

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

October 20-27, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 40

The REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 717-8988

SINCE 1994

Regatta 2006 Excels

Pages 9-15



Wilna Groenenboom Photos

Flotsam and Jetsam



If one person can be said to be the "Father" of Bonaire's new status with The Netherlands it's Ramonsito Booi. He is relentless in his goal of getting Bonaire out from under Curaçao's governance and becoming a more integral part of Holland. "It's a great moment," Booi was quoted as saying following the signing of an agreement putting Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius on the road to having the same rights as Dutch municipalities. The Netherlands will draw up a plan for the transition process, which will be complete no later than January 1, 2007. The original target for the restructuring of the Netherlands Antilles was July 1, 2007.

Bonaire's Commissioner Reginald Dortalina, who assisted with the negotiations described the signing of the agreement as an "historic moment" for the three islands.

Antilles Prime Minister Emily de



Ramonsito Booi

Jongh-Elhage calls this an 'historic agreement.' "I am very pleased for the Antilles. It is now Curaçao and St. Maarten's turn for an agreement with the Netherlands." "There is a kind of exultant mood in The Hague" she added.

Dutch Kingdom Relations Minister Atzo Nicolaï called the agreement a breakthrough in a dialogue that has been going on for decades. He hopes that the growing problems like crime, poverty and a bogged down economy

can be tackled better this way and that it would put an end to the continuous uncertainty about responsibilities. The agreement begins the writing of the epitaph of the collection of islands known for over 50 years as the country of the Netherlands Antilles

The final declaration states that the three islands, also referred to in The Hague as the K3 (the K referring to *Klein* "small" in Dutch) will be given a constitutional position in the Dutch constellation in the form of a public body (*openbaar lichaam*) as defined in article 134 of the Dutch Constitution. The agreement sets out responsibilities and tasks for parties on both sides of the ocean. It also addresses the position of the islands, supervision, assistance, need for further analysis, rights, a transition process and an interim period. A lot of work remains to be done.

This past Monday a series of broadcasts on BoTV (Flamingo Cable 24) began explaining the new direction.

But:

However rosy the picture appears to the participants in the agreement, Dutch politics can undermine any agreements... and Dutch elections are set for next month. Dutch D'66 Member of Parliament Boris Dittrich said in the Dutch press that the agreement is merely a psychological concord, which depends on the Dutch Government also reaching an agreement for constitutional reforms with Curaçao and St. Maarten and that the necessary budgetary items in the Municipality Fund, the fund that distributes the available budget among all Dutch municipalities is not in place.

Table of Contents

IN THIS ISSUE:	
Letters (Mangrove Village Sales)	4
Announcement (July Ann Frans)	7
6th Annual EcoSwim	8
Regatta 2006	9
Regatta 2006 Race Results	11
Other Regatta Events	
Bike Trip	13
Creativity	13
Klein Bonaire Swim	15
Wounded Warriors	16
SGB Day at Jong Bonaire	22

WEEKLY FEATURES:	
Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Biologist's Bubbles (Mangroves)	3
Picture Yourself, (Jamaica)	6
Straight Talk	7
Snack Detectives (Yue Hua)	9
SuDoku Puzzle	14
Classifieds	14
Tide Table	14
Pet of the Week (Doug)	18
SuDoku Answer	18
Reporter Masthead	18
What's Happening	19
Movieland Film Schedule	19
Shopping & Dining Guides	20
On the Island Since (Rita Berghaven & Randy Lucas)	21
Sky Park (Halloween, Pleiades)	23
The Stars Have It	23



Main Points of the agreement:

- The legal regulations of Dutch municipalities will apply, taking into consideration the special conditions of the islands.
- Antillean legislation will remain in effect at the start of the new status, and Dutch Legislation will be introduced gradually.
- Citizens will be able to vote in elections for the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament and the European Parliament. (A provision will be made to vote in the First Chamber elections as well.)
- The islands will carry out as many tasks as they can. Specific areas to be examined include: education, public health, social security and the level of social services.
- The Netherlands will become responsible for law enforcement security on the islands. The Joint Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, be it under a new name, will remain responsible for the administration of justice.
- Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius will have to present balanced budgets and have multi-annual financial perspectives. They will not have borrowing authority.
- Financial supervision will come from The Hague.
- Still undecided is the issue of the official currency, monetary supervision, the future fiscal system, be tax free port status and the role of the Dutch Tax Office.
- The possibility of Dutch structural support in the areas of social security, pensions and public health will be investigated.
- The islands have to involve the Dutch Minister of Foreign Relations before they can make agreements with countries in the region.
- A study will be done on the possibility of acquiring and the implications of Ultra-Peripheral Territory (UPT) status in the European Union (EU).



Sephos photo

Ramonsito Booi (Bonaire), Roy Hooker (Statia), Atzo Nicolaï (the Netherlands) and Will Johnson (Saba) sign the closing statement of the mini-summit in the Spaansche Hof in The Hague.

► Beginning January 8, 2007, according to a new US law, all American travelers visiting the Caribbean by air must have passports. Cruise ship passengers do not.

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) strongly opposes the decision of the US Congress to grant an extension to 2009 for cruise ship travelers.

Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Secretary General for



Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Secretary General for the Caribbean Tourism CTO photo

the 32-member Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), compared the recent decision by the US government to amend the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative to "a category 6 hurricane" for the Caribbean region.

Gordon 'Butch' Stewart (14 Sandals Resorts), the Caribbean's leading hotelier, suggested that support by Jamaica and other regional countries for Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was behind a US decision that has sent shock waves through the region's tourist industry. "That decision is probably the single most destructive economic catastrophe that could happen, short of a nuclear attack on Caribbean countries," Stew-



Butch Stewart, Resort Magnate. CTO photo

art said. He added that it appeared that the region's flirtation with Venezuela's Chavez had triggered the US decision, referring to Chavez' description of US President George W. Bush as "the devil" in his recent speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

WTTC estimated that the region could lose US\$2.6 billion in visitor exports and more than 188,300 Travel & Tourism jobs as a result of the rule. The same study found that some 80% of US visitors to Jamaica do not use a passport, while in St. Vincent, The Bahamas and Antigua, the figures are 50%, 30% and 25% respectively. Most Bonaire tourists have passports, according to a TCB spokesman, so there will be less impact here.

Only about 27% of Americans have current, valid passports according to the WTTC.

► In response to decreasing fuel prices, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has reduced its fuel surcharge by 5 euros

NA/11) per stretch on all intercontinental flights (including between Amsterdam and Aruba/Netherlands Antilles).

KLM's policy is to adjust its fuel surcharge if the oil price per barrel rises above or drops below a certain level for more than 30 consecutive days. The last reduction was because the international oil price level dropped below US \$70 per barrel.

► The occupancy rates for Curaçao's hotels are the highest in years. In the first seven months of 2006 they enjoyed an average occupancy rate of 82% as well as higher room prices, according to information provided by the Curaçao Hospitality and Tourism Association. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Bonaire which has far fewer flights to both the Americas and Europe.

Continued on page 3

► Following an outcry of public indignation and pressure from environmental groups, **Mangrove Village Development has been put on hold for at least three months.** Governor of the Netherlands Antilles, Bonaire-born Frits Goedgedrag, suspended two decisions (the lease of land and the issuance of a building permit to developers) taken by the Bonaire Executive Council on October 4, because they are in conflict with the Treaty of Ramsar (Iran, 1971) regarding wetlands of international importance, according to the Governor. The ruling was unpopular with some Bonaire officials who railed against the watchdog organization, the Bonaire Nature Alliance, accusing it of political favoritism.

The area, close to Lac Bay, is protected by the Ramsar Treaty which mandates maintaining its ecology and natural resources. According to Ramsar Treaty



Mangrove seedling Carin Eckrich photo

provisions, a report on the environmental impact of the land use must be made before a decision can be made to develop such a Ramsar protected area. No favorable environmental assessment was ever presented. In fact an informal report cautioning against development in the area

was issued by a Dutch scientist recently.

Governor Goedgedrag said the Executive Council did not present the report that meets the conditions outlined in the Ramsar Treaty. To prevent the Lac area from sustaining irreparable damage, he has decided to suspend the decision of Bonaire's Executive Council.

Based on the Netherlands Antilles Islands Regulation (ERNA), the Governor, as representative of the Kingdom, can suspend or annul a decision taken by one



Work had already begun at Mangrove Village. STINAPA photo

of the island territories if the decision is against international treaties. The suspension is for a three-month period.

(Continued on page 4)



Mangrove Aerial Roots
Carin Eckrich photo

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did you know ... the Red Mangrove is its own desalinization plant?

Mangroves are trees and shrubs that can live in or near saltwater. When Bonaireans think of mangroves, they think of Lac, but Bonaire has other stands of mangroves along the coast where wave action is minimal. Mangroves have special adaptations to deal

with salt, since even these hardy plants can't stand too much salt. Some mangroves, such as the White and Black Mangroves, take in saltwater from the sea and excrete salt from specialized glands on their leaves. The Red Mangrove, *Rhizophora mangle*, doesn't allow the salt in by acting as its own reverse osmosis filter. Red Mangroves concentrate magnesium

(taken from saltwater) in its cells, which forces out sodium ions (salt). It has an internal 'salt pump'. If we could get the mangroves to make fresh water for us perhaps people would appreciate them more! □ CE

Biologist Caren Eckrich founded and runs Sea & Discover, Bonaire's marine education center specializing in guided dives and snorkels for adults and adventure programs for kids. You may call her at 717-5322.



LETTERS

MANGROVE VILLAGE SALES

Dear Editor:

In light of the recent controversy surrounding the halt in construction of the Mangrove Village project and the involvement of RE/MAX Paradise Homes, I would like to clarify some things. First of all, it was my understanding that the Mangrove Village development had received approvals to build from all of the required government departments and agencies. As a foreign born resident, I love living on Bonaire, but don't feel qualified to pass judgment on the "correctness" of any individual development plan since that is not my area of expertise. I think it should be the job of the Bonaire government.

Problems like this are becoming more common on Bonaire and I would like to offer a positive solution to prevent this from happening in the future. I believe that Bonaire needs to immediately create a comprehensive and enforceable land use plan for the whole island. This type of plan sets aside areas that will never be developed, as well as designating specific areas of the island for environmental protection, i.e. no development, resorts, residences, businesses and other purposes. Within the last six months a number of controversial construction projects have been started. Most of these controversies are the result of either not having, or not enforcing a comprehensive development and land use plan for the island.

As you might expect, I am not someone who is against new development. While my company does not do development, it is an every day part of my business. I think further development on Bonaire is inevitable. The only question is, how can we make that development positive, and how can we minimize the negative effects that new construction projects have on the island and on the environment in which we live? I support having any additional developments take place within the context of a larger "master plan" covering the future development of all of Bonaire.

Both government officials and island residents should get together now to create a plan for all of Bonaire which provides for both the construction of new homes, apartments and resorts while also protecting the special parts of Bonaire. This development plan needs to be long-term in nature, and not subject to exceptions or being changed by the politicians who are currently in power. By following a plan, new development can take place in a controlled and orderly fashion. Ideally you get the economic development that the island needs, while still maintaining the beautiful environment which we all love. Once such a plan is in place, it must be enforced. Exceptions should be rare and made only after extensive review in public meetings involving the government, DROB, residents and any other concerned parties.

Instead of organizing protests or boycotts against any specific project, I rec-



Realtor Bob Bartikoski (shown here with transmitter-equipped turtle) has, through RE/MAX, sponsored many community and environmental causes.

ommend that you encourage the Bonaire government to use their existing development plan (if they have one) or else create a comprehensive long term plan for Bonaire that they will enforce. This will enable Bonaire to grow and move forward in a positive and sustainable way.

Bob Bartikoski
Owner
RE/MAX Paradise Homes

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)



► The October 6 issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* featuring Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai and Delno Tromp made the front cover of the Dutch language newspaper *Antilliaans Dagblad* last week.

► Ernst Weselius who's served as Bonaire's first full-time prosecutor, will try his last case on Friday as he begins his (mandated under Antillean law) retirement. His presence has made a difference in the fight against crime on Bonaire and all who have worked with him appreciate his work. He will stay on in Bonaire and be involved with public safety issues.



(Continued on page 5)

Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 4)

► **Liesbeth Hoefdraad (55) was nominated as the president of the Gemeenschappelijk Hof (Public Court) of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.** She'll be the first woman to head the court in its almost 140 years of existence.

Hoefdraad is replacing the universally respected chief judge, **Luis de Lannoy**, who is taking an early retirement next year. By then he'll have been the court's president for 14 years, twice as long as the average term.



STINAPA photo

► **The installation of 5 km of new wire fence was recently completed in Washington Slagbaai National Park.** Working since March **Rodger Gijsbertha and his team** restored the fence that separates the former plantations of Washington and Slagbaai. The fence is significant because it will keep out the vegetation-destroying goats that roam elsewhere in Bonaire. His permanent team is made up of brothers **Oy and Toyon Frans, Tè Obispo and Arthur Martis.**

The work was especially difficult because of the rough terrain and the need to

protect the immediate environment. STINAPA thanks Chief Ranger George "Cultura" Thode for guidance and Stichting DOEN for financial support.

► **Stichting Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds Bonaire**, the excellent Foundation that provides information and assists cancer victims, wants to thank the Bonaire community for their donations that totaled NAf10.616,89 which was more than last year.

► We've heard a whisper that the **Outlet Mol will be back in December.** You'll remember that the Mol offered top brand ladies sexy and stylish clothes at outlet prices. They will open before the holidays for economical shopping. Watch *The Reporter* pages for where and when.



► **RE/MAX Paradise Homes celebrated its 3rd anniversary** on Bonaire with a huge party in the gallery at Les Galeries Shopping Mall. The food was awesome as was the music by the Latin Jazz Group. Congratulations!

► **A new tugboat was christened Smit Bonaire on October 14 in Kralendijk.** The *Smit Bonaire* was named by Mrs Angela Garmendia de Nieves, wife of Mr H. Nieves, General Manager of BOPEC Bonaire. SMIT is currently operating three tugs in Bonaire for BOPEC. The naming ceremony was part of SMIT's worldwide new building program. The *Smit Bonaire* will be deployed in Manzanillo, Panama, All three tugs have 57/60 tons of bollard pull power.



BOPEC photo



► Bonaire youngsters gave a good account of themselves at the opening of the **Congress on Dance for the Caribbean Child held in St. Maarten.** Look at the action and joy in the above photos.

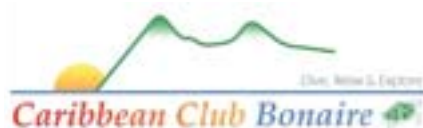
Jackie Bernabella photos



► **Victor Brouwer, Vianco Serberie and Sipke Stapert competed in the 2006 Sunfish World Championships** in Charleston, South Carolina. Johannetta Brouwer reported that in the light winds our team was unable to sail to top positions. Isn't that a copy of the *Bonaire Reporter* in their hands? Fan the sail with it?

► This week is the debut of a personal advice column, one that has been requested often by many of our readers. It's called "**Straight Talk**" and is written by Betty Wills. As she says, "it's about relationships, friendship, dating, love sex and marriage." Betty's "credentials" are that she "lives for a living and has had lots of practice at it!" It's for fun. Straight Talk is on the next page.

► On October 1, **Hilltop Divers took**



over operation of the dive shop at Caribbean Club Bonaire as part of the management change that took place at that resort. Hilltop Divers offers a complete range of services, from air fills to a full retail shop with a broad variety of rental gear. Rinse tanks and shower facilities make this the top dive shop north of Kralendijk.

► After a year of weekly wine tasting events, **Antillean Wine Company will now hold monthly wine tastings on the second Saturday of every month from 7 to 9 pm.** So that a wider range of wines for tasting can be presented the cost will be NA/20 per person. A selection of six to eight wines will be offered accompanied by snacks. The opening

hours at the storage/retail store have changed. AWC is now open an extra morning - on Mondays from 9 am until 12:30 pm.

Buy a full box of the same wine (except special offers) and get a 10% discount. Of course delivery service is still available. Call in your order at (09) 560-7539 and they will deliver most anywhere on the island.

► **This week Bonaire is hosting marines and soldiers who are recovering from limb amputations as a result of war injuries suffered in Iraq and Afghanistan.** They are attempting to earn Open Water Dive Certificates. It's an amazing story of strength, courage and will despite bad odds.

Beginning with their arrival last Saturday Bonaire pulled out all the stops to make sure their visit is successful and memorable. Although the notice is short, You might want to **join them at the Cactus Blue Restaurant, tonight, Wednesday,** for a special three-course seafood dinner (\$30). Moogie will be playing and the Warriors will be hosted by the Cactus Blue owners. We've heard the Warriors will be presented with some special gifts too.

And then don't forget to be at the airport around 2 pm Saturday to say goodbye before they board their Air Jamaica flight. There are more details in the story on page 16. □ G./L. D.

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Jamaica: Martha Brae River and Rose Hall



A copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* took a trip to Jamaica recently. First it went on a raft trip down the **Martha Brae River**, then to a special pre-Halloween visit. Norma Cole writes, "On a recent trip to Jamaica, Norma, Rob and Rosita visited the **Rose Hall** Great House, an old sugar plantation built in 1770, hoping to catch a glimpse of Annie Palmer, nicknamed the White Witch of Rose Hall, who is reputed to have killed three husbands before age 29. This house was also featured in the September/October issue of the widely read *Islands Magazine* as the most haunted place in the Caribbean." □



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.) □

STRAIGHT TALK

*The first of a series
of columns by Betty Wills*

It's about relationships: friendship, dating, love, sex, and marriage - so let's talk. For those of you who may be wondering what makes me qualified to talk about relationships, well, the simple answer is... life. I live for a living, and had lots of practice at it, not to mention years of hands-on experience. I'm sure there are one or two people out there you'd like to get your hands on to experience. Some of us learn from our mistakes - others write about them. I'm a writer. I'm also a retired educator, lecturer, and documentary filmmaker. I retired to Bonaire a little over three years ago, and discovered retirement wasn't for me, so here I am writing again. Enough about me...let's hear about you! Email your relationship questions to my attention at betty@bonairenews.com.



Betty Wills

Question #1 from: "Still Single, and Getting Worried!!"

Dear Betty - I am a single, professional woman in my 50s, and I live alone - no children, never married. I'm attractive, have a good sense of humor, and had two long-term relationships. I ended the first after I found out he was cheating. The second one ended because of a conflict with his children. I'm beginning to think at this late stage in my life, I will never find anyone, much less get married. Men my age prefer to marry younger women, and are only interested in me for sex. What should I do?

ANSWER: The first thing you should do is...(drum roll, please)...stop complaining! It's not every day men are interested in having sex with a woman over 50. It speaks volumes for you, foxy lady. What are you saving it for? Retirement? Run a personals ad in a retirement magazine if you're looking for a guy who isn't interested in you for sex. Better yet, try the Obituaries. You'll get a better response.

If you're looking for Mr. Perfect, forget it. No one is perfect, so try looking for Mr. Right instead. The right man is probably waiting for you out there somewhere, and you're too busy looking for Mr. Perfect to notice. They're going to leave the toilet seat up and squeeze the toothpaste in the middle. A lot of men are like that, and it's ok.

I prefer to think a man's choice in women has less to do with youth and perky boobs and more to do with love, compatibility and what a woman is willing to accept. You can be older and wiser, and still be young at heart. I'm not saying to lower your standards, rather adjust your expectations to better accommodate Mr. Right.

Another thought - professional women are usually a little more reserved, and dress more conservatively in the work place. They also tend to bring that same reserve to the cocktail party. If that's you, loosen up! Try showing a little more skin, and a bit more cleavage. It's ok for a woman to look sexy, feel sexy and be sexy. It doesn't mean you are obligated to have sex. And remember, sex is not an obligation, unless you work at Pachi's.

Question #2 from: Married and living alone.

Dear Betty - I'm in a relationship for a few years now with a married man who lives by himself. Recently I found out he was seeing another woman but when asked about the relationship, he denied it. I saw them together and confronted him. They both admitted it was platonic. I don't trust him anymore plus he's married. Should I give him a second chance or his walking papers?

ANSWER: Hmm...let's see, he's MARRIED, and you don't TRUST him, perhaps because he is LYING to you?!! Red flag! Red flag! Do you need someone to type up his walking papers, or should we ask the nice folks at Nike to send him some running papers with a brand new pair of running shoes?

Ok, here's the poop - some men see variety as the spice of life, as in hot and spicy. Are you a jalapeño or a red hot chili pepper? Perhaps the wife became too salty for his taste, so he went back into the spice cabinet to try something different. Sorry, but I've never heard of a spice called "platonic." As we all know, women have control over the spice cabinet. Put a lock on it, and save the key for Mr. Right.

Healthy, loving relationships grow with love and trust, and without them, you have nothing. If the bed of your relationship wasn't built on solid ground, you won't be able to grow much of anything from it...at least not beyond sex. You have to decide what YOU really want. Is it bed me, or wed me, or BOTH?

Joke of the day....

After a quarrel, a husband said to his wife, "You know, I was a fool when I married you."
She replied, "Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't notice." □ Betty Wills



ANNOUNCEMENTS



STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom and Board Member Ivo Cecilia officially congratulate July Ann

STINAPA commemorated 10 years of service by July Ann Frans who can usually be found at the STINAPA HQ's "front desk." She was honored by STINAPA management with a promotion and an "envelope." During her tenure July demonstrated exemplary work and took on ever-increasing responsibilities. Congratulations! □

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

6th Annual Bonaire EcoSwim



Awards ceremony from a previous Eco-Swim

The 6th Annual Bonaire EcoSwim is this weekend, Saturday, October 21.

This year six races will be offered:

- 10k solo swim,
- 5k solo swim,
- 5k swim with fins,
- metric mile solo swim,
- metric mile with fins
- kids' pier-to-pier fun swim, which is approximately 200 meters.

The course for the 10k, 5k and metric mile events will start and finish at Capt.

Don's Habitat and will be swum along the coast of Bonaire, allowing swimmers the opportunity of enjoying the beauty of Bonaire's tropical reefs. The kids' pier-to-pier fun swim will be from Capt. Don's Habitat to Buddy Dive and back. Swimmers participating in the fun races may wear masks and snorkels.

While there will be several "elite" swimmers competing this year, the race is for FUN and is designed for all who wish to swim at their own pace, simply for the joy of swimming in the pristine waters of

Bonaire. Awards will be given to top male and female finishers in the 10k, 5k and metric mile races.

The registration fee for all local participants is NAf35 f(\$20) for adults and NAf17,50 (\$10) for kids. This includes the registration fee, a pasta dinner, T-shirt, swim cap and other goodies in a goody bag. Entry forms are at the BONHATA office next to the lighthouse at the Harbour Village Marina. Talk to Diana Sint Jago. Remember – this need not be a competition! Come join us and have some fun in the 6th Annual Bonaire EcoSwim!

SCHEDULE

Friday, October 20th:

4:30 to 5:30 pm – Official registration at Capt. Don's Habitat and mandatory check-in

5:30 to 7:00 pm – A pasta dinner, served and sponsored by Rum Runners Restaurant at Capt. Don's Habitat for all participants

7:00 to 7:30 pm – Mandatory pre-

race meeting at Capt. Don's Habitat

Saturday, October 21st:

6:30 to 7:30 am – Race day check-in and body marking at Capt.

Don's Habitat 7:30 to 7:45 am –

Last minute race instructions

8:00 am – Race start for 10K, 5k and metric mile swims

9:00 to 10:00 am – Registration for the kid's pier-to-pier fun swim

10:30 am – Pier-to-pier fun swim

30 minutes after completion of

race – Awards ceremony at Rum

Runners at Capt. Don's Habitat

WITH THANKS TO OUR

SPONSORS:

The Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA), Capt. Don's Habitat, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort, Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, Aqua Moon Adventures, Rum Runners, Budget Rent-a-Car and STINAPA Bonaire Marina Park.

□ *BONHATA release*



SPECIAL NOTICE to all pleasure boats, dive boats, fishing boats and others:

Please be advised that some dive sites will be closed for the races between 7 am and 1 pm on Saturday, October 21. The Bonaire National Marine Park will announce which sites will be closed. If you are boating through the area, please use extreme caution as there will be many swimmers in the water between the hours mentioned above.

COVER STORY

Isabella Effner photo

COVER STORY

COVER STORY



Team Ibis from Curaçao

The 39th edition of the Annual Bonaire Regatta was filled with excitement day and night, fine weather, breezes ranging from strong to zephyrs and enjoyment for everyone. There were a few collisions, several protests, good sportsmanship, and parties into the early morning hours highlighted by the return of the Magic Sound Band to the island of their beginning.

But actual racing is just one facet of Regatta Week in Bonaire. Schools are closed and there are people on the streets until 4 am partying. Following the Nation's Parade, the Regatta officially opened on Sunday night, October 8, with music and dance in Wilhelmina Park. Strong, emotional words about sportsmanship and friendship were the message that Governor Herbert Domacassé used in his Regatta opening comments. His words seemed to mean even more because of the presence of the many flags that were held high by the marchers in the All Nations Parade.

(Continued on page 10)



The All Nations Parade began the 2006 Regatta Wilna Gronenboom photo

The Snack Bar Detectives

Their Mission: *To seek out the mysteries that lie behind the doors of Bonaire's snacks*



This week: Yue Hua, Kaminda Lagoen.



We had planned to sample more local food this last week, but the Regatta had most of the local snacks offering their wares in Playa. As such we decided on our old favourite, Chinese food.

Passing Yue Hua every day, I thought that it was high time that we gave it a try. First things first, a few aperitifs to build up the appetite. We have discovered a new watering hole where the company is good and the price of Polar is right. NAf2,50 from 5pm to 7pm gives us just enough time to quench that thirst. A NAf116 bar tab between three of us suggested we had probably had enough and we decided to soak up a little fluid with a good meal.

Yue Hua recently moved into new premises and as such, everything is bright and clean. We sat inside at the bar and joined in a few drinks with some locals. A glance at the extensive menu had our mouths watering. With most dishes under NAf15, it was apparent that our food bill was going to be a lot less than our bar bill!

Bami Goreng special and a few hot curries were ordered with anticipation. The atmosphere was friendly, and we joined in with some banter with the regulars. As we exchanged beers between us, our food was served. As expected, there were huge portions freshly made. JJ and I helped ourselves to the hot sauce as if we were in competition, neither of us admitting that maybe we had overdone it

a little. Big D ate in silence, only giving the occasional approving nod that said it all.

As the last grain of rice was absorbing our alcoholic excesses, we sat back with a sharp outtake of breath. An excellent meal, great atmosphere and just over NAf50 for the three of us with drinks. To think that this place is in my neighbourhood and it is the first time that I have been. Well, I certainly won't be a stranger in future.

Next week we are going local. Snacky owners, you have been warned! □
Story & photo by SBD

(Regatta 2006. Continued from page 9)



Commissioner Geraldine Dammers presents Augustin Kroon with painting by Adi Figueroa
Gronenboom photo

Singer/songwriter Augustin Kroon was honored on stage for writing the rousing "Hymno di Regatta" 25 years ago. Mr. Kroon, who is the lead singer of his band Foyan Boyz, is in his 70s but still going strong. The lyrics of his famous Regatta song are easy to remember: *...dianan di Regatta, na Boneiru bo mester ta....* got everyone on the island singing along.

On Monday the performance of the *Freewinds* Band with singer Debbie Beaujon was absolutely fabulous. Tuesday saw the group Chispa from Curaçao and Sebari from Rincon on stage as well as Z.O.Z from Aruba. Wednesday evening featured local music, but sports fanatics could participate in the 21st Com-

cabon-Web Run. Thursday saw the annual Working Boat Parade at dusk with sail and powerboats cruising with all their lights along the shoreline.

In the first race on Monday, Thomas Pollehne, captain of the Volare from Venezuela, crossed the line first in the Round Bonaire Race. He did this in 7 hours and 17 minutes, two minutes more than the record set in 2001. The Aruban yacht *Tranquilo* came in first last Monday in the Lac Bay Race, crossing the finish line in 5 hours and 28 minutes, just 23 minutes more than the record. Captain Anthony Hagedoorn and his son Marc Anthony sailed beautifully!

Roxy v.d. Werf, a top contender in the new Splash division, escaped injury when, at the start, Ethiene Soliano, one of Bonaire's top windsurfers crashed into her, damaging his board in the process. Ethiene, ever the gentleman, jumped into the Splash to see whether Roxy was badly hurt. However, after the initial pain and shock, Roxy was back.

Fortunately, no major harm was done, and no one was to blame for the accident. Roxy sailed her Splash across the starting line with a big smile. As Anthony Hagedoorn's *Tranquilo* crossed the finish line victoriously after the Lac Bay race his eye-catching Aruba flag spinnaker crumpled when a corner of the spinnaker tore.

The traditional fishing boat races are always fun to watch: the relaxed crews handle their boats with ease, and one has to admire the lovely traditional lines of the oversize sails that power them.

(Continued on page 11)



Volare
Wilna Gronenboom photo



Merlin
Isabella Effner photo

17-year-old Johnny at the helm

(Regatta 2006. Continued from page 10)

On Wednesday's first start in the traditional fishing boat races all five fishing boats were lined up at the starting line. when the bowsprit of Giovanie Soliano's *Morgenster* broke and he had to abandon the race. But he repaired it and was back sailing on Thursday.

For the first time in the history of the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta, the exciting windsurfers freestyle event was held in downtown Kralendijk. People lined up under the shaded canopies and sat on the new bleachers to watch the action on the water which began on Wednesday afternoon.

The windsurfers got their moments of glory in front of a great crowd. Showing their moves they got cheers and applause, especially the Baby Kids. Even though not too steady on their tiny legs, they gave a performance filled with innovative and intricate moves. Serginho Finies of Bonaire won, with Mitchell de Palm of Curaçao in second place. Marvin Gustowski of Bonaire was third.

Other categories were the somewhat older Kids, all from Bonaire, where freestyle windsurfing is a popular as Little League baseball in America. Future star Jurgen Saragoza performed really well, taking Freestyling to a new level. Amado Vrieswijk came second, and Dylan Robles was third. The title, Prince of the Regatta, went to Archuendro Finies. Archuendro lifted his entire sail high up in the air, turned it upside down and continued his freestyle moves in this position. Bjorn Saragoza came second after Endro and Hendrick Belentien in third. There was only one Queen, and her name is Mal-lory the Palm of Curaçao.

The King of Regatta competition was intense. A high level of radical moves filled the spectators with awe. Demenson 'Kiri' Thode showed that he truly deserves the title of world champion juniors as he twisted, turned and rail- rode his board. His signature Gekko move was, of course, part of the performance. Results: 1. Kiri Thode, 2. Tati Frans and 3. Jaeger St. Jago.

Continued on page 12



Farid Ayubi, a veteran microboat builder, had several of his designs in the competition.



The wind was too light to beat the motorboats that day



The future of Bonaire—Young Freestylers

(Continued on page 12)



Wilna Gronenboom photo

Regatta 2006

Monday, October 10th 2006 - ROUND BONAIRE

Sailing Class	Place	Boat	Skipper	Country
Racing 1	1	<i>Volare</i>	Pollehne	VEN
Racing 1	2	<i>Curaçao Marine</i>	Boer	CUR
Racing 1	3	<i>Team Ibis</i>	Van Haren	CUR
Racing 2	1	<i>Chamba</i>	Ackermans	CUR
Racing 2	2	<i>Demarage</i>	Hernandez	CUR
Racing 2	3	<i>Merlin</i>	Getrouw	CUR

Monday, October 10th 2006 - LAC BAY RACE

Sailing Class	Place	Boat	Skipper	Country
Open TFC	1	<i>Tranquilo</i>	Hagedoorn	ARU
Open TFC	2	<i>Bugalu</i>	Sweers	BON
Open TFC	3	<i>One Way Wind</i>	Kooij	-
Cruising 1	1	<i>Dauntless</i>	Dekkers	CUR
Cruising 1	2	<i>Venus Callipyge</i>	Van der Straaten	CUR
Cruising 1	3	<i>Melody</i>	Merkies	CUR

Sail Fishing Boats – Final Results

NB 32	<i>Laurita</i>	Edward Leask	1
NB 444	<i>Barabas</i>	Oswin Margaritha	2
NB 151	<i>Unico</i>	Karel (Papichi) Soliano	1
NB 651	<i>Aranza</i>	Jopie Soliano	2
NB 667	<i>Morgen Ster</i>	Giovanie Soliano	3

Awaiting final results for other classes. Look for posting on the website www.bonairegatta.org.

Wilna Gronenboom photo



Windsurfers to yachts, the Regatta has it all

(Regatta 2006. Continued from page 11)

With the sun shining fiercely down on the hats of the microboat captains and a light wind and favorable current making for perfect microboat conditions, no one was complaining. In the early races Bonaire won first places in eight categories and quite a lot of second places as well. Curaçao and Aruba captains did not do so well but came on strong with big wins in the last days. There were 87 microboats entered, divided into several categories. Bonaire had 45, Curaçao 30, Aruba 8 and Holland 4.

On the last day of the Regatta the wind, which was so strong on the first day that speed records were almost set, dropped. The catamarans of Pieter Zweers and Geerlof v.d. Wal had a tough time just crossing the starting line.

The Awards ceremony was filled with excitement as the winners stepped on stage to receive their prizes. The Regatta's overall winner was the yacht *Volare* owned and captained by Thomas Pollehne, for whom this edition of Regatta was dedicated. □ *G.D./BasF press releases*



Isabella Effner photo

Microboat madness

Other Regatta Events

Regatta Bike Trip

Regatta 2006 Creativity



Ecstatic Regatta bike rider

On Sunday, October 8 a total of 55 people made a bicycle trip, beginning at 5 am. The first to complete the trip was Kos Winklaar at 7 am, followed by Julius Melaan and Stephan Decaster. □ *Wilna Groenenboom*



More than window dressing—great experience

All photos this page by *Wilna Groenenboom*

Each year Regatta time inspires some people. An example is in some of the shop windows in Kaya Grandi. This year three shops were decorated by students from the SGB SPW 3.3 (Social Pedagogical Work):

- City Fashion was done by Sudesca, Carmen, and Nohely
- Flamingo Bookstore was done by Taniuska, Bianca, Stacy Ann and Ruthaily
-

TCB was done by Morena, Anahyr, and Pamela

The students, learning to be assistant teachers at a basic school, often work with themes, so Regatta was a good opportunity to practice. They have to learn how to work in a group, within a time limit and show creativity.

I think the ladies have done a great job.

But also experienced teachers have used the Regatta theme in the classroom with their students. The class of teacher Angela of the Pelican school built a big harbor with many ships - a real harbor visited by three mermaids in blue. □ *Wilna Groenenboom*

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
10-20	3:50	1.1FT.	11:48	1.6FT.	19:46	1.1FT.	23:41	1.3FT.	64
10-21	0:45	1.1FT.	2:53	1.1FT.	2:54	1.1FT.	12:08	1.7FT.	
					21:24	1.1FT.			70
10-22	12:35	1.8FT.	22:47	1.0FT.					75
10-23	13:10	1.8FT.	23:41	0.9FT.					79
10-24	0:32	0.8FT.	13:44	1.9FT.					81
10-25	1:17	0.7FT.	14:26	1.9FT.					81
10-26	1:54	0.7FT.	15:19	1.9FT.					78
10-27	2:25	0.7FT.	16:11	1.9FT.					73

**Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— Are still free
Got something to buy or sell?**

**Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):
Free ads run for 2 weeks.**

**Commercial Ads only NAf0.80 per word, per week.
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.

**MOVING INTO A HOUSE
NEW TO YOU?**

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.

BONAIRENET

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

**CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER
Trees and plants, Bonaire grown.**

8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). Phone: 786-0956

Bonaire Images

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

JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/

SUPPORT BONAIRE

The Island you love could use your help! Support Bonaire, Inc. provides support to Bonaire's non-profits. To learn more about making a US tax deductible donation visit www.supportbonaire.org and help make a difference!

LUNCH TO GO

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

Vacation Rental

Cozy guest cottage available

Studio with kitchen, airco, cable TV, two single beds (or king) pull-out sofa, porch, yard and private entrance. Five minute walk to seaside promenade; 10 minute walk to town. \$50/night. Contact: bonairecottage@aol.com

**Cars,
Scooter
For Sale**



BMW 520i – 4-door sedan, 1991, white, excellent condition. Fast, beautiful. A CLASSIC! Call 785-9041

FIAT Barchetta (cabriolet) 1.8, 1997, yellow, with hard-top, NAf 20.000, tel. 786-5591.



Red Suzuki Samurai 1993 and Peugeot scooter 1993 - available at end of Oct. Tel: 786-2927

Microcar Yamaha Newstreet – Scooter engine, low fuel & insurance cost Good condition, excellent for Bonaire; only NAf2300. Call 701-9976

For Sale

Here's a steal for you! As is, where is! Windsurf boards sails, booms & miscellaneous for sale Contact: Ernst at Jibe City

Two custom built windsurf boards- 3 sails- booms and accessories, for more info call Ernst at Jibe City. Asking price NAf1.500.

Paintings by well known (beginning 19th century) Dutch artists – like Jan Reyersdam and Harry Maas. Call 780-9972 to view.

MIO cell phone for sale, a steal!

DO YOU SUDOKU?

Sudoku means “the digits must remain single” in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site www.Sudoku Shack.com.

□ Supplied by Molly Kearney (who has to solve all the puzzles first)

3	6		7	9				8
		1		5			2	4
8				6		9		
7		4	3			1		
2			5	8				6
		9			2	7		5
	3		6					9
5	2			8		4		
4				3	7		5	1

Complete solution on page 18.

NAf 75,00 call 785-3456.

Used scuba tanks NAf125 Carib Inn. Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

For Sale - Netgear (cable Ethernet) router. Perfect shape. NAf50. Call Bruce at 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

For sale: 2 Protec custom built race windsurf boards, 3 Calbert race sails, 2 booms and misc. parts. Contact Ernst at Jibe City

For Sale - 25 ft long regulator hoses. 2 available. New never used. US \$70 each

All Stainless Steel stern bracket in perfect condition. Up to 225 HP. Increases performance, helps gas mileage, better steering, more interior space.

80 cubic ft dive tanks. Used in good condition. NAf125, Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

**Property,
Sales &
Rentals**

Harbour Village Marina Front Condo For Sale

Large one-bedroom, two-bath apartment located in a secluded all condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner. www.luxurybonaire.com

2-bedroom furnished oceanfront apartment for rent (NAf1300 per month, exclusive) Call 717-8603

2 bedroom fully furnished upstairs Apt. for rent Nikiboko. Cleaning every other Monday, gas, Kliko charges. Call after 17:00. cell 785-3456

Wanted

Seeking fellow Astarians to study together or start a study group here in Bonaire. Please call 512-6375

2 persons with sailing experience (open water navigation) needed to accompany me for sailboat delivery from Miami - Bonaire sometime late Nov. - early Dec. All expenses paid. Call Thomas 786-5352. □

SNOW SKIING GETAWAY? Park City, Utah, home available in exchange for your Bonaire holiday home. Contact: johnbenz@hotmail.com

Seeking experienced help to **paint deck and hull and reinstall mast and rigging of 35 ft. racer/cruiser sailboat.** 717-7223; 786-9000 □



Porch Sale and Christmas Bazaar - Kaya Esmeralda # 5 Republiek, Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 am to 5 pm.

Porch sale: Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 4 & 5 – Beautiful things – some inexpensive, some not so inexpensive. EEG Boulevard 12 (Belnem)

Porch sale: Sat. & Sun. Nov. 18 & 19 - 8:30 am to 4pm- **Kaya Mandolin 2-** Everything must go!

Porch sale: Sat. Dec. 2., 8:30 am to 4p m THE BEST PORCH SALE IN TOWN! **Kaya Mandolin 2.**

BONAIRE
The REPORTER
STILL LOOKING FOR A PARTNER
We're looking for a partner to help grow *The Bonaire Reporter*.
If interested call:
011 599 717-8988, 786-6518
or email:
partner@bonairereporter.com.

Regatta Events

Sixth Annual

Swim to

Klein Bonaire



First in... first out Frank and Pieter



Thoda Celestijn and Daimandre Frans finally floated in

This year again the Klein Bonaire swim on Sunday, October 8, was a great success. At least 350 tickets were sold. Although the highest ticket number was 406, the counting became a little difficult because there were more people than tickets available, but for sure there were 325 people in the water. The swim, relatively easy due to nearly no waves and no current, started at 8:42am. The return was

a little bit difficult; as time passed the waves increased. The first swimmers to reach Klein Bonaire were Pieter Sweers and Frank Böhm in 12 minutes. Pieter was back in a total of 27 minutes and Frank in 28 minutes. Philip Winter from the Barracuda Swimming Club came in 3rd. The last swimmers, Thoda Celestijn and Daimandre Frans, arrived at 10:32 am. The food, fruit and drinks were again perfectly arranged by Elisabeth Wigny of Croccantino Restaurant. □ *Story & photos by Wilna Groenenboom*



Splashing all the way to Klein Bonaire



What's wrong with this picture?



Finally ashore



Watch the first step!

Wounded Warriors on Bonaire

This week six remarkable and courageous men severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan arrived in Bonaire to complete their scuba diving certification. This is the continuation of a journey that started in Rockaway, New York, in July 2006 at the Adaptive Water Sports Festival.

The Adaptive Water Sports Festival is part of the nationwide Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project, collaboration between Disabled Sports USA and the Wounded Warrior Project. It provides the opportunity for injured service men and women, many of whom have lost limbs, to experience a number of different water sports. It was at this Festival and with the help of the Diving Equipment & Marketing Association's (DEMA) Scuba Tour and specially trained volunteers from Disabled Sports USA, the New York City Fire Department and the Handicapped Scuba Association (HSA), that eight* service men and women along with their family members were introduced to adaptive scuba diving.

Determined to prove they could do anything to which they set their minds, the US Soldiers and Marines decided to pursue their dive certification in their home-

towns with the added goal of completing their open water dives in a warm water location, freeing them to use lighter and more flexible equipment. This week their goals will be realized when the people of Bonaire welcome them with dinners, events and more. But what will be most important is that they will be able to complete the open water dives necessary to become certified scuba divers.

"I have always loved to swim, but never considered scuba diving," said Capt. Leslie Smith, US Army (Ret.), one of the service people who was to be on the trip to Bonaire. "However, when I was offered the opportunity to learn at the Wounded Warriors Disabled Sports Project Water Festival in Rockaway Beach, NY, I did not hesitate! Having almost lost my life, I now want to try everything and push myself to the maximum limit. The first time in the pool, I was challenged with finding a new comfort level. Without my left leg and vision in only one eye, my balance and depth perception were my biggest obstacles. I gained confidence as I practiced with the different scuba apparatus the instructors provided, such as the scooter and gloves."

"These service men and women have



The full complement of the Diving Warriors—not all could make it to Bonaire.



Learning underwater signals This and all underwater photos courtesy of Jason Hirsch.



Following the line brings a smile



Chaaka for diving!

worked diligently to make their goal dream of completing their dive certification come true are an inspiration to all of us," said Tom Ingram, Executive Director of DEMA. "The pursuit of their certifications proves that scuba diving is an activ-

ity that is not only fun and exciting for anyone, but has therapeutic value in providing safe physical exercise as well as building self-esteem."

Echoing the sentiments of Mr. Ingram,

(Continued on page 17)

(Wounded Warriors on Bonaire.
Continued from page 16)

Kirk Bauer, Executive Director of Disabled Sports USA and a disabled Vietnam War veteran, said, "Facing the challenges of a disability can be an overwhelming experience. Seeing these men and women realize their dream goal of becoming certified divers sends a powerful message to everyone that all challenges can be faced and overcome with courage, perseverance and support from others."

The Wounded Warriors Disabled Sports Project enables injured service members and their families to experience everything life has to offer through sports and recreation and achieve success in sports, thereby providing the foundation for an active and positive life. The Wounded Warriors Disabled Sports Project is a partnership between Disabled Sports USA, its chapters and the Wounded Warrior Project (both are 501 ©3 not for profit groups). To find out more about the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project visit www.woundedwarriorproject.org or www.dsusa.org. For more information on DEMA call 858-616-6408 or visit www.dema.org. For more information about Bonaire call 1-800-BONAIRE.

Joining the service men coming to Bonaire are their spouse or companion, DEMA's Scuba Tour's "Big Wave Dave" Reidenbach, and Stewart Snyder from the Handicap Scuba Association, David and Carla Reidenbach of DEMA and Harvey Naranjo from the Walter Reed Medical Center. The group is staying and diving with Captain Don's Hab-



Warriors and their spouses and companions were at Flamingo airport. They were greeted by Bonaire Governor Domacassé

tat, Divi Flamingo and Buddy Dive. They'll be hosted for meals at those hotels, **City Café, Cactus Blue** and **KFC**. They'll have a **Texas BBQ (hosted by Jack Chalk and Adams Unltd.)**. **Jewel of Bonaire** will present each "warrior" with a \$200 gift certificate to spend in their shop. On Friday there will be a **Harley Davidson bike parade** and farewell reception at the Governor's home.

Participants: From the US Army: Aaron Bugg (21), Justin Leon (21), Cris-

tian Valle (23), Dean Schwartz (23) and Tim Boots (25). From the US Marine Corps: Adam Kisielewski (22).

Very special sponsors are: Capt. Don's Habitat, Buddy Dive Resort, Bonaire Talk Newsgroup, Divi Resorts, Jewel of Bonaire, City Café, Cactus Blue, Jack Chalk, Adams Unlimited, Kentucky Fried Chicken, TCB, Scuba Tour, DEMA, PADI, Princeton tec, Scuba Pro, Oceanic, Disabled Sports USA, Big Wave

& Carla, Wounded Warrior Project, Aeris, and more. □ *Donna Jannine/Candice Adams Kimmel Adams Unlimited, TCB NY/L.D.*

*Unfortunately, **Sgt. Orlando Gill** and **Capt. Leslie Smith** had to postpone their trip to Bonaire due to personal emergencies



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
- **Airlines:**
- Aboard Divi Divi Air
- **Banks:**
- MCB (Playa & Hato branches),
- RBTT
- **Restaurants:**
- Bistro de Paris
- Cactus Blue
- Capriccio
- City Café
- Croccantino
- Lost Penguin
- Lover's Ice Cream
- Pasa Bon Pizza
- **Dive Shops:**
- Yellow Submarine
- WannaDive
- Carib Inn
- **Shops:**
- Benetton
- Best Buddies & Pearls
- Bonaire Gift Shop
- Chat 'n' Browse
- City Shop
- DeFreewieler

- Exito Bakery
- INPO
- Last Bite Bakery
- Paradise Photo
- Photo Tours, Playa
- Plantation Furniture

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

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

- **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:**
- Caribbean Homes
- Harbourtown
- Re/Max
- Sunbelt

- **RINCON:**
- Chinese Store
- Joi Fruit Store
- Lemari Grocery
- Rincon Bakery
- Rose Inn

09/8/06

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

Pet of the Week



A perfect example of a Bonairean “cow cat” is “Doug.” Someone came up with that term for those cats with markings like the black and white Holstein cows. They’re also known by some people as “Tuxedo Cats.” But Doug has something special – a terrific Charlie Chaplin-like mustache! One day Doug wandered into someone’s yard, obviously looking for someone to be his master. But the people couldn’t do that so they did the next best thing – they brought him in to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. There he was examined by the vet, tested for feline leukemia, wormed, given his shots and then put under observation to make sure he was social and well adjusted enough to be put up for adoption. Doug passed with flying colors. He’s such an easy going, fun and nice cat, says the staff, he’d make a perfect house pet. Doug is about two years old. You may see him at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

Did you see the Animal Shelter stand at Regatta? It was busy, busy, busy when we stopped by. Thanks to all the volunteers and to the customers it was a big success and brought in funds to help keep the Shelter open. □L.D.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

ANSWER

And the solution is:

(puzzle and directions on page 14)

3	6	2	7	9	4	5	1	8
9	7	1	8	5	3	6	2	4
8	4	5	1	2	6	3	9	7
7	5	4	3	6	9	1	8	2
2	1	3	5	7	8	9	4	6
6	8	9	4	1	2	7	3	5
1	3	8	6	4	5	2	7	9
5	2	7	9	8	1	4	6	3
4	9	6	2	3	7	8	5	1

Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—Subscribe Yearly Mail to US \$110; On-line \$35
Published weekly. For information about **subscriptions, stories** or **advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, phone (599) 717-8988, 786-6518, 786-6125 fax 717-8988, E-mail to: **Reporter@bonairenews.com** **The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles.
Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

Reporters: BasF , Caren Eckrich, Wilna Gronenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Donna Jan-nine/Candice Adams Kimmel Adams Unlimited, TCB NY, Molly Kearney, Greta Kooistra, Snack Bar Detectives, Michael Thiessen, Betty Wills

Features Editor: Greta Kooistra **Translations:** Peggy Bakker **Production:** Barbara Lockwood **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeep-ing:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao**

©2006 The Bonaire Reporter

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Snakes On A Plane (Samuel L. Jackson)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Hollywoodland (Ben Affleck)

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 & 9PM
MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8PM

SATURDAY 4 PM October:
Barnyard: The Original Party Animals

THIS WEEK

October 20-23—Mountain Bike events sponsored by Offroad Valley Bikers from Curaçao. Locals invited to participate. **October 20—race in Washington Park; October 21—Island bike tour.** Call DeFreewieler, 717-8545, or 510-3790, 560-4055. WWW.orvb.org.

Saturday, October 21—Attention: Artists in “Homage to the Bonairean Artist” – Bring your art to the Kas di Arte between 10am and 10:30 am. At 10:30 you'll hear information about the opening ceremonies.

October 27, 28, and 31 – Friday, Saturday, Tuesday – “Nightmare Crib” Haunted House at Capt. Don's Habitat, 8 pm – 11 pm. Entrance – NAf7,50 to benefit FKPD & the children's ward at San Francisco Hospital.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Sunday, Oct. 22 – *Rijndam*, Wednesday, Nov. 1 – *Silver Shadow* (first call), Sunday, Nov. 5 – *Rijndam*.

COMING

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Wednesday, Nov. 1 – *Silver Shadow* (first call), Sunday, Nov. 5 – *Rijndam*.

Friday, November 10—Arke Fly's “Back to Rock n Roll concert, Plaza.

Saturday, November 25—Sint Nickolaas arrives in Bonaire, Wilhelmina Park. Sponsored by the Fundashon Sankolas. Call 717-8482 for more information.

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

- HH 2 for 1 (on all beverages) 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—**Buddy Dive**, 5:30-6:30
- HH **Cactus Blue** (except Sun.) 5-7
- 2 for 1 appetizer with entrée, **Cactus Blue**
- **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm– 4 am; Sun. 7 pm– 3 am.
- By appointment –**Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$12 (NAf12 for residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **Parke Publico** children's playground open everyday into the evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Grill Night on the Beach, Buddy Dive**
- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon. **Extra big Marshé 1st Saturday of the month, 6 am-2 pm.**
- **All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

- **Wine Tasting at AWC's** warehouse, 2nd Saturday of the month, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.
- **Flea Market every first Saturday of the month** from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambience at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm

Mondays

- **Caribbean Night** - live local music— **Buddy Dive**.
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 5-7 Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Wine & Cheese** \$1 glass of wine, 5-7, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Buy a Bucket of Beer & get free chicken wings**, 5-7, **Cactus Blue**
- **Caribbean Gas Training free** “Beyond Gravity – An Evening with DIR,” 6 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure 786-5073.

Wednesdays

- **Open Mike Night** with Moogie, 7-9, **Cactus Blue**.
- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **Movie Night at Buddy Dive**

Thursdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7
- **“Admiral's Hour” for yachtsmen and others**, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225
- **Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers” Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7
- **Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sorobon from 13.00, for children 0 – 18.
- **Manager's Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, **Divi Flamingo**, 5-7 pm
- **Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 pm, followed by **All You Can Eat BBQ**
- **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

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

- **Saturday- “Discover Our Diversity”** slide show-pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 7 pm, 717-5080
- **Sunday - “Bonaire Holiday”** -Multimedia dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat. 717-8290 .
- **Wednesday (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation (STCB) Slide Show by Bruce Brabec. Carib Inn** seaside veranda, 7 pm, 717-8819.

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

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
- **Cancer Survivor Support Group** Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.
- **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 FORMA Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank. All levels

invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

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

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

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

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

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Zezicht Restaurant. 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; Valarie@telbonet.an

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— Call Roosje 786-7984

Volunteers to train children in sports. Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on Sundays at 10 am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am. Children's club every Saturday at 5 pm in Kralendijk.

Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.

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 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

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

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday -Saturday 6-10pm	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Cactus Blue Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564	Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday	Trend Setting Menu Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and turquoise sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine.
Crocantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate Dinner Closed Monday	Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight! Tuscan Chef David prepares exquisite dishes with authentic ingredients. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfasts Only	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Breakfast Buffet 7:30-10 am every day Happy hours 5 to 7 daily.
Pasa Bon Pizza 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 Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all.	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service

SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air. Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances. Fast service and in-store financing too.

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.

CALENDAR

Bonaire Creations new 2007 Calendar available now at shops around town.

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 Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly 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

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, ANTIQUES

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 chemi-

icals. Incredible selection of pots.

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

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

HOTELS

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

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, rappelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

PHOTO FINISHING

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

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's most experienced real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.

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

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.

Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.

The Touch Skin & Body—Birkenstock shoes for men and women. New styles

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.

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. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Tuesday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:

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

Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for weekly advertisers?

On the Island Since ... March 2005

Rita Berghaven and Randy Lucas

Rita is the cutest! She's standing in the doorway of her new house. She just got the key today. Also she and her boyfriend Randy have to return the key of the old house today, so the whole move and cleaning of two houses has to be done in one day, and they have a six-month-old old baby and a six-year-old son and two little puppies who are sort of lost between all the boxes. Nevertheless, Rita says with a big smile, "Let's do the interview!" I don't do it - but I admire her tremendously. I return the next day and the transformation of the house is complete. The curtains are hung, flowerpots in the windows, the TV is working - the baby is all smiles and the little boy is playing soccer in the garden. It's incredible, they're all set! Randy (26) and Rita (27) are a strong team and together with their two boys they form a close-knit family.

"I was born and raised in Dordrecht, Holland. My father is from Surinam; my mother is Dutch. I first saw Randy in the street and when I found out he lived on a side street close to our house I'd pass by his house all the time with my sister to see if Randy would be there. I was 19, he was still 17 and he looked like Tupac. I like everything about Randy; he's not too nice and not too naughty. That's why it's still exciting!"

"Rita is a bit of a tough girl," Randy says, smiling at her. "She was daring and she came looking for me, to talk to me." "Pretty soon after we started seeing each other," Rita says. "I moved in with Randy's mother and I stayed with them until we found a house of our own. Randy was born on Bonaire, but he moved to Curaçao when he was three. He never came back to Bonaire, and when he was 16 he went to Holland."

"I came alone, to live with an aunt," Randy says. "Later on my mom, my stepfather, my two brothers and my sister arrived. I went to school, studying precision metal working and interior decoration, then I started looking for a job and real life began. At first I worked through employment agencies. I was a plumber, I did cleaning, everything, as long as it was work. Then I got a job as an orthopedic instrument maker, a real job. Once I had to make a boot for a little nine-year-old boy with a clubfoot who was a big fan of Feyenoord soccer club. When the boy told me that he was going to an opening where Feyenoord would be I made this Feyenoord emblem out of leather on his boot. I liked that job a lot; it was a good job."

"I worked for seven years at a snack bar, Cafeteria de Smulhoek, in Dordrecht," Rita continues. "Those people were and still are like family to me."

Very proudly she shows me a picture made for the web site of the business and its workers. "You see," she says, "this is me, and when this picture was made they knew I was leaving, but they said they wanted me in it anyway!"

In 2000 our son Milangelo was born. Maybe it was a little bit too early as far as finances go, but at that time we didn't think so much about those things. But he was well brought up and we got him everything his little heart desired. In the daytime he was with me and at night with his daddy and during the weekends Randy's mother or my mother would say, 'You've been working so hard all week, bring the little guy for the weekend so you guys can do something together.' Then we would rent a stack of movies or we would go out to play pool.

"For both of us this is the island of tranquility. It's freer, it's easier, it's cheaper, but it's the tranquility that does it."

When after nearly five years Randy became allergic to the glue that was used in the orthopedic business he had to quit the job. He went back to the employment agencies and it wasn't easy. He'd always said if he ever got the chance to go back to his own country he'd take it. So, I started chatting with Randy's father, Etienne Bazoer, who's living on Bonaire and who has Camin Cargo Control, an oil inspection company. I told him that Randy was having a hard time. Randy's father asked me if I'd like to come and live on Bonaire. Well, I'd never been to the Antilles, not even to Amsterdam, as my parents were very, very strict, but I told Randy's father that if Randy wanted to come, I wouldn't stay in Holland. We have a child together and I choose for him! Meanwhile Randy wasn't aware of anything going on, so his dad told me to talk to him first, then he would get in touch with him, and if Randy wanted to come he would do his best to get us here."

"I wasn't so thrilled when I heard what was going on," Randy says, "because I like to take care of my own things, but it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance." "Then the decision was made," Rita says. "And as the days flew by it became a reality. Both our mothers, especially mine, were heartbroken because their little grandson was leaving. Ay, mom! It isn't so easy! Saying goodbye to all my people was very, very hard and I cried my heart out."



Rita, Quincy, Randy and Milangelo

We arrived at Flamingo Airport at 4.45 am and the first thing I thought was, oh, how nice and warm! Milangelo was totally impressed when he saw the plane. The only thing he would say over and over again was, 'Gee! That's a big one!' It was very nice; Randy had not seen his dad for 10 years and Milangelo met his grandfather for the first time. Also Randy met his brother, Reetienne, who's 15 now and who was six months old when Randy last saw him. So that was a big scare too," she laughs!

"The island was beautiful, that's what we both agreed on, but the first two weeks were difficult for me. I missed everyone who had been close to me."

"I started working with my father," Randy says, "and after some months I began on my own as a free lance oil inspector. For the last four months I've had a steady job with Aivepet, a Venezuelan company in Curaçao. I am Aivepet Bonaire. We're an international company, but I arrange everything here. When I was working freelance it was terribly busy; everyone wanted me and I was working for all of them: SGS, CBS, Inspecciones and Inspectorate. I hired myself out to them, doing oil accounting, quantity and quality checking at BOPEC, the refinery in Curaçao and on oil tankers. Nice work! Absolutely! But the work is at all odd hours and you can never plan anything."

"After being here for two months I started working as a waitress at The Lost Penguin," Rita says. The American system was quite different. But being friendly with customers was never a problem because that's me - that's Rita - working with people is great! I didn't know anybody when I arrived here but because of that job I got to know so many

people in such a short time - people from everywhere, great people, all of them. And that's Bonaire too!

I'd always said I wanted two children before I was 30, so I became pregnant with Quincy. He was born at home on April 2 this year. Randy was there. My sister-in-law and her boyfriend, who were living with us at the time, kept Milangelo. Because I thought him too young to understand childbirth I told him I had a little key, and he would ask me repeatedly, 'When is the little door going to open?' It went perfectly. Marita (the midwife) was with me. She's a lady who knows what she's doing. It was so beautiful I just can't describe it. To have a baby... that's the most beautiful thing.

In the morning Randy had to go to work, and three days later my sister-in-law Jermienne had to go back to work, and the fourth day I walked to the bakery to buy bread. For both of us this is the island of tranquility. It's freer, it's easier, it's cheaper, but it's the tranquility that does it."

"Bonaire is precisely the way I want it," Randy says, "It's really quiet and nothing much is happening and that's exactly right for me. I've settled here - a long time ago - and I am only going back to Holland for vacation." "It was a big step, but it was the right choice," Rita says. "Sometimes I think it had to go like this - and I'm glad it went this way." □

Story and photo by Greta Kooistra



SGB Day at Jong Bonaire

SGB High School students from all the 52 classes (AGO to VWO level) had a ball at SGB Day on Friday, October 6. Starting at 7:30 am the event, opened by Director Pop and Deputy of Education Geraldine Dammers, went on until noon. Everyone had to participate within a group in at least seven games.

There were 16 games including mini football, sack race, dominoes, blind volleyball, water pyramid.

There was a lot of competition. The first classes had it a little harder, in skipping rope, for example, due to their height and weight but they didn't give up. And it didn't rain so everything was perfect.

There was a dance competition at the end with the crowd voting by clapping their hands. There was no doubt about the audience's choice; there was so much whistling, clapping and yelling that your ears started to reach a level of pain. The winner of the girls' was Si-anara Winklaar, Luizinho Gomes won the boys'.

It was a very well organized day, with a lot of fun, water fights and sporting moments. □ *Story & photos by Wilna Groenenboom*





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Halloween and the Seven Sisters

You know, because Halloween greeting cards often depict a witch riding a broom in front of a full moon that many people have the mistaken notion that there's a full moon every Halloween when in fact we won't have a full Moon on Halloween again until 2020. But there is something you can see in the night sky every Halloween that has long been associated with traditional days of the dead.



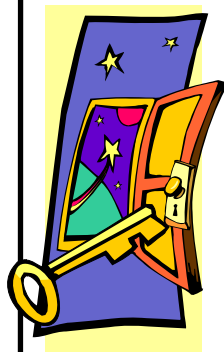
Pleiades, the Seven Sisters

Around midnight, any night in late October and early November, look up almost overhead. You will see a tiny cluster of stars called the **Pleiades, the Seven Sisters**. And to many peoples long ago, when the Pleiades reached their highest point at midnight, which happens every year around this time, it was a signal that this was the time of the year to honor the dead. Now astronomically speaking, whenever the Seven Sisters reach their highest point in the heavens, we call this their **culmination**. And whenever the Pleiades culminated at midnight many ancient cultures around the world held great ceremonies in honor of the occasion.

The 19th century astronomer, W.T. Olcott, wrote that these widespread memorial services often commemorated a great cataclysm that supposedly occurred in even more ancient times when the Pleiades culminated at midnight. In fact many speculated that this cataclysm might have been either the Great Flood of the Bible or perhaps the 10 Plagues of Egypt or even the legendary Sinking of Atlantis. Indeed, this belief was so popular that even Chaucer and Milton called the Pleiades the Seven Atlantic Sisters.

In fact, the belief that a great cataclysm had occurred when the Pleiades culminated at midnight was so widespread that even the ancient Aztec and Maya conducted spectacular ceremonies every year when the Pleiades culminated at midnight because they believed that the world would come to an end on one of these Pleiades-overhead-at-midnight nights. In fact they were convinced that the world had already been destroyed and recreated four times when the Pleiades culminated at midnight. Indeed the belief was so widespread that in Mexico the pyramid of the sun in Teotihuacan was oriented to the setting of the Pleiades as were all of the city's west running streets. And in ancient Greece several temples were lined up with the rising and setting of the Seven Sisters.

Now although the Pleiades no longer culminate at midnight on the same nights as they did in ancient times, nevertheless, you can still see them almost overhead and almost at their highest every Halloween at midnight. That's a modern reminder that long ago the Pleiades signaled not only the night of the dead, but to some even the end of the world itself. So, should they perhaps be renamed the Seven Sinister Sisters? Whatever, look for them yourself this Halloween and every Halloween at midnight. It's easy and it makes any Halloween just a little bit spookier. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, October 15 to
Saturday, October 21, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) It might be best to keep your ideas to yourself this week. Plan your day thoughtfully, but try not to rely on others. You will be able to dazzle others with your obvious charm and your outgoing nature. You will have problems with coworkers if you are too extreme about doing things perfectly. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't make promises you can't keep. Any attractions toward clients will be one sided and must be put right out of your head. You can ferret out secret information if you just listen to what others have to say. Don't depend on coworkers to help; they may only hold you back. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Go out with friends. Visit friends or relatives you rarely see. You are best not to say too much to colleagues. New love connections can be made through group associations. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You mustn't give too much to your children. You should consider getting your whole family involved in a project at home. Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. Relationships will become stronger. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You need to keep everyone on your domestic scene too busy to complain. Get busy on those home improvement projects that you've been procrastinating about. Your outgoing, aggressive nature will attract someone you've been eager to meet. Your emotional reaction will be dependent upon your partner's responsiveness. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Do not blow situations out of proportion. Opportunities for travel and communication are evident. You will want to complain about the injustice that is going on, A change is as good as a rest. Don't go looking for change. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You must be sure not to be frivolous, because as the saying goes, easy come, easy go. Hold your temper and refrain from doing anything that might cause injury. You need time to put your house in order and sort out what you are going to do about your personal direction. Refrain from overspending on entertainment or luxury items. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Catch up on your reading and correspondence. You can make money through your creative efforts. You need to spend time with friends and family. Social get-together will bring you in contact with intelligent new friends. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. You can expect to have a passionate time if you go out with someone you are romantically interested in. You are best to back away from commitment. Your family may not be pleased with your decisions. Your lucky day this week is Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will be moody and react poorly to issues concerning your mate. Try to include friends and relatives in your activities. You can make financial deals that will bring you extra cash. Be aware that a female you work with may be trying to hold you back. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Much knowledge can be obtained through the experiences you have. Look into intellectual and physical games that will test your abilities. Be careful when dealing with loved ones. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Make changes that will enhance your appearance. Your hypnotic eyes will capture the hearts of those who interest you. Problems with females you live or work with will try your patience and cause temper flare ups. You're in the mood for love. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □