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BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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PREDATOR AND PREY
Flounder vs Pufferfish

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Photo © Albert Bianculli 2006

Flotsam and Jetsam



Prime signers of the agreement giving Curaçao and St. Maarten autonomy were Antilles President Emily de Jongh-Elhage; St. Maarten leader, Sarah Wescot-Williams; Dutch Minister of Kingdom Relations, Atzo Nicolai; and Curaçao Commissioner Zita Jesus-Leito Dutch news service photo

Following agreements with Curaçao and St. Maarten, the Dutch government and the Netherlands Antilles have signed a long-awaited agreement granting the Caribbean territories of Curaçao and St. Maarten autonomy and giving smaller islands in the group the status of Dutch municipalities, officials said last Friday.

The Netherlands Antilles — which includes Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten — has been a self-governing territory since 1954, deferring only the issues of foreign policy and defense to the Netherlands. A target date of

January 2007 was set for the transition for the small islands and February 2007 for St. Maarten and Curaçao. The formal dissolution of the Antilles is set for July 2007.

The restructuring was motivated by the less populated islands which have long complained they are under funded and overlooked and exploited by the Antillean central govern-



The historic signing Dutch news service photo

ment, based in Curaçao's capital of Willemstad.

Curaçao and St. Maarten argued that they are economically viable to stand alone. The three less populated islands want to become Dutch municipalities.

"This is a historic agreement," Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende told reporters in The Hague. "It is very important that we've taken this step."

He said the government hoped to hold a "round table" conference early next year with leaders of the Netherlands Antilles to work out more details of the agreement.

Antilles President Emily de Jongh-Elhage, in The Hague, said the agreement meant "the bonds will be closer, not only between the islands, but also with the European part of the kingdom."

Some officials have said that the distances between the islands have made it harder for the territories to stop criminal gangs from moving drugs through the region. In its statement, the Dutch Interior Ministry said part of the deal involved substantial reforms to police and prosecution offices throughout the region. "But before this new system comes, police standards will have to be improved," the ministry said.

The Netherlands Antilles, along with Aruba, were colonized by the Dutch in the 17th century, and for years were known as the Dutch West Indies.

The agreement signed Friday followed referendums on all islands. Curaçao, with about 250,000 people, and St. Maarten, with 39,000, will govern themselves independently except on matters of defense, foreign policy and law enforcement, which will be decided at The Hague — an arrangement similar to Aruba's.

Bonaire, with 13,000 residents, Saba, with 1,200, and St. Eustatius, with 3,000, will take on municipality status within the Netherlands. The Dutch government agreed to take over 85% of the islands' debts of NA\$5 billion (€2 billion/US\$2.9 billion).

The status changes were announced a week before Dutch Queen Beatrix was to visit the Netherlands Antilles.

► **Holland's ruling Christian Democrats and their Labor Party rivals are likely to be forced into a shaky coalition** after the Dutch general elections on November 22, following a trend seen elsewhere in Europe recently, analysts said.

The Netherlands has seen a period of unprecedented political instability since the murder of anti-immigration populist Pim Fortuyn in 2002, with three general elections in four years, and a "grand coalition" is unlikely to stabilize government.

Elections due in 2007 were brought forward after the CDA coalition with the free-market VVD and the left-liberal D66 collapsed in June in a row over immigration policy, leaving CDA in a minority caretaker government with VVD.

Polls indicate that CDA and VVD together would lack the necessary majority of 76 seats, as would another possible alliance of Labor, the Socialist Party and Green Left.

"Absolute differences in policy positions are small," said Amsterdam Uni-

versity Professor Jan Kleinnijenhuis. The Christian Democrats promote centrist policies and Labor has shifted toward center ground in recent years amid the erosion of its traditional working-class constituency.

The new Dutch Government will have the final say in any restructuring of the Antilles.



► **Air Jamaica, in an effort to cut costs and stem its losses, is considering replacing its existing modern fleet of Airbus aircraft with aging Boeing 737-300s and 757s.** This formed part of a plan submitted by Air Jamaica's senior management team to a Cabinet sub-committee in an effort to resuscitate the faltering airline. Since returning to Government control in December 2004 to the present, Air Ja-

maica has received financial assistance to the tune of US\$550 million.

The plan is to replace A320/321s with the 22-year-old 737-300 and 757s. The older Boeings carry fewer people and burn more fuel, a critic noted.

Last month former Air Jamaica chairman Gordon "Butch" Stewart said, "It breaks our hearts as Jamaicans to see Air Jamaica being destroyed and no longer able to justify its existence. It is now carrying 40% fewer people than it did in 2004 and losing money at a pace that no one can justify." Air Jamaica lost \$155 million last year. It flies Saturdays to Bonaire and connects with 10 US cities from its Montego Bay hub.

► **On Sunday October 29th Air France KLM's world-wide new winter schedule became effective.** For the Antilles and Aruba route, there are few changes to report. Curaçao will keep its daily flights with a Boeing 747, of which three are a circle flight via Sint Maarten and two are a circle flight via Aruba. Aruba will also have a non-stop flight three times a week with an MD-

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11. **The flight frequency for Bonaire will remain the same.** For further information visit www.klm.com.



► **Arkefly, a Dutch air charter company affiliated with the TUI tour company, began regular weekly flights to Bonaire last Saturday** afternoon with a Boeing 767-ER. It offers three-class seating capacity of 245 passengers with 25 kilos of baggage.

Their warm welcome by government and business officials was marred by a job action by Bonaire taxi drivers who are upset that numerous resorts choose to

greet their guests and transport them to their vacation accommodations themselves rather than have the visitors use taxi services.

► Within the last few months there were two instances of people finding a **Lora with a damaged wing**. Each of the injured birds was brought to the *Klinika Veterinario Bonaire* on the Lagoen Road for help. In both cases, due to the extent of the injuries, the veterinarian had to amputate the damaged wing. The Loras at first were in shock and suffered from the trauma. But after awhile, with loving care, each of the Loras began to flourish. It was hoped that even though the birds were handicapped that they could still breed. In other parts of the world experiments with injured birds have proved that, although they are physically disabled, they could still become "parrot parents."

But it was not to be. **During the night recently, a person or persons broke into the cage where the handicapped**

► During Regatta the **Fundashon Tene Boneiru Limpi (Keep Bonaire Clean Foundation)** conducted a ball toss to raise awareness about tossing trash, "sushi," into containers. A drawing of the participants' names was held last week and **the lucky winner was Kristan Finies**, three years old, who won the bike provided by the Bonaire Super Store. During Regatta around 2,000 liters of trash was collected in containers, showing that people are getting the message.



Loras were sleeping, removed the Loras and killed them with a knife. The dead bodies were left outside the cage where the birds' caretakers found them in the morning.

► **Pre-paid electric service from WEB, Bonaire's water and electric service provider, was made available on a selected basis to 50 homes in the Ambo-**

(Continued on page 4)

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...Frogfish have one of the fastest strikes of the animal kingdom?

Frogfish are small, camouflaged predators that have a unique method of catching prey. The frogfish's first dorsal spine has evolved into a tasty looking lure that the frogfish waves in front of its mouth to attract small fish and



Frogfish photo by Albert Bianculli

other prey items. The frogfish sits very still and is adept at blending into whatever it sits on. When the prey gets within one frogfish length, the frogfish strikes. To strike, the frogfish expands its oral cavity, which creates suction pressure and allows the frogfish to engulf its prey. A frogfish's strike takes about 6ms. I've seen a frogfish eat a fish out of a school and the other fish didn't even notice! Frogfish are considered voracious predators and are able to eat prey twice their own length. They must curl these fish up in their large

bellies! *Caren Eckrich*

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.





(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)

ina neighborhood last month as part of a study to determine if pre-paying can resolve bill paying problems and disconnects of electric service to poor people. Consumers using a system named Pagabon, similar to a successful similar system in use in Aruba and Curaçao, pre-select the amount of electricity they need ahead of time, allowing better control of their expenses.

► **Last week the Bonaire Jazz Foundation reported the financial results of the 2006 Festival. A small profit was recorded.** They thank the sponsors and public for their support. In 2007 the Bonaire Jazz Fest will be held one week before the Curaçao Jazz Festival, on May 17, 18 and 19. Each of the two main concerts will run from 7:30 pm to 1 am. On May 17 entrance will be free.

The fest will be renamed **The Heineken Bonaire JAZZ & SALSA Festival** to reach a broader audience with greater emphasis on local Krioyo bands. The students band performances and jam sessions will continue. The venues for the Festival have not been finalized. If you have any commentS, questions or suggestions with regard to the 2007 program contact The Bonaire Jazz Foundation (717-4496).

► **Marion Wilson was named the new Executive Administrator of the Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association**

(BONHATA), on November 1st. Marion is a long time resident of Bonaire with many years of experience in the tourism industry. She's previously been on the Board of Directors of BONHATA as well as being a Past President and the former Executive Administrator in 2001-2002. Diana Sint Jago will continue her job in the BONHATA office as Marion's assistant. Marion can be reached at E-mail - marion@bonhata.org



► **Last week an international group of ecologists and economists warned that the world will run out of seafood by 2048 if steep declines in marine species continue at current rates,** based on a four-year study of catch data and the effects of fisheries collapses. The paper, published in the journal, *Science*, concludes that overfishing, pollution, and other environmental factors are wiping out important species around the globe, hampering the ocean's ability to produce seafood, filter nutrients and resist the spread

of disease.

The 14 researchers from Canada, Panama, Sweden, England, and the US spent four years analyzing fish populations, catch records and ocean ecosystems to reach their conclusion. They found that by 2003, the last year for which data on global commercial fish catches are available, 29% of all fished species had collapsed, meaning they are now at least 90% below their historic maximum catch levels.



Chavez and supporters

► **Some gas station owners in Oklahoma are dropping the Venezuelan state-owned Citgo brand, saying sales have dropped significantly since the Venezuelan president criticized President Bush in a speech last month.**

The president of Tulsa-based Arkansas Valley, a wholesale distributor which delivers Citgo gas to about 30 stations in Oklahoma and Missouri, said sales fell from 10% to 15% after Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's United Nations speech in which he referred to Bush as "the devil."

Vance McSpadden, executive director of the Oklahoma Petroleum Association, said the boycott of Citgo wouldn't hurt Chavez because Citgo doesn't own any of the 13,700 US outlets.

"It's not Citgo they're getting back at," McSpadden said. "It's that independent businessman who has got his livelihood invested in that business. That's who you're punishing."

CNN newscasters expressed concern that a Venezuelan company has a controlling interest in the company that manufactures the voting machines used in 14 states. It is demanding an investigation. Perhaps they're afraid that Chavez will be elected the next US president?

► **News From Bonaire's Radio World:**
*The **Love Parade will replace the English language Forum talk show** for the next three weeks on **Mega FM 101 Noon**



► **Stichting Project is a training center, founded in Bonaire in 2004, to educate and help youngsters from ages 12 to 17 who have problems at an intellectual, social, behavioral or emotional level.** The foundation assists both children and parents in learning social skills and helps to stimulate the child's personal development in order to create positive self-esteem. It offers a safe environment in which the child participates in group activities and training programs. This helps them to interact with others and cope with their problems in a very practical way. In the final part of their training they learn to apply their skills: i.e. at a sport club, in school, as a trainee or at work.

After the summer holiday Stichting Project started, in addition to the already existing projects, Junior Divers and Turtle Watchers, with the project Junior Hostess program for girls. (photo). There are six girls participating. One of the classes is boat handling given by STINAPA. In the lessons they learn knots, how to drive a boat and other nautical tasks.

Stichting Project photo



to 2 pm Sunday.

*And there's a new radio station on the air—"Traveling 97.1 FM" - all in English with music from 50s on, news, interviews, more. Owners are Zamir Ayubi and Gregorio Ostas (photo on the left). More on these developments next week.

G./L.D.

LETTERS

THANK YOU BONAIRE

An open letter to the people of Bonaire:

Last June when I was asked to help out by doing a Discover Scuba Program for Wounded Warriors, veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan war, I never thought it would take me on an adventure of a lifetime. Starting at Breezy Point in Queens, New York, it would then take me to Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, where the people are as beautiful as the fauna and flora

I could see the calm, clear ocean water of your beautiful island as we made our descent into Flamingo Airport and I knew it was going to be a great week.

On arrival, we were met by a host of local dignitaries including Governor Domacassé. From the moment I shook hands with him, I could tell he was a caring, loving person who felt deeply about the island, the people who live there and where the island's future was headed. I was impressed with the time he gave me to talk about the island and the form of government on Bonaire. (THANK YOU)

Our group was also welcomed by Ronella Croes, General Manager of Tourist Board Corporation (TCB), and Onnie Emerenciana, Commissioner of Tourism. (THANK YOU)

As we exited the airport, we were met by a flag waving welcoming committee who live on the island who offered us refreshments after our long flight. Then:

We were whisked off to Captain Don's Habitat, being escorted by the Bonaire

Harley Davidson Motorcycle Club. (THANK YOU) While on the way to Captain Don's Habitat we had a motor tour of downtown Kralendijk.

Captain Don's Habitat was our home for the week, a very beautiful resort, and the employees were always there to help us in anyway they could. The dive operation was first class, and instructors and dive masters took us to dive sites that are some of the most beautiful reefs in the world and on a special dive to the Hilma Hooker. (THANK YOU)

Meeting Captain Don was ? well let's just say I heard him tell one story, with two different endings. He is truly an island treasure. Your night with the Wounded Warriors will stay with them forever.

(THANK YOU, Captain Don) Jack Chalk and his family really made our time there fun filled. Jack has a heart of gold and each member of his family are his shining stars. (THANK YOU)

After the warriors were certified, we ventured off to Divi Flamingo for a day of diving and enjoyed a dinner fit for a king. Divi is a colorful resort. Just being there makes you feel good inside. (THANK YOU)

We hit the beach at Buddy Dive for a day of diving. (THANK YOU)

We toured Washington-Slagbaai National Park. It was really a treat. The pristine park is just peaceful and calm. Bonaire Tours did a great job getting us to the Park and back. (THANK YOU)

We were treated to lunches and dinners at City Café, Cactus Blue, KFC, a dinner hosted by Bonaire Talk and a Texas BBQ hosted by Jack Chalk and Adams Unlim-



Wounded warriors arrival (The writer is second from left, top row)

ited. (THANK YOU)

We also had a beautiful dinner at the Governor's residence, where we met the Governor's lovely wife who made everyone feel as if they were in his or her own home. (THANK YOU)

At the dinner I met so many loving and caring people. I talked with the acting Lt. Governor, Ubaldo Anthony, a very interesting gentleman who loves music, and I now enjoy listening to "Pal'i Wiri." I don't understand the words, but the beat is great. Maybe someone on the Island can translate the songs for me. (THANK YOU)

The week went by too fast. As I stepped onto the airplane to leave the beautiful island of Bonaire, my heart swelled up with happiness and my eyes filled with tears. The week I had spent on the island was over, and I knew I would miss this island where the people are so kind and loving. The island

where for a week I didn't hear a car horn blow, an unkind word spoken, or my cell phone ring, where people greet you in the streets and make you feel at home. As we boarded the plane I looked around at the friends I had been with that week, and they all had smiles on their faces and talked about coming back.

I will return one day to your enchanting island where the people open their hearts to everyone.

Thank you, to everyone who made the week a pleasure! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

God Bless and Keep Bonaire.

P.S. Keep up with the good work "Special Olympics Bonaire" - Great Web Site.

Stewart W. Snyder III,
PADI Master Instructor
Handicapped Scuba Association Course
Director

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The first of a new series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brower, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Toyota's New FJ Cruiser Winks At the Past.

The first Toyota Land Cruiser, the BJ1, was produced in 1951. The very popular J4 or J40 was in production in Japan from 1964 to 1984. Toyota produced the J4 in more than 20 countries, such as Venezuela and Brazil. In Brazil the car was produced until 2003 and was known as the Toyota Bandeirante.

There are still some old Toyota B4s left on the island. One of them, a light blue one, is owned by José Cieremans, general manager of Sun Rentals Bonaire. The light blue coloured 4WD is often parked in front of her office at Kaya Grandi 65.

José: "Besides my children and my husband I love this car the most! I took it all the way from Curaçao to St. Maarten to Curaçao to Bonaire. My Land Cruiser was built in Venezuela in 1985. It's a six-cylinder in-line and it has never disappointed me. I have owned the car for almost 10 years now and I am very proud of it!"

José Cieremans is so proud of her short wheel base Land Cruiser that she's even looking for another one. In South America she has seen some truck versions: two-seaters with a wooden bed for transporting heavy loads.

José's straight in-line six cylinder overhead valve Landcruiser is a "no nonsense" version: no power steering, no fuel injection, no electric windows, no alarms - just an iron work horse with a vinyl top.

The brand new Toyota FJ Cruiser, which is already on the road in the US, is one of the 10 winners of the



*The 1985 Toyota Land Cruiser BJ4, owned by José Cieremans
J@n Brower photo*

Popular Mechanics Automotive Excellence Awards 2007. The four-wheel-drive multi-purpose vehicle surprised the editors of America's PM in many ways. The car, in blue or yellow, obviously winks at the well known classic Toyota Landcruiser FJ4, launched in the 60s, but when you turn the ignition key you know this is really the 21st century!

The new Toyota FJ Cruiser is equipped with a 4.0-liter DOHC 24-valves V-six engine with 239 horsepower @ 5200 rpm, independent suspension, 17-inch wheels and all kinds of gadgets people expect from a modern car today.

The Cruiser is expected on the island in the spring of 2007. For more information: Toyota.com (the official web site of Toyota Motor Corporation USA) or toyotabonaire.com. *J@n Brower*



The brand new Toyota FJ Cruiser. Toyota.com photo

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

4th Annual Day of Thanks in Bonaire

On Sunday, November 19, from 9 am to 3 pm, Bonaire and the New Creation Group will celebrate their 4th Annual Day of Thanks (*Dia di Grasia*). On this Sunday, anyone who needs anything can go to the big parking lot in front of the St. Dominicus School (behind San Bernardus Church in Kralendijk) and receive everything gratis.

And if you have clean, non-perishable items in usable condition of any kind, you can bring them to the Dia di Grasia for others to receive. This includes clothes, baby items, appliances, tools, canned goods, decorations, office items,



toys, bikes, shoes, pet items, paint, housewares and hardware...anything and everything! If you have extra things around your home, share them. Someone wants them, and you both benefit. What a wonderful way to

give thanks!

For those of you who wish to **drop off your donated items before Sunday, November 19th, you can do so by contacting Termo Teck, at Kaya Korona 81, tel. 717-4658, where they will receive and hold the items until the Dia di Grasia**. For more information, you may also call 786-1919 or 790-7272. Happy Thanksgiving, Bonaire!

Maggie Fuller

The Snack Bar Detectives

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



This week: Maiky's Snack Kaminda Nieuw Amsterdam 30.

As regular readers may remember, Big D and I did lunch a few weeks ago and we liked it. Following on from that success, we decided to do it again. This week, our dining experience was to be enjoyed at Maiky's Snack. Anyone who is not sure how to get there will be advised to take the road to Sorobon past the baseball field; there they will see a sign on the left.

Maiky's has a feel of a ranch. Sitting alone on its own grounds with parking for plenty, it gives you a real feeling of being on a kunuku. We arrived around 1pm on a Saturday. The place was already full. We found ourselves a table and took a few drinks.

Now, lunchtime is not our chosen time to imbibe in alcoholic refreshment so a little restraint was shown. I afforded myself a Polar, but Big D stood by his principles and ordered a Coke. We placed our orders at the window: *Kabritu Stoba* for us both served with fries and rice. Looking around we saw it's clear that Maiky's is a favourite with the locals. While we sat in the breeze, car after car arrived to sample the fare. We didn't have to wait too long. The service was very efficient considering how



many people had to be served. Our *Kabritu Stoba* looked tasty enough served with a little salad and fried bananas. The *Kabritu* was sweet and fell off the bone just as it should do. The portions are just right for lunch, enough to fill you but not over facing.

Big D was not at his best due to some over indulgence the evening before. However, a hearty meal soon put the colour back into his cheeks and gave him the courage to face the day.

We sat and finished our drinks as still more people came and went. There is a real community feel about Maiky's; everyone seems to know everyone else. Families and friends assemble around big tables to eat, drink and talk. Whether you go for the food or for the atmosphere, you won't be disappointed. *Story & Photo by SBD*

Barracudas in 2nd Curaçao Open Swim Meet



Barracudas at an earlier swim meet

Eight Bonaire Barracuda swimmers traveled to Curaçao for the 2nd Curaçao Swimming Federation Open Swim Meet at *Sentro Deportivo Korsou* on Saturday, October 21st. Team members and accompanying parents watched the weather anxiously as severe thunderstorms moved through Curaçao Saturday morning bringing torrential rain. The sky cleared by late afternoon and the meet started at 17.00 as scheduled.

Once again the electronic timing system was not functioning so all times had to be taken by stopwatch and manually calculated by meet officials. Official times will be sent to the club via email the week after the meet.

No awards are given in the Open Meets. The competitions provide (1) an opportunity for swimmers to swim new events or to improve their personal best times in an event they have previously swum, (2) a chance for coaches to evaluate the swimmer's performance and (3) the possibility for swimmers to meet qualifying criteria for the Netherlands Antilles National Championships in December.

Swimmers participating in this meet were Churmer Bomba, Ryda-Luz Emer, Samson V. Evertsz, Alejandro De Lima, Asdrubal Marcano, Olivier Wagemekers, Rooske Wagemekers and Philip Winkel. The final Curaçao Swimming Federation Open Meet of 2006 will be held on Saturday, 11 November at *Sentro Deportivo Korsou*. *Story & Photo by Valarie Stimpson*

Picture Yourself with The Reporter

Bangkok, Thailand

Namthip Paine sent us this photo to show that *The Reporter* gets around the world. She writes, "I've been living on Bonaire for one year and three months. I took a trip to Thailand to visit my family for three weeks and took this photo. In the picture I was in front of the Thai temple near my house in Bangkok."



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.)

Kids Get Big Yacht Sailing Experience



BSSA Optimist racers out for the day on a yacht

Last Saturday was the start of a new sailing experience for the optimist-sailors from the Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA).

It seemed a nice idea to give the young sailing kids some more experience on a real sea-going sailing yacht. When Karel de Regt, chairman and coach of the BSSA, met the *Bowalie* crew, the idea became a reality.

The *Bowalie*, a 41ft. cruising yacht owned by Bonaire residents Walter and Liezeth, is the newest charter boat in the Bonaire sailing fleet. Her crew has been offering special charters aboard their yacht in Bonaire's fantastic waters since last August.

On board the *Bowalie* the young sailors got explanations and after that the sails were hoisted for a trip round Klein Bonaire.

Every young sailor spent some time during the trip at the helm; a real thrill. The special movements to tack to starboard or port were a lot of fun and provided a good feeling of what is going on with the sails. While sailing back to the marina everybody said they really enjoyed the trip. *Karel de Regt*



Captain of the moment

ArkeFly's Back To Rock 'n' Roll

Friday, November 10 at the Plaza Resort Beach

Beach Opens- 8 pm

DJ Michiel -9 pm

Shuman and Angel Eye Concert- 10 pm

This week is a big week for Rock 'n' Roll fans on Bonaire as we welcome Shuman, Angel-Eye and band in concert at Plaza. The show is a must for fans of Rock 'n' Roll music. Plaza is definitely the place to be on Saturday, November 10th from 8 pm.

The stars of the show are already on Bonaire and enjoying the island. I got the chance to meet up with them and chat. I asked them about the maiden flight to Bonaire with ArkeFly.

Shuman & Angel-Eye: "Great, we have traveled around the world and Europe many times and this was one of the most pleasant flights. Everyone was served with a cocktail to mark the occasion. As vegetarians, we were very impressed with the food; the vegetarian option was superb. With four pilots on board, they had everything covered."

Bonaire Reporter: "I know that you have only just arrived, but what are your first impressions of Bonaire?"

S & A: "Hot! It was something of a shock to the system. When we arrived at the airport we were greeted by a local band, members of the Government and directors of ArkeFly. It was a great atmosphere."

B R: "Why do you think Rock 'n' Roll has stood the test of time while other styles have faded away?"

S & A: "We think that Rock 'n' Roll is about free expression. You don't have to follow strict guidelines. The great thing also about Rock 'n' Roll is that it crosses over with so many other music styles. Because it is so adaptable, we can play Rock 'n' Roll that is relevant to 2006. There is a whole new generation of kids who are hearing Rock 'n' Roll for the first time and enjoying it.

Interviewing them together, it is easy to see why they come together so well on stage. They have a mutual respect for

each other as artistes as well as people. Both unassuming with a genuine hint of modesty, they were a pleasure to talk to. We continued:

B R: "So guys, how long have you performed together?"

Rene: "We have been performing together for seven years now. I was working on projects involving collaboration with people such as Chet Atkins, TCB (Elvis's former backing group) and a duet with Phil Everly as well as writing and recording my own material before we met.

Angel-Eye: "I was under contract with EMI, writing pop songs for other artists as well as collaborating with Robbie Williams's songwriter, Guy Ritchie.

B R: "So, what can we expect on The Night?"

S & A: "A big party! A collection of songs that everyone knows and everyone can dance and sing along to. We like to create an atmosphere on stage that makes everyone want to join in.

B R: "With plenty of time before the concert, what are your plans for your time on Bonaire?"

S & A: "We have a pretty hectic schedule. There will be plenty of photo shoots and personal appearances. Of course we want to make some time to enjoy Bonaire, maybe do a little diving and see the island. We hope also that the publicity of our appearance here will help to promote Bonaire as fun place to visit."

You can follow their time on the island by logging onto their diary at troswww.sterren.nl which is constantly updated or visit their website at: www.always-online.tv

After meeting Rene & Angel-Eye along with the rest of the band, it is evident that Bonaire is in for one great night. Don't miss out on this unique event. Tickets are available from: Plaza Resort, City Café, Mona Lisa and Warehouse Bonaire for



just NAf20, or at Plaza on the night for NAf25; profits to support youth music activities on Bonaire.

Once again, thanks to the sponsors below who have made this all possible.
Antony Bond

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Sea Turtle 'Heit': Ambassador for World Heritage Site



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) has just completed a first exciting collaboration with conservation counterparts in the archipelago of Los Roques, Venezuela. The catalyst for all the excitement was one of Bonaire's own nesting hawksbill turtles, 'Heit.' Fitted with a satellite transmitter earlier this year, 'Heit' defied researcher expectations. Instead of migrating to either Nicaragua, Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic, where Bonaire's other tracked turtles have gone, 'Heit' left her nesting ground on Klein Bonaire and swam steadily east to the waters of Los Roques.

The trip was significant in that 'Heit's' entire 180-kilometer migration occurred within the boundaries of a very special area which is under consideration to become a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Such a designation would be the first time a World Heritage site is shared by several countries, encompassing the waters surrounding the Venezuelan islands of Las Aves and Los Roques as well as marine reserves of Bonaire and Curaçao, for a total area of 2.5 million hectares (25,500 square km).

World Heritage nature sites spring from a 1972 UNESCO aim to "stimulate international cooperation to protect the world's superb natural and scenic areas and historic sites for the present and the future of the entire world citizenry." By regarding heritage as both cultural and natural, the WHS designation "reminds us of the ways in which people interact with nature, and of the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two."

A World Heritage Site designation would lend important support to sea turtle conservation on Bonaire. STCB's mission is to ensure the protection and recovery of Bonaire's sea turtle populations, not just on Bonaire, but throughout their range. Because sea turtles migrate extensively during their lives, no one government/state can fully protect "its" sea turtle resource; cooperation and collaboration are vital if we are to achieve an increase in sea turtle populations.

'Heit's' migration provided us at STCB with an excellent opportunity to initiate just such a collaboration.

In my capacity as Project Director of STCB, I contacted Bladimir Rodriguez who is the Director of La Fundacion Cientifica Los Roques (FCLR). He was excited about our two organizations joining in collaboration and provided great support.

On October 16, I traveled to Los Roques, joined by my colleague, Gielmon (Funchi) Egbreghts, STCB's Project Assistant. We traveled for a one-week work session with our counterparts in the turtle project of FCLR. Funded by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), the trip was intended to forge the beginning of an ongoing collaborative relationship with LFCR.

Funchi and I flew to Los Roques, where we were met by Humberto Camissoti, the biologist in charge of the station. The three of us then proceeded by boat to Dos Mosquises, an island 40 minutes away and where FCLR's base is located.



Pedro, Humberto, Mabel, Angela and Jeanrit plan a busy week

There we met Pedro Vernet and Angela Arias, the biologists in charge of the Los Roques sea turtle conservation project, their assistant Jeanrit Gonzalez, and Pablo Mata, boat captain and legendary fisherman who also works for the Foundation.

The excitement of finally meeting each other led us to an immediate rapport, based



Pedro and Funchi in front, Captain Pablo at the wheel

on our shared interests, passions and experience, and following a tour of the project's facility, our new team immediately sat down to make plans for the week.

One of the week's goals was to try to locate 'Heit' and retrieve the transmitter that STCB had deployed to her carapace two months before. In addition, we worked together on the FCLR staff's ongoing work schedule which included daily beach patrols, in-water surveys and daily maintenance of the "sala de cria," a care center where sea turtles are rehabilitated and hatchlings from endangered nests are reared until they are ready for release after reaching six months of age.



Aerial view of islands surrounding the central lagoon

The area where 'Heit' is currently is somewhere in the unspoiled wilderness called the Central Lagoon, an area of 186 square kilometers surrounded by most of the islands that form the archipelago.

Using coordinates from the daily data received from 'Heit's' satellite tracking device in the previous weeks, our team determined the best locations to look for her. Even with the help of the data, looking for 'Heit' was like looking for a needle in a haystack. We never did locate 'Heit', but sub-adult and adult turtles were spotted on every search.

At the conclusion of the week of demanding field work, any fatigue we felt was overshadowed by a renewed enthusiasm for turtle conservation. Sharing that week of work with Angela and Pedro was an incredible experience. It gave us the chance to compare field techniques used by both projects and to learn from each other, reaching one of, or maybe the most, important goals of this trip, which was to establish a relationship and cooperation between projects in order to improve the protection of our sea turtles.

'Heit', a migrating sea turtle fitted with a satellite transmitter, swam east and gave us a new piece of the story of our natural heritage. Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and *La Fundacion Cientifica Los Roques* hope to develop a model of collaboration that will lead to significant improvements in sea turtle conservation and recovery in the Southern Caribbean. *Mabel Nava*

Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Kas di Hala Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage by Wilna Groenenboom



This house has had my attention for many months. The day after I took the photos the restaurant that was located there, Croccantino, was sold, and a new restaurant will open soon.

This Kas di Hala is more than 100 years old and is mentioned in the government's "Historic Monuments of Bonaire" (1987). The current owner of the house bought it on 8 April 1983 from the Visser family - a brother, Juan Antonio, and his two sisters, Maria Enriqueta and Damian Maria. The Visser family bought the house from A.W. Hellmund on 13 October 1928.

Although there was a big restoration in 1983 it didn't change the exterior of the house. Compare the old photo made in the 70s with the present pictures of today.

For the last six years everybody knew this building by the name, Croccantino Italian Restaurant, run by Elisabeth Wigny. The building will soon house a

new restaurant, the Papaya Moon Cantina, run by the Perpich and Brietzke families from Texas.

A Kas di Hala with two floors is unique in the Caribbean. And it's even more special because the second floor extends completely over the roof, from the right to the left side. Up until six years ago this house always had living spaces on both levels - again, unique of its kind.

On the Kaya Grandi side of the house we see a smaller building. This was then, and still is, the kitchen, the place to cook. It's dominated by the chimney of the *fõrnu* or oven (photo left below). Although it is still in operating condition it's no longer being used.

If we look carefully, we can see some differences from the past. The wooden shutters on the doors and most of the windows have been changed into glass windows to allow in more light. The gate pil-

lars around the property are the same as in 1971 and maybe even as in 1928 (photos, top left and right). In front of the gate some low concrete extensions were built to provide more shade and green around the house. That and the open roof construction by the entrance were all done in such a way that they can be removed.

Also the street name has been changed, from Willemsplein to Kaya Grandi. But all those small changes haven't affected the old atmosphere of the house. This house is a perfect example, proving that a 100-year-old old building can be functional and useful in our modern society. W.G.

The black and white photo is from the book: Nieuwe West-Indische Gids ISSN 0028-9930 Written by Ank Klomp about *The Old Bonairian House (Het "Oude" Bonairiaanse Woonhuis)*.

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



Looking Good While Being Fit



Fit 4 Life, the fitness center in the Plaza Resort mini-mall that offers complete weight loss and fitness programs (see their ad on page below), is now selling fitness wear for men and women, in sizes S, M and L, at reasonable prices. Just a sample of the selection is shown by some of Bonaire's beautiful people modeling in the photos. For more information call Rosita at (9) 512-6315 or 717-2500, ext. 8210. *G.D., photos by Rosita*



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

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Restaurants:

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Cactus Blue
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11/10/06

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

PREDATOR AND PREY

Flounder vs Puffer

Scientists rarely observe their theories in the natural environment.

As a recreational diver, every time you go under the surface to see nature in action, there is a chance to witness something new!

The drama awaits you. Keep reading ...

A LURK AND LUNGE AMBUSH HUNTER

Nobody beats the Peacock Flounder at hiding in plain view. It is an unusual fish that lies flat on the bottom, with an oval shape the size of a dinner platter that can change colors to hide itself. It gets its name from a pattern of blue rings across its body, like the spots on the plumage of a peacock. A master of disguise, it is a lurk-and-lunge ambush hunter, lying motionless on the bottom waiting for a passing meal. As an adult it has two eyes on the same side of its head, but it is born with one eye on each side the same as other fish. One

eye migrates across the top of its head as it gets older. When the Peacock Flounder swims it looks like a wiggling doormat.

A PUFFER—THE INTENDED TARGET

The Bandtail Puffer is relatively streamlined compared to most members of the puffer family. Its color varies and it can camouflage extremely well on a variety of bottoms. It usually has an olive-brown back, white underbody with a series of black spots along the side of its body from mouth to tail. Bandtails

Look very carefully to find the eyes of both fish.

grow to about eight inches (20 cm) in length. Inflated with water they are about the size of a baseball. They prefer to live on the bottom, in shallow water, usually in grass beds or among coral rubble where they blend in with the background. Like most puffers, it has very powerful jaws and is able to crush the shells of crabs,

(Continued on page 16)



Free at last!

Defending the Bonairean flag in the USA



Note that all the sails are the colors of our Bonairean flag.



A few weeks ago, three Bonairean sailors - Sipke Stapert, Vianco Serberi and Victor Brouwer- competed in the World Sunfish Championships in Charleston, South Carolina. They had been training almost every day to get the best results, but the conditions turned out to be not in their favor. Extremely little wind and a very strong current is what they had to master. They hadn't been able to train in those conditions on Bonaire so they actually had to learn to sail with them during the races.

In total they sailed six races, two a day. At the start 100 boats tried to get the best spot behind the start line, and when the

signal sounded everyone wanted to be the first, so it was very crowded and exciting.

They arrived on Friday night, and Satur-

Continued on page 15

STRAIGHT TALK

It's all about dating, love, sex, friendship, and marriage - so let's talk. Email your relationship questions to my attention: reporter@bonairenews.com.



Betty Wills

Question "Thinking About Divorce"

Dear Betty — I have been married for over 20 years. The marriage isn't a bad one, but it isn't all that great, either. I stayed because of the kids, but now the kids are grown with families of their own. My wife let herself go, gained weight, and now she can't do many of the physical things we used to do together because she is out of shape. Our sex life hasn't been very active, either. To me, sex is the glue that binds. She could take it or leave it, and would rather leave it. We've talked about it over and over again, but she just doesn't get it. We live in two different worlds. I want to live an active life, do things I've always wanted to do, and I want to share it with someone who cares enough about me and her own self-image to maintain an active fitness level. Am I asking for too much?

Betty Answers: Sounds like your marriage is in a rut, and the only difference

between a rut and a grave are the dimensions. Marriages should be comfortable, not ho-hum. This is the 21st Century. People are living longer, are more health-conscious, and are much more active much later in life, sexually, mentally and physically. Your wife needs to get with the program for her own well-being if not for the marriage. Since she doesn't care that much about sex, you could get naked and chase her around the house. One look at you will give her incentive to run. Running is good exercise for both of you. Before you know it, she'll lose weight, feel better about herself, and may even let you catch her once in a while. You'll stay fit, have a little fun, and never have to leave the house. If you get bored with the house, take it to the mountains, but watch out for grizzly bears. If one starts chasing you, remember...you only have to outrun the wife. *Betty Wills*

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)

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

Complete solution on page 23.

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For Sale

Surfboard. Good condition. Any reasonable offer. **Aluminum Dock ladder,** Bruce, 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm.

For Sale – **Pet Safe Radio Fence Containment System** – Keeps your pet in your yard. No fences, no cages, no chains. Comes with instructional video, transmitter with AC adapter, 500 ft. of wire, 50 boundary flags, operation manual, batteries. Also **additional ultra light receiver for second dog.** All brand new, still in the box. Original cost of radio fence - \$149.59; Additional receiver \$69.95 (Total \$219.90). Cost to you - \$175 (NAf310). Call 717-8988, 786-6518

For Sale – **Woman's shorty ScubaPro wet suit** with long sleeves. Worn twice. Black with magenta trim. Size 13-14. NAf70 (\$40). Call 717-8988, 786-6518.

For Sale Sharp TV with integrated Multi-System VHS & PAL, with lots of video tapes. Only NAf 150, Call 790-1604

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

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Red Toyota Lite Van from 1996, excellent condition Call 700-2056 for a good offer!

Chevy C30 Truck differential (rear end). Any reasonable offers. Bruce at 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm



Look who's 50! It's Sue Dale. Congratulations on reaching your half century.

Love and best wishes:

Wanted

A screen door for a bedroom. Call 786-3117



Porch sale: Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 18 & 19 – 8.30am to 4pm, **Kaya Mandolin** 2– Everything must go

Parrot Research Update



Loras ground feeding Rowan Martin photo

PhD research students **Sam Williams** and **Rowan Martin** from the University of Sheffield, England, have been investigating the ecological and evolutionary pressures facing the endangered yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot (Lora) on Bonaire. Their work will extend over the next two years. Recently they presented a progress report of their Bonaire

work in an international parrot convention in Tenerife in the Canary Islands.

Their work is important because a worryingly high proportion of Amazon parrot species are threatened with extinction, yet many aspects of their ecology are unknown. Scientific research into the factors limiting populations and parrot mating is vital for future conservation efforts.

Sam Williams is studying the factors limiting the distribution and abundance of an Amazon parrot. He says, "My research aim is to determine the key limiting factors that influence the *A. barbadensis* population on Bonaire. Potential limits include: chick and egg mortality resulting from nest site competition with the aggressive pearly-eyed thrasher, predation,

poaching of chicks, and reduced adult survival during extreme weather events.

My fieldwork involves monitoring reproductive success and investigating the parrot's ecological requirements through habitat assessment and bird surveys. My study will also look at the levels of genetic variation in the population and the

(Continued on page 16)

(Lora Update. Continued from page 15)
incidence of inbreeding. Ultimately it is hoped that this research will provide information on which to base the future conservation management for this species."

Rowan Martin is studying the mating systems and conservation of Amazon parrots. He reports, "Amazon parrots, in common with many other parrot species, form strong monogamous pair bonds which are maintained for many years. This mating system is extremely unusual, and the ecological and evolutionary drivers remain poorly understood. Mating systems can determine the rate of reproduction and genetic variation of populations. Gaining a greater understanding of the causes and consequences of monogamy in parrots will help us explain why so many are currently threatened."

My research involves behavioral observations of wild parrots on Bonaire, studies of captive birds and computer models. By combining approaches it is hoped that this research will not only benefit the Yellow-shouldered Amazon on Bonaire but parrot populations around the world."

For more information go to:
www.parrot.group.shef.ac.uk/sam;
email Sam.Williams@sheffield.ac.uk
and www.parrot.group.shef.ac.uk/rowan; email
r.o.martin@sheffield.ac.uk

Sam Williams



Sam Williams checking for nests



Rowan Martin videos the interior of the parrot nest



(Continued from page 12)

shrimp and even small mollusks. This is one of the rare types of fish with a 'well balanced diet' and will eat sea grass and other vegetable matter as part of its regime.

EYES - OFFENSIVE WEAPONS

One of the Peacock Flounder's eyes recognizes the pattern of its surroundings and changes its color and the pattern on its skin to exactly match the sea floor. The eyes have a wide space between them and stick up from the top side of the body on short stumps to give the Peacock Flounder a good view of its surroundings from the ocean floor. Each eye can move independently, seeing forward and back at the same time. This not only helps the flounder watch out for predators, but it also helps the flounder look for a quick snack. Swimming sideways also makes it easy to lie flat on the bottom. From its hiding place, a Peacock Flounder ambushes unsuspecting crabs, shrimp and small fish that pass by.

DEFENSIVE TACTICS

Although puffers are generally not powerful swimmers, Bandtails are lightning quick over short distances, aided by their strong tail and streamlined body. Their coloration also makes them very good at camouflage. When threatened, the puffer undergoes a remarkable transformation. A more accurate name for this fish would be "pumper," because it inflates not by puffing itself up but by pumping water into its stomach. Its body swells until the fish is three times its usual size and has become a rigid, near-perfect sphere covered in erect, spiky armor instead of flat scales; not a good design for swimming but very discouraging to attackers.

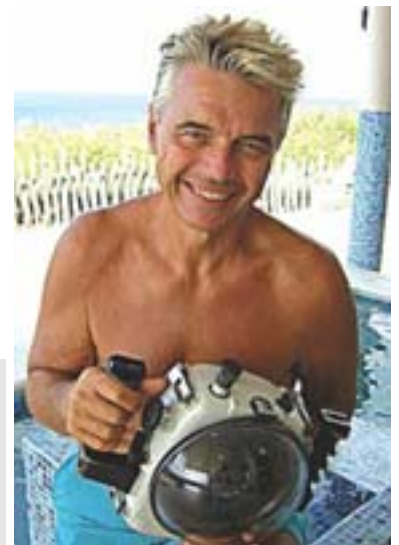
Albert Bianculli has been visiting Bonaire since 1970 and now lives on Bonaire full time. See his show every Sunday night at Captain Don's Habitat Aquarium Conference Room beginning at 8:30 pm. All images are original, un-retouched slides, shot on location and composed within the viewfinder.

THE CONTEST

This exciting encounter took place on Bonaire in early May 2006. **DARTH**, the flounder, and **LUKE**, the puffer, were seen on the hard, flat bottom of the upper reef shelf at a depth of 8 meters (25.6 feet), locked in their deadly battle. Usually fish predation happens at lightning speed with the victim disappearing into the stomach of the hunter in the blink of an eye. Rarely are the tactical biological adaptations of the protagonists observed in action in the wild. In this event, the unique combination of the flat flounder and the rotund puffer offered my dive partner and me a glimpse at the culmination of evolutionary strategies for survival developed over the eons.

After several minutes of repeated violent attempts to deflate and reposition the puffer, **DARTH** lost his hold and **LUKE** escaped into the upper water column. He slowly deflated and swam away. When I turned to my dive buddy she was all smiles and flashed two big OK signs to me. I watched the reaction of the two separated combatants. **DARTH** turned a pale white with a decidedly frowning look on his face and mouth. Perhaps it was the loss of a meal or it may have been a reaction to the bad taste of **LUKE'S** powerful **tetrodotoxin** found in his skin and organs, another hidden, long term defense and deterrent strategy of the tiny fish! **LUKE** looked 'relieved' as he struggled to deflate as quickly as possible.

As always we are awed by our chance to observe the nature of creatures and the natural order created by God, in balance, for our enlightenment. We look forward to new revelations and hope you will join us on our next adventure. © Albert Bianculli 2006



(Defending Bonairean Flag. Continued from page 13)

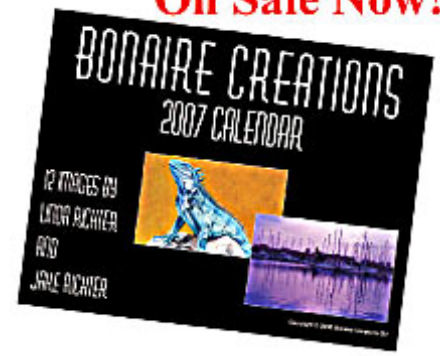
day morning they were among the first to sign in and to assemble their new boats. Sunday at 2 pm they were allowed to go on the water to get used to the new boats and to have a practice race. On Monday the first real race started. There was not much wind, but sailing was possible. After the first race they had to wait for about 10 minutes before the next race started. This was about the same every day, but the wind got less and less. If there was not enough wind to sail with they had to wait on the water until the wind picked up.

Of the three Bonairean sailors, Sipke Stapert had the best finish. He ended up being 60th. Victor Brouwer was 81st followed by Vianco Serberi who got 83rd.

Without their sponsors they wouldn't have been able to experience this event so they would like to thank: the Bonairean Government, BSSA, Yellow Submarine, Flamingo Printing, Telbo, MCB, Rocargo, Kloos Holding, Sun Rental, Cargill, Akkermans, Harbour Village, WEB, City Shop, Chat 'n' Browse, Van Dijk, It Rains Fishes, Boomerang, Manrique Capriles & Sons and a lot of individual sponsors.

Victor Brouwer

**It's Not Too Early to
Think of Christmas
On Sale Now!**



Now less than eight weeks away, Christmas is nearly upon us, and for Bonaire oriented businesses and Bonaire fans, it's high time to start thinking of stocking stuffers and holiday gifts to show your appreciation of friends and clients alike. Local artists Linda and Jake Richter think that their new Bonaire Creations 2007 Calendar might be just the ticket for that perfect gift that says "Bonaire" all over.

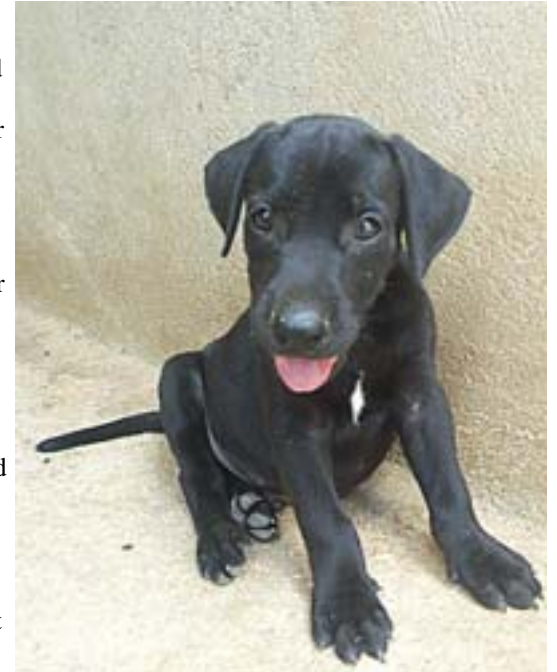
Featuring 12 artistic images from and of Bonaire, the Calendar is available for a quantity discount for as few as 20 pieces. And, as a special service for Bonaire businesses with clients in the US, Canada and Europe, full fulfillment services can be provided from the US, saving on the cost of shipping from Bonaire.

All the business need to do is provide a mailing list and a stack of note cards or Christmas cards, and for a small additional fee to cover in-country mailing and handling costs, their intended recipients can get a Calendar Christmas surprise. Gift wrapping for such shipments is an option as well.

For more information on volume purchases of the 2007 Bonaire Creations Calendar, as well as this innovative fulfillment service, contact Linda or Jake Richter at info@bonairecreations.com or 717-4112.

Pet of the Week

When “Jack” and his siblings (“Joe,” “Jody” and “Judy”) were brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter with their mom they were only one week old. And now, not even two months old, these adorable pups are growing into very handsome and intelligent dogs. Their mother has a very sweet disposition and the pups seem to have inherited that trait. But it looks like they’ll be a lot bigger than Mom. In fact they’re looking more and more like little Labs. These pups should respond well to training and become valued family members to kind and loving owners. Like all the other adoptees at the Shelter these pups have been checked out by the vet, proclaimed healthy, and observed by the staff and proclaimed social! The adoption



“Jack”

fee for dogs, NAf105, includes all the testing, shots, worming and even sterilization when they’re old enough. The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Pay them a visit. It’s a happy place with happy pets. L.D.

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
11-10	1:54	0.6FT.	16:29	1.9FT.					74
11-11	2:26	0.7FT.	17:27	1.8FT.					62
11-12	2:51	0.8FT.	18:14	1.7FT.					49
11-13	3:11	0.9FT.	11:20	1.5FT.	14:09	1.4FT.	19:07	1.6FT.	39
11-14	3:18	0.9FT.	10:33	1.5FT.	15:55	1.3FT.	19:52	1.5FT.	34
11-15	3:10	1.0FT.	10:26	1.6FT.	17:20	1.3FT.	20:33	1.4FT.	35
11-16	2:36	1.0FT.	2:37	1.0FT.	10:33	1.7FT.	18:27	1.2FT.	
							21:33	12FT.	41
11-17	1:53	1.0FT.	10:50	1.8FT.	19:48	1.1FT.	22:26	1.1FT.	49

Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

The Guardian (Kevin Costner)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Zwartboek

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)
Children under 12 - NAf12

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 November:
Open Season

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Thursday, November 8, 9 – Her Highness, Queen Beatrix's visit to Bonaire

Friday, November 10—Arke Fly's "Back to Rock n Roll concert, Plaza. See page 5 & 7.

Sunday, November 12 -International Day of Diabetes, parking lot behind Catholic Church in Playa, free—11 am—5pm. See page 10

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Wednesday, Nov. 15 – *Crown Princess*

COMING

Sunday, November 19 – Bonaire Day of Thanks—See page 5

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

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Sunday, Nov. 19 – *Rijnadam*; Tuesday, Nov. 21 – *Sea Princess*; Wednesday, Nov. 22 – *Amsterdam*.

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 ambiance 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 Bonaire Talker 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 Zeezicht 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.
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
ADVERTISE YOUR RESTAURANT	IN THE BONAIRE REPORTER Every Week	And get listed in this directory FREE

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

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the Galeries 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, Monday-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 ... 2003

Marcel Carpay

“We came here October 19th 2003 with the intention of staying a year and seeing how it would work out. The first time I came to Bonaire was in 1984; I was studying biology and working at Carmabi, a biology research center in Curaçao. When a dive club friend of mine from Holland went to Bonaire I decided to visit him here. I stayed at the old Hilltop for a week. We went diving and that was my first introduction to Bonaire. It was quite a different island at the time! Captain Don’s Habitat was a very simple place and the island was empty compared to now.

In 1999 when Hurricane Lenny passed by, my wife Florian and I were here on Bonaire for vacation. In 2001 we came again; we thought it was a beautiful island and we’d both fallen in love with it. Every time we saw a For Sale sign we would look at each other: ‘Jeez, how much would that cost?’

The winter of 2002-2003 was a very boring one, and without knowing Florian was doing the same thing, I would be at the computer looking at Bonaire’s real estate websites. The island had become a real issue in our life and we said, ‘Maybe we should just try it for a year.’ We sold our house in Holland and by coincidence I heard from Tom van ‘t Hoff that STINAPA was looking for a project manager for Lac. We thought it would be a good thing if one of us could have a job beforehand, so I applied and ended up as one of the four final candidates. There was a possibility of a job in healthcare for Florian, and we had decided if one of us gets a job, he or she goes first.

But in May 2003 we went to Curaçao for three weeks because Florian could get a job there and we were still not sure of what we were going to do. However, the moment we set foot on the island she disliked Curaçao, and so we said to each other, ‘Let’s go to our island; let’s go to Bonaire.’ Riding in the taxi from Flamingo Airport to town, a donkey crossed the road. I looked at Florian and saw a tear running down her cheek, and I couldn’t keep my eyes dry either, and so it was the donkey that made the decision for us: it was going to be Bonaire. We flew back to Curaçao and spent a lovely vacation there because there was no doubt in our hearts anymore.

In September Florian went to Bonaire for 10 days to arrange the paperwork. She went with a girlfriend and they stayed in

a house in Nikiboko which we had rented already, but being there she didn’t feel safe and through a real estate person she found a beautiful house in Antriol and rented it immediately. October 18th 2003 we got on the plane with our two cats. The cats almost flew on to Lima, but luckily we got them out on time!

It was then that our dream began... we felt so rich... the sun, the climate, the sea... here you can be satisfied with very little. You don’t miss anything and that’s also a luxurious feeling. We had lots of plans. Of course we were thinking of going into the apartment business, we were thinking of giving courses to wealthy people like they do in Europe where people go to the Provence in France to take a painting course. Florian got a permit for a second hand book and furniture store and really, we were just looking around: what would be good and what would we like. I went to see a house on the water because I thought that would be lovely, but apart from the fact that it was unaffordable Florian didn’t like the idea because of the constant sound of the sea.

The job with STINAPA didn’t work out, but I’d taken my work from Holland

“The island has stolen our hearts; I feel at home here, I don’t feel like a guest but I do behave like one, I respect the Bonaireans and their culture.”

with me. I had my one-man PR bureau and as long as I have a telephone line and an Internet connection I can work anywhere, so we had a basic income. I did some things for the *Antilliaans Dagblad* and for STINAPA, but to get PR clients on Bonaire takes a lot of time, however, I’m working on it.

Florien worked in several restaurants as a waitress and with Green Label in the shop. In Holland she’d been a highly qualified healthcare worker; working with disturbed people. Then came the time when she started missing the chal-



Marcel Carpay

lenge in what she was doing here, and in the beginning of September she went back to Holland.”

A silence drops and he looks at me a bit sadly: “The more I think about it... I might make the same choice because in Holland there are more possibilities for me too. Now Florian is back in her old profession and very happy and content although she has moments that she’s homesick for Bonaire which is understandable. And yes, in Holland she has more certainties considering work and old-age pension and she has this whole network of friends which is very important to her. So, at the moment I’m here on my own.”

Marcel Carpay (49) is a sweet man who obviously misses his wife a lot. He’s in turmoil and at a point in his life that everything is sort of loose. “I travel for my clients three times a year to Holland and what I am going to do in the future is still uncertain. I would like to grow old here, under ‘our’ tree. We bought this little house in November 2005 and I’m not planning on selling it. We had a beautiful time here; the island is gorgeous, the people are friendly and the sea and coast are magnificent – a life without stress. But when you come together to Bonaire it’s just the two of you and you get to

know each other very well, and if you want to make it here you have to do it all by yourself. The island has stolen our hearts; I feel at home here, I don’t feel like a guest, but I do behave like one. I respect the Bonaireans and their culture.

I think home is where my friends are and where my partner is, but I will always have the feeling that I’m living in two different worlds at the same time: Bonaire and Holland. I am divided now. But I also am a person who feels at home everywhere I go. During my studies I was in Australia for five months and it didn’t cost me any effort to feel at home there immediately. I don’t think either one of us ever felt any regret about coming to Bonaire, but that was also the deal we made: whether it turns out right or wrong, nobody can ever take this away from us. And when you think about it: How many people are walking around with a dream and the only thing they do is talk about it – that’s not us... we did it.”

Story & photo
by Greta
Kooistra



Humboldt's Orchid in Bloom

On a recent nature tour into Washington/Slagbaai Park, I found the Humboldt's orchids in bloom. This was my second time to see this particular colony in flower. The last time was fall, 1999. It is possible that the orchids flowered in the interim and were missed, but I can find no one else to verify exactly how frequently they bloom. It is assured that their flowering is dependent upon the amount of rain that falls in the wet season, and perhaps even what amounts have fallen in years past in order to get them ready. I do know that the past two wet seasons have been good ones – during the winter '04 and '05. And thus far in 2006, it appears that we are in for ample amounts of rain.

In my notes from 1999, I wrote that they were in flower after four or five weeks of moderately heavy rains, and they remained in flower for a full two months. The internet has a reference to this species from the Orchid Club of Curaçao, http://www.Curaçaoorchidclub.com/native/native_orchids.htm

It is interesting to note that the genus name has been changed to show the peculiar relationship this orchid has with ants. The previous genus was *Schomburgkia*, a name bestowed back in the 1800s. In 1917 the new name was applied, *Myrmecophila humboldtii*, which fittingly means ant-bearing. In the hollow bulbs, which resemble bananas, giving the local common name of *Banana Shimaron*, ant colonies set up their nests and can be seen to scurry all over the plant and even out to the flowers. The ants protect the orchids from such plant-sucking insects as thrips and may even protect it from human miscreants who try to steal samples. This is excellent because all orchids are protected by Antillean law and

these ants make better protectors than the good intentions of ink-on-paper.

Indeed, there is a commercial industry devoted to orchids, which was fittingly described in the book, *The Orchid Thief, a True Story of Beauty and Obsession*, by Susan Orlean. On another website, of a commercial orchid grower, our species is listed for \$35 and a white variety for \$150 each, so orchids have for centuries, and will continue to abound as economic temptations for humans.

My own interests in orchids started back in Colorado as a naturalist in Rocky Mountain National Park where there were several beautiful species which appeared to grow in the most enchanted and secret places for some species. Other species could be found right along the hiking trails but were usually inconspicuous and only noticed by sharp-eyed naturalists. I frequently presented a slide presentation on the Wild and Threatened Orchids of Rocky Mountain National Park to audiences, and I always wondered if I were giving in to the human capacity of wanting to covet that which is precious, rare and beautiful, and would the knowledge that I was imparting to the audiences be misused by the unscrupulous.

These orchids now in flower in Washington/Slagbaai may not be in flower too much longer, and yet, the way the flowering stem is leaning down towards the ground as if to present the perfect photograph, they seem to want to entice us humans and for sure do make our explorations much more enjoyable. *Jerry Ligon*

A naturalist and biologist, Jerry Ligon conducts bird and nature tours on Bonaire. Call 791-6079; email: jcligon@gmail.com





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

"The Moon, A Planet and A Star Line Up in A Row This Sunday Morning"



The moon and Saturn

What a beautiful sight the Sky Park has for you this coming Sunday morning a couple of hours before sunrise. You'll see three very different kinds of celestial objects lined up in a row: our **Moon**, the ringed planet **Saturn** and the brightest star of **Leo the Lion**. Don't miss this please.

This Sunday morning, November 12, about two hours before sunrise face south where the brightest thing you'll see will be an exquisite 21-day-old Moon which is more popularly called a last quarter Moon. And just below it is the only planet easily visible this month, planet #6, my favorite, ringed Saturn. And just below it is the bright bluish star which marks the heart of Leo the Lion, **Regulus**. Now you'll notice that all three of these are lined up in a row. If you've never been able to find Regulus or Saturn before, this is the morning to use the Moon to find them.

Now the reason I want you to see them is because this is a perfect opportunity to compare three different kinds of cosmic objects of incredibly different sizes and at incredibly different distances. The closest of course is our nearest neighbor in space, the Moon. At 2,000 miles wide it will be only 244,000 miles away this coming Sunday morning. And if we compare it in size to Saturn, Saturn really blows it away because it is 75,000 miles wide, which means we could line up almost 38 Moons across its middle. Or think of it this way: Saturn is so huge we could fit almost 10,000 Moons inside it. And believe me it's much farther away than our Moon. Indeed, this weekend it's a whopping 855 million miles from **Earth**. But as big as Saturn is it pales in size and distance when compared with Regulus because Regulus is a 1.4 million-mile-wide star, even bigger than our own 865,000-mile-wide **Sun**, so we could fit over 15 million Moons inside it.

But to understand just how far away it really is let's not talk in miles but in the speed of light. You see our Moon is so close it takes only $1\frac{1}{3}$ seconds for its light to reach us. Saturn, however, is so much farther away that it takes 76 minutes for its light to reach us. But Regulus is so incredibly far away it takes 77 years for its light to reach us.

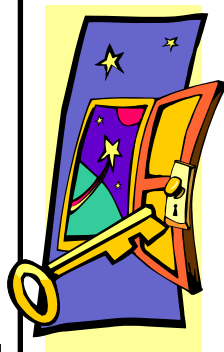
So go out this Sunday about an hour before sunrise and look for our Moon, a planet and a star—all lined up in a row. And in case you're rained out on Sunday go out on Monday and you'll see a 22-day-old Moon almost on top of Regulus, which shows you just how far our Moon moves from one night to the next. Remember: Sunday to Monday. *Jack Horkheimer*

DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

And the solution is:

(puzzle and directions on page 12)

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



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, November 5 to Saturday, November 11, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Regardless of your first reaction, the outcome will be favorable. You might want to spend some time by yourself in order to decide exactly how you feel. Residential moves are evident. You will meet a person who may turn out to be more than just a friend. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Problems with in-laws may cause friction in your personal relationship. You could be drawn to events that concern children. Avoid any petty ego confrontations; they could lead to estrangement if you aren't careful. Not everyone will be pleased with your plans. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You may feel a need to make changes to your legal documents. Be careful that you don't overextend yourself. You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits. Children may be less than honest with you. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will be emotional about your personal life. Travel will be favorable and bring you the greatest rewards. Get together with friends and catch up on reading and letter writing. Things are looking up. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Minor accidents may occur if you don't concentrate on what you're doing. You may find that romance will unfold through business connections. Be prepared to step into the limelight if you wish to promote your ambitions. Don't let your emotions interfere with moneymaking deals. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You need a change and you need to earn more cash. Make changes in your domestic scene. Your ability to talk circles around your colleagues will help you forge ahead in the workforce. You will find that unfinished projects at home will be most satisfying. Your lucky day this week is Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your professional attitude will not go unnoticed. They won't get away with it. Relationships will be erratic this week. Someone may be trying to take advantage of you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will probably have to defend your mate. Do not let in-laws upset you. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions at a group meeting; however, keep your thoughts to yourself at home. You can make a difference if you offer your help at functions that involve children. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Partnerships will be favorable and contracts can be signed. Mingle with those who have similar interests, and you should be able to start something. Sudden changes regarding work and colleagues are apparent. You can't lock your partner up and if you keep restricting their freedom you may be left out in the cold. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22- Jan. 20) Seminars will provide you with knowledge and amusement. Try not to discuss important matters with colleagues. New methods and innovative technology will make your job far easier than you anticipated. You may want to get involved in some kind of creative group. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) There are ways of making extra cash if you put your mind to it. Your ideas are right on the mark and your work commendable. Don't go out of your way, and don't let these unexpected guests cost you money. Adventure will result in added knowledge. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Investments are best left alone this week. You will meet new romantic partners through the company you keep. You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. Make alternate plans just in case you need to make a career shift. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.