

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

**BONAIRE**

January 6 to 13, 2006 *Volume 13, Issue 2*

# The REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) • 717-8988

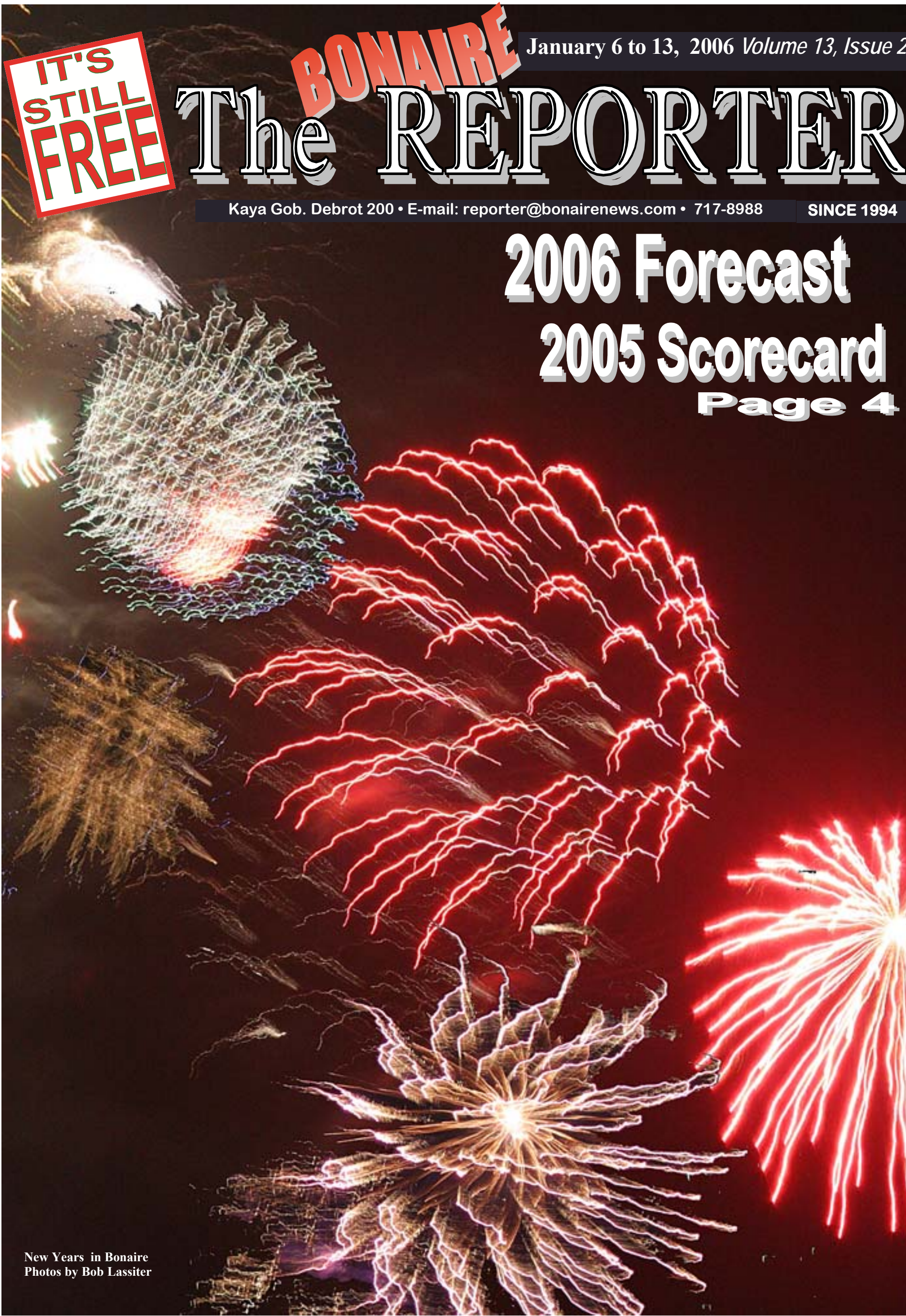
SINCE 1994

## 2006 Forecast

## 2005 Scorecard

### Page 4

New Years in Bonaire  
Photos by Bob Lassiter



# Flotsam and Jetsam



A.W. Bruckner, 1998

Bleached mountainous star coral



► From now on all baggage for international flights will be inspected by hand at Flamingo Airport before being permitted to be loaded on aircraft. This is in accordance with International regulations (IACO in Annex 17). For more information consult your airline. Domestic flights are exempt from the regulation.

## A major bleaching event hit most of the Caribbean during the fourth quarter of 2005.

The reports came from such widely separated areas as Florida, Panama and Colombia and were soon followed by reports from Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Trinidad & Tobago. The northern Antillean islands were also affected, but

**Bonaire was almost unaffected**, reported Paul Hoetjes of NACRI (Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative).

Bleaching lasted well into November on all the northern islands, but recovery began in Saba in early November with the bleached surface area of corals decreased to 67% and additional recovery in the second half of November. St. Maarten also reported color returning to corals by November 20. These islands reported significant coral mortality. In St. Maarten, 30% of the smaller corals are reported to have died.

The ABC islands and the northern Venezuelan coast in general were spared the worst impact of this 2005 bleaching event. Bleaching did not start until around mid-October and never became total. Coral colonies mostly only paled and did not become com-

pletely white. In Bonaire bleaching appeared to be much less than in Curaçao, though this impression from Curaçao-based monitors is not based on quantitative data. By mid-December water temperatures had dropped to 27° C, and corals should recuperate quickly. No mortality attributable to bleaching was observed.

## ► Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) is eliminating the commission it pays to travel agents, effective February 1, 2006.

In the near future reservations will be made through the Internet and the "paper" ticket will disappear, said DAE Managing Director Floris van Pallandt on Thursday. Currently travel agents receive a 5% commission, while the reservation systems generally cost \$4 per booking and the paper ticket costs some \$3.50, Van Pallandt explained. He said an Internet booking tool for the airline was in progress and should be ready by mid-January. Currently a round-trip flight to Curaçao on DAE is NAf234 (about \$134) for the 12-minute flight plus NAf22,50 in departure taxes.

(Continued on page 6)

## BONAIRE The REPORTER

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Antique Houses (Juan Pablo Boekhoudt)	3
Predictions/Results 2005/2006	4
Letter (Fireworks mess)	7
Minimum Wage	7
2005 Turtle Tracks	8
Piracy in Venezuela	9
Holiday Traditions: ( Papa Pasku, Bo Toko Tradition)	10
Biggest Pizza Oven	11
Bonaire Ambassador (Vicki Miller)	11
Where to Find the Reporter	12
SEBIKI Reading Project	13
Parable -Four Dolls	14
Karnaval Schedule	15
Pier Sponges (Dee Scarr)	18

### WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Picture Yourself (Angkor Wat, Cambodia)	5
Mega FM Schedule	5
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Pet of the Week (Helen)	11
Classifieds	12
Reporter Masthead	14
Special Olympic Spotlight (Elske Lucia)	14
What's Happening	15
Movieland Film Schedule	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
On the Island Since (Michiel van Bokhorst)	17
Sky Park (The Sun faster and closer )	19
The Stars Have It	19

# Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Juan Pablo Boekhoudt

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage

by Wilna Groenenboom



This is the sixth bi-monthly publication of Antique Living Houses of Bonaire. I've just started my search to find the pearls of Bonaire's living houses. Perhaps some of these houses are already on a list of monuments to be preserved. I don't know if this house is one of them, but if it's not, it should be for sure.

The house is in Tera Kora and was built in 1914 by Juan Pablo Boekhoudt and his wife Maria Tomasía Cicilia Boekhoudt-Beukenboom (in the above photos). Today, Alicia Plasida, Pablo's daughter, is living in the house with her nephew, German.

I was attracted to this house because of the garage. The garage has a half round roof and looks old to me. It is on the left side of the house. The garage is indeed 91 years old, the same age as the house. Perhaps the first Bonaire auto, a model T-Ford, was stored in it. Few people owned cars in those days so most houses didn't have a garage. Having a car 91 years ago must have been a great status symbol.

Juan Pablo earned his money by buying and selling. He had a boat on Bonaire to transport cargo between Bonaire and Curaçao or Aruba. The cargo could be rum,

food, fruit, donkey bones or dung. The bones were made into buttons for clothing in Curaçao.

The ship's crew slept behind the house in a separate building because they had to get up early. It was built of sticks (*bara*) and covered with mud and grass. The north side

was planked with wood. Since the planks did not provide enough protection against heavy rains the wood was covered with cut open oil cans.

This house is a real living museum, full

of Bonairean things of historical and cultural value. They range from beautiful tiles, with or without color, to old photos of the family. *Story and photo collage by Wilna Groenenboom*

*Wilna Groenenboom is an artist and photographer who teaches art at the SGB high school.*





# THE BONAIRE REPORTER ANNUAL PREDICTIONS and RESULTS

For the last 11 years we've been trying to determine how the coming year will work out. This year we continue with our views in four important areas. And so you can see how accurate we were, you can refer to our **HITS & MISSES**.

Prediction for 2006	How did we do? Prediction for 2005 Published January 2005	Results of 2005 predictions
<p><b>Structural:</b> The journey to establish "Direct Ties" with the Netherlands will be painless for Bonaire and the small Antillean islands during the year. Round Table negotiations for Curaçao and Aruba will be more difficult. We think that agreement conflicts between Holland and Bonaire won't arise until 2007 as the July 2007 deadline for the new order nears.</p> <p>The election for Bonaire's three seats in Parliament at the end of January will be the closest in years. The UPB, buoyed by a stronger economy, could win two of the seats. But the PDB move that consolidated candidates from the Socialist and Labor parties into itself may swing enough votes to win two of the three seats. The election is too close to call.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>J. Abraham                      R. Booi</p>	<p><b>Structural:</b> Bonaire's island government has had a sleepy year. This year its <b>road rebuilding program</b> should progress faster and social projects advance.</p> <p>More and more <b>payments</b>, normally funneled through the Central Government <b>will be made directly to Bonaire from Holland.</b></p> <p><b>Agreements and protocols</b> for direct Dutch rule will be developed as the remaining islands conduct their Referenda.</p> <p><b>Progress towards a direct tie with Holland will be evolutionary</b> rather than revolutionary.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	<p><b>Hit:</b> Several roads reopened after major repairs and many streets have had problem areas resolved temporarily.</p> <p><b>Hit:</b> Until suspended for inadequate reporting and follow-up, AMFO awarded millions of guilders to Bonaire charitable foundations that might have otherwise "got stuck" in Curaçao.</p> <p><b>Hit:</b> The referenda in all islands except Statia showed that Antilleans want out from under the yoke of the Curaçao dominated Central Government.</p> <p><b>Hit:</b> Two major conferences have put the islands on course to a dissolution of the Antilles in July 2007. A new order with the large islands acquiring an "Aruba-like" status and the small islands becoming a "part" of Holland was committed.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p><b>Economic:</b> The rosy economic outlook for Bonaire will continue. Rental apartments will continue to be the strong sector. There will be at least one more non-stop flight a week from the US, motivated by the Continental non-stop's high load factor. Housing starts, especially for Bonairean workers will be a growth area. Real estate values will soar in anticipation of the 2007 conversion to the euro, especially if it remains significantly higher than the US dollar. Ground will be broken for at least one, maybe three new hotels.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>Economic: Better and more frequent connections</b>, and we hope, finally a <b>direct flight to the US</b>, will show how important the US market is to Bonaire.</p> <p><b>Housing prices</b>, especially along the shorefront, <b>will continue to rise.</b> The possibility of Bonaire soon having a direct Dutch link form of government combined with a strong euro will make Bonaire an attractive real estate investment for many Europeans. If direct US flights are begun there will be a significant <b>rise in American visitors.</b> <b>Businesses will continue to turn over</b> as failing businesses are snapped up by euro-strong investors.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>Hit:</b> We almost missed it but Continental began flying non-stop from Houston in mid-December. Until then American visitors were down because of Air Jamaica cutbacks.</p> <p><b>Hit:</b> The market is so good houses are being bought solely for resale since the more desirable properties enjoyed a 10%+ appreciation. However, there has been a price inflation in all housing price categories.</p> <p><b>Hit:</b> Restaurants seemed to be the turn over champion this year with one place changing its name three times in four months. The Houston-based Parman Group of developer Hushang Ansary is leading new American investment in the islands which shows confidence by some "experts" about the future. However, the prosperity <b>did not appear to trickle down</b> to the working man who was hit by high utility bills and more.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p><b>Environmental:</b> The Bonaire government will get behind a real alternative power project this year. The sewage plant will continue to creep toward completion without being halted by environmentalist interests despite its acknowledged shortcomings. Bonaire's Parks will continue to improve under their two strong managers.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>Environmental:</b> We believe a <b>compromise will be reached on the sewage treatment plant</b> that will permit it to continue towards deployment by 2008. The <b>Marine Park will institute some significant programs</b> and regain top billing on the world environmental stage. <b>Washington Park should receive international recognition</b> for its new projects and innovations. The <b>STCB, now under on-island operation, will continue to get headlines</b> for its tracking projects.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>Miss:</b> There was no compromise. Government interests steamrolled the sewage project ahead despite environmental concerns. At times, the government seemed to be ignoring its own environmental ordinances.</p> <p><b>Hit:</b> Both parks had banner years and were given Dutch recognition having completed new projects and expanded the involvement of dedicated volunteers. The Marine Park regained its ecological leadership in the Caribbean region. The STCB's turtle preservation and tracking projects continued now under local leadership and plans some new initiatives this year in conjunction with the Marine Park.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p><b>Social:</b> Under the moral leadership of the Governor and fundamental reinforcement from the Central Government, Bonaire's police will have more presence which will bring about a reduction in crime. The charitable grant-giving powers of AMFO will be refined and systemized. Grants to worthy causes will resume early in 2006.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>Social:</b> People will be disappointed with the reorganization of the police department's crime fighting ability. More than police will be required to solve the deep-seated problems that cause drug abuse related offenses.</p> <p>AMFO will bring even more funds to Bonaire's NGOs.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>Hit:</b> Just about all the people who committed serious crimes were brought to justice, but "petty crime" is a serious problem because of its negative impact on tourism. Radar designed to detect drug smuggling is just being installed which hopefully will cut the amount of drugs landing on Bonaire and the crime it brings.</p> <p><b>Hit:</b> Charitable foundations on all Antillean islands, especially Bonaire, were hurt when Dutch authorities withdrew AMFO's authority to give grants to worthy causes. Fraud was NOT an issue, but record keeping and follow-up were, leading some to believe the withdrawal move was politically motivated.</p> <p>However, until they were cut-off, AMFO funds made a huge difference and made Bonaire a better place especially for the less affluent.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">G.D.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

# *Picture Yourself In The Reporter*

## **Angkor Wat, Cambodia**



**R**eporter subscriber Bob Tseng writes, “We look forward to every issue of *The Reporter*. It certainly seems like Bonaire generates a lot of news! I thought that you might enjoy this photo of my wife Cynthia Tseng. Cynthia is also a Gold Ambassador for Bonaire. She is at Angkor Wat, Cambodia, where they filmed *Tomb Raider* with Angelina Jolie. It is the ancient Hindu temple built in the early part of the 12th century by the Angkor ruler.”

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: [picture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2006 photos are eligible.)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

► On Thursday, December 22, the Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association (BONHATA) held its elections for the 2006 Board of Directors. The meeting was held in the Conference Room of Capt. Don's Habitat. 63% of the total membership was present either in attendance or by proxy. Elected for 2006:

*From the associated members-*  
Captain Don's Habitat, represented by Jack Chalk; Den Laman Condominiums, represented by Marcel Olij; Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino, represented by Maarten van Wijk; Plaza Resort Bonaire, represented by Boudewijn "Bous" Scholts; Port Bonaire, represented by Irene Dingjan.

*From the allied members*  
Bonaire Affair, represented by Max van Dortmunt; Bonaire Tours & Vacations, represented by Corine Gerharts; Budget Car Rental, represented by Dirk Jan Methorst; Divi Dive, represented by Serge de Groote.

The new Board of Directors convened a special session in order to elect the new officers for 2006. The results of the officer elections are as follows:

**President – Boudewijn "Bous" Scholts** - Plaza Resort Bonaire (pictured)  
**Vice-president –**



**2006 BONHATA President Boudewijn "Bous" Scholts**

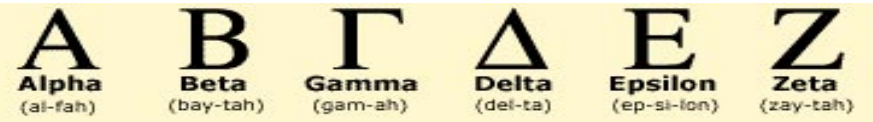
**Corine Gerharts** - Bonaire Tours & Vacations  
**Secretary-Treasurer – Dirk Jan Methorst** - Budget Rental Car

To find out more about BONHATA go to [www.ilovebonaire.com](http://www.ilovebonaire.com).

► The Harbour Village resort must be doing exceptionally well because last Wednesday **we and a friend were turned away at the iron gate at the resort's entrance.** We had been planning to meet Co de Koning, the author of a new "island" book, a Harbour Village condominium resident, for lunch at La Balandra, a public restaurant, (Harbour Village does NOT have a private club license) to receive a signed copy of the book.

Rightfully upset at the rejection, our friend spoke directly with the resort's manager, Andre Fermin, on the house phone and he confirmed that none of us were welcome. The next day the Papiamentu language newspaper, *Èxtra*, condemned his action as discriminatory and racist. The newspaper reported that the hotel's management denied the charge, saying it was "not true" and only the hotel's guests were allowed to enter because of the holiday crowd.

Further investigation revealed that several non-guests had been admitted to the resort and had credit card receipts showing they had paid the admission fee and patronized the restaurant. In addition other people indicated the restaurant had numerous empty tables.



► It's hard to believe, but **last week another, the 27<sup>th</sup> and last, tropical storm** of the hurricane season formed in the eastern Atlantic Ocean. Zeta storm advisory number 1 said:

1 PM AST FRI DEC 30 2005 - AT 1 PM AST...1700Z...THE CENTER OF **TROPICAL STORM ZETA** FORMED NEAR LATITUDE 25.0 NORTH... LONGITUDE 36.9 WEST OR ABOUT 1070 MILES...1720 KM... SOUTHWEST OF THE AZORES.

At press time: THE CENTER OF TROPICAL STORM ZETA WAS LOCATED NEAR LATITUDE 24.5 NORTH... LONGITUDE 39.7 WEST OR ABOUT 1300 MILES...2520 EAST-NORTHEAST OF THE NORTHERN LEEWARD ISLANDS MOVING TOWARD THE WEST NEAR 7 MPH.

The storm is expected to have dissipated by the time you read this... but with tropical systems who really knows?

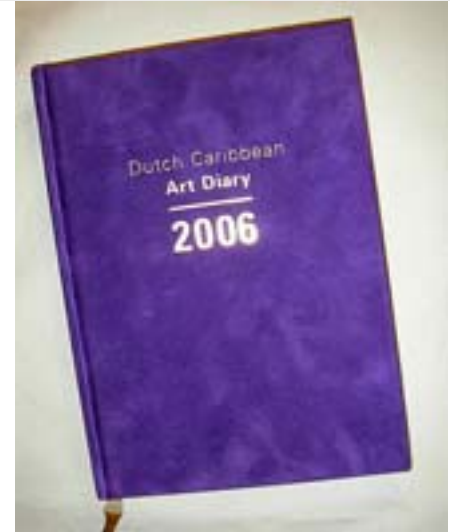
► The Houston-based Parman Group led by developer Hushang Ansary, who we reported last week has taken over the Banco di Caribe, has also **taken a majority interest in Ennia**, an Antillean insurance company.



**Hushang Ansary**

► Artists from the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba have once again joined together to produce the **Dutch Caribbean Art Diary 2006**, the fifth edition of the agenda book. Bonaire is richly represented with six individual artists: Linda Richter, Jake Richter, Avy Benhamron, Jackie Bernabela (poetry and a photo), Nochi Coffee, and Ronald Verhoeven.

Beautifully bound in a rich velour



hard cover, the new diary will help organize your new year while presenting you with pages of whimsical Caribbean art. Available for sale at the Cinnamon

(Continued on page 7)

As of January 1st, 2006 the hourly minimum wages on all islands have been adapted as a consequence of indexing to developments in consumer prices. Per island the following gross hourly minimum wages will apply as of January 1st, 2006. Employees should receive at least these wages.

	per hour	per week in case of 40-hour working week	per month in case of 40-hour working week
<b>Curaçao</b> All categories	5.98	239.20	1,035.74
<b>Bonaire</b> All categories	6.08	243.20	1,053.06
<b>Sint Maarten</b> All categories	6.54	261.60	1,132.73
<b>Sint Eustatius</b> All categories	5.65	226.00	978.58
<b>Saba</b> All categories	5.94	237.60	1,028.81

Further information can be obtained at our offices:

- Kaya Koróna 30, Bonaire. Phone: 717-8491, fax 717-8144

On our website: [www.diraz.an](http://www.diraz.an) under: folders labour legislation, minimum wages, you can find information about minimum wages for youths below 21.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 6)

Art Gallery for \$25, it makes a wonderful gift for anyone. Proceeds from the sale benefit the associations which promote art in the Dutch Caribbean.

► **On Saturday, January 7 Catherine Salisbury will have her second exhibit from 7-9 pm** at the Cinnamon Art Gallery. All are invited to share in the enjoyment of her marvelous underwater photos.

► As we go to press, we received a report, confirmed by a Tourist Bureau (TCB) e-mail, that the Island Council **repealed the per-head room tax, car rental tax and departure tax to be replaced by a flat \$75 Airport Departure Tax.** We will keep you up to date on this news as it becomes better defined. No additional information is expected to be available until Friday.

G./L. D.



**MESSY WORKS**

Most people enjoy fireworks. There are some who do not, but generally most people find them exciting and pretty. But shouldn't those who use them be responsible for cleaning up afterward? This photo shows less than 50% of the mess created on a public road on Bonaire.

*Name withheld*

**Editor's note:** *SELIBON wasn't as fast with their fireworks cleanup as in past years, perhaps because New Year's Day was a Sunday. But there was lots of debris along the waterfront just waiting for a breeze to blow it into the sea. Give it first priority next year?*



*The radio transmitter*

## 2005 Turtle Tracks

**S**TCB prepared an overview of the year's satellite tracking activity showing the paths of our four 2005 radio tagged sea turtles.

Signals from 'Mariposita,' although weak, have her off the Rosalind Bank and back on the

bank where 'Jenni' spent so much time. It is quite possible that she is home and simply spends time between the two banks - the banks are only 20 km apart.

We'll continue to track her movements and let you know. *Andy Uhr & Mabel Nava*



# Piracy in Venezuela

For Steve McVicar, the worst part of lying in the cockpit of his sailboat with a sawed-off shotgun pressed to his head by a Venezuelan pirate was how casually his life could end.

"It's just a horrible feeling that your life is so frail, hanging by a thread, when somebody has a gun on you," the 50-year-old orthopedic surgeon said in a telephone interview. "You could be gone instantly."

McVicar and his companions, another British Columbia doctor and his wife, had just set off on a two-week Caribbean cruise off the coast of Venezuela early last November when pirates turned their holiday into 30 minutes of helplessness and terror.

The attack came the first evening out of Puerto la Cruz on the coast of Venezuela. McVicar had just spent two weeks working on the boat, and when his friends arrived, they headed 11 kilometers offshore to Isla Borracha and anchored for the night.

There was no reason to expect trouble. McVicar has kept *Alioth*, his 13-meter French-built steel-hulled ketch, in the Caribbean since 1999 and knows its waters well, heading down for two-week trips three or four times a year. Both the Venezuelan coast guard and the National Guard patrol the waters around Puerto la Cruz, and the bay they anchored in was reputed to be safe.

Early in the evening, the three were

lounging in the cockpit, watching a DVD. McVicar, drowsy from a cold remedy, was not keeping a watch, and the sound of the outboard as a six-meter open fishing boat approached.

"All of a sudden, five armed men came on board and one put a shotgun right to my head," he recalled. "The others had pistols and a machete, and they ended up tying us up and proceeded to loot the boat."

The Canadians lay on the deck, bound hand and foot, with one pirate holding the shotgun on them while his companions ransacked the main cabin.

Nearby in the darkened aft cabin, McVicar's own shotgun and a handful of shells -- a potential defense now turned appalling danger -- lay in plain sight on his bunk. Mercifully, the pirates never looked there.

"I shudder to think if they'd seen it," he said.

He remembered all too well the fate of world-class yachtsman, Sir Peter Blake, who grabbed his gun to challenge pirates who boarded his boat in the Amazon River in 2001 and was shot dead on the spot.

"You think, if only I had my gun up on deck, I could have loaded it, which I usually do, but what if I fired? What if they had a machine gun and fired back? You'd wind up having a fire-fight.

"That's what was going through my brain, so I offered no resistance, so it's

just as well I didn't have my gun up there."

While he lay helpless, he could see down into the main cabin, where the pirates were pawing through his gear and taking what they fancied -- satellite phone, VHF radio, expensive sailing clothing, electronic instruments and more.

"The sad part was, I had an empty knapsack, and I had about \$10,000 in a zipped pocket," he said.

"I usually hide that on the boat somewhere, but I never got around to it and they used the knapsack to put stuff in, not knowing the cash was there, so it was really disheartening to see them take the knapsack."



There was worse to come. The pirates then took the woman down into the boat and molested her, taking her clothes off.

McVicar and the woman's husband were afraid she might be taken ashore and raped, but she was left on the boat.

After 30 minutes, the pirates left, and after 10 minutes of twisting and squirming, the captives freed themselves. They contacted a French yacht lying at anchor about 300 meters away, which came to see if they were alright.

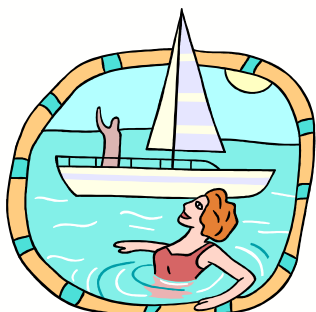
Assured that they were, it left the bay immediately, as did McVicar, who took the yacht straight back to Puerto la Cruz. [mbridge@png.canwest.com](mailto:mbridge@png.canwest.com) from the Canadian Broadcasting Company website

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)									
<i>Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides</i>									
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT							COEF
1-06	1:02	1.0FT.	8:11	1.6FT.	15:03	1.2FT.	18:40	1.4FT.	66
1-07	0:46	1.1FT.	8:34	1.8FT.	16:28	1.1FT.	20:18	1.2FT.	57
1-08	9:07	1.9FT.	17:43	0.9FT.	23:18	1.1FT.	23:50	1.1FT.	53
1-09	9:43	2.0FT.	18:37	0.8FT.					54
1-10	10:15	2.1FT.	19:36	0.7FT.					60
1-11	10:51	2.2FT.	20:22	0.7FT.					68
1-12	11:29	2.2FT.	21:07	0.7FT.					75
1-13	12:02	2.1FT.	21:54	0.7FT.					79
1-14	12:34	2.1FT.	22:30	0.7FT.					81
1-15	13:10	2.0FT.	23:00	0.8FT.					81

## VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

More boats than Bonaire has seen for a long while are now in port. If we've forgotten you, please let us know. Contact info on front page.

Altair	JC Sogno	Ta B
Alter Ego	JJ	Ti Amo
Always Saturday	Maggi	Tigger
Angie	Mahureva	Towanda
Annka	Marive	Trio
Augustin	Maxolar	
	Miss Astor	Ulu Ulu, USA
Blue Moon	Monami	Unicorn, Norway
		Umiak
Camissa, Chan Is.	Natural Selection	
Casa del Mar		Varedhuni, Ger.
Concubine	Okeanis	Vendia
Cape Kathryn	Okura	Vilje
CRC	One Way Wind	Von Voyase
Charumbel		
Cilly	Oniro	Ya-T, BVI
	Paranda	Yanti Paratzi
Delphinus	Pishi Porko	Yoi
Destiny		
Double Bogy	Samba	Zahi, Malta
	Sandpiper, USA	
Eclipse	Sangoma	
Endorphin	Sapristi	
Explorer	Scintella	
Flying Cloud, USA	Sirius	
Freestyle	Songster	
Galandriel	Summer Breeze	
Go Bucks	Sunny Side	
Goril Two	Spartivento	
	Syjoli	
Guaicamar I, Ven.	Sylvia K	





# Holiday Traditions



## Papa Pasku

**S**anikolas (Sint Nicolaas) went back to Spain at the end of the first week of December, but Papa Pasku (Santa Claus) showed up around December 25 to continue to spread his message of good will to all.

One of his appearances was on December 25 at the Lac Bay Windsurfing center on a motorcycle where he handed out gift bags to young and old alike donated by the Hang Out Bar at Jibe City.



Jan Art photo

*At Lac*



Barbara Bianculli photo

*In Nort di Salina*

Then he and his clones distributed over 150 gift bags of food and essential items to needy residents of Nort di Salina on December 26. The Nort di Salina Community Centro di Bario sponsored the all-day, united neighborhood event. Each year, donations are accepted and money is raised to provide this Christmas spirit and cheer. Every person is visited at their home by Papa Pasku and his helpers who delivered warm holiday wishes.

We'll look for Papa Pasku again next year.

*G.D. and Barbara Bianculli*



## A Bo Toko Tradition



*Ludo Nicholaas restarts the party with the Foyan Boys after a rainshower*

**T**he night before New Years Eve, every December 30, there's a big musical party in front of Bo Toko (Your Store) in Nort di Salina from 7 to midnight. It's now become a tradition. For the last six years the members of Glenn I Su Geng get together to play for free to show their appreciation to the owners of Bo Toko, Sula and Sjaki Melaan, and the residents of Nort di Salinja and Bonaire who've supported them since they started. This year the Foyan Boyz from Rincon played too. "Every year it's gotten bigger and bigger," says Glenn I Su Geng member, Ludo Nicolaas. "Everyone celebrates all together. There's no fighting; everyone is happy. It's a very good celebration. We enjoy doing this for the people." The intermittent rain attempted to dampen some spirits, but people just ran for cover and then came back to continue the party. *L.D.*

## Bonaire's Biggest?



Blanca, Lisa and Joe with the new one-ton pizza oven

**W**e didn't think their pizzas could get any better but.....

Pasa Bon Pizza got a new pizza oven - 2,100 pounds worth. And it took nearly a whole "community" to put it in. "This could never have happened in the States," says Lisa, co-owner of Pasa Bon. "We got so much help from everyone! Different people loaned us a fork lift, a power jack and a trailer. And it took six very big and strong guys, who took time off from their jobs in the afternoon, to get it in!"

Why is this oven so much better than the last one, we wondered. This one, because of the way it's designed, gives much better even heat. It has marble stones, each weighing 75 pounds, at 2 1/2 to 3 inches thick. Most other ovens are made with their burner tubes perpendicular to the stones, but in this one the tubes run the length of the oven. It's been proven, as of last Wednesday when it was put into action for the first time for customers, that it cooks better - the crusts are improved and more fully and evenly cooked, and there are no burned spots. And it can bake up to eight large pizzas at once! *The Bonaire Reporter* bought the first "large sausage" to take away.

Stop in and try a pizza from the new oven yourself. The only problem you'll have is making a decision as to what toppings you want. There are 15 different ones from which to choose! Pasa Bon Pizza is on Kaya Gob. Debrot, just south of the Harbour Village Marina. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 5 to 11 pm. Tel. 780-1111. Look for the (Bonaire's only) stop light out front. *L.D.*

## Bonaire Ambassadors

In December 1989 Vicki Miller read a Bonaire tourism brochure sent to a US dive operator. Beautiful pictures and the information about friendly, courteous Bonaireans charmed her. She was attracted by the promise of a quiet atmosphere in harmony with nature. Her first visit was September 1990. Her friend in the states said, "Now you have found your favorite place in the world," when she'd tell them about Bonaire. Vicky has visited other Caribbean Islands, Honduras, the Atlantic coast and Gulf of Mexico, but she always returned to Bonaire. She made two trips in 2005. She has the Bonaire flag in her home in Seneca, South Carolina.

In 2000 she met Al Catalfumo, owner of the Black Durgon hotel. His motto, "Come as a vacationer and leave as a friend," is very appropriate and says it all. Now many times she is greeted, "Bon Bini, Vicki," even at the Flamingo Airport. Her experience on Bonaire is not just diving. She celebrates the customs and history and looks forward to sharing in the plans and promise of the future.

Now as a Bonaire ambassador she will promote this island as an ecotourist site to children in the US. Her dream is to start student exchange programs that would arrange trips for US students to Bonaire to study the island's nature management and chal-



Al Catalfumo, Ambassador Vicki Miller and TCB's Eveline Marchena

lenge them to share their experiences with others. She is a licensed counselor and specializes in children, teens and their family relations. She hopes this will allow her to work with Bonairean foundations like Jong Bonaire, Maria Hoppner Foundation and the youth with special needs and disabled. Like Capt. Don Stewart says, "There is more to life than diving." When people ask, "What do you plan to do while on vacation?" she answers, "The 4D's: Diving, Dancing, Dining and Dreaming-always about the beauty of Bonaire." *Photo & story by TCB*

## Pet of the Week



Cats often have the reputation of being "stand offish," but in "Helen's" case, it couldn't be further from the truth. She even prefers people to eating! During mealtimes at the cat cage at the Bonaire Animal Shelter if a person walks in Helen will stop eating and go over to greet the visitor. She's totally tuned into her environment. And she can relate to people, as she searches your face for your reaction. Now that's special! This light gray striped cat is two years old and very affectionate. So if you're looking for a real companion, not just a "trophy" cat, Helen is for you. As are all the other

pets up for adoption at the Shelter, Helen has been examined by the vet, has been tested for feline leukemia, had her shots and is sterilized. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

During the year **2005 there were 158 adoptions** from the Shelter (40 of which were cats). Another record was set. In 2004 there were 150 adoptions; in 2003 there were 110; in 2002 there were 90. Interestingly, about half the dog adoptions this past year were for adult dogs. Usually, it's puppies that

are the more popular - normally three quarters of the adoptions.

Other great news is that in addition to the 158 pets adopted, all of which were sterilized, the Shelter had an additional 100 animals sterilized - **a total of 258 sterilizations!** That was thanks to the Sterilization Fund ("Sterilization Fund, MCB Account #10616410). As well the Shelter has been continuing its education program, going into the neighborhoods and explaining about the benefits of animal sterilization.

This fine organization just keeps getting better and better. It deserves our wholehearted support. *L.D.*

## 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. 8000m<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.bonaireimages.com)

### LUNCH TO GO

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

### SALT TREASURES BONAIRE

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

### JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 [www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/](http://www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/)

### Space For Rent

Need a low priced centrally located activity space for concerts, receptions, parties, church meetings, porch sales, workshops, yoga or fitness classes, etc?  
Rent our spectacular "Oasis terrace" or "Rock-garden area." We offer kitchen and bar facilities, a dance floor, dining area and performance stage. Capacity over 500 people. Call "We Dare To Care Foundation" Parke Publico Bo-

nairiano. Kaya Soeur Bartola, Tel: 717-4262 or 786-1592, 786-6467. Email [bismar@bonairelive.com](mailto:bismar@bonairelive.com) or [jamesfinies@flamingotv.net](mailto:jamesfinies@flamingotv.net)

### Boats for Sale



**For Sale - Cabo Rico 38 Yacht 1989**, Excellent offshore cruiser. One-owner, little used, only 800 engine hours, many sails, many spares, new s-rigging. Includes Avon R2.8 inflatable and Nissan outboard. Luxurious interior. Bristol condition. Hauled out on Bonaire \$109,000. **Phone/fax (599) 717-5038**. Email to [icarus@flamingotv.net](mailto:icarus@flamingotv.net)



**Why import a sail boat when you can own a fast Regatta winner built right here? Classic 21' Bonaire Sail Fishing boat recently refurbished is for sale for NAf14,000 (\$8,000)**  
Call George 786-6125/717-8988.

### For Sale

**For Sale-** glass front show case reefer, glass show case hot box, commercial meat slicer, mixers - all new! plus misc. kitchen items. Brand new jeans (several sizes, but hopi 32 waist) call for appt. to view. **790-7674**



## 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  
Capriccio  
City Cafe  
Croccantino  
Lost Penguin  
Lover's Ice Cream  
Pasa Bon Pizza

### Shops:

Benetton  
Bonaire Gift Shop  
Cinnamon Art Gallery  
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 Office  
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

## Let Bonaire follow you home

Albert Bianculli photo

### SUBSCRIBE TO THE BONAIRE REPORTER

BY MAIL \$95

ON THE WEB \$35

CALL 717-8988, 786-6518

E-MAIL [SUBS@BONAIRENEWS.COM](mailto:SUBS@BONAIRENEWS.COM)

[WWW.BONAIREREPORTER.COM](http://WWW.BONAIREREPORTER.COM)

**For Sale: Ultra Classic Yoga Mats.** Color: Black Price: NAf60. Call 786-6416  
**Sunbeam Portable gas grill.** Never been used. With outside cover and new filled gas cylinder. NAf425. Tel. 717-4915

**For Sale: 1 used futon sofa-bed, 4 used rattan kitchen table chairs w/ cushions.** Prices negotiable. Contact David Colvard at Sand Dollar or email [dcolvard@mindspring.com](mailto:dcolvard@mindspring.com)

### Wanted

**The Bonaire Reporter is searching for a Partner**

Join us to "Publish in Paradise."

**Working partner**

with journalism writing/editing skills, business sense and energy desired. Call *The Reporter* at 717-8988, 786-6518. Email qualifications to: [search@bonairereporter.com](mailto:search@bonairereporter.com)



# "Mi Gusta Lesa" "I Love to Read" Project

SEBIKI is already well known as the pre-school center that assists in education and the upbringing of the 0 to six year old group on the island. It also encourages the whole family in the barrios to be involved in the all-round education and upbringing of this fragile group. Because of the high demand from parents to continue with something after the *Op Stap* program (for the toddlers between 4-6 years), last January SEBIKI started the project, *Mi Gusta Lesa* (I Love to Read). Under the professional coordination, production and supervision of the dynamic and creative duo of Roxianne Goeloe and Marie Craane, the project has proved to be highly popular.

Time for an interview with one part of the duo, Marie Craane (see "Born on the Island" in *The Bonaire Reporter*, 4 November 2005). In speaking about 'their baby,' Craane, a speech therapist and an applied linguistics professional, is extremely enthusiastic. The objectives are multifaceted, she explains. "*Mi Gusta Lesa* is aimed at children from 4 to 8 and their parents. The first goal is to make the parents aware of their responsibility towards reading to their children and also to experience how *dushi* (sweet) reading can be. It should be incorporated into their daily lives."

Furthermore Craane says that language development and reading skills lead to more successful understanding of material in all subjects later on during their school years. The kits designed for this project also concentrate on developing and improving the communication skills between parent and child.

Through tasks parents can identify at what stage of development their child is: able to recognize letters, pronounce words, etc.

The material is divided into "theme kits." These are varied: nature, health, family, nature, art and music, rhymes, fairy tales, leisure time, school, animals and emotions. Each kit includes three to four books with instructions, material and tasks to work with at different reading levels.

What strikes me immediately is that all the material is in Papiamentu and that there are so many 'cute' children's books in Papiamentu, something Craane and I discussed almost in an emotional mood as we were brought up with children's (fairy tale) books in Dutch. Neither of us had ever seen a Papiamentu children's book during our childhood.

"Yeah, and there are many more beautiful Papiamentu books than you can imagine!" Craane says proudly.



SEBIKI learning aids

"We buy the books separately and then produce the kits. Roxianne is the creative brain behind it while I'm more in the process of thinking and development."

Opting to work with themes is not a coincidence. "It's been proved by different studies that children study better if they read within a certain context or theme. The network in their brains becomes more solid. This is also the case with children with dyslexic problems."

Right now SEBIKI has 12 kits, and Craane and Goeloe are in the process of producing 13 new ones. The subscription per year is NAf 10 with a NAf25 deposit, giving the parent the opportunity to borrow a kit for one month. An additional guilder (NAf 1) is required for extra material: paint, glitters, copy pages etc. This way SEBIKI wants to make it easier for the parents to access all the material at once.

Supporting the reading kits is the topic for the monthly gathering on a Friday afternoon. Last January when the first meeting was held it was intended for parents only. Goeloe and Craane provided information on reading and game tips for parents and introduced the kits. The parents responded eagerly and exchanged valuable tips. Later on, the get-togethers with both parents and children proved more effective as the parents worked on both communication and reading skills of the child. The parents learn through experience and see how they can use it in their homes. It becomes more 'alive' to everyone.

Taking a look at the very appealing kit I wondered how much time it takes to develop one. Craane smiles and answers that it generally takes two weeks for each kit. "Roxianne reads two books while I do the same. Developing the instructions takes the most time. It's crucial as they have to be very clear and understandable."

Is there a connection between the reading project and the annual *Siman di Buki* (Book Week)? There is no real connection according to Craane. This last year Goeloe coincidentally read at one of the gatherings. SEBIKI also organized the closure at the International Day of the Child. Goeloe and Craane read stories with the theme 'magic'. Afterwards the children performed a story in costumes, guided by Craane.

Craane expressed her disappointment that most parents who attend the monthly meetings are mothers. "Unfortunately, most of the time the fathers are absent."

**What are the plans for this year – 2006?**

"First of all we will continue with the monthly gatherings. We'll determine the theme depending on what's needed. One month it will be a parent gathering, then the next with parent and child." The translation of books from Dutch and English to Papiamentu is also on their to-do list this year. Because of copyright restrictions, they will have to just paste the translations in the original book.

Craane concludes our journey through fairytales and other beautiful themes by telling us that the end of the year closure on December 9 was more fun and festive than ever. *Photos and story by Natalie A.C. Wanga*



Marie Craane with the kits



The *Mi Gusta Lesa* meetings are every third Friday of the month from 5:30 pm to 7 pm at SEBIKI. Each month's theme will be announced in the media. Once you attend you'll receive a sticker with all the dates and the general opening hours of the library/mediateka. For further information contact SEBIKI at 717-2436 during business hours.

# A PARABLE *The Four Dolls* ...BY MARIE

A sage presented a prince with a set of three dolls. The prince was not amused. "Am I a girl that you give me dolls?" he asked.

"This is a gift for the future King," said the man. If you look carefully, you'll see a hole in the ear of each doll."

So the sage handed him a piece of string. "Pass it through each doll," he said.

Intrigued, the prince picked up the first doll and put the string into the ear.

It came out from the other ear. "This is one type of person," said the man

"Whatever you tell him goes in one ear and comes out the other.

He doesn't retain anything."

The prince put the string into the second doll's ear. It came out from the mouth.

"This is the second type of person," said the man.

"Whatever you tell him, he tells everybody else."

The prince picked up the third doll and repeated the process. The string did not reappear from anywhere else.

"This is the third type of person," said the man. "What ever you tell him is locked up within him. It never comes out."

What is the best type of person?" asked the prince.

To answer, the man handed him a fourth doll.

When the prince put the string into the doll's ear, it came out the other ear.

"Do it again," said the sage.

The prince repeated the process. This time the string came from the mouth.

When he put the string in a third time, it did not come out at all.

"This is the best type of person, said the sage.

"To be trustworthy, a man must know when not to listen, when to remain silent and when to speak out!" *Marie*



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**Elske Lucia**  
coach - bowling

She is one of the "totally in" coaches.

Her pupils love her, because Elske is very able to deal with young adults their age. She is always making them laugh.

Her communication with her pupils has great impact, because she chooses her words carefully in order to get them to listen and move in a certain direction.

She has a great personality, she is open and above all a very fun person to be with.

Elske has been with the Special Olympics family for almost two years now, and she would never skip training, unless she has to work.

Elske is an inspiration to us, because she brings out the best in her pupils.

Keep up the good work Elske!

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](mailto: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



## Who's Who on 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](mailto: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](http://www.bonairereporter.com)

**Reporters:** Barbara Bianculli, M. Bridge, Wilna Groenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Marie, Mabel Nava, Dee Scarr, Michael Thiessen, Andy Uhr, Roosje v.d. Hoek, Natalie A.C. Wanga

**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

©2005 The Bonaire Reporter

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

#### Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

**Get Rich or Die Tryin' (50 Cent)**

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

**Elizabethtown (Kirstin Dunst)**

**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  
: Chicken Little/ Zathura

#### THIS WEEK

**Saturday, January 7—Opening of Salisbury exhibit, 7-9 pm.** All invited. Cinnamon Art Gallery

**Saturday, January 7—Big Monthly Rincon Marshé—**Outdoor market with local food, drink, music, gifts, plants, more. 6 am to 2 pm, in the center of Rincon

**Saturday, January 7—Karneval 2006 opens** (see schedule this page)

**Arts and Crafts Markets** at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Jan. 10 —*Sea Princess, Aida Vita*; Jan. 24 — *Aida Vita*; Jan. 31 - *Rijndam*

#### COMING UP

**Saturday, January 14—** quarterly **Clean-up Dive.** All welcome, divers and non-divers. Contact sponsors Yellow Submarine (<http://www.bonaireyellowsubmarine.com>) or NetTech (<http://www.nettech.an>).

**Sunday, January 29 - Bonairean Night Buffet** with typical Bonairean dishes, live "kriollo" music and folkloric dance performances. Come and enjoy authentic Bonairean dishes in a typical Bonairean atmosphere at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino! 6 to 9 p.m., NAf35, - including a welcome drink. Kids up to 12

years, pay their age in dollars. For reservations call 717 8285, ext. 444.

#### 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](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon)

**Saturday—Mountain Bike Ride—** Everyone 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](http://www.BonaireTalk.com), & search for "Gibi."

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

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

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday -Yoga Classes—**Tel. 786-6416

**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.

**Daily - 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) Turtle Conservation Slide Show** by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

#### January 2006 Cruise Ship Schedule

Day	Date	Ship name	Time	Location	PAX	Line
Tue	Jan.10	Sea Princess	1200-1900	S.Pier	1950	Princess Cruises
Tue	Jan.10	AidaVita	1300-2000	N.Pier	1260	P&O Germany
Tue	Jan.24	AidaVita	1300-2000	S.Pier	1260	P&O Germany
Tue	Jan. 31	Rijndam	0900-1800	S.Pier	1258	HAL First Call

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

#### 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.

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

**Rotary lunch meetings** Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Restaurant Zeezicht. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

#### 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

#### CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Send event info to:

*The Bonaire Reporter*

Email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)

Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

**If you're not ADVERTISING in The Bonaire Reporter you are losing opportunities**



**January 7** Opening Karneval  
**February 4** Tumba Festival  
**February 17** Youth Parade Rincon  
**February 18** Youth Parade Playa  
**February 25** Adult Parade Rincon  
**February 26** Adult Parade Playa  
**February 27** Farewell Youth Parade

# DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and turquoise sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the <b>highest standard of cuisine.</b>
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	<b>Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight!</b> 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.
<b>The Great Escape</b> EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Breakfast every day; Lunch, Dinner Tues-Sun.	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof.</b> Cuban cuisine. New kitchen. New cook Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> 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 <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner until 6 pm Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side <b>Caribbean-style bistro</b> owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111

# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



<p><b>ART GALLERY</b> <b>Cinnamon Art Gallery</b> non-profit gallery for local artists has continuous shows. Each month a new artist is featured. Stop by. Free entry.</p> <p><b>BANKS</b> <b>Maduro and Curiel's Bank</b> provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.</p> <p><b>BEAUTY PARLOR</b> <b>Hair Affair.</b> Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.</p> <p><b>BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS</b> <b>De Freewieler</b> rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.</p> <p><b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b> <b>APA Construction</b> are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.</p> <p><b>DIVING</b> <b>Carib Inn</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine)</b> -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.</p> <p><b>WannaDive</b> - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.</p> <p><b>FITNESS</b> <b>Bonfysio</b> offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.</p> <p><b>Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.</b> Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.</p> <p><b>FURNITURE</b> <b>THE PLANTATION</b> Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.</p> <p><b>GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</b> <b>Green Label</b> has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden</p>	<p>chemicals.</p> <p><b>GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR</b> <b>The Bonaire Gift Shop</b> has an wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.</p> <p><b>HOTELS</b> <b>Golden Reef Inn</b> is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk to diving and the sea.</p> <p><b>The Great Escape</b> Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar.</p> <p><b>METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP</b> <b>b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V.</b>, offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.</p> <p><b>Nature Exploration</b> <b>Outdoor Bonaire</b> for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapeling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 717-4555 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com</p> <p><b>PHOTO FINISHING</b> <b>Paradise Photo</b> in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . <b>Now-full digital services.</b></p> <p><b>REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS</b> <b>Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent.</b> They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.</p> <p><b>Re/Max Paradise Homes:</b> Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them for sale.</p> <p><b>Sunbelt Realty</b> offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.</p> <p><b>REPAIRS</b> <b>Bon Handyman</b> is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345</p> <p><b>RESORTS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Buddy Dive Resort</b> offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.</p>	<p><b>RETAIL</b> <b>Benetton</b>, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.</p> <p><b>SECURITY</b> <b>Special Security Services</b> will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.</p> <p><b>SHIPPING</b> <b>Rocargo Freight</b> Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. <b>FedEx agent.</b></p> <p><b>SUPERMARKETS</b> Visit <b>Warehouse Bonaire</b> to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.</p> <p><b>VACATION CLUB</b> Lower the cost of vacationing in Bonaire and other places. Visit <b>Perfect Holiday Solutions</b> to discover how you can get discounts and more.</p> <p><b>WATER TAXI</b> <b>Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.</b> Ride the <i>Kantika di Amor</i> or <i>Skiffy</i>. Hotel pickup.</p> <p><b>WINDSURFING</b> <b>The Bonaire Windsurfing Place</b> can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.</p> <p><b>WINES</b> <b>Antillean Wine Company.</b> 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.</p> <p><b>YOGA</b> <b>Yoga For You.</b> Join certified instructors Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.</p> <p><b>ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:</b> <b>Put your ad in The Bonaire Reporter.</b> <b>Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518</b></p>
---	--	---



### Michiel van Bokhorst

**"I**'ve been coming here since 1979. I grew up in Curaçao. I'm the only Dutch person in the family. My sister was born in Willemstad, Curaçao, and both my parents are from Indonesia. I was born in Holland in 1965 and I celebrated my first birthday on a ship to the Antilles. I lived in Curaçao for six years.

My father was a harbor pilot. He'd been in the ocean going trade, but after I was born he wanted to spend more time with his children. He couldn't find anything suitable in Holland so we left for Curaçao. By the time I was seven and my sister five my parents thought it would be better to return to Holland because of our education and also because Europoort Rotterdam was developing. Of course my sister and I protested, but it didn't do much. We went to live in Hellevoetsluis, below Rotterdam.

At school the children would badger me a lot because my Dutch was very 'civilized,' and they spoke a broad Rotterdam dialect, but when I changed schools I became very popular. I became the singer of the KGB Band. We played a lot and I would really freak out on stage. Our repertoire was mostly what others had written; we only had two songs we'd written, but funnily enough, those were the most popular ones.

I wanted to go to the film and TV academy, but I was 'drawn out.' (In the Dutch system you can register for a certain field of study, but when there are too many candidates for that particular study you get 'drawn out'. You try again the following year or choose another subject.)

I started to study Dutch, not a good choice because it wasn't practical. I was taking it slow. I was a member of the student union and one night I wrote this piece of music and a pledge told me, 'Let's sit together for a weekend and see what comes out of it.' We recorded three numbers, then he said, 'Now we're going to the record company!' A little later we were back on the street with 10.000 guilders and a contract and I thought, 'I can do this for a living!' The money went into a studio and we did it for 12 years! We made good money, especially with TV commercials. One is still running and I still have the copyrights. My partner and I decided to split up and I left. I wanted to go to Bonaire.

While he was still working for Europort, my dad took over for someone on Bonaire for three months and brought the whole family with him. It was in 1979, so I know Bonaire from that time. My father was also one of the people who helped sink the *Hilma Hooker*. In those days I was diving here with a tank, uncertified, 14 years old."

*Michiel van Bokhorst is a big guy and he's friendly, enthusiastic, to the point and fast.*

"After my dad retired he went to work in Saudi Arabia. He went by himself and when the Gulf War broke out he stayed put – dangerous – but he made good money. Then he worked for three years in the Bahamas; that's where I got my dive certificate. From then on I came to Bonaire three times a year. Bonaire wasn't the only place I visited; I traveled the whole northern hemisphere – all of Europe and Eastern Europe, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan and China. So when I left my company I thought, 'I don't know what I'm going to do, but I do know where I'm going to do it... Bonaire!' And when I was here looking for a house, mid 2004, I ran into this girl. She came from the city of Utrecht, just like me!"

*Esther joins in, "I was here alone on vacation because my buddy couldn't*

**"A little later we were back on the street with 10.000 guilders and a contract and I thought, 'I can do this for a living!'"**

make it. I thought I'd meet someone. Bonaire is a 'Diver's Island' so it won't be so hard! I went to Wannadive to ask for a buddy and they told me Michiel was looking for one.' I stayed two weeks and I really liked Michiel more and more. Back in Holland we went on seeing each other, but he told me, 'Look, the only thing I can offer you are four months of fun and then I'll be gone, because I am going to live on Bonaire.' I answered, 'That's okay!'"

"By the time I was leaving," *Michiel says*, "I was burned out, mostly because my business partner and I were fighting all the time during the last three months. Esther stood by me and helped me in every way during those months, so by the time I was leaving I realized she was the best thing that could have happened to me and I asked her to come with me."

*Esther says*, "I had been thinking... If he asks me to come I'll go with him... We have such a unique thing going on and I love him so much. Michiel also said, 'Besides coming with me because of me, you also have to come for Bonaire!' For me the hardest part was not quitting my job, not selling my house, It

was leaving my family and friends. But my parents told me, 'When you make your decision don't think of us, only think of yourself. We're behind you, whatever you decide.' So, Michiel went in December 2004 and I came mid July 2005. It was the longest six months of my life!"

"She was a mess when she arrived," *Michiel says*, "so, as I had some money left and Esther had sold her house, we decided to take a sabbatical year."

"I'd applied for a job at the Pelikaan School," *Esther says*, "but that was when I was still in Holland. They wanted me to start in August. I thought it would be way too much - starting a new life with Michiel, a new country and a new job right away. So I told them it was too soon for me. But later on when I met Wilma from the Pelikaan School here in the street she asked me, 'Can't you come in January because we're starting a new group?' So, next week I start work!"

But my advice is: get used to the new place first! I slept a lot; I unpacked the container; and my parents visited and had a wonderful time. They've already bought three sets of tickets for this year! In my wildest dreams I didn't think they'd like it here that much!"

"I'm doing the dive master training at Wannadive," *Michiel says*. "I've known those guys from the very first, when they started at Buddy Dive. For their fifth anniversary a couple of months ago Dirk Jan Durieux came up with the idea of writing a song and recording it. I thought it would be nice to do it professionally and to invite everyone working at Wannadive to sing a line. Nearly all of Bonaire was there at the party and now everyone knows where to find me because there is no other producer living on the island."

Now I'm doing commercials again and it's fun! I played as DJ Shrek at City Café, I did the sound for Scuba Vision and I'm going to do a tune for *Wowo riba*



*Esther Beentjes and Michiel van Bokhorst*

*Boneiru*, a series of six episodes about Bonaire, produced by Scuba Vision for TV 11. I am a sound producer; I can do anything with sound, anything with music. I am a big fan of synthesizer music and I was very proud when 'Human League' (remember the song, 'Don't you want me baby?') asked me to remix their latest CD. In Holland I was among the first to get new things - I had the very first i-pod, things like that, but I found out I don't miss that type of luxury at all! The only thing that bothers me is that the Internet is slow!

I still don't know what I am going to do here. Life is what happens when you make other plans. I feel when you have the privilege of living on Bonaire you should be willing to take any job. I feel I belong here and I am not leaving, ever. Today Esther and I have known each other for 17 months. We bought a great house in Lima and signed our 'living-together-contract.'" *He smiles and bursts out singing:*

"We're busy doing nothing - we're busy the whole day through; trying to find lots of things not to do!" *story and photo by Greta Kooistra*



# DIVING with DEE Ex-Pier-iences with Sponges



A chain moray views the world from a large sponge that has been tied to the piling.

In 1988, Bonaire's Old Pier (aka North Pier, Town Pier, and now officially "Waf Francisco (Chico) Mercelina") was scheduled for renovation. In order for surveys of the pilings to be done, one out of every four pilings was scraped bare of the living creatures which had grown upon it over the last 30+ years, including orange cup corals, sea squirts and other tunicates, oysters, Christmas tree worms, and sponges, sponges, sponges.

Except for the Christmas tree worms, these creatures were not killed outright by being detached from their pilings. The trouble was that on the bottom they had more trouble filtering the water for food, and were likely to be covered in silt. I was delighted to remember that Cathy Church had once told me that if the sponges were tied onto the pilings they would reattach themselves; none of the other animals is capable of reattaching. Between 1988 and 1990, divers participating in Touch the Sea's Sponge Reattachment Project

tied more than 600 sponges onto Old Pier pilings. Most of the sponges reattached to their new pilings and flourished.

In 2004, storm surge from Hurricane Ivan barreled along our shoreline and under the piers. Divers were distressed to note that many sponges had been torn from their pilings beneath the Old Pier; detached sponges were jumbled against the Pier's big pilings. It was natural for proactive divers to want to tie the sponges back onto the pilings. Susan Porter led groups of divers in the Sponge Reattachment Project: 2004, tying more than 100 sponges onto pilings. As the accompanying photos testify, many of those sponges are flourishing.

I first saw their work, and had a chance to wander around under the Pier after Ivan, about six weeks later. I found chaotic piles of sponges. When I looked closely at the individual



The good news: this tied-in-place sponge has four new tubes extending from one side and three new tubes extending from the other. The bad news: the guarding damselfish, and the algae on the lower part of the sponge, mean the damsel is cultivating algae there. Is it the presence of the garden that has caused the growth of new tubes? Or will the damselfish include the new tubes in its farm? We can only wait and see.

sponges, I discovered that many of them were dying, either at the base where they'd been attached before the storm surge, or from the inside of the tube. Then I looked at the pilings, and realized there were still many long tube sponges extending from the pilings, unaffected by Ivan. Not *all* the tube sponges had broken off, it turned out – just the ones who were dying or weak at their bases.

So the first difference between Sponge Reattaching in 1988 and 2004 is: in 1988 the sponges were removed artificially and most of them were healthy. In 2004 the sponges were broken by a natural occurrence, and many of them were not healthy.

Some of the tied up sponges turned out to be dying from the outside in, and eventually slipped from their fishing line and fell from their pilings.

The pilings the Project had to work with in 2004 had one huge difference from the 1988 pilings: growth. The 1988 pilings had been scraped free of all growth. Nothing that would compete with a sponge for space was left on the pilings. We could tie our sponges on any piling that had been

scraped, and they'd have a perfect surface to grow onto.

But in 2004 it was water action that broke the high profile sponges from the pilings. Low-profile animals, unlike long sponge tubes, are built to withstand water action – so encrusting sponges, stony corals, orange cup corals, tunicates, Christmas tree worms, and oysters survived Ivan's storm surge just fine. The biggest challenge to the divers who tied sponges in 2004 wasn't the actual tying of the sponges, it was finding places where they could tie sponges without covering other creatures, either with the sponges themselves or with the line used to tie the sponges.

They met the challenges. The photos show sponges who would likely have smothered if they hadn't been tied onto the pilings. *Story & photos by Dee Scarr*

*If you'd like to participate in projects to help marine animals directly, such as the Sponge Reattachment Project: 2004, and/or to help collect data about coral and other marine life, why not join the Bonaire National Marine Park Volunteers? Call 717-8444 for more information*

Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her free slide show "Touch the Sea" at Capt. Don's Habitat, Mondays, 8:30 pm.



Several sponges were placed under this spiral of fishing line. Along the side of the second sponge tube from the left (the only tube which extends out of the frame), new growth is visible, attaching the tube to the piling. New growth is also visible on the twin tubes on the right side. About 3-4" above the top ring of fishing line, these two tubes narrow, then grow thicker and more yellow. That's the growth that took place after the sponge was tied.

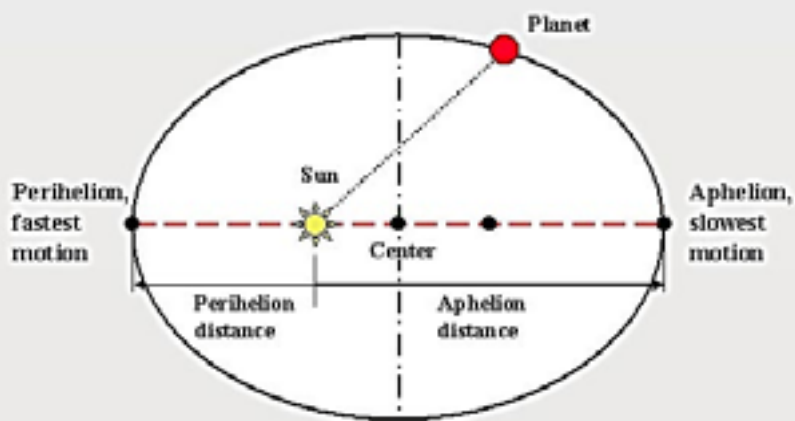


# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

Fasten Your Seat Belts Because Earth Is Closest to the Sun and at its Fastest This Week!

## Kepler's 1st Law



Believe it or not, this week our planet Earth will not only hit its highest speed for the entire year but will also be at its closest to our local star, the Sun. "But hold on a minute," you say. "How can that be? If our Earth is closer to the Sun this week than it will be for the entire year, why is it cooler?" To which I reply, "Ah sweet mystery of life." Let me explain.

Let's get right down to basics starting with our Earth's yearly path around the Sun. Now we all know, of course, that our Earth makes one trip around the Sun once a year. In fact that's what our definition of a year is, one trip around the Sun, and not for just our Earth, but for any planet. Now it just so happens that it takes our Earth 365 1/4 Earth days to make one complete trip around our local star. So 365 1/4 Earth days equals one Earth year. If, however, we could journey to the planet closest to the Sun - Mercury - we would find that Mercury makes one trip around the Sun once every 88 Earth days, so a year on Mercury is 88 Earth days long.

Contrast this with the king of the planets, Jupiter, which takes 12 Earth years to make one trip around the Sun, which makes one Jupiter year 12 Earth years long. In other words if you're 24 years old on Earth you'd be only two years old on Jupiter.

Now most of the time you hear me or other astronomy types say that our Earth is 93 million miles away from the Sun, but that's actually hardly ever true; 93 million miles is Earth's average distance away from the Sun. You see because our Earth's path is not a circle but a kind of squashed out circle called an ellipse our Earth can move as far away from the Sun as 94 1/2 million miles and as close as 91 1/2 million miles. And this week at 9 am Sky Park Time, January 4<sup>th</sup>, Earth was at its closest to the Sun for the entire year - 91,405,952 miles. Conversely, on July 3<sup>rd</sup> this year at 7 pm Eastern Daylight Time the Earth will be at its farthest point from the Sun - 94,507,914 miles away.

And now here's the fun part, according to Kepler's Second Law of Planetary Motion, whenever an object is closest to the Sun it travels at its fastest. And when it's at its farthest from the Sun it travels at its slowest with constantly varying speeds between closest and farthest.

This week on January 4<sup>th</sup> our Earth is highballing at a speed of 68,000 miles per hour, but by July 3<sup>rd</sup> it will have slowed down by about half a mile a second and will be moving only 65,499 miles per hour. Which leaves us with one unanswered question. If our Earth is closest to the Sun in January and farthest from the Sun in July why isn't it colder in July than it is now? Well, I want you to think about that for the next six months and I'll give you the answer the first week of this July. One clue, however, until then I hope this doesn't put a 'tilt' in the year for you.

Jack Horkheimer



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: January 1 to 7, 2006  
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Raise your self esteem and your confidence if you want to get back into the mainstream again. Your need to get away could lead you into greater debt. You will find yourself tied to the phone. Involvement in groups of interest will bring you in touch with important individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Property investments will pay off. Your fun loving approach will be admired and appreciated by others. New relationships could evolve through group activities. You will have to put those you live with in their place if they try to interfere with your work. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You could be misinterpreted if you're not careful. Secret affairs will only lead to heartache. Be careful not to overexert yourself. Spend time with your lover this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Use your ingenuity to manipulate things to get what you want. Someone you live with will be impossible. Concentrate on getting ahead financially and let your personal life settle down for a while. This may not be the time to lend or borrow. Think about taking the time to complete unfinished domestic chores. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Opportunities to upgrade your living standards will come through your lover or through joint financial investments. Problems with females you live or work with will try your patience and cause temper flare ups. You should look into a healthier diet. Look into real estate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't beat around the bush; state your case in plain and simple terms. Be careful disclosing information. Your magnetic, outgoing personality will capture hearts. Social activity should be on your agenda this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Changes in your home environment are likely. Try to keep your cool; you may be a tad frazzled by all the rushing around. If it can make you extra cash, it will be even better. You have the ability to motivate others. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Travel will be in your best interest. Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. Involvement in fitness clubs will be conducive to engaging romantic connections. You may need to make a choice. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Some relatives will be extremely perplexing. Opportunities for new friendships are apparent. Ferret out information that will hold them responsible. You might get behind if you spend too much time debating senseless issues. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) A romantic dinner, followed by a quiet evening with the one who is enticing you, should be most satisfying. Don't try to deal with important issues or make changes that will upset the apple cart. Resist secret affairs that could be detrimental to your reputation. Your reputation may be at stake if you partake in gossip. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try to spend more time with children and relatives. You can make major accomplishments while on short trips. Focus your efforts on details, and keep to yourself in order to finish your work. Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable and confused. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will feel the limitations if you have been overdoing it. Travel will be fun and entertaining. You are best not to discuss your personal life with others. You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.