

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

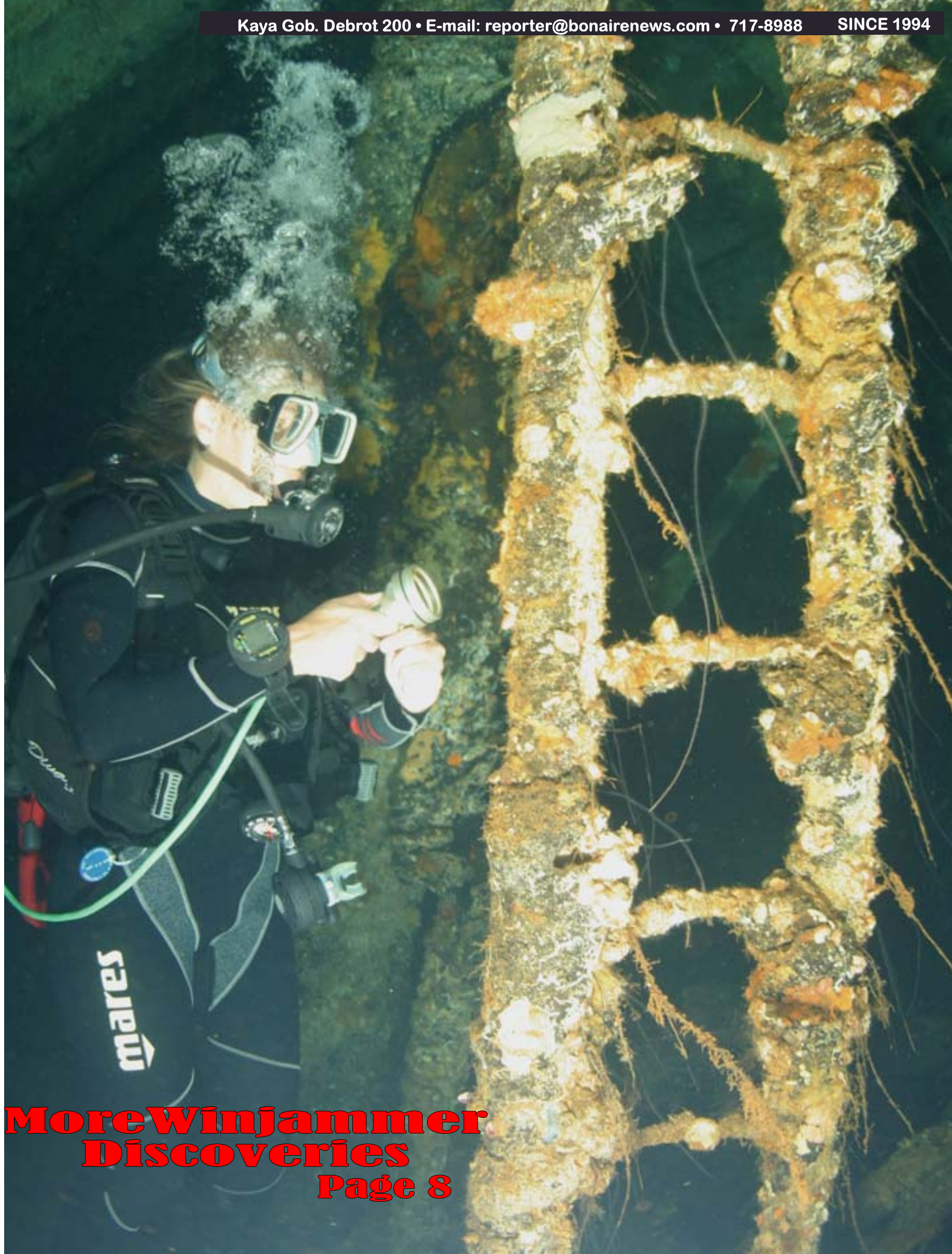
**BONAIRE**

March 10 to 17, 2006

Volume 13, Issue 11

# The REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) • 717-8988 SINCE 1994



**More Winjammer  
Discoveries  
Page 8**



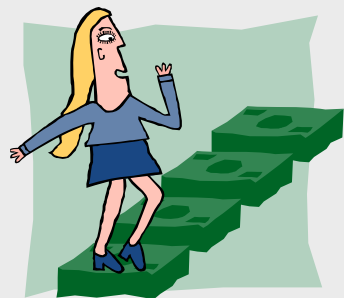
# Flotsam and Jetsam



The plan to replace the present departure, room and car rental taxes with a single "Island Tax"\* continues to move forward. Last week the TCB presented details of the new structure. In summary, it lowers the departure tax for residents of the Antilles and Aruba and most long-term visitors who stay in hotels and guest houses. It raises them for short-term tourists and others who visit their family on Bonaire.

Residents will pay their tax as usual on departure. Non-residents, depending on their destination, can also pay as part of their "travel package" in advance. The TCB suggests that the "average" Bonaire visitor will pay less tax as a result of this measure. The TCB will continue to inform the public about the tax plan which has not yet gone into effect but has been okayed by the Bonaire Government.

Supporters of the new tax say it will reduce administrative problems and result in more equitable collection of taxes from tourists staying at small inns which had not been paying their "room-tax" and using informal car rental companies which had not been paying "car-rental tax." Opponents feel the impact of a large tax at departure will negatively affect tourist perception and make family visits overly expensive.



Residents of Bonaire, Antilleans and Arubans	Travel within the Antilles and Aruba	Travel outside the Antilles and Aruba
Children (0-12)	NAf 5.00 = US\$2.86	NAf 18.00 = US\$10
Adults (13-64)	NAf 10.00 = US\$5.71	NAf 36.00 = US\$20 (current fee)
Seniors, 65 and above	NAf 5.00 = US\$2.86	NAf 18.00 = US\$10
Non-Residents (and those not born in the Antilles and Aruba)	Travel within the Antilles and Aruba	Travel outside the Antilles and Aruba
Children (0-12)	NAf 13.50 = US\$7.50	NAf 67.50 = US\$37.50
Adults (13 and older)	NAf 27.00 = US\$15	NAf 135.00 = US\$75

\* Like the people who live here full time, tourists pay tax in several different ways when they come to Bonaire. In addition to any sales taxes paid on purchases, if they are staying at a hotel, they pay "room tax," usually \$6.50 per person for every night of their stay. (Room tax is officially NAf9.75. If one uses \$1.80 as an exchange rate it comes to \$5.42 per person per night. Hotels round this to \$5.50. The \$1.00 T.I.L., which stands for Tourism Improvement Levy, is an optional charge that was created by the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association. Not all hotels charge it and it is not a tax that legally must be paid). And there is a \$6/day tax on a rental car if they use one. Everyone also pays a \$20 per person airport tax on departure to foreign destinations. A tourist who fits Bonaire's typical profile stays at a fine resort and rents a car for all or part of his/her stay. It's easy to compute that it doesn't take a long visit to equal or exceed the \$75 "Island Tax" voted in at the end of last year and set to become effective on June 1<sup>st</sup>. (Thanks to Ger Vellinga, Corine Gerharts and Bruce Bowker for these clarifications. Note: Ger Vellinga did originally give the correct figures in his Letter to the Editor but they were incorrectly interpreted by the fax program.)

► Effective immediately, persons traveling to the US on Air Jamaica will be required to provide the airline with the full address of the place they will be staying. Details of the change were announced last Thursday by Air Jamaica. The airline said the new requirement was recently introduced by US authorities for the purpose of security screening and applies to all non-residents of the US. The airline is required to turn over this information to American officials before the flights leave for the US.



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez

► At a rural military base on the outskirts of Caracas, Venezuelan officers have started classes in unconventional warfare to repel a US invasion that left-wing President Hugo Chavez warns Washington is planning. Washington denies the charge. "If someday a group of invaders comes looking for me, they will never take me alive," Chavez said last week. An initial group of 500,000 civilian reservists and territorial guard volunteers will soon start four-month basic training nationwide.

► A draft amendment to the Antilles Federal Ordinance for accident and

(Continued on page 4)

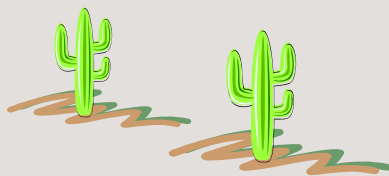
## BONAIRE The REPORTER

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Letters:	
Spelonk Gatherers, Errata	5
Dietitian (Minerals)	6
More Windjammer Discoveries	8
Bonaire's Deepest Dive (Helmut Meyer)	9
Portraits of Bonaire:	
The actress—Jackie Bernabela	10
Obelisks in Danger—Bonai to Rescue	18
Ambassadors (Slavin family)	18

### WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Coral Glimpses	5
Tide Table and Vessel List	9
Classifieds	12
Picture Yourself	
(Melbourne, Australia)	13
Reporter Masthead	14
Pets of the Week (James & Jessica)	14
What's Happening	15
Movieland Film Schedule	15
Cruise Ship Schedule	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
Born on the Island (Elvis Martinus)	17
Sky Park (Algol)	19
The Stars Have It	19



### ***Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter***

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*Bonaire flamingos at Lac*

► **Bird flu has been ruled out in the case of flamingo deaths in the Bahamas.** Last week, 15 of that island's flamingos, five roseate spoonbills and one cormorant were found dead with no external injuries on the island of Great Inagua, just north of Haiti. No problems have been reported with Bonaire's large flamingo population.

The H5N1 bird flu strain has killed at least 93 people and spread to 20 new countries in the past three months alone. The H5N1 virus is endemic in birds across parts of Asia but has since spread to Europe and Africa. Experts fear it could mutate into a form more easily passed between humans and trigger a pandemic in which millions of people could die.

*(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)*  
 health insurance for medical treatment abroad is being debated in parliament. **Article One states that if medical treatment is not available on another island of the Netherlands Antilles and it is a life threatening situation, then the insured patient has the right to seek medical treatment abroad.**

► The Caribbean Hotel Association

(CHA), through its foundation, **is offering scholarships for students studying hospitality as well as employees working in the industry** seeking to better their skills. Application forms are available on line at [www.caribbeanhotelfoundation.org](http://www.caribbeanhotelfoundation.org) and must be submitted by March 15. The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 a year. In the Caribbean, the travel and tourism industry provides for 2.4 million direct and indirect jobs,



► The Bonaire Animal Shelter and other groups and individuals took part in a **Flea Market** at the "Parke Publico Bonairiano" on Saturday, March 4, from 3 to 8 pm. The Shelter was offering used clothing and books at low prices. Anyone who has old books (all languages) and/or used, but good clothes and wants to donate them to the Shelter for sale at the market can call 787-0466 or 717-8721. All the money goes to the Animal Shelter to help to cover the yearly operation costs. The next flea market will be on Saturday, March 25, 3 to 8 pm. Pass the word. The Market will be held every last Saturday of the month.

representing 15.5% of employment, according to a 2004 World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) study.

► Make sure you have your 2006 license plate sticker on your car this week. **Beginning March 9, the police will ticket and impound any vehicle without the sticker.** Stop at the Ontvanger's (Tax Collector) office at Kaya L.A. Abraham Boulevard 27 to get yours.

► **This year's hurricane season could match the record breaking destruction caused by storms in 2005,** the United Nations warned. An unprecedented 27 tropical storms, 15 of which became full-blown hurricanes, formed during the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season. "We have reason to fear that 2006 could be as bad as 2005," Jan Egeland, the undersecretary

*(Continued on page 5)*



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)  
 general for humanitarian affairs who coordinates U.N. emergency relief, told the Reuters news service last Wednesday.



► **The Soufrière Hills volcano in Montserrat has been belching smoke recently.** The Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) reports emissions of ash and steam "at fairly regular intervals," according to the Netherlands Antilles Meteorological Office's Thursday forecast. The biggest of the emissions sent ash and steam up to about 5,000 feet.

► Bonaire has a growing number of Peruvians, many who come here to work in the building trades. **Now Peru, the land that gave us the tomato and the potato, has another gastronomic gift for the world:** a 38-year-old chef named Gaston Acurio. He aims for nothing fewer than 50,000 Peruvian restaurants around the world where food lovers could savor the hot peppers, lime, onions and fish of a cevi-



che, creamy yellow Andean potatoes or maybe even the Peruvian delicacy of guinea pig. "My dream is that in 10 years there will be 50,000 to 100,000 Peruvian restaurants out there," Acurio said. Bonaire already has Argentinean, Brazilian, Colombian, and Venezuelan restaurants, all South American based. How about a Peruvian one too.

► In this week's *Reporter* there is a story about deep diver Helmut Meyer (page 9). You may remember a story we ran a few weeks ago about a **possible east coast "shallow spot" visible on Google Earth's images of Bonaire.** Last November Helmut chartered a plane and he and Rec Tek's Walt Stark flew over it looking for anything that would indicate such a place. They then chartered Larry's (Wild Side) boat to go out and search, using his depth sounder, taking the GPS coordinates off the maps. Although they were prepared for a 400-foot dive they were unsuccessful in finding the spot. That is probably what stirred up all the interest in it on Bonaire, suggests Walt Stark.

► **Join the Full Moon Walk** through the beautiful countryside of Rincon and Playa Grandi on Friday, March 17. Organized by members of the Rincon parish it will start and end at the Rincon Catholic church at 6:30 pm. The cost is only NAf7,50 for adults and NAf5 for children and includes water, juice, fruit and bread and salad at the end. There's a special route for 60 plussers too. Call Edith Strauss Marsera at 717-4060 or 786-4643 for more details. Tickets are obtainable from members of the Rincon Explorers (*Verkenners*) and The Rincon Parish Animators (*grupo animadorman Parokial di Rincon*).

## coral glimpses

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



**The branching corals, like Elkhorn and Staghorn, grow more quickly than the "head" corals, such as brain coral and star coral. They thrive in shallower waters, though, so are more prone to being broken by wave action.** NOAA photo

► Fans of **Linda and Jake Richter's art** can now make an appointment to view their new works in person by calling 717-4112. All their art is viewable on-line 24 hours a day at [www.LindaRichter.com](http://www.LindaRichter.com) and [www.JakeRichter.com](http://www.JakeRichter.com), and purchasable via [www.CaribbeanArt.com](http://www.CaribbeanArt.com). It is no longer available at the Cinnamon Art Gallery.



(Continued on page 7)

## LETTERS

### SPELONK GATHERERS

Dear Editor:

On March 2, we made a little trip to the Spelonk Lighthouse. For me it's a special place because the vegetation makes it look like a botanical garden with a beautiful lighthouse at the end. I don't know any other place on Bonaire where these kinds of little plants are growing, not invaded by other plants or vegetation. They've learned to live on the difficult, very rough side of this island.

But what I saw makes my heart cry. Each time I go there, it looks like people have taken more stones and coral from around the lighthouse. And this is happening more frequently lately.

Why not leave some of the beautiful special places like this in peace? The delicate balance between the coral and the little plants took many years to create to become what it is today. If you take the coral away it will never be the same. And also the appearance of the lighthouse will never be the same.

*Island lover*

### Errata:

Due to a typographical error in last week's edition in the Letters to the Editor section, "US Passport Renewal Tips," misnamed the writer as Trish Dace. The correct name is TISH Dace. Sorry, Tish. (Spellcheck rules!)

We also listed an outdated phone number for Rec Tek Scuba. The current number is 780-6537.

# Ask the Dietitian

## Be Wiser With Minerals

... a handy list to clip and save.



**M**inerals are micronutrients that are required in small amounts to maintain life. Minerals are essential because most of them cannot be made by the human body but must be obtained from foods. They are important to many vital functions in the body.

### Calcium

Needed for bone and tooth formation, heart function, blood coagulation and muscle contraction.

Rich sources are: dark leafy vegetables, sesame seeds, oats, navy beans, almonds, nuts, sunflower seeds

The recommended amount per day: 1000 mg

### Magnesium

Needed for healthy muscle tone and healthy bones and heart. It's a natural tranquilizer.

Rich sources are: dairy products, whole grain products, nuts, soybeans, green leafy vegetables, apples, lemons, peaches, almonds, salmon, (luncheon) meat.

The recommended amount per day: 250 to 350 mg

### Iron

Builds resistance to stress and disease. Essential for the formation of hemoglobin, which carries oxygen from the lungs to every cell of the body.

Rich sources are: dried fruits, prunes, raisins, dates, blueberry, cranberry, raspberries, passion fruits, whole grain cereals, green vegetables, dry beans, lentils, (luncheon) meat, nuts

The recommended amount per day: 15 mg

### Zinc

Aids in wound healing, growth, tissue repair.

Rich sources are: (luncheon) meat, bread, nuts, cheese, shellfish, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, green leafy vegetables

The recommended amount per day: 9 mg

### Fluorine

Essential for bones and tooth building.

Rich sources: fish, tea, toothpaste,

Recommended amount per day: 3 mg

### Iodine

Essential in the function of the thyroid.

Rich sources are: fish, seaweed, salt

The recommended amount per day: 150 mcg

### Copper

Needed to release energy from foods, for healthy skin.

Rich sources are: vegetables, fruits, (luncheon) meat, bread

The recommended amount per day: 0.9 mg

### Manganese

Needed to release energy from food.

Rich sources are: whole grain products, vegetables

The recommended amount per day: 45 mcg

### Molybdenum

Needed to release energy from food.

Rich sources are: brown rice, whole grain products, dairy products

The recommended amount per day: 300 mcg

### Selenium

An antioxidant.

Rich sources are: whole grain products, bread, fish, vegetables

The recommended amount per day: 50-150 mcg

### Chromium

Essential for proper use of sugar.

Rich sources are: whole grain products, (luncheon) meat, fish, vegetables, fruits

The recommended amount per day: 25 mcg *Angélique Salsbach*

*Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program*



*every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Her patients have successfully won the "Battle of the Bulge" and become healthier. Write her at [dietitan@bonairenews.com](mailto:dietitan@bonairenews.com) or call her at the Dept of Health Care 717-3737*



► **Last Friday MCB (Bonaire) N.V. contributed NAf10.000** so that the San Bernardo Catholic Church in Playa could complete the construction of a church parking lot for its parishioners. Evert Piar, Managing Director of MCB (Bonaire) N.V., presented the donation to Pastor Andres Makowiec (center). Also present in the photo is Deputy Jonchie Dortalina (right) who was in charge of the project on behalf of the Government.

*(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 5)*

► **Harbourtown Real Estate is now offering Homeowners Insurance** in cooperation with a large Antillean insurance company. The most extensive policy offers coverage for fire damage, heavy weather/hurricane damage, burglary and includes a **FREE** liability insurance as well as **FREE** accident insurance! They can offer you this policy at a premium of NAf2,60 per NAf1.000 insured value, which is often at least 20% less than others. An inspection or appraisal of the property is usually needed. Contact Harbourtown at 717-5539 for a free consultation.

► On Sunday, March 12 there will be another **Jazz brunch at the Den Laman Restaurant**. They will feature a very special guest, Antonia Libert, an excellent cello player. She will perform some jazzy boleros with singer Linda Anthony.  
*G./L.D.*



**Antonia Libert**



**Geraldine Dammers and Barbara Lockwood**

► The English-Papiamentu phrasebook, **Getting Around the Island in Papiamentu**, was nominated for an **UNESCO Antia's prize**. The prize is awarded to promote the mother tongue of the Netherlands Antilles. The phrasebook, written by Terry Dovale (e. p.d.), Geraldine Dammers and Barbara Lockwood, was published late 2005. It's available at Capt. Don's Habitat, Carib Inn, Chat 'n' Browse, Sand Dollar Grocery, TCB and Valerie's Airport Shop.



**Terry Dovale**





# More Windjammer Discoveries

Cover story

I have an overwhelming feeling that a witch possesses me. You may call it an infatuation or an obsession. To me, it is a need to be at her side. I cannot abandon her simply because she has changed in ways that are hard to explain. Her majesty may have diminished but her value to me has grown tenfold. Exploration of the unknown, accompanied by the thrill of a new revelation, is a drug like no other. It fuels our imagination and fulfills our quest for knowledge. Today, we are on a mission attempting to solve the mystery of some of the missing parts of the shipwreck of the *Mairi Bhan*. I have re-christened the historic ship "The Mysterious Mistress of Bonaire" after her dramatic collapse in March of 2005, after over 93 years of peaceful repose under the sea on the northwest coastal reef of Bonaire.

## What's Missing?

On all of our previous encounters we have sketched and documented every feature of the historic wreck. As a fully rigged "blue water sailor" built in Scotland in 1874, she was a magnificent ship in stature, performance and stamina, transporting emigrants from

Europe to the far corners of the globe. Her adventurous passengers were seeking new frontiers and opportunities for themselves and their families. While she was at peaceful rest, we noted and measured all of her vital parts. Now the hunt is on to rediscover them and any other elements that we may have inadvertently overlooked during our past visits.

## Lured by Mysteries

Her body now lies on the ocean floor, collapsed into the shape of a gigantic iron tube, deformed and split open across the middle of her 75-meter (240 foot) length. On this dive, Micky will revisit the portside fresh water tank, the crew access ladder inside the main cargo hold and, time permitting, survey the gigantic rudder at the overturned stern.

We cautiously enter through the great gash in the iron hull plates, just forward of amidships seeking our first target, the tank. The bright beams of our lamps dart around the ink black water surrounding us like golden lasers. Slowly moving past twisted and broken iron support beams, we see the huge rectangular form of the tank ma-



Windjammer mast step

terializing, partially blocking our passage. I remember measuring and swimming underneath the massive iron water box that was suspended from its deck supports and attached to the port side of the hull. Now it lies fallen and askew, wedged on top a maze of wreckage including the main mast deck plate that was outside the ship before it collapsed! We have just discovered another mystery to investigate on a future visit. The tank seems to be intact except for a crushed corner at the bottom where the curved hull near the keel compressed it.

We silently hand signal to each other to proceed toward the stern and our second objective, the ladder. Used by the crew to climb up and down from

the main deck into the cargo hold, this ladder was in a horizontal position when the ship was on its side, attached to the keel on the bottom and the cargo hatch at the top. We are expecting to find a twisted form on the surface of the hard asphalt below, the ship's last cargo bound for Marseilles, France, from Trinidad. I descend downward between some beams but cannot find any sign of the 10-meter (33-foot) long ladder. I glance up toward Micky who turns away from the beam of my lamp and toward the keel above us. As she makes this move, her lamp swings to the right and reveals the iron rungs of the ladder, hanging perfectly plumb and vertical, securely fastened to the

(Continued on page 13)



## Bonaire's Deepest Dive



Helmut Meyer - Bonaire's deepest diver



Helmut gives the OK on the surface



Safety diver Walt Stark of Rec Tek Scuba carried seven tanks

Rec Tek Scuba would like to congratulate Mr. Helmut Meyer for completing what we believe is the deepest scuba dive on record here on Bonaire.

On 8 December 2005, Mr. Meyer successfully completed a dive to 152.1 meters / 499 feet in depth. He was diving using an Inspiration closed circuit rebreather specially modified for this particular dive. He has added an additional 2-liter O<sub>2</sub> tank across the top of the Inspiration Rebreather and 7-liter high-pressure composite tanks on each side. Walt Stark of Rec Tek Scuba was acting as safety diver on this particular dive. He dove with 7 tanks: 4 - 80s, 1 - 63 and 2 - 40s. Two of his 80s were for Helmut in case he had any problems.

The dive was 3 hours long including the decompression. Helmut did this 3-hour dive using 1036 liters of gas, which is the equivalent of 37 cu. ft. Most divers would have trouble doing a 20-minute dive to 60 ft. on 37 cu. ft. of gas.

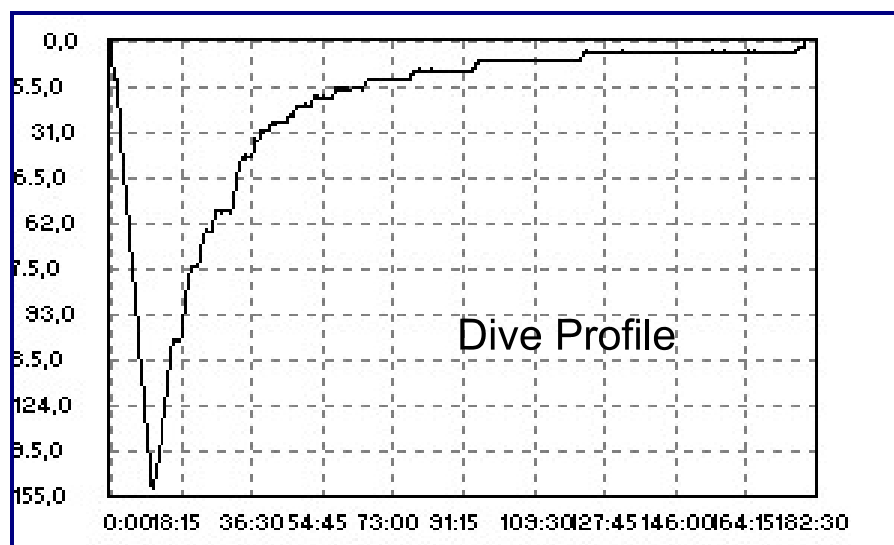
Helmut said the reason he did the dive was he likes to see if the technology will do what it claims to be able to do and push it a little farther. During his research he found out there is one part on the stock Inspiration Rebreather that will implode at 180 meters so he limited his dive to 150 meters.

Mr. Meyer, a resident of Hattersheim, Germany, has been diving since 1958. His very first dives were spent searching for a German warship in a fjord in Norway. This is his seventh visit to Bonaire. We are glad he has decided to keep diving in warmer waters.

Helmut's next adventure is planned for Australia. He is having a RIB, similar to Larry's Wild Side Diving boat, but with a small cabin forward and twin inboard diesel engines. It is a very custom job with space for oxygen and helium tanks and 2 Haskel booster pumps so he can explore up and down the Australian coast doing Trimix Dives with his new Evolution Rebreather. Our hearty congratulations, and we look forward to his return. *Story by Walt Stark, Rec Tec Scuba; photos by Stark & Meyer.*

**TABLE 1**  
Karpata dive usage  
Five tanks carried  
Helmut Meyer  
152m 181min 8.12.2005  
=< deepest dive on Bonaire

TANK location		Contents	Gas consumption			
			Ltr.	/min.	kg	used
Inspiration Tank on top		O <sub>2</sub>	140	0.77	0.20	50%
Inspiration Tank inside right		O <sub>2</sub>	195	1.08	0.28	46%
Inspiration Tank inside left		tx 8/76	390	2.15	0.18	70%
Inspiration Tank outside right		air	0	0.00	0.00	0%
Inspiration Tank outside left		air	311	1.72	0.40	18%
<b>Summary</b>			1,036	5.72	1.05	Equiv. to 37 cu. ft.



The basic rebreather backpack

### DIVE PROFILE:

**Time Down :** 11:14      **Time Up :** 14:14  
**Duration :** 180 minutes      **Max Depth :** 152.1 m = 499 Feet  
**Location :** Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles  
**DiveSite :** Karpata  
**Buddy :** Security Diver in 50 m.

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

*Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides*

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF	
3-10	10:01	1.9FT.	18:35 0.8FT.	49
3-11	10:35	1.9FT.	19:05 0.9FT.	56
3-12	11:14	1.8FT.	19:29 1.0FT.	63
3-13	1:07	1.3FT.	3:58 1.2FT. 11:47 1.7FT. 19:42 1.0FT.	69
3-14	1:21	1.4FT.	5:20 1.2FT. 12:18 1.5FT. 19:40 1.1FT.	73
3-15	1:42	1.4FT.	6:56 1.3FT. 12:59 1.4FT. 19:06 1.2FT.	77
3-16	2:11	1.5FT.	10:06 1.2FT. 13:44 1.3FT. 18:09 1.2FT.	78
3-17	2:46	1.6FT.	12:55 1.1FT.	79

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

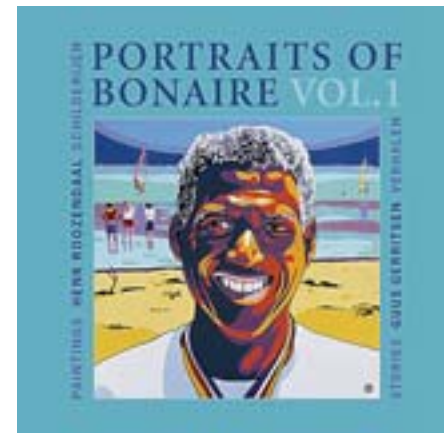
Alter Ego	Freestyle	Sandpiper, USA
Angie	Galandriel	Savoir Vivere
Atalama	Goolka	Scintella
Augustin	Goril Two	Second Lady
Banana Lady	Guacamar I, Ven.	Sirius
Blue Moon	Honalee	Summer Breeze
Blur Thunder	It's Good	Spart I Vento
Bright Sea	Kanana	Sylvia K
Camissa, Chan Is.	Keley	Ta B
Carlsea	Kika	Ti Amo
Cheshire	Manta	Turn One
Colonel's Lady	Maggi	Ulu Ulu, USA
Cristina	Makani	Umilk
Dahu	Natural Selection	Unicorn, Norway
Decibelle	Ocean Breeze	Valhalla
Deneb	Okeanis	Varedhuni, Ger.
Delphinus	Paleochora	Water Music
Destiny	Prospera	Yanti Paratzi
Dutchess	Rasmus	Zapphire
Endorphin	Reality	
First Light	Samba	
Flying Cloud, USA	Santa Maria	



# PORTRAITS OF BONAIRE

**P**ortraits of Bonaire, the first book of paintings and stories of people of Bonaire (in English and Dutch), written by Guus Gerritsen, paintings by Henk Roozendaal, came out in 2002 and was an instant best seller. After the final copies were sold last year, Gerritsen and Roozendaal ordered a reprint. The second printing is now on the island and available in shops, restaurants and resorts, in the same high quality as the first edition. Only the cover has changed. Elvis Martinus is on it now, and below the title, "Vol. 1" has been added because "Vol. 2" is expected to be published at the end of this year. The distribution is being done by Henk himself. Call for books at 717-6938.

As was done in 2002, *The Bonaire Reporter* will print stories and paintings from the new *Portraits of Bonaire, Volume 2*. "The Actress – Jackie Bernabela" is the first story we present.



## The Actress

“Would you like chicken or beef?”

I had dozed off before I found myself looking into the hazel eyes of a lovely, charming woman who, just before, had explained the oxygen masks with a show as if she was working the stage. Her graceful gestures and dance steps were complimented by a smile that seemed to imply she would even have been willing to strap the thing to your face personally. As she switched to the life vests, I was treated to more pleasing movements. What a breath of fresh air after all those little ladies from *Het Gooi*, fresh from secondary school and selected by our native airlines solely on the basis of their priggishness and blonde hair...

I go for the chicken, as I usually do on my return flight to my warm island. It's always a nice prelude to all the lovely roasted chicken breasts I'll have.

Jackie Bernabela was never going to be a stewardess for long, which was obvious from the start. A little too much out of the ordinary maybe, a little too kind to passengers who only want to sleep through their long flights?

She had other interests anyway. Perhaps inspired by her father, who morphed into a flamboyant singer and



Jackie Bernabela

entertainer, "Tipo Tom," at Bonairean birthdays and parties, Jackie discovered a hankering for the world of art.

After five years of service in the Blue Bird, she moved to Amsterdam and studied at the Utrecht School for the Arts. She joined famous acting troupes, saw her name in neon at the theatres and could be seen on the goggle box in the soap series, *Good Times, Bad Times*. After six years of acting and traveling, she accepted an invitation from the Bonairean government to return to the island and take a leading role in the dissemination of culture. Jackie became a member of SKAL, the *Sekshon Kultura Arte i Literatura*.

The actress, in her newly cast role as

government official for the Arts on one of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean: "My mission on this island is to bring the Arts to the people. I will work for this with all my power, and I will continue to do so until I'm dead and buried at the Kaya Korona!"

Bonaire is a small island, inhabited by approximately 14,000 people. Despite this small number, there are quite a lot of artists creating in one form or another: painters, writers, musicians, and actors. Only a few of them earn a living: the audience is small and there is a general preference for either television or a party with a little music, good food and some *stoba* over a rare and exclusive arty get-together. Writers can't find a publisher, painters can't find a supply shop, actors are without a troupe, and musicians are well-advised to stick to playing popular tunes to the tourists in cafés and restaurants.

The life of artists can be meager and lonely here, however much they love their art. You can't live off love, alas! What can you do for them, Jackie? How are you going to bring the arts to the people and raise the standard of living for the artists?

"That is quite hard here. We have plans enough, but usually we lack the money to carry them out. And if we do have the money, the problem is finding the people who are willing to put their shoulders to it. Even then, if we get to a fully realized plan, such as the *Skol di Musica*, the Music School, we suddenly have to evacuate the premises because the plot has been sold to a project developer! Artebon, our exposition space beautifully located overlooking the sea, is unfortunately not a place we can con-

vert into a real Art Centre. It would be an ideal situation if we could find a building that could house all kinds of arts – a place where both artists and art lovers could meet, a *Kas di Arte* that would be open and inviting to everyone. A place we, as Bonaireans, would be proud of; that is my ideal!"

She speaks with verve and passion, underlining her speech with theatrical movements. If Jackie had her way, there would be a *Kas di Arte* tomorrow, but it's a slow and cross-grained process, full of political – hence vague – promises.

Perhaps striving for the realization of an ideal art centre is bound to fail. Perhaps she should gradually work her way up; looking at smaller, separate problems and putting her energy into solving them first.

"But that's what we're doing! For instance, last year we staged a play for kids based on 'Gold Donkey' and lots of children from the schools here have come to see it. We did some shows in Holland as well, by the way. This has led to people coming up to me, asking them to help with their own productions – which I will, of course. I'd love to do something myself again, here and in Curaçao, we just have to find a good director to help us out. I can't do everything myself, you know!"

I hope she will be successful because she definitely has the talent. In the summer of 2005, at the Kwakoe Festival in Amsterdam, she performed with the same troupe that did 'Gold Donkey.' She performed the part of storyteller, and did so with a lot of energy. (We

*(Continued on page 11)*



(The Actress. Continued from page 10)

enjoyed it immensely, please keep it up!)

“Some things come off fine, I can tell you. The Prince Bernhard Culture Foundation helped us a lot, as did the Antillean Co-Financing Organization (AMFO). We’ve had a lot of success with our literary evenings, bringing both Antillean and Dutch writers. The latest one, with Gerrit Komrij at the Fort Oranje, was a great evening: Literature from the Netherlands, Surinam and Indonesia, all under the starry sky of Bonaire... the sound of surf as background music... sometimes a fitting musical context provided by Bonairean musicians...

But you know, it’s not enough. This and other programs are being attended by only a select crowd, the happy few of the island. I would like to see more people, and also I would like to organize these things more than once a year. If more people attended, then probably more people would be motivated to visit the library – which is good, because books are expensive here, and hard to get anyway.”

Since I had been looking for a couple of books by Antillean author Tip Marugg, I decide to visit the Bonairean public library. I had been there before, but still it’s hard to find my way – there’s very little signage.

Paying the modest contribution of 3 Antillean guilders, my eyes light on an interesting poster in several languages: ‘Libraries change your life.’ A good adage for a library on a small island.

On my way to find Tip Marugg in

the big hall, with its separate study room, I come across a large pile of books waiting to be categorized, and a table with discarded books which are for sale: 25 cents apiece. In the big hall, there are a few rows of books marked ‘Papiamentu’ – only some 4.5 feet, is that all? -- but not a single Tip Marugg volume among them.

Dear Jackie, what can we do to help this library? The readership numbers are going down, and too few new books are being bought. What about some colorful shop signs, a few newspaper adverts, or pulling some strings at the Prince Bernhard Foundation to buy some new books... Surely you know how to organize these things?

“Oh, I can pull strings alright, but you must realize there are a lot of initiatives like this that require my attention. And I might have to cut through layers and layers of red tape just to get one sign saying ‘Library.’ These foundations, for all their merits, are quite tiresome. I’m sick of begging, to tell the truth.”

We talk about getting help from the Kingdom of the Netherlands some more; it’s an issue right now, also because a new stance toward the Netherlands is hotly debated: Should the connecting ties be pulled tighter or not, or should we even go our separate ways?

“What really annoys me in all of this is the fact that it’s all these men around big tables being important. Why aren’t any women present? They are deciding our future, for heaven’s sake- a future that has always been uncertain to say the least. What future did we have in

the age of slavery, in the decades after that, and even now? No one knows for sure, and now we have these old, so-called ‘Wise Men’ deciding. Don’t think of me as a feminist, by the way, I love strong, assertive men and have known them in all shapes and sizes – but it’s like this in politics as in my job: they hold the reins! I think it’s ridiculous.”

She looks embittered, and, fuelled by anger, her beautiful brown eyes are rolling from left to right.

“You may find it hard to believe, but the times of slavery are no more than a couple of generations behind us. They are still present with a lot of people. If your future is uncertain, now as it was then, it makes you vulnerable and forces you to look back instead of ahead.”

Does that explain why a lot of art in the Antilles seems to be inspired by, or set in, the past? Does the Antillean art savor the past?

“Well, I guess that’s true to some extent, but culture is always a product of the past, so embracing that seems quite normal to me. Every country, every people does that – and maybe we do that a little bit more than others. I’m kind of nostalgic myself. I live in my grandfather’s home and cherish his old belongings, old like the ruin right across the street: a house that used to be one of the finest on Bonaire.”

She looks a bit misty-eyed. Her words are always accompanied by strong body language, as befits an actress.

“Would you like chicken or beef?”

A young, charming KLM stewardess wakes me from the reveries that always accompany me on long journeys. She’s not an actress, like Jackie, that’s clear right away. She’s probably a young mother flying home, longing to be reunited with husband and children after a full week’s work.

Chicken or beef? Because it will be cold in Holland, I decide on the beef. It seems like a good step towards the heavy mash-and-gravy with crisp pork cuts. No chicken or fish for me now.

I doze off with the Tip Marugg poem, ‘Growing Older,’ on my lap. I hope that when we return, in a couple of weeks’ time, there will be a big, colorful sign over the Bonaire public library so everyone will find Marugg’s book of poems, and Henk’s and mine...

Will Jackie take care of it? Story by Guus Gerritsen; Painting by Henk Rozendaal

The advertisement features several artworks by Linda Richter. On the left is a blue line drawing of a bird. In the center, there are three smaller images: a green frog with its mouth open (captioned 'Kisses'), a purple sunset over a harbor (captioned 'Down'), and a sea turtle (captioned 'Adventure'). On the right is a large, vibrant oil painting of koi fish in blue water (captioned 'Koi in Blue • 24x36" • oil on canvas'). Text at the bottom provides contact information and details about the art.

Time for ... By Jake Richter

www.LindaRichter.com  
www.JakeRichter.com

Purchase on-line at:  
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Original oil paintings ~ Digital paintings ~ Giclees on canvas, Limited Edition and Open Prints ~ Tel. 599-7 17-4112 ~ By appointment only

Water ripples, blurs and reflects movement

Koi in Blue • 24x36" • oil on canvas

By Linda Richter

Bonaire Creations BV

**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**

**JANART GALLERY**

Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

**BONAIRENET**

The leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>

**CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER**

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m<sup>2</sup> nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). Phone: 786-0956

**Bonaire Images**

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

**LUNCH TO GO**

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

**SALT TREASURES BONAIRE**

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

**JELLASTONE PETPARK**

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

**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**

FOR SALE: Second Hand Dive Gear with 3-month unconditional repair warranty: Cressi regulators, BCs, with and without computers. From \$200. **WannaDive at City Café.** Call 717-3531.

FOR SALE – Cabinet doors, white, 30 +/-, all sizes. Must take all. NAf100 **OBO 717-6862 or 791-6003**

**EUROPEAN DISHWASHER;** due to surplus; as new, only 5 times used Price new NAf1325,- price now NAf925,- **Call 786-2628**

For sale: sky kennel for large dog, KLM-approved, size F, NAF 300, tel. 786-

5582.

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

For sale- **1650 Pelican case \$100; Spare Air** with accessories and spare parts kit. Model 300PKYE \$100 **717-0146**

**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**

**Property**

**FOR RENT: 2 bedroom apartment** in Hato, rent NAfl. 800,- including cable TV. For more information call: Amanda at Harbourtown Real Estate 717 – 5539

**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.



**Employees Wanted**

Budget Marine Bonaire is looking for a **Part-time Accountant** (2 or 3 half days/ week). Experience with computerized double entry accounting system, preferably Accpac or equivalent. Recognized accounting qualification will be an asset. [bonaire@budgetmarine.com](mailto:bonaire@budgetmarine.com).

**Dive Instructor- 12 to 14 hrs/week** Jong Bonaire is seeking a Dive Instructor to run its Dive/Snorkel program for teens. The program has been in operation for several years in cooperation with most of the island's dive operators. The goal of

the program is to teach the necessary skills to encourage the teens to work toward Dive Instructor as a career. Monday - Thursday, 3-6 pm occasional special activity or meeting. Contact Manager Bilha Thomas with qualifications and salary requirements. 717-4303 or [bthomas@jongbonaire.org](mailto:bthomas@jongbonaire.org)

**Windsurf Instructor- 12 to 14 hrs/week** Jong Bonaire is seeking a Windsurfing Instructor to conduct its Windsurfing program for teens. We have our own equipment and storage facilities and work closely with local windsurf centers. Monday through Thursday afternoons, 3 to 6 pm plus occasional meetings. Contact Manager Bilha Thomas, with qualifications and salary requirements. **717-4303 or [bthomas@jongbonaire.org](mailto:bthomas@jongbonaire.org)**

Wanted: **Part Time Office Helper** - 25 hours a week minimum- computer literate (Microsoft Excel, Word, email), English-Dutch-Papiamentu-Spanish desired. Must be a "take charge" person. Call Liz at Golden Reef Inn, **717-5759**

**Wanted**

**The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a Partner or Managing Editor**

Join us to "Publish in Paradise." **Working Partner or Managing Editor** 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)

**Wanted: two-three bedroom house for doctoral students studying Bonaire's Loras.** Minimum of 6 months. Call *The Reporter* at 717-8988.

**Home-exchange with the Netherlands.** We are a family of 6 or 7. We offer a big house (11 rooms) in the centre of The Netherlands (near Utrecht) plus cars (seat 7 and 4). We are looking for a comfortable house (+ car) on Bonaire. e-mail: [bob.smits@planet.nl](mailto:bob.smits@planet.nl)

**Wanted to buy: 4x4 vehicle** in good condition. Jeep, SUV or pickup. Call *The Reporter* at 717-8988.

**Do you speak Dutch and Spanish or French?**

Jong Bonaire is looking for volunteers who can help Spanish and French speaking teens improve their Dutch. These kids attend high school but have little or no Dutch experience. They really want to do better in school and need your help. The groups are small (1-4 teens). The sessions are held in the afternoons and you can volunteer for as little as two hours per week or up to four afternoons. Contact Manager Bilha Thomas to arrange a meeting. **717-4303 or [bthomas@jongbonaire.org](mailto:bthomas@jongbonaire.org)**

**Wanted: Kayak (no inflatables)** in any condition. **717-6862/791-6003**

**Free**

**FREE - Bees and their large honey comb.** You harvest. Call for more info. **717-6862 or 791-6003**

**Found Dogs**

Here are a couple of FOUND dogs that Mary DeSanza, who helps out at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, asked us to post.

The young female black/brown dog with the red collar was found by the dog catcher, location unknown. Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema said this dog can sing. He said she has quite the range of sounds, some quite amazing to hear, given that she is a dog! She is very lively and we know her owners must be missing her.



This lovely chocolate colored female dog looks to be a mix with possibly some Chocolate Lab in her. She is really a great dog. She has already been spayed. She was found in the Belnem area and brought to the Shelter by tourists who have been feeding her for the last week.



**If one of these is your dog contact the Bonaire Animal Shelter** on Kaminda Lagoen #26-A. It's open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Phone #717-4989

**For Sale. Leaving the Island. Call 717-8722**

- Stone Company industrial grade electric **concrete vibrator**, 7 ft. shaft, 1 inch vibrator head. NAfl. 500
- Murex 100 amp **arc welder**, 120 volts, welding mask, clamps, welding rods. NAfl. 200
- Bosch 6.9 amp **rotary hammer**, chisel and drill set, extra drills included. NAfl. 400
- Chicago portable **14 volt drill kit**. NAfl. 100
- Chicago **4 inch 10,000 rpm grinder**, metal and masonry wheels included. NAfl. 100
- Sears **scroll saw** with blades. NAfl. 50.
- 20 ft. long 5,000 pound capacity **towing-binder chains** new. NAfl. 60
- Concept II rowing ergometer, the model used for the yearly world championships in Boston. NAfl. 800
- 230 linear feet of new **galvanized goat fencing**. NAfl. 150
- Variety of new **cleats, shackles, hooks and swivels**.
- 6 HP Seagull century** plus 100 outboard motor copper tank model with all manuals and parts list used very little. NAfl. 600
- 33 HP Johnson outboard** with manual and electric start, new gas tank and battery case, oil, spare parts and service manual. NAfl. 400
- McCulloch 14 inch blade **electric chain saw**. NAfl. 100
- Makita model 5007 NB 13 amp 7 and 1/4 inch **circle saw** with 12 blades (regular, carbide and diamond tips) NAfl. 400
- Makita model 6410 NB 3.2 amp variable speed **reversible 3/8 drill** NAfl. 100



(More Windjammer. . .  
Continued from page 8)

keel directly overhead. The lower end, formerly the top of the ladder, has been severed from the hatch and hangs free. We inspect the portion above us and marvel at the iron bars that are encased in a thick layer of frozen tar that flowed through the rungs as it poured from the hull during the sinking. The distinctive, elongated flow pattern clearly indicates the original position and direction of flow as the ship discharged the cargo when it came to rest on the ocean floor in December of 1912.

**“Beep, Beep, Beep”...  
It’s Time to Exit!**

My dive computer signals a warning that our very limited time on the wreck is near an end and the beeping sound breaks the spell of discovery that has momentarily possessed us. Micky leads the way to our exit point at the rear of the ship. We catch glimpses of the inviting blue water awaiting us outside the confines of the curved hull through cracks and portholes that rim the stern. We drop through the tangled wreckage and emerge into open water below the tiller. Turning around and



*Windjammer rudder*

slowly rising, we are dwarfed by the gigantic rudder pointing to the surface, silhouetted by the sun. We pause for several photos, then the massive form of the overturned hull disappears from our view in the gloom.

**More New Discoveries?**

Smiling, I wave farewell to the

## Picture Yourself In The Reporter

### Melbourne, Australia

While reading *The Bonaire Reporter* as she enjoys a cruise on the Yarra River, Saralyn May is reminded of one of her favorite things to do on Bonaire.

Although Melbourne has a decent skyline, she likes Klein Bonaire's just as well. Saralyn spent the second half of 2005 on Bonaire and would like to say hello to all the wonderful people she met during her stay.



**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or

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

“Mistress of Bonaire” and plan our next adventure to uncover the answers to the countless questions that follow every encounter with her. I welcome

you to join us on our next visit. *Story & photos by © Albert Bianculli, 2006*

*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.*



# Pets of the Week

Here are James and his sister, Jessica. They and their other two siblings, Jennifer and Joan, are now safe at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, after having had a harrowing experience. Someone surreptitiously dumped them in front of the Shelter then left. The poor puppies were running around over the road, totally terrified. The Shelter staff heard them and came out to try and catch them



“James” and “Jessica”

before they were hit by a car but the pups were so frightened they kept running away. Finally they were able to catch one pup, which screamed in terror. Eventually all four were captured and brought into the Shelter.

**The moral to the story is:** please don't just dump your unwanted dogs and puppies. The Shelter is open every morning and can accept these animals. Even on Sunday when the Shelter is closed someone is there to feed the resident pets. The newly arrived animals will be checked by the vet and if they are healthy they'll be wormed, given shots and sterilized when they are old enough. And they'll get “socialization” from the volunteers who spend time with the cats and dogs.

These puppies, the four J's, are very healthy it turns out. They're about 3 ½ months old and now that the trauma is over, they're settled down but full of life. Three of them are black and tan, very attractive coloring, and one's a light beige/gray. As you might have noticed from their names there are three girls, one guy. It's estimated that they'll be in the middle to large size range.

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

**Flea Market.** The Parke Publico is now running a Flea Market at the Park every last Saturday and volunteers from the Shelter will be there selling used items, with all the proceeds going to the operation of the Shelter. If you would like to donate things for them to sell, call 787-0466 or 717-8721. They'll accept books (in all languages), clothes in good repair and other used items. The next Flea Market will be March 25 from 3 to 8 pm. *L.D.*

day of the month, there selling used items towards the operation of the Shelter. They'll accept repair and other on Saturday,





# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**Late Show**  
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

**The Matador**  
(Pierce Brosnan)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

**Munich**

An Academy Award Winner

**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**  
**Bambi II**

### THIS WEEK

**Sunday, March 12 - Jazz brunch at the Den Laman Restaurant** with special guest cello player Antonia Lebert and singer Linda Anthony. See Flotsam & Jetsam

**Arts and Crafts Markets** at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon. See Cruise Ship Schedule above.

**Friday, March 17 - Full Moon Walk** through the beautiful countryside of Rincon and Playa Grandi. Starts and ends at the Rincon Catholic Church at 6:30 pm. NAf7,50 for adults, NAf5 for children. Includes water, juice, fruit and bread and salad at the end. There's a special route for 60 plussers too. Call Edith Strauss Marsera at 717-4060 or 786-4643 for more details. Get tickets from members of the Rincon Explorers (*Verkenners*) and The Rincon Parish Animators (*grupo animadornan Parokial di Rincon*).

### COMING

**Saturday, March 25 - Flea Market at the Parke Publico - 3 to 8 pm.**

**Sunday March 26, April 2 and Easter**

**Sunday - Bonairean Night** with all the local specialties and more, Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar

**Sunday, April 2 - Nail Design Workshop** - Divi Flamingo Meeting Room, 9 am-5 pm - See page 18

### REGULAR EVENTS

**Monday-Saturday - HH 5 to 7 pm**, Cactus Blue

**Daily HH 2 for 1** ( on ALL beverages ) from 5-7pm, Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar

**Daily HH - 5:30-6:30**, Buddy Dive

**Saturday - Grill Night on the Beach**, Buddy Dive

**Saturday - Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm.** Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. [www.infobonaire.com/rincon](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon)  
**Saturday - Mountain Bike Ride** - Everyone welcome. It's free. Bring a bike and your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel Angel Brito leads the pack. Telephone him at 785-0767 for more information.

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

**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 Caribbean Night**, live local music - Buddy Dive.

**Monday - Two for One Appetizers** with Entrees, Cactus Blue

**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 . 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](mailto:info@goldenreefnn.com)

**Tuesday, Thursday, Friday** Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar - **Live music 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 - Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine**, 5-7pm, Divi Flamingo

**Tuesday - Buy a Bucket of Beer & get free chicken wings**, 5 to 7 pm, Cactus Blue

**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](http://www.BonaireTalk.com), and search for "Gibi."

**Wednesday - Open Mike Night with Moogie**, 7 to 9 pm, Cactus Blue

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

**Wednesday - Live music by Flamingo Rockers** The Windsurf Place at Sorobon 7:30- 9:30pm

**Wednesday - Movie Night at Buddy Dive**  
**Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers"** 5-7pm-Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar

**Friday - Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sorobon from 1330 to 1630

**Friday - Manager's Bash** - free Flamingo Smash & snacks, Divi Flamingo, 5-7 pm

**Friday - Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 pm, followed by **All You Can Eat BBQ**

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

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

**Daily - The Divi Flamingo Casino** is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm- 4 am; Sun. 7 pm- 3 am.

**Daily - by appointment - Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Saturday - Discover Our Diversity** Slides pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

**Sunday - Bonaire Holiday** -Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli. 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat.

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

**Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) Turtle Conservation Slide Show** by Bruce Brabec. Carib

### March 2006 Cruise Ship Schedule

Date	Ship	PAX	Arrive	Depart	Pier
14 MAR TUE	RIJNDAM	1258	09:00	18:00	SOUTH
21 MAR TUE	AIDA VITA	1260	13:00	20:00	SOUTH
28 MAR TUE	RIJNDAM	1258	09:00	18:00	SOUTH

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 family 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, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868  
**Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

**Sunday at Cai** - Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire's popular musicians.

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

**AA meetings** - every Wednesday; Phone 717-6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.

**Al-Anon meetings** - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

**Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm** - call 567-0655 for directions.

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays**, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Corona, across from the RBTT Bank. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

**Darts Club** plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

**JCI - First Wednesday of the Month** - Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

**Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

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

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

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

**Cinnamon Art Gallery** - Volunteers to help staff gallery. 717-7103.

**Bonaire National Marine Park** - 717-8444.

**Bonaire Animal Shelter** - 717-4989.

**Donkey Sanctuary** - 560-7607.

**Jong Bonaire (Youth Center)** - 717-4303.

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

**Special Olympics** - Contact Roosje 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 Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am.**

**Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

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

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

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios)**, Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am.**

**Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

### Send event info to:

**The Bonaire Reporter**

Email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

# 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</b> <b>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



## ART

**Richter Art**— By Jake and Linda: Digital paintings, Giclees on canvas, limited edition and open prints.

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

**APA Construction** are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

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

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

## FITNESS

**Bonfysio** offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

**Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.** Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

## FURNITURE

**The Plantation** Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Incredible selection of pots.

## GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

**The Bonaire Gift Shop** has an wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

## HOTELS

**The Great Escape** Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar.

## METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

**b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V.**, offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

## Nature Exploration

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

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . **Now-full digital services.**

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

**Re/Max Paradise Homes:** Lots of Choices— International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them for sale.

**Sunbelt Realty** offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

## REPAIRS

**Bon Handyman** is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

**Buddy Dive Resort** offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

## RETAIL

**Benetton**, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.**

## SILKSCREEN, EMBROIDERY

**CesMar**—Local company offers top quality, fast service for monogramming, silk screening, embroidery.

## SUPERMARKETS

Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

## WINDSURFING

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

## WINES

**Antillean Wine Company.** You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

## YOGA

**Yoga For You.** Join certified instructors Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

**ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:**  
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.  
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518



# Born on Bonaire

## Elvis Martinus

**I**'m from a very happy and active family. I was born November 4<sup>th</sup> 1959, the son of fisherman Doeï Diaz and Hyacintha Martinus. I grew up in Playa Pariba, living with my mother in the house of her parents, Andres Mode Martinus and Clara Martinus, very close to where Richard's Restaurant is now. Everyone in the neighborhood was like family: the Dammers, the Boekhoudts, the Gonzalezes and the Leonardo-Meyers. We were always by the sea. My grandfather had a small business: a very big net to catch *masbango*. Eight to 10 people would work for him when the fish came.

I went into the business when I was very young. At eight I started playing with the net, practicing, because it takes great skill to throw it. You had to know a lot of things: how to plan the operation, who you're going to work with and what positions to put the men in. The fish are fast so the action has to be fast too, otherwise you'll end up with an empty net. And after you catch the fish, from five to 15 tons, you have to keep them alive in the net. All of them had to be sold within two weeks otherwise they had to be set free because they'd become weak. You had to advertise to let people know you had the fish, and the *marcaderas* would come from Curaçao, mostly women from Boka San Michiel. They'd buy the fish and resell it. The market was very competitive because Curaçao could have the fish too and Venezuela also, so you had to make a good price, but we had one advantage: everyone preferred fish from Bonaire!

The transport wasn't easy either because it had to happen at midnight. The fish were put on ice in the boat, and it would take about six hours to sail to Punda in Curaçao. It was all in the dark because once the sun came up the ice would melt and the fish would rot.

When I was 14 my dad, my grandfather and Kees Visser had a technical problem with the boat and it almost sank. From that time on my grandfather didn't want to go anymore, so I took over the business and became the manager. Two years later my grandfather passed away. He'd been a very creative man and I'd learned a lot from him. I went on with the business. Apart from the net we also had about a hundred fish traps and we owned some fishing boats like the *Chambembe* which was a very famous one.

I finished lower technical school in 1977 and went to work in construction, but I still took care of the business. In 1978 I went to sea; I joined the *Sun Coast*, a cargo ship. We sailed to Florida, to Aruba and the Windward Islands. I had this romantic idea about sailing. All the

old sailors would tell me their stories and adventures and how great it was in all those ports, but what I didn't know was that you had to work every day, eight hours straight, when you were at sea! It was hard! I did it for one year and when I came home I saw how neglected everything was. Even the famous *Chambembe* had rotted as no one had been taking care of it. My family had missed me and they needed me. I was 18, maybe 19 then. After what I'd experienced abroad I decided I never wanted to leave Bonaire again, and instead of complaining that things were not going so well here I was going to do something to help the island.

At the beach, at 'Caballero,' I sat and I wrote this article about what's more important - money or happiness. I felt that many people ignore the good things they have in life and start running after the money, and finally, when they have the money, they buy this happy life, forgetting they already had it when they started with the whole process. Like: you live by the sea, you have two boats, all your children have a bicycle, you have an old car and a *kunuku*, and every day you go out fishing for four or five hours. Then you eat, you take a nap and you go to the *kunuku*. And by the end of the day you

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**"After what I'd experienced abroad I decided I never wanted to leave Bonaire again, and instead of complaining that things were not going so well here I was going to do something to help the island."**

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come back to the sea to talk to your friends on the waterfront... and because you have no money you think you're poor... While a rich man spends his time inside some building, saving up, making more money and a couple of times a year he spends some weeks in a place like Bonaire to live the life you're living. The article was published in the *extra* newspaper. After that I thought, 'I don't want to be another person who only comes with criticism; by showing some facts I can be an example for others.'

I became a member of the international service club, 'Jaisis,' and I also formed a pressure group with youngsters. My plans were to go into different organizations and to promote the idea that we from Bonaire can accomplish a lot if we work

for it. We started with sports organizations, and one of the sports I wanted to see develop was water sports. We brought together local boys who were great water skiers

and we started organizing events. We even brought a trick ski world champion to Bonaire to help us and demonstrate his skills. We did that for two years, and during that time we contacted the only two windsurfers Bonaire had, Erwin Muller and Patun Saragoza, to organize the windsurfing here.

The first windsurf contest took place March 27<sup>th</sup> 1987, at the public beach of Playa Lechi. Then the pressure group fell more or less apart and," *he smiles*, "Elvis had lost his heart forever to windsurfing." *Elvis Martinus is a pensive and philosophical man, but he's also dynamic and fun and, undeniable, a born authority.* "In those years," *he continues*, "we also founded the 'AquaSpeed' windsurf club. Next year we will be 20 years old!"

While all this was going on I started working in 1980 for HMK (L.D. Gerhardt's Trade Company Kralendijk) in the BonOil department. I worked there for 15 years. I also did my ISW, middle management training. In the meantime I was practicing karate, baseball, softball and volleyball, and with the 'Terremoto' volleyball team we became the Sub-Antillean champions. In 1988 I was chosen sportsman of the year, mainly because I was the first Bonairean who had won the Bonaire Regatta in windsurfing. In 1991 I stopped windsurfing because I became the manager at BonOil... no more time! In my spare time I coached Little League baseball every afternoon, seven days a week. Then, with a lot of effort, they convinced me to become the Race Director of the Bonaire Regatta. We've been very successful for 15 years, but it's time for someone else to take over!

In 1995 I stopped working for Bon Oil because I wanted to spend more time on sailing activities, and also I founded, with



Elvis Martinus

Roger Jurriens and Patun Saragoza, the Bonaire Windsurf Place at Sorobon. We'd waited seven years for the permit because an environmental study was going on about Lac Bai. Luckily they accepted windsurfing because it's not polluting, but it's the last activity allowed in this bay. I think Jibe City and our place are located on one of the most beautiful spots on the island where people can be active. One thing is for sure: There are not many sports Bonaire can identify itself with, but as Brazil has its soccer, Bonaire has its sailing.

In the old days Bonaireans were well known for being excellent sailors with fast sailboats and ships built here and... windsurfing is nothing but a modern variation. When you see the kids, you see it's in the blood, in the genes. We have many world champions on the island and they're all kids who started very young.

Eight years ago, on May 13, 1997, my princess was born - Julia Marisol Martinus - and it seems that just like her dad she is a child of the sun and the sea. On May 13 we'll have the eighth 'Copa Julia,' a windsurf competition for children. I am also proud and happy that my idea of organizing a world championship free style on the island has become very famous in only one year. All over the world there are now qualification contests to send the finalists to Bonaire this coming August. I am very happy that my dream to establish Bonaire as a windsurf island has come true much sooner than I expected. I think Bonaire will always be a Diver's Paradise, but for windsurfers it's Heaven on Earth!"

Story and photo by  
Greta Kooistra



# Historical Obelisks in Danger!

## Bonai Students to the Rescue

The historical obelisks on the southern shore of Bonaire, once used as guides to ships coming in to load salt, are in danger of deteriorating and crumbling. One of them, the white one, was completely destroyed by waves from Hurricane Lenny.

As part of their current science project, the 10 members of Bonai, led by Jackie Bernbela and tutored by historian and 1<sup>st</sup> Antillean Governor of Bonaire, Raymundo Saleh, are helping to restore these venerable structures which played such an important part in the island's history. The Bonai students are working together with artist Adi Figaroa, and they've even enlisted their families and friends to help!

In the early days, the color of each obelisk – red, white, blue or orange – related to the salt pan behind it. As a ship approached the island someone from the salt works would raise a colored flag, meaning that's the color of the obelisk where the ship would have to head for and anchor, that site being where the salt was to be loaded. A lighter was set up from shore to deliver the salt to the ship. The men gathered the salt from



**Bonai does more than just study about it!**  
Wilna Groenenboom photo

the ponds, and the women, with the salt in baskets carried on their heads, would deliver the salt to the lighter which was drawn back and forth from the shore to the ship innumerable times.

A plaque will be placed on each of the obelisks, describing their historical function. L.D.

# Bonaire Ambassadors



The Slavin family sent us this photo and wrote, "This is our 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive January in Bonaire. We fell in love with the island, its underwater beauty and the warm, friendly people. We started bringing our children 15 years ago and now we have also spent several summer weeks like a second home for us. Although it US, it's definitely worth it! Good luck

For Tourism Corporation Bonaire it is a pleasure to have the Slavin family as official Bonaire Ambassadors. Congratulations!

is a pleasure to have the Slavin family as official Bonaire Ambassadors. Congratulations!





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## A Special Star

This month we celebrate the **Vernal Equinox** (when the sun crosses the Equator on its annual visit to the north and day and night are of equal duration), and the March sky is dominated by brilliant constellations such as **Orion**. This month also provides an excellent opportunity for our readers to extend his or her observations to a particularly interesting sight:

### Algol.

Throughout the month of March, Algol is nearly overhead at sunset and is visible the entire evening. This star is easy to overlook because it's not nearly as bright as some stars in the night sky, but it is Algol's brightness that makes it so unusual and fascinating. You see, Algol's brightness changes, making it a so called "variable star." There are many different reasons for a star to change its brightness. Some stars change due to an intrinsic property

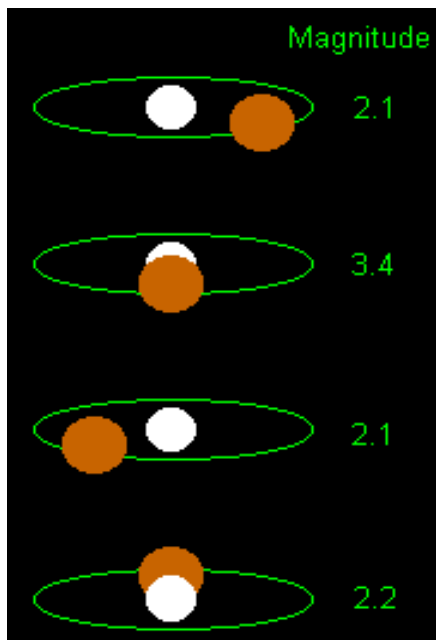
of their complicated astrophysics. Other stars change brightness because they are regularly eclipsed by a darker companion orbiting around it. Algol is of the latter type - an **eclipsing variable**.

The star we see as Algol is actually the brighter

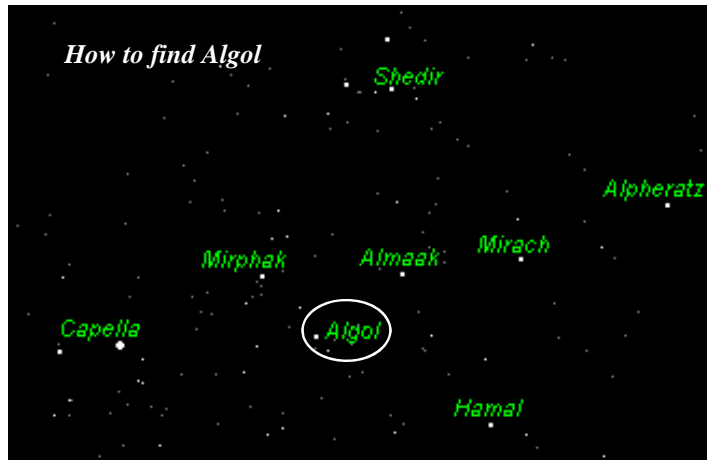
of the two stars, so technically we should call it "Algol A." It has a magnitude of 2.1. That's fairly bright. In fact, Algol A is about 100 times as bright as our Sun, but it's much further away. Orbiting Algol A, like a planet, is **Algol B**, a very dim star. Fortunately for the amateur astronomers of Earth, the plane of Algol B's orbit is along our line of sight. That means Algol B passes in front of Algol A during its orbit. As it does so, Algol B eclipses Algol A, blocking most of the light from the brighter star. During this eclipse Algol dims from a magnitude of 2.1 to 3.4.

This is a fascinating event to watch but, of course, the first thing you have to do is find Algol. These directions will help you. (It's not easy.)

Imagine a line from the very bright star **Capella** to the (not quite so) bright stars of **Almaak**, **Mirach** and **Alpheratz**. There is a star on either side of the line between Almaak and Capella, about midway between them. The one to the north is **Mirphak**, but the one to the south is our target- Algol. (Don't confuse it with the brighter star **Hamal**, and don't confuse any of these with **Saturn** and **Jupiter** which would be visible farther south than these stars!) . *Dr. Jamie Love*



How Algol dims and brightens



How to find Algol



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: March 5 to 11, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Take time to visit someone who has been confined due to illness. You could experience delays in shipments or mail and should be careful while traveling. Be diplomatic and honest, and that person will only be made to look bad. Now is a good time to ask for favors. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) They will jump at the chance to do something without you if it sounds like more fun. If you can't trust someone, question the connection. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. Unforeseen changes in your location are apparent. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Sit back and observe, regardless of how hard that might be. You may experience setbacks due to additional responsibilities with loved ones. Don't ignore any emotional issues that could be causing problems. Try to take some time to listen to their complaints, and in turn, do something to appease them. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. Hassles with in-laws could put a damper on your week. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool if someone backs you into a corner. You may find it impossible to get the rest you require. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) If you can put some work into home improvements, you should. Problems with ear, nose, or the throat are likely. Don't be critical or overly opinionated with dislikes; it could cause disapproval and unwanted opposition. You will accomplish the most in the work environment this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try to bend but by no means should you give in completely. Visit friends or relatives you don't get to see very often. Socially, you need a fast paced form of entertainment. You will meet new friends and enjoy a multitude of new activities. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can meet potential new mates, but make sure that they aren't already committed to someone else. Try to bend but by no means should you give in completely. Opportunities will come through behind the scenes activities. You mustn't make promises that you won't be able to keep. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Travel will promote new romantic connections. Overindulgence may cause conflicts. Regardless of your first reaction, the outcome will be favorable. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't make unreasonable promises. Your charm will mesmerize members of the opposite sex this week. Your trendy style and unique way of doing things will entice new acquaintances. You will find that friends or relatives may not understand your needs. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Make changes to your living quarters that will please the whole family. If they don't want to get involved, work by yourself. Changes regarding your image will bring you greater confidence. You will be too quick to point your finger at your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will do well in social settings, and new and interesting individuals may spark a romantic curiosity. Do a little extra work at home. Your hard work and dedication will pay off, so stick to your guns and do your job well. You must refrain from overspending on entertainment. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Avoid any gossip and be careful that you aren't misinterpreted. You will enjoy socializing and unusual forms of entertainment. You may not be that popular at home but you should be able to shine at social gatherings. You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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