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BONAIRE

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# The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

## Inside the Windjammer

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Entry at  
midship fracture

# Flotsam and Jetsam



Since completing a major restructuring of its operations, the national airline, **Air Jamaica, has achieved its best reliability performance in years**, the airline said last Tuesday. For the past two months, the company said it achieved a schedule completion reliability rate of 99.3%. In addition, the carrier's on-time performance also showed marked improvement to 86%. Air Jamaica offers connecting service to Bonaire every Saturday from 10 US cities and Great Britain.

It came at a price. Air Jamaica lost \$136 million last year.

► **Dutch air carrier KLM is further progressing toward 100% e-ticketing**, which is in line with the industry goal of moving to full e-ticketing capabilities by the end of 2007, as initiated by IATA, said Bart Vos, senior vice president of Distribution and E-Commerce for KLM. Presently, 73% of all KLM tickets issued are e-tickets. □

► Last Thursday **Venezuela pledged to keep supplying oil to the US** despite an escalating diplomatic crisis that has included the mutual expulsion of envoys. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez earlier had warned that he could shut his government's US-based refineries and sell oil to nations other than

the US if Washington decided to cut diplomatic ties. Venezuela, the world's number five oil exporter, supplies about 15% of US petroleum imports. The nationalized Venezuelan state oil company, PDVSA, has a storage facility on Bonaire and also operates refineries and gas stations in the US through its Citgo division.



► **The new Dutch Royal Navy support ship for the Caribbean, Hr. Ms. Pelikaan, was launched** at a Dutch shipyard in Romania, where it was built. The 65-meter vessel with a maximum speed of 14.5 knots will sail to Holland at the end of April to be completed and is expected to be ready for duty in the Caribbean mid-2006.

► Effective February 1, **Antilleans under 18 who want to live independently in The Netherlands must first prove that they have an adult in that country who will act as their guardian.** These youngsters are only allowed

to board the airplane after they show the immigration officer at the airport the required documents. The rule does not apply to Antillean minors who go to the Netherlands as part of a family reunion or who can show that they are going for a brief stay in the Netherlands. The regulation is to minimize the growing problem of crime attributed to Antillean youngsters, primarily from Curaçao, living in The Netherlands.

► The Central Government will employ a consultant to work on preparing a **draft law prohibiting the import of right-hand drive vehicles to the Antilles.** On Tuesday Transportation Minister Alex Rosaria said he has mustered enough support to go ahead with the ban. While no serious accidents have been experienced, there is a strong pressure from car dealers, primarily in St. Maarten, to prevent people from importing the cars which are usually purchased at bargain prices from Japan.

► The current big scandal in Aruba is the **cover-up of a possible dengue fever epidemic**, which by some accounts may be about to sweep that island.

The heavy rainfall of the past years has accelerated mosquito breeding. The dengue virus is spread by the *Aedes Aegyptii* mosquito. Dengue is found in areas of the tropics including the Caribbean. The female mosquito lays eggs in standing water.

In classic dengue cases, it takes five to eight days after the infection for the symptoms to develop: headache, fever,

pain behind the eyes, back pain and pain in the legs and joints. The headache is often severe. Additional symptoms are sleeplessness, listlessness, lack of appetite, unpleasant taste in the mouth and weakness. A rash sometimes appears on the chest and on the inside of the arms and it itches and the skin peels. A second dengue virus infection may be very dangerous because it can cause internal bleeding.



*Aedes Aegyptii* mosquitoes

The last time Aruba experienced an epidemic, 19 years ago, 24,000 people were infected, so the chance of a dangerous second dengue infection for these people is a serious concern. Director of Public Health, Trevor van Gellecum, says the situation is critical but he doesn't see the need for people to be frightened. According to Van Gellecum, the current virus in Aruba is different from classic dengue and harmless. It causes fever and rash just like dengue but the rash comes before the fever, while in the case of dengue the sequence is reversed and the fever is higher.

Dengue fever also appears on Bonaire with a few cases reported during almost every rainy season.

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► A pickup truck rolled into the sea right off the waterfront promenade as Andrew MacDonald happened by with his camera. After repeated attempts the truck was finally yanked out by a loader. The seawater did substantial damage. Don't forget to set **your** parking brake. Andrew MacDonald photo

(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

► The \$75 per person **tourist departure tax approved by the Bonaire Island Council is in limbo**. This tax, designed to replace the car rental tax, the room tax, and the airport tax, has met opposition from many sides. Locals, for the most part, would be exempt from the new levy. The plan to "explain" the change in the media, expected to begin several weeks ago, has not materialized. The Flamingo International Airport Departure Tax is currently \$20 and applies equally to tourists and locals.

► **Following long years of unplanned growth and change the Antriol bario is getting organized.** Commissioner Reginald 'Jonchi' Dortalina, who is in charge of DROB, the island's planning department, announced last week that surveying began on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to provide measurements to come up with a development plan. The work should be completed this August.

Antriol began to spread out to the northeast of Kralendijk in the 1890s and is a maze of paved and unpaved roads and paths on both sides of Kaya Korona.

► **King of Tumba, winner of the Adult Male Tumba Festival, last weekend was Robert Sances** of Bonaire and The Netherlands. His song "Un Keda" (To Come and To Go) was composed by Johnny Leoneta with arrangement by Dwight Leoneta. He was accompanied by Glenn y Su Friends. See and hear him in the Karneval Parade!



► A recent survey in Aruba revealed that **about two-thirds (62.3%) of the cruise ship passengers who visit the island would love to come back**. Bonaire receives tens of thousands of cruise ship visitors a year and expects almost double the amount of cruise ship visitors next season. If some return for an on-island vacation it would help tourism growth.

► **Royal Caribbean is ordering a new ship, a mammoth 5,400-guest, 220,000-ton vessel** that came off the drawing board recently and is now a prototype developed under the project name Genesis. Finnish shipbuilder Aker Yards will build the ship for a Fall 2009 delivery, continuing a 35-year collaboration with Royal Caribbean. Imagine if that ship docked in Bonaire and landed its passengers, which would amount to about 50% of Bonaire's total population.

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### coral glimpses

(a bit of information about corals presented each week by naturalist Dee Scarr)



► Every individual coral animal in a coral head is a clone of every other coral animal in that coral head.

That's why there's a ridge along what looks like a single coral head. What happened here is that two coral larva landed near each other and began to grow. Once the resulting colonies were big enough to reach each other, the coral animals began fighting for space and the ridge resulted. □



► **The Venezuelan fruit boat crew arrested for possession of stolen goods was exonerated** following an investigation which determined that **none of the goods found aboard the boat during a police raid had been stolen.** The items were returned to the boatmen. The police raid on January 5 on the two Venezuelan "fruit boats," *Doña Olga* and *Karina*, turned up the goods which included TVs, stereos, DVD players, electronics and other articles. All 16 crew members were arrested and the vessel was confiscated along with its cargo. However, the tip the police based their raid on was incorrect and all were freed.

► Because of the success of the **Ronald Verhoeven exhibit at the Kas di Arte, the opening hours have been extended to the weekends, from 5 to 9 pm. Kas di Arte is the blue building on the boulevard, Kaya J.N.E. Craane 34.** Monday through Friday the exhibit is open 10 am to noon and 2 to 6 pm. The exhibit continues through the end of February.

► Beginning this month SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management government company, will charge its commercial customers **a new higher rate of NAf30 per month**, and churches and clubhouses, NAf20 per month for trash pickup. The fees will appear on

the water bills for those clients. Private homes rates, presently NAf10, will not increase.

At the end of last week SELIBON had two trash collection trucks out of service for repair and warned its clients that pickups would be late. The situation is expected to return to normal during this week. Truck V-1554 is being worked on and truck V-1557 is waiting for parts to arrive.

► The Papiamentu language newspaper, *èxtra*, ran a story this week about the **deplorable condition of many street light poles in Kralendijk.** But according to a dive shop owner there is another related problem

as well. People are continuing to get **shocks from lights poles at the town pier.** Divers have complained about this for almost a year now and recently some of the security personnel at the pier have said they too are getting shocks as have tourists from the cruise ships. This is a very dangerous situation especially near water and may cause electrolysis problems for vessels tying to the pier. Many people have complained to WEB about it but nothing seems to get done. CURO (Bonaire dive operators) also sent a letter to WEB about this but they did not get a reply.

► At the monthly meeting, Bonaire's CURO (Council of Underwater Resort Operators) expressed **concern about the continuing loss of dive tanks.** An extremely conservative estimate of this number is 650 dive tanks valued at over \$81,000 annually. This is not petty theft but a great expense to this industry. Some tanks have shown up in Curaçao and Venezuela. It is obvious that the number of tanks such as those found in these places had to be transported by boat. Other tanks have been found discarded in the landfill, along side roads and on kunukus. It is guessed that thieves wanted to get rid of them and not be caught with stolen property.

Also CURO members want to inform the Bonaire public that possession of any tanks from the dive resorts that have not been authorized is illegal and means that these people are in possession of stolen property. **Anyone hav-**

**ing any knowledge of dive tanks believed not to belong to that person should contact any dive operator on Bonaire.**

► On Sunday, December 10, 2000, a young Dutchman, Vlada Stojanović, 24, stepped into the sea near the Harbour Village Resort for a recreational SCUBA dive at the "Something Special" dive site. He was never seen again. Authorities conducted an exhaustive multi-day search underwater and above water, and his relatives, Neko Stojanović and Maureen Harthoorn, sought information of his whereabouts.



A few months ago some deep divers discovered skeletal remains nearby and brought them to the surface. Following a police investigation and a DNA matching analysis, **the remains were positively identified** and Vlada's family notified. No cause for the incident was determined.

► **The Bonaire Reporter invites its readers to contribute short stories for its upcoming annual April Fool edition.** Stories must be original, relate to the Bonaire scene, be around 500 words and not vulgar or mean-spirited. Photos illustrating the story are a plus. The best stories will be printed and a prize awarded for the top story.

(Continued on page 5)

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)

► STINAPA (the NGO that manages Bonaire's parks) has placed showy signs at the traffic circle, salt works and the side of the TCB building downtown **thanking tourists for their financial support in purchasing \$10 and \$25 park tags.** The signs promote the annual "Nature Fee" that everyone, except children under 12 and Antillean or Aruban *sedula* holders, are supposed to pay. All divers, regardless of age and nationality, must have a \$25 annual "dive tag" to SCUBA. Dive tags have been required since 1992 and are used to finance the Bonaire National Marine



Park. The \$10 annual, or \$2 daily nature fee was introduced last year and also goes directly to the parks. The signs were financed in cooperation with of the World Wildlife Fund and are meant to emphasize STINAPA's role in preserving Bonaire's pristine environment with the support and cooperation of its visitors.

► The Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) awarded **Photo Tours Divers/Yellow Submarine**, both divisions of Dive Friends Bonaire, as **Dive Operation of the Year for the second consecutive year.** Dive Friends Bonaire has grown considerably in the last few years and is beginning to see the benefits of their hard work. Currently, Dive Friends Bonaire consists of four dive operations: Photo Tours Divers Caribbean

Court, Photo Tours Divers Hamlet, Yellow Submarine, and Yellow Submarine Caribbean Club, plus retail stores in Kralendijk: Photo Tours Shop and Discount Divers. It is the goal of Dive Friends Bonaire to continue to provide the best personal service at the best possible rates.

For more information call 717-2929, email [info@dive-friends-bonaire.com](mailto:info@dive-friends-bonaire.com), or visit [www.dive-friends-bonaire.com](http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com)

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## Carlos Jimenez Invited to Master Class in Cuba

Well known and popular Bonaire percussionist and producer of a jazz radio program, Carlos Jimenez, has been invited to participate in a Latin Percussion Master Class in Havana, Cuba, next month. The 10-day class will be conducted by Oscar Valdes, ex-member of the famous Cuban Latin Jazz Band "Irakere." Valdes is now musical director of the Latin Jazz Band "Diakara."

This opportunity for Carlos to join the master class was made possible by funding from the Bonaire Jazz Foundation.

In appreciation and to share his experience with other local musicians and colleagues Carlos will be organizing workshops upon his return. □ *L.D.*



## New Site for Donna and Georgio's

The **Donna and Georgio** Restaurant moved from its previous location on Kaya Grandi and re-opened in a new waterfront location. Last Monday gracious owner, Donna Dovale (see inset in photo at right) hosted a grand opening party with live music for over a hundred persons. □ *G.D.*



Wilna Gro-

# Accolade Award to Dee Scarr

With the awarding of the coveted Accolade medal, part of the dream of Captain Don Stewart was born...the Accolade Diver. Bonaire has become a symbol to the world of conservation...if the oceans go, the human race goes. The ocean is not only the last great frontier of Earth to explore; it is one of our main hopes for survival of the human race.

Former TV personality, Arthur Godfrey, helped popularize the word "ecology." As his sponsor and part time writer I was proud to have written a statement which he made famous on CBS TV 40 years ago which was... "For God's sake, let's leave something for the kids." It appears that too few paid attention and now we've got an ecological mess on our hands.

The world's ocean currents are changing...creating major problems on the land and sea.

Just look at Bonaire...fewer fish to catch and fewer varieties. In Spain, Greece and other Mediterranean countries, fish is now a luxury. Meat is cheaper and more readily available. Even the sharks are disappearing, including the Great White. We are all aware, or should be, of the bleak outlook for the oceans as a food source and negative effects on the Earth's ecology. Man has done a lot of damage and we hope we can fix it.

Captain Don has been a leader in all things wet. He created the Accolade Award for those individuals who are leading the way in saving our oceans. Shown receiving the most recent award is Dee Scarr, diver, lecturer, conserva-



**Captain Don and The Bonaire Accolade Foundation present an "Accolade" to environmentalist Dee Scarr of "Touch The Sea" fame. Dee Scarr's programs in Bonaire, books and presentations at dive and ocean conferences the world over have introduced people young and old to the wondrous nature of ocean life. L to R: George Buckley, Dee Scarr, Captain Don, Janet Thibault**

tionist and founder of "Touch the Sea." The Accolade Award is considered by many like the Nobel Prize for environmental protection. The award medal was created by Captain Don and beautifully crafted by Luty DePalm. With this latest award comes the announcement of a new class of divers...The "Accolade Divers." Accolade Divers will continue to lead the way in ocean ecology.

Inspired by the lectures of Dee Scarr, the Board of the Accolade Society saw an opportunity to combine the talents of Dee Scarr and others into a program of special diving skills that would benefit the oceans. Dee advocates that divers carry cutters (in addition to knives) and learn how to extract fishing line from corals in special ways so as not to damage them further. She also teaches proper buoyancy angles to observe micro life and animals. These and other skills will be tested and the diver will be certified to receive and wear the Accolade patch and cap. The major emphasis of the Accolade diver is the health of the ocean along with the observance and

assistance in helping it stay clean to propagate the reefs and protect the future of the sea life. Many of the threats to the ocean are man made...sewage and garbage, over-fishing, and dumping of junk from ships.

On Bonaire Dee Scarr has found piles of broken glass from ships alongside the town pier. Fish can pick up pieces of glass that could possibly enter the food chain resulting in human consumption. Accolade divers could be our first line of defense.

Bonaire is the home of the Accolade Society, created by Captain Don. It will help lead the effort to save our oceans. □

Phil Katzev



*The Accolade medallion designed by Captain Don and beautifully handcrafted in sterling silver by Luty De Palm.*

Laraine Katzev photo



**The Accolade to Dee Scarr reads as follows:**

Dee Scarr, you are an environmentalist beyond comprehension. For more than 25 years you have dedicated yourself to making knowledge of the sea fun and spreading desire in others to learn and become themselves part of our sea.

The energy and heart put into your collection of books is commendable. Devotion to detail in your teaching is outstanding. The uncountable hours beneath the piers dedicated to salvaging fallen sponges are worthy of another standing ovation. Dee Scarr, you are a most remarkable woman.

Those who have ever tasted the brine of our oceans love you, and those whom you have touched with your magic will never forget your kindness.

Dee Scarr, The Accolade Foundation of Bonaire salutes you.

Captain Don, Chairman



Captain Don

**George Buckley of Harvard University, a member of the Accolade Foundation, added:**

The Accolade Foundation has recognized Dee Scarr of "Touch the Sea" fame with its "Accolade Award" for her work in ocean education. With her programs in Bonaire, her books, and her presentations at dive and ocean conferences the world over, Dee Scarr has provided people young and old with an introduction to the wondrous nature of ocean life. For this, we commend her.

The Accolade Foundation recognizes individuals the world over for their efforts to protect, manage and educate about environments.

These people have inspired others to "get involved" and to do something to protect and educate about nature. We all need to better understand nature, its myriad forms of life and their interactions. Collectively recipients of the Accolade have had wide impact on people young and old. The Foundation aims to spread the word about their efforts so as to recognize what they have accomplished and inspire others to follow the paths that they have illuminated.

The effort needed to save Planet Earth from environmental degradation is a Herculean task. While individuals can and do have significant success with environmental issues, collectively they can be a "force majeure" whose power will be acknowledged locally, nationally, and internationally. The Accolade Foundation hopes to be the spark that ignites worldwide collaborative effort to promote sound environmental management practices.

The power of one individual multiplied by thousands of others can and must be heard from mountains and valleys and across oceans; from villages and cities to the leaders of all governments. Then and only then will we begin the healing process to stop environmental degradation.

With the technological and electronic wonders of today we have for once the power to communicate instantly across the globe. Let us start the conversation. Let the small clapping of hands from Bonaire, "where Bonaire is to coral reef preservation what Greenwich is to time," resonate to the thunderous wave of activism around the world. □ *The Clam (George Buckley)*



George Buckley



*Dolfi, Kevin Stewart, Captain Don, Ramon*

The Bonaire National Marine Park has started a reforestation of Klein Bonaire project together with Dr. Adolfo Debrot from CARMABI, the research and biological institute of the Netherlands Antilles. For two days Dolfi and Elsmarie Beukenboom, the director of STINAPA, the foundation that manages the national parks system of Bonaire, searched for seedlings in the bushes along the road by Barcadera and Goto Lake. They collected a little more than 200 seedlings from 13 different species of plants.



The objective of this project is to have fruit bearing plants that are native to Bonaire re-planted on Klein Bonaire. These plants will attract birds, the birds will eat the fruits and they will spread the seeds on the island with their droppings. The seedlings have been brought to Captain Don's nursery where they were potted and will be taken care of by Ramon, the nursery attendant. They will remain in the care of Ramon until the next rainy season which starts in October/November of this year. The bigger and stronger plants will be brought over to the island to be planted.

Th plants include: *Lumbra Blanku, Kayuda, Watakeli, Rambèshi, Wayaká, Pal'i Sia Blanku, Mansaliña Bobo, Uñagato Grandi* and *Kuchara*

While these seedlings are growing into strong plants the fresh water wells on Klein Bonaire need to be investigated. **We need volunteers to find these fresh water wells, mark them and take water samples. If the water is fresh enough to be used in the project the wells need to be cleaned.**

After the plants are in the ground **volunteers will be needed to water them every other day during the whole rainy season. During the dry season the watering will stop and start again in the next rainy season. Volunteers for this project can contact us at [info@stinapa.org](mailto:info@stinapa.org).** □ *Story & photos by Elsmarie Beukenboom*

## Klein Bonaire Reforestation

## Bonaire Ambassadors

The Tourism Corporation Bonaire passed on this letter from Ron and Marian Hayden from Kennewick, Washington, recently named as Bronze Bonaire Ambassadors:

"When we first visited Bonaire in 1993, we were

so taken with the island that we stopped on our way to the airport to leave for home and bought a timeshare. That was a spontaneous decision we've never regretted – Bonaire has become our second home. The diving is spectacular, the weather is perfect and the pace of the island is just right to ensure a relaxing time.

The best thing about Bonaire is the people. We've met new friends who we look forward to seeing on our vacations. We've enjoyed bringing friends from home with us to enjoy the island. Our Bonairean friends have treated us like family and we think of them that way.

They are the best! Bonaire is home to



*Marian and Ron Hayden with Rolando Marin*

us, one that we'll keep coming back to for years."

The Tourism Corporation Bonaire and *The Bonaire Reporter* congratulate Ron and Marian as new Bonaire Ambassadors. □ *Press release*



## Inside the Wreck of the *Mairi Bhan* Mysterious Mistress of Bonaire

It's Wednesday afternoon and my spirits are in high gear. All the preparations are complete for another visit to my mistress in the sea. Our first encounter, many years ago, seems like yesterday. I flash back to those exciting days of discovery and enchantment. From the very first sight of her magnificent form I was captured and seduced by her charm. Every meeting revealed new secrets and we came to know and share all of our fantasies and fears. Now, as we mature in age and wisdom, we still share the thrill and excitement of those early days. We are learning to enjoy new revelations as our body structures respond to the ever-changing environment around us.

### Who is She?

Her name is *Mairi Bhan* (AKA, *The Windjammer*), and she resides off the northwest coast of Bonaire in the warm blue sea of the southern Caribbean. She arrived at her final destination in December 1912 after 38 years of distinguished faithful service at sea, as a magnificent, three-masted, fully rigged clipper ship, powered by the wind and driven by the currents of the great oceans. Her early retirement was accelerated by a violent storm and catastrophic fire that drove her ashore. On impact, she lost her main mast, capsized and slid down the sloping shoreline reef to the sand shelf, 60 meters (195 feet) below the surface, where she disgorged her cargo of liquid asphalt.

Peace and tranquility followed this tragic event for almost 93 years as the giant lady rested on her starboard (right) side, dozing in the gentle currents. In March of 2005, her internal cross beams, weakened by corrosion and stressed by the overhanging weight



*Surveying the mizzen mast step*

of her thick iron hull plates and heavy coral growth, gave way and collapsed. Her massive hull, 80 meters (256 feet) long and 13 meters (42 feet) wide, has been transformed into a giant iron tube, fractured at the middle and distorted at the bow and stern.

### Our Rendezvous

Today, Micky, my dive partner will accompany me on a brief visit to explore "Bonny Mary," in her English translation, for the first time since her recent transformation. After numerous briefings and careful planning we are ready for our descent to the waiting lady. Our dive plan has two options; with clear water, we will swim to the forward "crows nest and bowsprit," or, in poor visibility, we'll enter her hull amidships and find a safe, clear passage to the stern and exit at the rudder area. As we drop through the water column, I notice that there is no current and the visibility diminishes, an indicator from previous visits that conditions will not be favorable outside the ship. We sight the stricken hull and alter our swimming posture, easing our way to the gaping fracture at her mid-section.

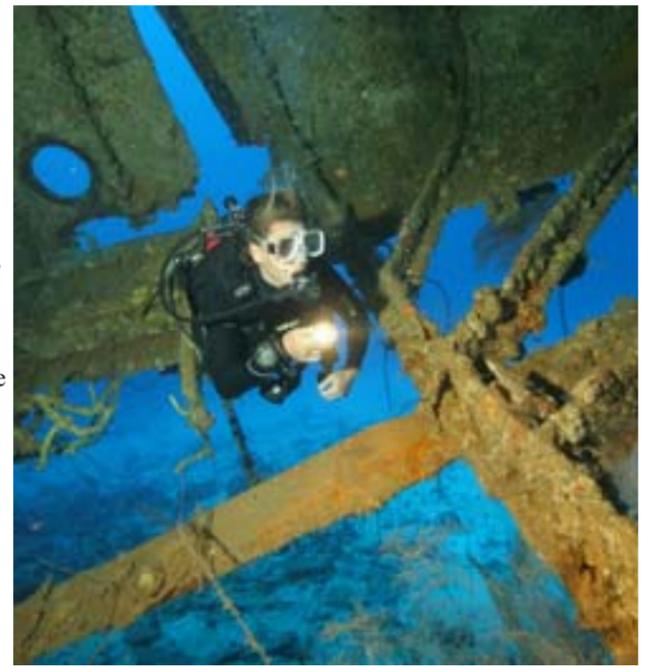
A stagnant layer of cold, inhospitable green water now surrounds us. We turn our underwater lamps on to full power and prepare for our entry into the dark, unknown confines of the ship's interior.

### The Mystery Unfolds

As I enter, her warm embrace engulfs me. All is clear and calm. My powerful lamp reveals a chaotic tangle of twisted and distorted iron beams. Some of the metal surface has fresh, bright orange rust forming at the fracture points. Where they have been bent, the encrusting coral or protective tar layer has popped off. I am reassured by the calm interior but stunned and saddened to witness the results of the terrible torture that my reposing lady has recently endured.

Proceeding in slow motion to the rhythm of our breathing, we scan the open passage for any sign of the familiar, well-known features from many years of pleasurable encounters. Moving toward the stern, we pass the gigantic portside fresh water tank, askew and resting on a nest of fallen supports. Ahead, in the center cargo hold, is the crew access ladder in a vertical position, firmly attached to the keel that is now directly overhead, as if the ship had overturned. This discovery reveals the tremendous force that has bent the iron hull and pulled the entire length of the keel upward without rolling the ship over. The distorted, curved interior resembles the inside of a gigantic discharge pipe at a power plant or hydro-electro project.

As we reach the rear of the ship, we see glimpses of blue water through great, jagged gashes where the over-



*Micky explores the former Captain's Quarters at the stern*

stressed iron skin has torn apart. Under the poop deck the space has been compressed into a tight oval shaped room, rimmed by the series of portholes that formerly were at the upper deck level and now lie on the bottom like viewing ports on a glass-bottom tourist boat. Here the supports for the massive rudder and steering mechanism, twisted and deformed, halt our progress. Looking down I see a way out through the labyrinth of crisscrossing iron beams. Simply exhaling allows me to drop through the maze without kicking my flippers and disturbing the sediment or dislodging any of the overhanging superstructures. Micky follows, and in seconds we are safely outside and staring in disbelief at a shape that is all new to us.

The curved stern, fractured and cracked where it could not bend, is in a flat horizontal plane held two meters (six feet) off the bottom by the iron tube of the stern mast. The giant rudder is now pointing straight up toward the surface and, in our view from the rear, resembles the tail of a 747 commercial jetliner! We slowly rise to the tip of the rudder surrounded by the ever-present

*(Continued on page 13)*

## First Quarterly Clean Up Dive of 2006

On Saturday, January 14, an enthusiastic group of 24 divers met at Bonaire Yellow Submarine to coordinate the first clean up dive of 2006. Joining them were eight others committed to shoreline cleanup as well as shore support for the divers.

After a comprehensive briefing by Jake Richter of NetTech (co-sponsor of the Quarterly Clean Ups), the group geared up and walked the short distance to the dive site, Something Special, on the southern side of the Harbour Village Marina. All divers were informed on what type of trash to bring up, safety in regard to boating activity in the marina, as well as information on how to avoid harming the reef or other marine animals. Bonaire's own Dee Scar also joined the shore support to ensure as little impact as possible to marine animals would occur.

During this cleanup, the following trash was collected and removed for proper disposal: 11 plastic beverage bottles, 14 other bottles, 5 caps or lids, 6 cups, 60 pieces of fishing line, 73 plastic pieces, 3 pipe thread protectors, 73 pieces of rope, 5 straps, 2 vegetable sacks, 8 other miscellaneous plastic pieces, 26 pieces of foam plastic, 94 pieces of glass, 5 tires and other items manufactured of rubber, 39 pieces of metal, 27 pieces of paper, 13 pieces of lumber, and 39 pieces of cloth.

That evening, over 40 persons enjoyed the camaraderie at the evening



A couple of the volunteer cleaner-uppers Suzan Bruls and Wouter Konsten

Pot Luck BBQ, when all participants returned to Yellow Submarine to feast upon tenderloin, chicken, and ribs, sponsored by Yellow Submarine, NetTech, and PSI/Sherwood Scuba. Side salads and other accompaniments were provided by the participants themselves.

The next quarterly underwater cleanup will be conducted on Saturday, April 8. All are welcome, divers and non-divers alike. Meet at Yellow Submarine at 1 pm. □ Susan Davis

## No Foot, No Problem

When Advanced Diver Patrick Farrell of Indiana lost his left foot in a work related accident a few years ago, one thing he would not give up was scuba diving. "I owed it to my father who died a year ago," he explained with pride. He told the insurance company they had to give him a "going out leg" and another artificial leg for diving and they did. Designed of special materials and costing over US \$18,000, his custom-made below the knee prosthesis has a locking two position ankle joint for diving. The 90 degree angle position is for walking or driving and the 180 degree straight-pointed position is for swimming.

In early January 2006 I had the privilege of diving with Patrick on Bonaire. He had arrived without a



In the water above us



Patrick on the beach

dive buddy and saw my usual "Dive Buddy Needed" notice on the board at Bonaire Dive and Adventure next to Sand Dollar Condominium Resort where I live a few weeks a year. I could empathize with him somewhat since I was still recovering from a broken right leg from a NC coastal boating accident in September 2005. Patrick was ecstatic to finally get back into the water after already being on the island for two days. "I'm not a gimp," he insisted, and he wasn't... Not by a long shot. We started making about three shore dives a day with Patrick driving the dive truck. He was adamant that he could do anything the rest of us could do and usually rejected offers of assistance during shore dive entries and exits over the coral rubble. We started with the Hilma Hooker wreck where I got some good photos of him and his equipment. Patrick would walk over the coral rubble into the water, fully geared up, and negotiate his way

(Continued on page 13)

### KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
2-17	5:49	1.5FT.	70
2-18	6:05	1.6FT.	64
2-19	6:31	1.7FT.	58
2-20	7:10	1.8FT.	51
2-21	7:48	1.9FT.	46
2-22	8:27	2.0FT.	46
2-23	9:14	2.1FT.	52
2-24	0:07	1.0FT.	63

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alter Ego	Il Songo	Ti Amo
Angie	Isigare	Udidi
Attitude	Manta	Ulu Ulu, USA
Augustin	Maggi	Unicom, Norway
Blue Moon	Natural Selection	Valhalla
Bright Sea	Ocean Breeze	Valtair
Camissa, Chan	Okeanis	Varedhuni, Ger.
Is.	Okura	Yanti Paratzi
Casa del Mar	Onyva	Zahi, Malta
Cape Kathryn	Orino	
Chaina Doll	Pela	
Churumrel	Pishi Porko	
Delphinus	Pythial	
Destiny	Revlou	
Eagle's Wing	Samba	
Endorphin	Santa Maria	
Flying Cloud, USA	Sandpiper, USA	
Freestyle	Scintella	
Galandriel	Sirius	
Golden Eye	Siorse	
Goril Two	Summer Breeze	
Guaicamar I, Ven.	Spart I Vento	
Harmony	Stella	
	Sylvia K	
	Ta B	

# Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2006



*The awesome organizers of the Festival: Lando Tjin Asjoe, Ben Oleana, Miriam*

Make sure you're on the island for this: Bonaire's second annual Jazz Festival scheduled for May 25, 26, 27 and 28. The tireless committee has come up with some outstanding stars and groups for the event. There'll be a wide variety of jazz: Latin Jazz, Caribbean, Salsa, Krioyo, Kaseko, straight modern jazz of today... and a special event - songs and poetry in Papiamentu with jazz. During the festival there will be music all over the island! Not only will there be main concerts at different beach locations but

also in cafes, bars and restaurants, starting at happy hour time until late at night with concerts and jam sessions.

Thanks to sponsors, musicians, friends and the Bonaire Jazz Foundation, the island of Bonaire seems to have created another regular event on top of the existing events like Regatta, the King of the Caribbean (wind surfing championship) and the Dive Festival.

Thursday, May 25 is a festival day with free entry. It's the prelude to the main concerts and the center of Kral-

endijk will be full of musical attractions.



## LOW-PRICE TICKETS

Tickets for the main concerts on May 26, 27 and 28 will be sold for only NAf45 (\$25) for the three concerts.

**Some of the top musicians coming:** The Cubop City Big Band, Anastacia Larmonie, Delbert Bernabela, Merietza Haakmat, Hershell Rosario, Konkie Halmeyer, Question Mark, Bud Gad-dum, Ced Ride, Ronchi Matthews Quartet, Moogie & Friends, Stingray Latin Quartet and Bonaire Jazz Group. More details will appear in *The Reporter* as the date approaches. □L.D.



**Heineken will be the title sponsor for 2006, 2007 & 2008**

**Main Sponsors:** Littman's, ReMax, Bonaire Fun Travel

**Other Sponsors:** Bonaire Net, Bonaire Partners, *The Bonaire Reporter*, Bongo's, Budget Rent-a-Car, City Café, Den Laman Condominiums, Den Laman Restaurant, Gaia Pro, Kon Tiki Beach Resort, Little Havana, MCB, Multi function Management, Party & Zo, Plaza, Rorcargo, Russell Insurances, TCB, Yellow Submarine. □

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Ads@bonairenews.com

From NAf62

# Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Mentor 3: Tile Factory

by Wilna Groenenboom

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage



This is the last triptych featuring the Vis family house, commonly called Mentor.

The Mentor house stands behind a 'Nos' (Strea, a lottery office) and the Mentor Chinese Restaurant and Bar. The bar and restaurant have always operated as such. The Nos building, on the right, was previously a kind of a *toko* (store) selling clothes.

You can see a lot of different tiles near both buildings. That is not so strange because the tiles were produced right there.

After patriarch Cor Vis started the brick factory he began a cement tile factory. Because most tiles are made of clay, those made from concrete are unusual and very interesting. These tiles were produced in the shack on the left

side of the house.

The three tiles you see in the triptych were all produced the same way. They started with a very flat plate covered with grease. The mold was placed on that plate and then the mold was filled with colored (pigment) powder. Sand and cement was put over the pigment. The tiles were prepared upside down. Then they put the mold under pressure, pressing down until the cement became dry and stiff. Eventually the tiles were removed from the mold and dried for a short while on a rack. The rack had to be dipped into water occasionally in order for the cement to cure slowly. If the cement tiles dry too fast they could crack. Afterwards the tiles were set into a cement floor;

then the floor was polished with oil.

For the tiles with the flower/star figures they used a metal mold, putting the different colors into each section. Then the mold was put into a square mold. After the metal mold was removed they put the sand and cement on the plate, then continued as for the square tiles.

You can see these abstract tiles in different colors in a few houses in Bonaire today. The ones with the stars and flowers are not so common.

I hope that people with these kinds of tiles realize that they have something special in their houses. □

*Story & photos by Wilna Groenenboom*

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



# Picture Yourself In The Reporter Santorini, Greece

Michael DiPleco writes "This is a photo of my wife, Tess, in the port village of Armeni on the Island of Santorini, Greece. We were in Bonaire around Christmas, 2003. Hope to visit you again soon. Around 1500 BC, Santorini, then called Strongili (means rounded in Greek), was the victim of an enormous volcano eruption. What remains today are Thera, Therasia and Aspronisi. □



**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.) □

## Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— They are still free 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](mailto: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 Lagoon 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/)

### MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE? Make it more livable from the start.

**FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS**  
Also interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-9332.

### For Sale

**1990 ISUZU TROOPER 5-DOOR AUTO** Many new parts including, battery, tires, shocks, service etc. Drives very well, genuine reason for sale NAf 5.250 Tel: 786-8648

**Mitsubishi Gallant, Automatic shift, 4 door-** 11 years old, 4 new tires, new battery and starter- new license tag, NAf5000. tel. 717-2971

**11' Caribe hard bottom inflatable,** good condition, trailer included, 25 hp. Yamaha. NAf3600. On island 02/21-03/08. E-mail [pariposo2@capecod.net](mailto:pariposo2@capecod.net).

**DIVE TANKS** -Carib Inn just received a limited number of new tanks for sale. These are **80 and 63 cubic feet** in size. Already half have sold, so if you need a new tank contact the **Carib Inn at 717-8819** as soon as possible.



## 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



**Car Rental Agencies:** at the Airport

**Banks:**  
MCB (Playa & Hato branches), RBTT

**Restaurants:**  
Bistro de Paris  
Cactus Blue  
Capriccio  
City Cafe  
Croccantino  
Lost Penguin  
Lover's Ice Cream  
Pasa Bon Pizza

**Dive Shops:**  
Yellow Submarine  
WannaDive

**Shops:**  
Benetton  
Bonaire Gift Shop  
Cinnamon Art Gallery  
DeFreewieler  
Exito Bakery  
INPO

Paradise Photo  
Photo Tours, Playa  
Plantation Furniture

**Hotels:**  
Buddy Dive  
Capt. Don's Habitat  
Carib Inn  
Caribbean Club Bonaire  
Caribbean Court  
Divi Flamingo  
Eden Beach Hotel  
Golden Reef  
The Great Escape  
Plaza Resort  
Sand Dollar Resort

**Supermarkets:**  
Bo Toko, North Salina  
Cultimara  
Montecatini  
Progresso  
Sand Dollar Grocery  
Tropical Flamingo  
Warehouse

**Government:**  
Bestuurscollege  
Customs  
Parliament Office  
BVO

**Others:**  
Bonfysio  
Botika Korona  
Caribbean Laundry  
Fit 4 Life, Plaza  
Hair Affair  
Harbour Village Marina  
Rocargo  
San Francisco Hospital  
TCB  
Telbo

**Bookstores:**  
Bonaire Boekhandel,  
Flamingo Bookstore

**Realty Offices:**  
Harbourtown  
Re/Max  
Sunbelt

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

02/06

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

FOR SALE: 4 burner large propane stove \$200; Split Unit Air Co 12,000BTU \$225; HP Scanner \$50. (pick up anytime); Lamp \$15 (can be picked up at anytime); Pot and pans and dishes all of them \$25 ([pick up anytime); Corner tables with shelves 2 on rollers \$25 each (can be picked up at anytime); Cloth clothes closet \$20 (pick up anytime); Wooden clothes closet with 3 drawers \$50 (pick up anytime); Clothes rack for hanging wet clothes \$15; Call after 3 pm Sun-Wed; anytime Thur-Sat 786-7072

For sale: Ikelite Underwater Strobe Kit. Substrobe DS-50 (TTL) for Digital & Film Cameras, Remote TTT Slave Sensor for DS Substrobes, and Arm II System. Like new, in the original box. Best offer. Call 717-4593, after 3 pm.

For sale: Water ski bindings for combo skis. Size 38 to 46 (Eur.) New, Complete with mounting material. NAf 100/pair. Tel. 786-5591

For sale: 2 Sky kennels for dogs, KLM-approved, one large NAf 150, one extra large NAf 300, tel. 786-5582.

For Sale: Ultra Classic Yoga Mats. Color: Black Price: NAf60. Call 786-6416

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

### Wanted

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

Join us to "Publish in Paradise." Working partner with journalism writing/editing skills, business sense and energy desired.

**Most important: Must Love Bonaire!** Call *The Reporter* at 717-8988, 786-6518.



Email qualifications to: [search@bonairereporter.com](mailto:search@bonairereporter.com)

**RECORDER (BLOCKFLOTE)** Interested in playing with us on Bonaire, May 13 - June 10? email [bubblheads@mac.com](mailto:bubblheads@mac.com) Corky & Sy Halberg

**WANTED: Small kayak...**(no inflatables) in any condition. 717-6862/ 791-6003

**20-year old Belgian student looking for a job to live and work on Bonaire** for about a year, or maybe longer. Preferably in the hospitality sector because I already have experience in that sector. dominickgeentjens@hotmail.com (0032)(3) 322-7636.

### Boats for Sale

For Sale - Cabo Rico 38 Yacht 1989.

Excellent off-shore cruiser. One-owner, little used, only 800 engine hours, many sails, many spares, new s-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.



(No Foot, No Problem. Continued from page 9)

through the underwater obstacles in the shallows with the rest of us. Then, he would reposition his mechanical ankle to the straight pointed position and put on his fins like any other diver.



He would do the reverse before exiting. Once submerged over the reefs he easily kept up with us and began enthusiastically taking digital photographs. His air supply lasted as long as anyone else's in the group, and after a few shake-down dives he had his buoyancy under good control. He explained how he had to compensate for how flooded his prosthetic leg socket compartment was, which could be a bit tricky.

After the dives and during meals Patrick would proudly show us the images he had just captured, in addition to the ones from prior dive trips in the Florida Keys and Caribbean. He even got some pretty good shots of me and promised to email them. I was a bit envious as he talked about all his dive trips during his four-month-long winter lay offs as a heavy equipment operator building highways in Indiana. He was even thinking about getting a job helping to clean up and rebuild the tsunami-devastated coast of Thailand. Years ago he was a heavy equipment operator with the US military, clearing

jungles and building roads in Panama, so he knew what to expect in the tropics. He also had heard they were paying pretty well in Thailand, and as a bonus he could dive on his days off.

I dove with Patrick for three days, but then had to head back home to North Carolina where I am a private practice physician. Did I forget to mention that Patrick takes medication for multiple sclerosis? Now that did slow him down some. After I left, he had a flare up and had to take a day or so off from diving to rest and recover. Another diver had promised to check on him and dive with him and keep me informed.

The 2001 RTSC Guidelines for Recreational Scuba Diver's Physical Examination lists both multiple sclerosis and amputation as "Relative Risk Conditions," which refers to "a moderate increase in risk, which in some instances may be acceptable. To make a decision as to whether diving is contraindicated for this category of medical problems, physicians must base their judgment on an assessment of the individual patient." Patrick enjoys diving and operating heavy equipment like bulldozers and graders. He has made his decision about the pleasures to be had by diving and bulldozing versus an increased risk of death or injury due to his medical conditions. Who am I to deny him?

Some of you may remember the movie, "Men of Honor," the story of Carl Brashear, the first African American, then also the first amputee US Navy Diver and the man who trained

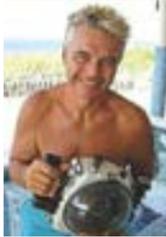
(Mairi Bhan (AKA, The Windjammer) Continued from page 8)



swirling school of horse-eye jacks. Gazing forward toward the bow we see the sharp outline of the keel gently curving out of view into the haze of the sea.

### The Future?

It's time for a brief pause and fond farewell to the "Mistress of Bonaire." We turn to the nearby reef and make our way to the waiting air tank reserved for



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.

him. Carl had to convince a navy medical review board that he was fit to dive with his prosthetic leg and he did.

Patrick said he was back operating heavy construction equipment two months after his accident and amputation. I wonder if they'll ever make a movie about him. After all, he may just be headed to Thailand to bulldoze and dive. □ Story & photos by David F. Colvard

our decompression cycle previously secured on the slope during our descent. I wonder what the future has in store. Will the ship shift again? My thoughts recycle through the visions inside the ship. Digesting her new position and recalling many of my previous detailed surveys, performed over our long relationship, I am already planning the search for those familiar features that are now hidden beneath the twisted wreckage. I plan to return and visit my tortured lady at the first opportunity.

Join me on our next adventure! □  
©Story & Photos by Albert Bianculli, 2006

Special thanks to AQUATICA, manufacturers of underwater Photographic and Video Equipment and especially Blake Stoughton, for support in photographing the Windjammer

David F. Colvard, M.D. is a Board Certified Psychiatrist and PADI Divemaster.



## Pet of the Week

“Simba” has the most beautiful, soulful eyes. Maybe that’s why everyone likes him so much and why he gets along with the other dogs at the Bonaire Animal Shelter so well. They just look into those eyes and melt away. And he holds his own with the others, no matter what their size. Simba is about one and a half years old. He’s got caramel colored, easy-to-care-for, short brown fur. He’s short and sturdy – very trim looking. Simba would make an excellent watch dog for a very appreciative owner.

As are all the adoptees at the Shelter Simba has been judged by the vet to be healthy, he’s had his shots, worming and been sterilized. He’s ready to go. The adoption fee for dogs, NAf105, includes all the above. What a deal! And you are assured of getting a totally healthy and social animal. The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □L.D.



“Simba”

(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 5)

► **Wannadive Bonaire has opened its fourth location at the Golden Reef Inn in Hato.** The full-service dive shop offers a large central dive locker, showers, rinse basins and multi-lingual PADI dive instruction. Soon to be added is a rental and retail shop. For more information call 717-8850, email [info@wannadive.com](mailto:info@wannadive.com) or visit <http://www.wannadive.com>.



► **Construction of a butterfly farm at the Landhuis De Plantage, just off the road to Lac Kai, will begin this month.** The project will feature a large greenhouse with plants, ponds with fish and butterflies. The farm is expected to be open in June this year and is a member of the International Association of Butterfly Exhibitions. For more information, email [info@butterflyhouse.info](mailto:info@butterflyhouse.info) or visit [www.butterflyhouse.info](http://www.butterflyhouse.info) when the site goes live in the coming weeks.

► **The Bonaire Movieland Cinema is once again open seven days a week:** Thursday through Sunday showing two movies starting at 7 pm and 9 pm and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: one movie starting at 8 pm. Please visit the cinema, enjoy a “night out” at a price far below that of movie admission in the US. The cinema needs increased patronage simply

to stay open.

► **New Times Tune in! The Bonaire Reporter is on the air with a radio spot commercial on the popular local radio station, Mega FM (101.1 MHz).** Late last year the station extended it’s programming in English and Dutch to add specific tourist information. Therefore, from Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 8:30 pm, every hour (always starting 30 minutes after the hour) they transmit Tourist Information in English featuring news, weather, flight info, events and island attractions. *The Bonaire Reporter* 30-second spots, which begin in Papiamentu or Dutch, then switch to English, are featured at 9:35 am, 1:35 pm and 7:35 pm. You might recognize the voices. □G/L.D.



At: *Chat'n'browse, Sand Dollar Grocery, Valerie's Airport Shop, Capt. Don's Habitat, Carib Inn, TCB*

## 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:** Elsmarie Beukenboom, Albert Bianculli, George Buckley, Captain Don, David F. Colvard, Susan Davis, Wilna Groenenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Phil Katzev, Greta Kooistra, Dee Scarr, TCB, Michael Thiessen

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show  
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

### King Kong (Naomi Watts)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)  
Fun With Dick & Jane

Kaya Prinses Marie  
Behind Exito Bakery  
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

THURS THRU SUN  
2 MOVIES 7 & 9 PM

MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8 PM

SATURDAY 4 PM  
Cheaper By The  
Dozen 2

### THIS WEEK

**Karneval**—See Schedule upper right  
**Now until February 28**—Art Exhibit  
by Ronald Verhoeven at Kas di Arte.  
Mon to Fri 10am to noon, 2pm to 5.  
Opening hours have been extended to  
the weekends, from 5 to 9 pm  
**Friday, February 17**—SEBIKI Chil-  
dren's Parade, starts at Wilhelmina  
park, 5:30 pm.  
**Arts and Crafts Markets** at Wilhel-  
mina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days,  
starting around 10 am to early after-  
noon. See Cruise Ship Schedule above.

### COMING UP

**Karneval**—See Schedule upper right  
**March 2006:**  
**Mar 1** - Ash Wednesday  
**Mar 1** - Little and Senior League Sea-  
son Starts  
**Mar 1** - International Fishing Tourna-  
ment  
**TBA** - 5km Fun Run, 8am  
**April 2006**  
**Apr 6 - 9** Tentative dates for the 2006  
King of the Caribbean  
**Apr 8** - Underwater Cleanup sponsored  
by Yellow Submarine and NetTech,  
meet at 1 pm at Yellow Submarine  
**Apr 14** - Good Friday  
**Apr 16** - Easter Sunday  
**Apr 17** - Easter Monday  
**TBA** - Simadan (Harvest) Festival,  
Rincon  
**TBA** - Karel's Beach Bar Sailing Com-  
petition  
**Apr 30** - Queen's Birthday  
**Apr 30** - Rincon Day  
**Apr 30** - Queen's Birthday Windsurfing  
Race (Tolo)  
**Apr 30** - Queen's Birthday Race  
**Apr 30** - 5km, 17km MCB Run

### REGULAR EVENTS

**Saturday Rincon Marshé opens at 6  
am - 2 pm.** Enjoy a Bonairean break-  
fast while you shop: fresh fruits and  
vegetables, gifts, local sweets and  
snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles,  
incense, drinks and music. www.  
infonaire.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.

**Saturday**—All You Can Eat BBQ at  
**Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9  
pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations  
717-8285 ext. 444 .

**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

**Monday-Kriyoyo Night BBQ Buffet**  
featuring Chef Gibi and Los Princes  
Mariachi, Golden Reef Inn (2005  
Small Inn of the year). Band 7 pm,  
BBQ at 7:30 pm. Reservations \$20,  
walk ins \$25. Drinks available  
for purchase. Call 717-5759 or email  
info@goldenreefnn.com

**Tuesday, Thursday, Friday** Divi Fla-  
mingo, Balashi Beach Bar – Live mu-  
sic by the "Flamingo Rockers" 5-7 pm  
**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.

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

**Wednesday** Divi Flamingo, Balashi  
Beach Bar – Live music by Flamingo  
Rockers 5-6:30 pm

**Wednesday** The Windsurf Place at So-  
robon – Live music by Flamingo Rock-  
ers 7:30- 9:30pm

**Tuesday, Thursday, Friday** Divi Fla-  
mingo, Balashi Beach Bar – Live mu-  
sic by the "Flamingo Rockers" 5-7pm  
**Friday-Swim lessons** for children by  
Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at  
Sorobon from 1330 to 1630

**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, rou-  
lette and black jack, Mon. to Sat. 8  
pm– 4 am; Sun. 7 pm– 3 am.

**Daily - by appointment -Rooi  
Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Bo-  
nairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for resi-  
dents). 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,  
8:30 pm Call 717-8290 for info. **NO**

### February 2006 Cruise Ship Schedule

Date	Ship	PAX	Arrive	Depart	Pier
20 FEB MON	SEA PRINCESS	1950	12:00	19:00	SOUTH
21 FEB TUE	AIDA VITA	1260	13:00	20:00	SOUTH
27 FEB MON	ARCADIA	1550	08:00	18:00	SOUTH
28 FEB TUE	RJNDAM	1258	09:00	18:00	SOUTH

### Karneval 2006 Schedule:

Feb. 16 – Queens of Tumba – Aruba, Bonaire,  
Curaçao

Feb. 17 – Election – Queen, Prince & Pancho -  
adults

Feb 18 - Carnival--Youth Parade Rincon 2-6 pm

**Feb 19 - Carnival--Youth Parade Playa  
(Kralendijk) 2-6 pm**

Feb. 23 – Marathon Jump-Up, BonFM

Feb. 24 – Elementary School Parade 8-11 am

Feb. 24 – Teens Parade 7 to 11 pm

Feb 25 - Carnival--Adult Parade Rincon, 1-6 pm

**Feb 26 - Carnival--Adult Parade Playa  
(Kralendijk) 1-6 pm**

Feb 27 - Carnival--Farewell Youth Parade 3-8 pm

Feb 28 - Carnival--Farewell Adult Parade

7 - midnight

TBA - 5km Run, 8:00 am,

Sponsor: PA & Associates □

### SHOW FEB.20

**Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) Turtle Con-  
servation 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

### BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

**Kas Kriyo Rincon**—Step into Bonaire's  
past in this venerable old home that has been  
restored and furnished so it appears the fam-  
ily has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell  
you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–  
12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call  
717-2445.

**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

**Bonaire Museum** on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, be-  
hind 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 holi-  
days. 717-8444/785-0017

**Sunday at Cai-** Live music and danc-  
ing 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 Bona-  
ire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO build-  
ing, 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 **Tues-  
day,** 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 Vala-  
rie Stimpson at 785-3451; Val-  
rie@telbonet.na

**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

717-4685, 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 Papiam-  
mentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays**

**at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting**

**and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonk-

man. 717-2006

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter**

**Day Saints,** Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays

8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiam-  
mentu, Spanish and English.

**Catholic San Bernardus** in Kral-  
endijk – 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**

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

# 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>Cactus Blue</b> Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564	Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Trend setting décor and menu</b> Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service
<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 Home Delivery or Take Out</b> 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>EXTERMINATOR</b> <b>Professional Pest Control</b> is at your service. Get rid of all the pests that invade your home and garden. Experienced and reliable.</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 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 Galeries 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>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>
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### Rolando Marin

“I always call Bonaire ‘my island,’ but I was born on Curaçao. My parents, Basilio Marin and Rosa Bella Marin-Winklaar, left Bonaire for Curaçao because my father found work at the refinery there. After some years my mother wanted to go back. She missed the tranquility of Bonaire so we came back in 1966. My dad was one of the first divers here on the island, and he started working at Hotel Bonaire as a dive master. He built our house at Playa Pabou, behind Voz di Bonaire. There was only one other house there. When it rained we had to leave the car on the main street, what now is Kaya Gubernur Debroet, because everything around the house would flood. My dad would put me on his shoulders, and my brother had to take off his shoes and walk barefoot through the mud to get home.

I had a very good childhood; my parents were strict but not too strict, and my mom was always at home. My dad loved to fish - I never did - to tell you the truth,” *he hesitates but then he gives me a very cute smile:* “I really like the fish - I do eat them, but I don’t want to catch them. We also have a kunuku and in 1975 my father built a big dance floor next to the little house and we would organize parties, and bands from Curaçao would come to play. My father named the kunuku ‘Wanapa Ranch.’ After that many people had the same idea, but we were the first.

My father passed away in 2004 and my mother is in the *Kas di Sosiego* (old folks home). She has people taking care of her there and I visit her almost every day. I have one older brother, Reginaldo, who works as a technical eye assistant at the hospital. Everyone knows him as ‘*Dòkter di Wowo,*’ the eye doctor. When he was born they wanted to name him Basilio after my father, but my father’s sister said, ‘No! My brother was a bit naughty when he was young and if you give your son his name he will follow him!’ Then my mom said, ‘I will give him a name that starts with my letter, ‘R.’ That’s how Reginaldo got his name. Five years later I was born and they named me Rolando, and after another five years my sister Rosaline was born, and when she was five our youngest sister Ruthline was born. With my two daughters I followed the tradition. They are Rochanti (13) and Romery (7).

I went to the St. Dominicus School, after that to MAVO at SGB, then to the Polytechnic School in Curaçao. I didn’t finish - it didn’t go so well. I came back to Bonaire in 1985 and started

working at a local restaurant, Den Laman, helping the chef in the kitchen. But in December 1985 I began to work for Hugo Gerharts’ company, Bonaire Trading. It was a big company: a gas station, ALM, Hotel Bonaire, various apartments, the Ford garage and Budget car rental with 150 cars, which was a lot for Bonaire at the time! I started at Budget, first as a rental agent and later on as a supervisor. It was there I met my future wife, Mery Martis. I fell in love with her because she has such nice brown skin and black hair and a very good heart. She is a wonderful person. We’ve been married 15 years! I also worked overtime at Hotel Bonaire as a front desk office clerk and as a bell boy and at the airport checking in people for charters; I even did the screening of the passengers. I worked throughout the company from 1985 until 1994. If you say you worked nine years for the same company some might think that must have been boring but it wasn’t at all! Because when you went to work you didn’t know where you were going to work that day!”

**“.....this Russian film crew that came for ‘King of the Caribbean.’ I picked them up... early in the morning and when we reached Sorobon and they saw that blue water they completely freaked out! All in Russian - I didn’t understand a word - but it was obvious they were completely flabbergasted.”**

*Rolando Marin (43) is a wonderful man, very honest and very sweet and a great professional.*

“In 1994 I saw an ad that the tourist office wanted a tourist guide, and I realized I met all the requirements. I was immediately hired by Ronnie Pietersz, the director. What I do here at TCB is plan the visits of tourist industry professionals, like journalists, photographers and film crews who come to Bonaire, and I also drive them around. We have an average of two or three people a month who stay for about a week. I don’t drive around with regular tourists. Those people go with the local tour operators. The press people come from all over the world, mostly through our offices in New York, Haarlem, Holland, and Caracas, Venezuela, where they

make sure they’re press, not someone after a free vacation! So, as a matter of fact, all the articles that have been written about Bonaire, all the films and videos and all the pictures that have been made here, I was there when it happened! I tell them about nature and about the system of the Dutch Antilles. I show them the map of the Caribbean and our three little sister islands (St. Martin, Statia, Saba) who are high up there. I also tell them about Bonaire’s history, but if they need specific facts, I get them the experts like Bòi Antoin, Papi Cicilia or Arthur Sealy. Someone I also like to work with is George “Cultura” Thode of Washington Slagbaai Park.

It’s not always about diving. Last year the BBC came especially for our Lora. That was something really big for the island. We spent a lot of time in Washington Park. Bonaire has so much to offer - the journalists who visit the island come for so many different subjects. Of course we have the diving, but we also have windsurfing, kayaking, kite surfing, snorkeling, bird watching and eco-tours, caving and hiking and mountain biking and ... food, because many times they ask me, ‘What is a culinary must?’ And I tell them, ‘*kabritu* (goat) and *funchi,*’ and I take them to the Rose Inn, Maikey’s Snack or Antriol Catering. In most cases it’s the first time they’ve eaten something like that, and they tell me, ‘I didn’t know goat could be so delicious!’ I often go out for dinner or lunch with them and I work many holidays and weekends. I do miss a lot of time with my family, but I’ve had this job for 11 years now and I still think it’s fun!

Many professionals did their homework via Internet before they came to Bonaire. When they’re still at home they think Bonaire is a small island, but once they’re here they tell me - and I hear this many, many times - ‘I didn’t know there was so much to do on Bonaire’ and ‘How beautiful this island is!’ Just the other day I was talking to my wife about what made the biggest impression on me in all these years and I remembered this Russian film crew that came for ‘King of the Caribbean.’ I



**Rolando Marin**

picked them up at their hotel early in the morning and when we reached Sorobon and they saw that blue water they completely freaked out! All in Russian - I didn’t understand a word - but it was obvious they were completely flabbergasted!

Most of my time I spend outdoors and I love it; time goes faster outdoors, and it’s much more fun. I am enjoying my life; I don’t have any wishes or dreams. When you are a quiet person like I am, everything is perfect. The most important things in my life are my two little daughters and my wife. She also has a son, Jos. He’s 20 and is studying in Holland now. He grew up with me and is, as we say, my *yu sin dolo,* my child without pain.

I built my house 16 years ago in the same street where I grew up. I myself don’t travel so much. I went to Paris with my sister and to Aruba, Venezuela and Miami with the family.

Even though I’m always driving around the island for my job, I still like to go out for a drive with the family - to go for an ice cream, to drink a beer... I really enjoy that. I also love very much my favorite hour of the day - 5 am - before the sun comes up. I go outside and sit on the stoop and sometimes my youngest daughter comes to keep me company as she enjoys it too and I show her which one is a star and which one a planet... I love that hour of the day when the birds begin to sing...” □

*Photo & Story by Greta Kooistra*



# DIVING with DEE

## REEF Fish Surveys

### Are They Work or Play?

**D**o I ever love diving. I love the zone I get into when I'm underwater. I love the animals I see, and I love watching how they interact with each other and with me. I love introducing other divers to the undersea world.

Lately, however, my dive buddies have presented me with new challenges, mostly about identifying fish. I'm a whiz at the critters I especially like, such as moray eels or cleaner shrimp, but in other areas I was satisfied just knowing the fish was a parrotfish, for example, or one of the blennies who lived in a tube, or one of the striped gobies who clean – I didn't care exactly which one it was.

And then I got re-involved with REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) fish surveys. They were begun in the early 90s, but they were more effort than I was willing to expend: one had to write all the fish one had seen in long-hand on a slate; there were no underwater forms pre-printed with the names of the fish. Then one had to transfer one's recorded fish names onto a computer form, and mail (NOT e-mail, if it even existed at the time) the computer form to the REEF people. I guess REEF mailed out a newsletter every so often. After Lenny battered our shoreline in 1999 I did a few surveys at the Small Wall area, but that was the only REEF surveying I had done until a couple of months ago.

That was when Linda Ridley, REEF's liaison on Bonaire, told me I could send in surveys online and showed me fish survey forms on waterproof paper and on a slate – no more need to write out every fish's name. Linda gave me the first test for a REEF rating; I needed 80% and I hardly studied and I passed with a 90 or 95%, not the least bit humbled by the fact that my score was so high because a couple of guesses turned out to be correct. What humbled me – oh, did it humble me – was my first survey dive – and pretty much every other survey dive after that. Despite my test score and six thou-



*Nothing's as good as a photo for identification. I knew that the fish with the line through its eye was a gray snapper, but I needed the photo and the books to identify the other fish as a sailor's choice, a kind of grunt*

sand Caribbean dives, I could only identify about two parrotfish – okay, it was one phase of two parrotfish – out of the more than 30 “looks” of Caribbean parrotfish. I was better with damselfish, being able to identify three species out of more than eight, and wrasses with four out of seven.

On my first survey dive I looked closely at the wrasses, damselfish, even flounders I couldn't identify, tried to draw them on my slate, then looked for them in my fish identification books. Inevitably, when I'd remember *The goby had a bar (vertical stripe) through its eye*, I'd learn there was more than one species of goby with a bar through its eye. I'd remember *The flounder's shape was elongated* and the characteristic wouldn't be mentioned!

After that first frustrating survey dive, on other survey dives I used my housed little digital camera. In fact, thanks to survey dives I've used my little digital camera more than ever before! Doesn't matter if I get expert photographs; all I need are enough details of the fish for identification. Almost all of the time if I can get any image of the fish at all, it provides enough detail for a positive identification.

After the dive I transfer the photos onto my computer, then go through them to identify the mystery fish, then go onto the REEF website and fill out the survey

for that dive.

I find myself counting the number of species I report for each dive and wanting to increase that number – probably like everyone else. I pay more attention than I used to and notice more types of fishes. I'm learning a surprising number of new fish species – and I'm loving it! I wasn't forced to memorize anything; rather, because I'm frustrated when I can't remember who's which when I record them on my slate, I'm remembering new fishes to make life simpler for myself!

And I've got a better picture of the reef than I did before. I hadn't even realized how overwhelmingly abundant brown chromis are. In seeking fish to add to the count, I've noticed that redlip blennies are easy to find in relatively shallow water – they were always easy to find there – but I'd never noticed before. I'm beginning to be able to distinguish our three flounders from each other, and I can identify (the flashiest phases of) several types of parrotfish.

I've noticed for myself what scientists and other observers on Bonaire have been saying for a long time: we don't have the same fish diversity we used to. I can't remember the last time I saw a tiger grouper or a large spotted moray. The rosy razorfish colony that I was showing to divers only last year is gone this year. Even the mobs of what we used to call Bonairean Attack Yellowtails are reduced to just a few individuals.

Observations that would be incidental without REEF can now go into a data base to provide information about what's happening with fish populations in the Caribbean region (tropical Western Atlantic), the Pacific, the Eastern Pacific, and the Hawaiian islands. This information is available to anyone who requests it.

Once you begin entering data, you can take tests to qualify for up to five experience levels. You can get your own data out of REEF's data bank, separated by date or site or other criteria. Your total data gives you a list of every fish you've reported since you began sending in surveys. Just seeing that list creates irre-



*Every so often at the Pier I'd catch a glimpse of a soapfish that looked different from our relatively common greater soapfish. I never saw enough of the fish to identify it by memory, but the camera solved that problem. It also solved the problem of providing enough light in the shade of this tire for us to know what we're seeing. So -- it's not art photography, but it's great to document my sighting of this spotted soapfish.*

sistible urges to rush out and extend it, especially for those of us who are lucky enough to live on Bonaire

So let's see... I've painlessly learned a bunch more fish identifications. I've learned there are differences in the types of fishes I see from one dive site to another. I've learned the value of recording what happens with fish populations over time. My need to compete is filled by trying to increase the numbers of fish I record on each dive, and to find species I hadn't recorded yet.

I'm a newbie at this, but one of REEF's most experienced fish surveyors is right here on Bonaire: Carib Inn's Linda Baker, who earned REEF's very first Golden Hamlet Award, for those who have completed **1,000 surveys**. Linda received the award last year; she believes the number of recipients has now increased all the way up to three.

One unexpected effect doing the fish surveys has had on me, is that I'm more than ever convinced we need to record invertebrates also. Just figuring out a system to do that will be – another challenge.

To find out more about REEF, go to [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org), or contact Linda Ridley at on Bonaire at 791-4262. REEF's field stations on Bonaire are Bonaire Dive and Adventure (717-2229) and Photo Tours Bonaire (717-3460).

Are you up to the challenge? □ *Story & Photos by Dee Scarr*



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



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## Locating the Most Elusive Planet and Some New Words to Discover

Here's a tongue twister: "Super size my **syzygy** and **perigee** please!" And in case you don't know what that means, by the end of this article you will! Plus the closest planet to the **Sun** at its best for the year right now.



Syzygy is

On any night this week, 45 minutes after sunset, face west, and if you have a clear, flat unobstructed horizon you'll be able to see the most elusive naked eye planet of them all because it never appears very high up above the horizon and appears and disappears in and out of evening and morning skies several times a year. It's the pink iron planet, tiny 3,000-mile-wide **Mercury**. The reason it looks pink is because we always look at it through the dustier layers of our **Earth's** atmosphere near the horizon. So it really isn't pink at all; it's just our atmosphere which gives it its pinkish tint.

This Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> Mercury officially reaches its greatest **elongation**, which means that it is at its farthest visual distance from the Sun for this go-round and sets later than usual, about one and a half hours after sunset. But to make sure you catch it I suggest looking during twilight about 45 minutes after sunset. And if you still have a real hard time finding it, wait until Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, when an exquisite crescent **Moon** will be parked just above Mercury.

And now what about all this syzygy/perigee stuff? Well syzygy is a word astronomers use whenever three celestial bodies are in a nearly straight line configuration, such as the Sun, Moon and Earth during a solar or lunar eclipse. Actually however, our Earth experiences syzygy twice a month with the Moon and Sun at both new Moon and full Moon. At the time of full Moon the Moon is opposite our Earth from the Sun and at new Moon on the same side of the Earth as the Sun. And next Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, when the Moon is new we'll have syzygy.

But this syzygy will be super sized because on the 27<sup>th</sup> our Moon will also be at extreme perigee, which means that the Moon will be at its very closest to the Earth for the entire year. Now we usually say that our Moon on average is about 240,000 miles away from Earth. It can, however, be as far away as 252,000 miles. But this Monday the Moon will be at its very closest to the Earth for the entire year. And its surface will be only 217,000 miles away. Of course, if I didn't tell you about it you wouldn't even notice it because whenever we have a new Moon we can't see it because it is between the Earth and the Sun.

So new Moon always means no visible Moon. However, because the Moon will be so close to Earth next Monday some locations may experience much higher and lower tides than usual. Check your local media to see if you're in one of those areas. So happy syzygy/perigee and find the first planet all week long. □

Jack Horkheimer



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: February 12 to 18, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You can meet interesting new friends if you join worthwhile groups. You need some excitement in your life, and meeting new people in exotic destinations will certainly satisfy your desires. Use your innovative mind to surprise youngsters. You need some rest. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) People who try to persuade you to do things their way will annoy you. Opportunities to meet new lovers will come through pleasure trips or social events. Positive changes regarding your personal status are evident. Too much work and no play will not only result in fatigue and frustration but also loneliness, too. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Don't let domestic problems interfere with your objectives. Be prepared to make compensations and adjustments. Travel opportunities should be your first choice. Changes regarding your career direction will pay-off handsomely. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You will do best to entertain those you wish to close deals with. Your lover may not understand your needs so you must figure out a way to communicate them. Travel will be favorable. Your own small business on the side could ease your financial stress. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Trips will be enjoyable, and communication with your lover will clear up any misconceptions. You should be doing something special with children. Your fickle nature may cause jealousy. Get out and enjoy some entertainment. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. Don't spend too much in order to impress others. You may have problems with those you live with. Be ready to explain your actions. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can make drastic changes in your professional direction this week. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive and possibly hurtful. Changes in your home will be positive. You may find yourself in the limelight for the wrong reasons. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Pamper yourself for a change. Beware of colleagues who don't have your best interests in mind. You can meet potential new mates if you socialize with friends. Your need to obtain additional details will lead you into strange topics of conversation. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may find that your generosity has been taken for granted. Good friends will give you honest answers. You can make alterations to your appearance that everyone will admire. You need to make your lover feel wanted, not like a piece of the furniture. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22 - Jan. 20) Don't jump too quickly if someone tries to make you join in on their crusade. You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances. You will have difficulties spreading yourself between your work and your home. Don't try to twist things around so that they sound more enticing. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your lover may feel rejected. Travel should be on your mind. Don't let criticism upset you. Hassles will delay your plans. Your loved ones could set you off. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Direct your energy wisely this week. Anger will prevail if you expect help from others. You'll find it easy to charm members of the opposite sex this week. Unexpected bills may set you back. Be careful not to exaggerate when interacting with your lover. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

□