes lunch & drinks. Start at Jong Bonaire at 6 am.

Monday, December 19 – SGB Christmas Fair and Market – Gifts, food, drinks, entertainment, Christmas spirit-NAf1 entrance (drawing for a prize). Page 17

Sunday, December 25 - Bonairean Christmas Buffet at Divi Flamingo - Music by Kriollo Kids (*Gaitas*). The buffet will consist of all-Bonairean Christmas dishes. There will be a cozy Bonairean Christmas ambiance with decorations, Christmas tree, etc. Price to be announced. Information 717-8285.

Saturday, December 31 – Divi Flamingo New Years Party – to be announced

2006

Karnaval 2006 January 7 to February 28 (see page 18).

January 14, 2006 - next quarterly clean-up dive. All are welcome, divers and non-divers alike. Contact sponsors Yellow Submarine (<http://www.bonaireyellowsubmarine.com>) or Net-Tech (<http://www.nettech.an>).

REGULAR EVENTS

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, It's free. 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. Great wines - 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, 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

December 2005 Cruise Ship Schedule

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time	Pier	# PAX	Line
Mon	Dec.05	<i>Veendam</i>	0930-1730	S.Pier	1440	HAL
Tue	Dec.06	<i>Silver Whisper</i>	0800-1800	N.Pier	388	Silversea
Tue	Dec.13	<i>Sea Princess</i>	1200-1900	S.Pier	1950	Princess
Tue	Dec.13	<i>AidaVita</i>	1000-2000	N.Pier	1260	P&O Ger.
Sat	Dec.17	<i>Silver Whisper</i>	0700-1600	S.Pier	388	Silversea Cruises
Mon	Dec.19	<i>Arcadia</i>	0800-1800	S.Pier	1968	P&O Cruises
Mon	Dec.26	<i>Braemar</i>	0800-1700	S.Pier	720	Fred Olsen
Tue	Dec.27	<i>AidaVita</i>	1000-2000	S.Pier	1260	P&O Ger.

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.

Monday- Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea slide Show at Captain Don's Habitat, 8:30pm Call 717-8290 for info

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

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, 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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie

Stimpson at 785-3451; Valrie@telbonet.an
Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery. 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 7174685, 566-4685

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit 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 Antriel, 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 event info 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.

WINDSURFING

The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too.

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...

1983

Henk Bielderman

I was born in 1923 in Amsterdam, and during World War II, when I was 19 years old, I was put to work in Germany.

I came back in 1945, and two years later, in 1947, I arrived in Curaçao as an employee of Shell together with Henny, my first wife. She was 19; I was 24. Shell was really pampering their people. I am a Shell fanatic; it's the best employer in the world! A lot of oil was being produced and therefore many things were possible.

Although very little was known about diving, we founded the 'Sate Club,' the first diving club in the Antilles. We did skin diving, aqualung, trolling etc. The one who taught us the principals of diving was 'Cappy' Lenderink, a colonel with the marines and a great professional. Nowadays you can get your PADI certificate in five days. We got the marine training; we needed six months before we could make the first dive! We went at least 14 times to Las Aves with the club. Shell would provide us with a boat and to get permission we would tell Caracas we went there for an 'expedition,' because you couldn't say, 'We're coming to shoot fish and catch some lobsters!'

I also went sailing often and participated in many regattas and sailing contests in Holland, Venezuela, the US and Bonaire, and I won quite a few times. My wife and I have four children: Inge, who passed away; Emily, who lives in Germany; Norbert, who lives on an estate close to the Kruger Park in South Africa and who works for the UN in Angola; and Jorge, named after the Mexican singer Jorge Negrete. He's living in Holland now. All of them were born on Curaçao. In those days the island was a wonderful place to be.

I worked a lot. I was a chemical technician originally, but there were all the different aspects of how to refine oil in Curaçao and I went through all those stages and training. In the end I was the senior supervisor for the lubricating oil. I came to Bonaire very early; it must have been between 1960 and 1965. I came to sail, to dive and to shoot fish - big barracudas, Kingfish and Jacopeper - those you don't see anymore these days. A delicious fish! We also held fishing tournaments with Americans, Venezuelans and Colombians. Those boys were terrific harpooners and mind you, without tanks! Some came up half unconscious!

I traveled a lot, from Canada to Brazil, but my favorite country is Costa Rica. I've been there at least 10, 12 times... beautiful nature and beautiful girls - *chicas* - skin like a peach! I've been to all the Latin American countries and Caribbean islands and wherever I went I returned with seeds and cuttings."

We're in his garden where every tree and every plant has been put in the soil by Henk Bielderman (82) himself. This garden he grew from seeds and cuttings he brought from all over the world. Each stone, each rock, each piece of coral went through his hands because those he collected from all over the island. It's a Garden of Eden, an overwhelming work of love - simply beautiful.

"After 25 years working for Shell I retired and worked three years for Mobil Oil. Then, in 1977, I went for one year to Bonaire to build a synchrolift in the marina to create employment. I went back to Curaçao to work again for Shell, this time on a contract basis because I was retired. I became the manager of Shell's golf club, Rio Canario, with instructions to privatize the club and make it self-supporting. We did it in three years. Then I was asked to become the technical manager for Curaçao's Sport Club, Asiento. I was responsible for the technical maintenance; I did it for three years while we lived at Brakkeput.

But you see, my heart is in the oil. I

"I've had the time of my life on the islands and I feel I am a black man in a white skin; I am still *un di nos* (one of us)"

saw an ad where BOPEC Bonaire was asking for a refinery manager. Technical director was Wim de Ridder, who just bought my house, and financial director was Theo Thijssen. I got an invitation to come to Bonaire and my wife said, 'You don't have to go. The moment they see you they'll say, 'you'll hear from us.' *He laughs:* I was 62! Indeed they told me, 'You'll hear from us,' but the next day I was called to talk about the benefits! They'd called New York and talked to Mendel Creinstein, whom I had worked with at Shell, and I got the job, thanks to Mendel. So, my wife, my son Jorge and I came to live on Bonaire. We lived all over the island; we moved around a lot. I had my sailboat - I loved that ship - *The Windhush*. I participated in all the Regattas and won lots of prizes. I always say it's because of that ship. We founded a Sunfish club: Yellowman, Cabes, Jopie, Katchung, Lucio, Papichi, Ishmael - great sailors all of them! In those days I wasn't a *Makamba*; I was *Un di nos*, 'one of us.'

At BOPEC I taught the men all about



Nel 'Eileen' Bielderman-Haitsma and Henk Bielderman

oil through courses from Shell. They were selected people who processed the residue that came from the tankers into saleable products like bunker fuel. It was a very expensive process. After three years I quit, I was 65 and I asked my wife, 'What shall we do? Shall we stay here or shall we go to Costa Rica?' She said, 'Build me a small house here.' So, that's where we are now. But she never saw it finished. She got non-Hodgkin and we went to Holland. Anton Sieverding finished the house while we were at the hospital hoping for a miracle. She died within 10 months.

In 1990 I came back with my son Jorge, who's autistic. My neighbors, Nalda and Luti Bernabela, the ones who called you to do this interview, lived here already, and my other neighbor Betty Thielman also. They have been the best neighbors I could wish for. And then I started with my jewel, my garden. I spread the yellow flamboyant all over the island because I came with the seeds from Trinidad. The Neme tree I brought from my sister's hedge; she lives 30 kilometers from Cape Town, South Africa. Another thing is my shell collection. I started with it in 1951. I found many of them in South America, but I also exchanged them. I made a huge donation to the Artis museum in Amsterdam and what little is left over I would like to take with me, so I made a request for a permit at STINAPA, because my second wife, Nel 'Eileen' Haitsma, and I are leaving. Nel was a family friend of ours. At the time she was working at the Shell hospital in Curaçao and when she left we lost contact."

"I was the supervisor of 13 operating rooms at a university hospital in New Jersey for 34 years," *Nel (78) says.* "When I heard through some mutual friends that Henk's wife had passed away I send him a condolence letter, addressed

to 'Bielderman - well known sailor - Bonaire.' And it arrived! He asked me to come. I didn't feel like it, but when I visited a friend of mine on Aruba I decided to hop over. He said, 'Why don't you come and live on Bonaire?' But I was still working and wanted to retire first. Later on the friendship grew stronger, and we got married the old fashioned way with Ans and Henk Schrijvers and Frits and Gladys Peereboom as our witnesses. Although I'm Dutch I don't feel Dutch. After 35 years in the States I feel more American. I had to leave all my friends, my whole life behind, but I made my life here with Henk and our garden, and next year I am going to be 79! Caramba! We're having a real good life together and although we're leaving the 8th of January 2006 for Holland for good... Bonaire is home and it always will be home."

"It has come to a point," *Henk says,* "that I need too many checkups and specialists for my medical condition. It's too complicated here. We're going to Friesland, Holland, to live in a service flat. It's a nice apartment and we will make the best of it and travel as much as possible because I'm an adventurous man. But when my son saw me there he said, 'Dad, dad... what did you get into?' "Let me tell you, it has always been my intention to die here and that's what I wanted, but I didn't succeed. I've had the time of my life on the islands; I feel I am a black man in a white skin; I am still *un di nos*, but I will never come back because that would hurt me too much." □

Story and photo by Greta Kooistra



SURINAM Independence Day



It was a grand celebration of 30 years of Surinam independence last Saturday when the group of Surinamese living on Bonaire, *Mietie Makandra**, threw a great party at the Centro di Bario in Noord Salina. It was a "Brasa Dey" (give a hug day).

The activities began with a church service and speeches and then the party festivities began. There was Surinamese food and drink, music and dancing.

Spirits were high, dress was colorful and everyone got a taste of Surinamese hos-



pitality. To fuel the dancers there was Surinamese, South American and Antillean music with a live performance by Glenn I Su Geng. The party continued until late, with guests reluctant to leave. Don't miss it next year! □ *L.D., Extra Photos*

* *Mietie Makandra* means, in Taki Taki (Sranang Tongo) language, "To meet each other."



President Vincent Rommy

Enviro Watch



Runoff from the heavy rains of last week colored the water brown



Clouds of cement dust raised during the cleanup

Bonaire's waters have taken a beating from the land in recent weeks. First the heavy rains washed dirt and debris into the sea. Then spillage from a shipment of cement coated the south pier inches deep. The initial attempt at cleanup using water hoses to flush the cement into the sea was stopped by the Bonaire National Marine Park. Coral can be smothered by fine particles like cement so the cleanup had to be done by hand and power broom. It wasn't a perfect solution as it raised clouds of dust but a lot better than having tons of cement introduced into the marine environment. Hats off to Park Manager Ramon DeLeon and his rangers who manned brooms in the cleanup. □ *G.D.*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

Venus Becomes Queen of December's Skies and Catch Mars As It Speeds Away

The brightest planet, **Venus**, will become the undoubted Queen of December's skies and pair up with the **Moon** this Sunday, December 4th in a sky picture that will take your breath away. Plus a week from Sunday on December 11th the



Moon and Venus

Internet photo

Moon will team up once again with **Mars** as it rapidly races away from **Earth** after its super close encounter at the beginning of November.

This Saturday night, December 3rd after sunset, face west where the brightest thing you'll see will be dazzling 8,000-mile-wide, Earth-sized Venus. It's been getting steadily brighter for several months and will reach its greatest brilliancy next week Friday, December 9th. And through a small telescope it will look like a slightly fat crescent Moon. It's really impossible to miss it if you have clear skies and it will so bedazzle us all throughout December that many people will mistake it for the **Christmas Star**. And I encourage you to please make sure you look at Venus this Sunday, December 4th when an exquisite four-day-old crescent Moon will be parked only 4 degrees to the left of Venus and in fact will look about the same to the naked eye that Venus does through a telescope. Don't miss this pairing, please, because it is next to impossible to photograph its true beauty. You really have to see this with the naked eye.

And now for those of you who are into the non-naked eye planets: as a bonus on Wednesday December 7th just after sunset the first quarter Moon will be only 4 degrees to the left of the seventh planet **Uranus**. And even though it is a huge 32,000 miles wide, it is so far away, almost two billion miles, that you'll need binoculars or a small telescope to see it. It will look like a tiny green dot of light, not very exciting, but at least you can say you saw it.

And while you're out there Uranus and Venus watching in the southwest, if you simply turn around and face east you'll see dazzling, rouge-gold Mars, still dominating the eastern early evening skies. Only 4,000 miles wide, half the size of planet Earth, it is still so close that it is brighter than the brightest star, **Sirius**, at the beginning of November. But by December's end it will be significantly dimmer. In fact when Mars was closest on October 29th it was only 43 million miles away from us, but by December 1st it is 8 million miles farther away, 51 million miles beyond and by December 31st it will be a whopping 71 million miles away. So it's really zooming away from us at a good clip.

And mark a week from Sunday, December 11th as the night an almost full Moon pays Mars a visit. In fact if you go out every hour you'll be able to watch it move closer and closer to Mars so that by midnight Eastern Time they will be only 1 and 3/10ths of a degree apart, which is super close.

So there you have it: Mars in early evening coupled with the Moon on Sunday the 11th; Venus, December's queen, with the Moon on Sunday the 4th. What a way to begin the month. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: November 27-December 3, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't let peers distract you or push their work your way. Feeling under the weather may be a result of overindulgence. This will not be the time to have minor surgery. Don't let others make you feel guilty or insecure. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Involvement in groups of interest will bring you in touch with important individuals. Communicate with relatives who may need advice in order to find solutions to their existing problems. Your creative input will be appreciated by your boss. You may have some difficulties with someone you live with. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Look into some form of physical recreation. Travel will be favorable. Resist overspending on luxury items. You are best to do something energetic with friends instead. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You should not be concerned with coworkers who insist on spreading rumors. You need to enjoy the company of those who enjoy the same pastimes. They will jump at the chance to do something without you if it sounds like more fun. Don't point your finger unjustly at others. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Take time to help a friend who hasn't been feeling well. Be sure you get accurate information. Prove your worth; concentrate on getting the job done and steer clear of office politics and gossip. You need to spend some time reflecting on past experiences and involvements. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You are exceptional at presenting your ideas. Your mind may not be on the job. Involvement in financial schemes will be followed by losses. However, be careful with luggage; it may be rerouted. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Upgrading at this point is not a bad plan. Discord could be unnerving. Take care of the needs or responsibilities of elders. You must try to include your mate in your activities this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't be too eager to spend money that you really don't have. You should be looking at ways to spoil yourself. Loans will be attainable and legal matters easily taken care of. Get thinking about prolonging longevity. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may have a problem with coworkers if you try to tell them what to do. You are best to avoid confrontations. Avoid any petty ego confrontations; they could lead to estrangement if you aren't careful. You need activity. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may get some opposition. Personal changes will be to your benefit. There could be disappointment regarding investments. Spend some quality time with the one you love. Your talents will shine at work. You could be tempted to overspend on unnecessary items. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Rewards, gifts, or money from investments or taxes can be expected. You may have some difficulties with someone you live with. Love relationships will flourish. Friends and relatives may be hard to take this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Partnerships will be successful. Double-check before you go out. Do your own research and be prepared. If you go shopping, only take what you can afford to part with. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. □