

It's still Free!
Happy New Year to all our readers

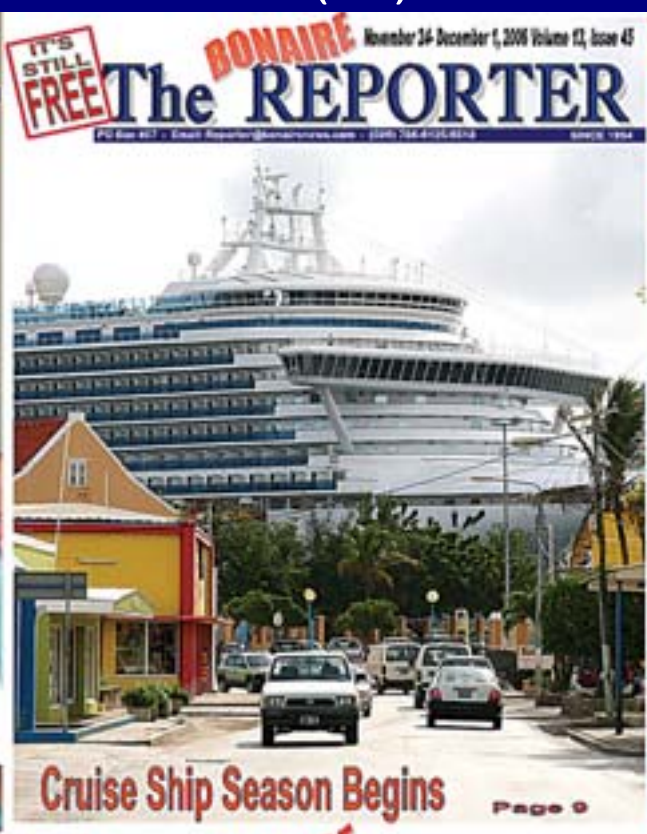
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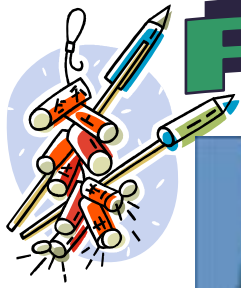
December 29- January 5, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 1

The REPORTER

PO Box 407 - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 786-6125/6518

SINCE 1994





Flotsam and Jetsam

The Province of North Holland has offered Bonaire, Statia, and Saba (the three small, klein, islands, K3) the possibility of becoming townships of North Holland. The islands would have Haarlem as their provincial capital.



“With our proposal, we anticipate that fewer deviations will be needed from the norm. The legal provisions regarding Dutch municipalities will also apply to the islands,” writes the province. “Besides, a provincial role fits well in the basic principles formulated in Article 7 of the agreement of last October 11th.

Harry Borghouts, Royal Commissioner in North Holland says, “Well, effective today, there is a formal offer from us.” The Royal Commissioner is of the opinion that North Holland has a link with the Antilles; many Antillean people live in North Holland and this province is, according to him, a maritime province. It also includes Schi-

phol airport. “On a daily basis, hundreds of people travel back and forth between the Antilles and the Netherlands.”

Borghouts thinks that when it comes to tasks that go beyond municipalities, like infrastructure, child welfare, the tackling of environmental problems, and permanent water control, North Holland can offer added value for the trio of islands.

► **Insel Air plans to start flying to St. Maarten from Curaçao on December 27**, Director Edward Heereveen announced last Wednesday. They are even offering free passage via a drawing for seats on the maiden flight. The airline was waiting for the necessary permit to fly in their MD-83 aircraft from France. The aircraft, which is owned by Air Adriatic of Croatia, has successfully passed the comprehensive C-check and after a test flight flew to Curaçao. The 167-passenger MD-83 is a larger aircraft and faster than the Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) turboprop currently flying the route. Insel Air will start with four flights per week, but this number will increase as the demand grows.

► **Low-cost air-carrier Spirit Airlines is set to fly twice weekly non-stop to St. Maarten** from its hub in Fort Lauderdale as early as April 21. This development is the result of close to two years of negotiations. *The Re-*

porter was informed that in the past Bonaire had also approached Spirit, but no deal was done.

► The WEB workers union, FEDEBON, in a “Position Paper” last week **questioned the recent decision to use wind power to provide electricity**. They want the project stopped because it may cripple WEB’s ability to provide reliable power. They want more analysis done and an evaluation of whether converting to a BOO (Build Own Operate private structure) is in the public interest.

► Some local shop owners on Kaya Grandi have reported **incidents of shoplifting during cruise ship visits**, particularly during the first call of the *Crown Princess*.



► The organization of **Telbo workers, "ISOTE,"** was recently organized to promote social, educational and recreational activities for its members and to provide a positive contribution to the island of Bonaire. Following a recent election Nicasio (Odilio) Evertsz was elected president along with a board of directors.

Continued on page 3.

BONAIRE THIS WEEK: The REPORTER

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► **Digicel and Telbo “jumped the gun” in their eagerness to merge, said the judge.** UTS (the Curaçao-owned phone company currently providing Bonaire “Chippie” cellular service with Telbo, Bonaire’s phone company) went to court to retain the almost 8,000 customers having mobile 78-number prefixes in Bonaire after Telbo said they were dropping UTS in favor of Digicel on January first.

Earlier this month Telbo and Digicel announced that Telbo had renegotiated its mobile concession and these numbers to its former competitor, Digicel. They offered incentives for customers to modify their phone SIM cards to switch to Digicel and that the change would be effective January 1, 2007. The campaign has been underway for several weeks and hundreds of Telbo/UTS customers have had their SIM cards switched to Telbo/Digicel. These cards can’t connect until February 10, 2007 according to the judge.

It’s also rumored that UTS has entered an agreement with MIO (ex-Cellular One) which also has a concession for Bonaire mobile service, with the guarantee that the 78-numbers will stay with UTS. UTS serves the mobile network for these numbers, for which UTS has a cooperation agreement with Telbo until February 10, 2007.

Last Friday a judge ruled in UTS’ favor. UTS claimed the right to keep managing

the mobile 78-numbers. A key detail is that Telbo and Digicel announced the transfer two weeks ago, but the government still has to approve the taking over of the 78-numbers by Digicel.

The 78-number customers are currently running on UTS infrastructure (antennas, transceivers, etc.) which Telbo uses because it was too small to have such a system itself. UTS claimed that the Telbo concession falls under the coordinating mobile network of UTS.

Telbo’s arguments that UTS was foot-dragging negotiations, had a conflicting pay-TV service, and that the 78x customers’ SIM cards had the Telbo logo were brushed aside by the judge, who did not forbid the eventual activation of the Digicel 78 numbers,

According to Paul de Guus, UTS Director, in an interview with the Papiamentu language newspaper *Extra*, Telbo will have to pay NAf1 million per day in damages if it carries out the transfer on the January 1 schedule.

Because of the long holiday weekend few additional details or information at press time on what Telbo customers who have already switched to Digicel will have to do.

This week many 78-number clients were called by a Digicel representative, telling them they must change their SIM card to Digicel by the end of the year or they would lose their current telephone number. That is now incorrect.



Jan Art photo

► Last Saturday, December 23, **Santa arrived at the Rose Inn** on a bright yellow three wheeler. He brought lots of toys for all the good girls and boys of Rincon. Sponsors of the event were Larry’s Wildside Diving, ReMax Paradise Homes, Rose Inn, BITS B.V., and Rent-O-Fun.

Flotsam and Jetsam is continued on page 4.

Training Project Youngsters to take the Next Step

After half a year of hard work, learning and gaining new experiences, youngsters participating in the Training Project received their well deserved certificates for Phase 1. These young people in the project (Part of the Stichting Project) have problems at intellectual, social, behavioral or emotional levels. Next they will follow a two-year course together, learning to trust in themselves and others, to cultivate the positive 'us' feeling.

Beside sports, games and outdoor activities the youngsters got training in first aid, sewing, fish and coral recognition, boat handling, turtle study and hospitality. All of them earned basic certificates for this training.

After Christmas vacation the youngsters will begin Phase 2, where they will receive more individual attention. This is the phase of positive 'me,' focused on the future. They will get a follow up on their basic training and start with computer lessons, diving and cooking lessons. For some courses the youngsters can achieve an official diploma.

Thirteen of the 14 youngsters (boys and girls) are now starting in Phase 2. This is only made possible by good cooperation among the parents,



Certificate Winners



Training Project youngster helping at the Kon Tiki restaurant

Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3.



Some of the new members of the Curaçao BC

► In Curaçao last week a new island government was formed composed of the parties FOL, MAN, MSL and NPA. The former ruling coalition parties led by PAR are out. The formation process was deadlocked until the impasse was resolved through personal intervention of the FOL leader and prison inmate, **Anthony Godett**, who was in the hospital. According to FOL-spokesman, Maurice Adriaens, peace and unity will be central in the policy of this new Executive Council (BC). The draft-action program of the new Council is ready and is named *Ban Sembra pa Rekohé Kosecha* (Let's sow in order to reap). A reformation of the Central Government may be in store as well.

► Imprisoned leader of Curaçao political party FOL, **Anthony Godett**, is feeling better but still is a little bit tired and is worried about his medical condition. "I'm receiving seven different pills every day for my heart, lungs and blood pressure," he told St. Maarten's *Daily Herald* in an exclusive interview. Godett was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of St. Elisabeth Hospital two weeks ago with chest pains

► Golden Reef Inn has brought Chef Gibi back. Gibi will be serving his famous **All You can Eat Kriyoyo BBQ** at the Golden Reef Inn and Villas every Monday night. The feast includes items such as BBQ ribs, fresh fish, goat stew, beef stew, garlic shrimps, grilled steak and chicken. Also included are sides such as tossed salad, homemade potato salad, macaroni salad, cole slaw, rice and funchi just to mention a few. Vegetarian meals can be made to order with advanced notice. The BBQ is served starting at 6:30 pm.

For reservations and more information, call Golden Reef Inn at 717-5759.

L./G.D.

the school and the Training Project. All the parents and some of the teachers were present at the graduation of Phase 1, proof positive of the cooperation.

The Training Project also has a parent panel which discusses things that involve the Training Center and the development of the youngsters. They also organize theme evenings for all the parents together.

The Training Project organizers would like to give a year-end thank you to all the parents, teachers, the Sentro di Bario of Nordt di Salina, all volunteers, organizations and everybody else who was involved with Stichting Project for their support and help the last year.

Story & Photos by Mick Schmit

TOP STORIES 2006

The Reporter's Top Stories of 2006



Mangrove village STINAPA photo

1 – Real Estate Development captured the pages of *The Reporter* week after week. The multiplication of building projects, especially apartments, made it tough to find good contractors for new jobs and created a demand for skilled foreign workers.

Among the highlights: the Divi Resort chain announced plans for an all-inclusive resort on the site of the former Bonaire Sunset Beach Hotel. The Mangrove Village

project highlighted the conflict between development and environmental preservation; construction was suspended. Billboards, roads deteriorating from the passage of heavy trucks, enhancement of the power plant and other elements are all related to Bonaire's building boom. The year ended with stories on cellular telephone wars as big companies fought for a piece of the tiny Bonaire market.



2 - Agreement is reached on breaking up the Netherlands Antilles – Bonaire to link directly with The Netherlands. If all goes according to plan Bonaire will no longer have the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles in Curaçao in the path to its relation with Holland. There will be no "country" of the Netherlands Antilles after July, 2007, because all the five islands will go separate ways- Curaçao and St. Maarten to a separate status, similar to Aruba's, and Bonaire, Saba and Statia to a unique municipal arrangement with Holland.

3 - Conservation of the Bonaire's environment was top news too. Boca Onima, raped for building sand last year, was restored. A three-year project aimed at learning about Bonaire's endangered parrot, *Amazonia barbarensis*, the lora, was begun. More sea turtles were tracked, resulting in some surprises as to their destinations. Reef balls were placed in area needing a substrate for coral to take hold. And a bevy of coral protection efforts are underway led by Dee Scarr's initiatives.

4 - Development of the island's tourism image got into print often as Bonaire took a turn to the future, focusing on Internet presence, special events like hosting the Wounded Warriors, and a "dive festival" that featured land-based activities. The \$75 proposed for a Tourist Tax was a casualty of public pressure, but an end-of-year surprise increase in the departure tax from \$20 to \$32 made lots of people unhappy, especially locals.

5 - The Reporter doesn't focus on crime reporting because complete and accurate police reports aren't released and because major crimes are rare by any measure. Nevertheless, crime is a problem and armed robbery against island residents is increasing. **The emphasis was on social efforts, especially focused on youngsters, to eliminate the root causes of crime.** Our stories about Mick Schmit's Stichting Project highlighted this again and again (See this issue page 4). We reported on the visit of an astronaut emeritus which inspired many youngsters as well, judging from their letters and reaction. *G.D.*

SELIBON Meets SABEDECO



SELIBON staff enjoy a light moment with Bart Landheer

A Christmas party was held in the offices of SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management company, on Kaya Industria to express friendship and a job well done throughout the year. SELIBON, under the leadership of Director Rudsel Leito, Administrator Marja Oleana, Managers Rainy Thomas and Randy Leonora, continue to exemplify the best of Bonaire's municipal services.

The families who live in SABADECO Shores, led by Helmi Staartjes and Jacqueline Landheer, with the help of many of the other residents of "Shores," col-

lected money to buy Christmas cakes to give to every employee of SELIBON.

At the party a Christmas tree was the central theme and several of the employees helped build a nativity scene under the tree. Soft drinks were served and SABADECO resident Bart Landheer read a thank you note in Papiamentu. In return SELIBON employees gave a very nice pen to each of the SABADECO residents, showing a Christmas spirit of giving during this most important holiday season. *Story & Photo by Bob Lassiter*



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),

Restaurants:

Bistro de Paris
Cactus Blue
Capriccio
City Café
Lover's Ice Cream
Papagayo
Papaya Moon
Pasa Bon Pizza

Dive Shops:

Yellow Submarine
WannaDive
Carib Inn

Shops:

Benetton
Best Buddies & Pearls
Bonaire Gift Shop
Chat 'n' Browse
City Shop
DeFreewieler
Exit Bakery

INPO

Last Bite Bakery
Paradise Photo
Photo Tours, Playa
Plantation Furniture

Hotels:

Buddy Dive
Capt. Don's Habitat
Carib Inn
Divi Flamingo
Eden Beach Hotel
Golden Reef Inn
The Great Escape
Plaza Resort
Sand Dollar Resort

Supermarkets:

Cultimara
Consales Cash & Carry
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
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Bookstores:

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RINCON:

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Joi Fruit Store
Lemari Grocery
Rincon Bakery
Rose Inn

12/29/06

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The Pet Project

Calming Your Pet During New Years Eve Fireworks



As we look forward to the New Year holiday, I conclude this series about Rescue Remedy, a natural solution for pet stress. This is a homeopathically prepared formula which was invented by Dr. Edward Bach in London, about 1930. He discovered the calming properties of certain flowers and then prescribed them for people under stress. The previous articles described these flowers: Clematis, Cherry Plum, Rock Rose, Impatiens and Star of Bethlehem.

The remedy is helpful for all levels of stress- even for firework blasts.

Where to find Rescue Remedy:

- Bistro de Paris , Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46. 717-7070
- The Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagoen
- The Sand Dollar Grocery, Kaya Gob. N. Debrot

How to give your pet the remedy:

Place one drop of the solution in your pet's water dish on the morning of Dec. 31st. This will have a calming effect by the time fireworks begin. Your pet will drink many times, making the effect stronger.

During loud noise you may also give it topically. Place one or two drops on your palm and touch the pads of your pet's foot. Be patient. If five minutes goes by and the remedy has had no effect, you may repeat it and place another drop on the foot pad. Repetition is the key, not large amounts. Remember that this isn't a sedative. It is first aid for stress.

Questions that are often asked by pet owners:

Are there side effects to Rescue Remedy?

This unique formula has never induced side effects.

How much is too much?

Give the remedy as described above. Continue to repeat. Do not give large amounts at one time. The repetition seems to build effectiveness. This is a plant material and not known to overdose.

May people take this remedy?

Yes. It was intended for people. Later it was noted that pets benefit. If an adult takes Rescue Remedy the dose is four drops in a glass of water. Use caution not to touch the applicator to either your mouth or your pet's mouth. That will contaminate the solution.

My dog is afraid of lightning, is it recommended for that?

Yes. This is a solution for all levels of stress.

How much does it cost?

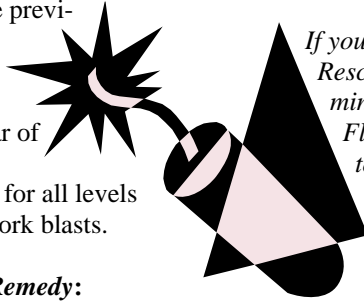
You may purchase it for two guilders (NAf2).

I say a special thanks to all those who helped make the Pet Project available in Bonaire. *Florence Diltow*

References:
Bach Center, Bach Flower Essences for the Family, May 1996
bachcenter.com
NaturesBrands.com

If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email: fhummingbird@yahoo.com

Florence Diltow is a Registered Nurse and certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center.



Florence Diltow and her dogs

Pet of the Week

Meet sweet and demure appearing "Cindy." She's only five months old but she's growing and will be a big dog when she's through. Even now she's showing signs of being a perfect watch dog. Her soft, toffee-colored fur is so soothing to stroke. By getting a dog this age you have the opportunity to train her to your way of life. Cindy is a smart pup who should respond to good training immediately. She's a dog who wants to please.

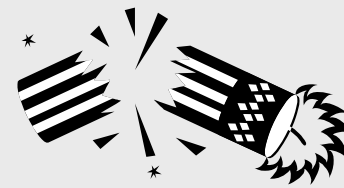


"Cindy" Photo by Edith Foks

Remember, all the pets that are up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter are in perfect health, having been checked out by the vet and given their shots, worming and testing and they're social and friendly. The adoption fee includes all that plus sterilization when the pet is old enough. You can't get a better deal anywhere.

You may see Cindy at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8am to 1 pm. Telephone 717-4989.

ATTENTION PET OWNERS:



It's fireworks time again on the island from now until New Years. It may be fun for people, but it's hell for pets. The Shelter staff says this is the worst time of year for runaway dogs and cats who are terrified of the noise. As it has in the past, the Shelter will act as headquarters for lost pets. If you find a lost animal or are missing one call them at 717-4989.

Please be cautious when setting off fireworks, making sure that children and pets are at a safe distance. A live firework could be a disastrous "toy" that a dog might try to retrieve. Plan ahead so that your pet will have a safe refuge from all that noise. If you have a particularly nervous animal you might get some Rescue Remedy from the Shelter (see accompanying article). Another suggestion is to make sure there are enough chew toys on hand - rubber or other bones or pigs' ears. The chewing will help them release their fears and nervousness. *L.D.*

Keep it **Free**

Pass on your REPORTER to someone.

Please.

END OF THE YEAR Regatta 2006



Top winners get edible prizes



Very happy participants celebrate

Bonaire's last Regatta of the year is always special because instead of the usual trophies, food and drink are the prizes. There was an enthusiastic turnout this year. The final results:

Optimist B

- 1 place Ardt Chirino
- 2 place Max
- 3 place Noah Oleana

Optimist A

- 1 place Urs Schulthies
- 2 place Roben van Eldik
- 3 place Aldair Koeyers

Sunfish juniors

- 1 place Laurensz en Roben Hauer

Sunfish B

- 1 place Kenneth Abrahams
- 2 place Shernick Winklaar
- 3 place Fred Korporaal

Sunfish A

- 1 place Sipke Stapert
- 2 place Franklin Soliano
- 3 place Victor Blanco

Laser

- 01. Dick de Jong

Hoie Cats

- 1 place Anita and Gerloof van der Wal
- 2 place Peter and Cristiaan Zweers

Windsurf Superkids

- 1 place Rodderick Boekhoedt
- 2 place Jamil Jonis
- 3 place Jurgen Saragoza

Windsurf Kids

- 1 place Charles Martijn
- 2 place Mozart Sances

Windsurf Big Kids

- 1 place Dylan Robles
- 2 place Amado Vrieswijk
- 3 place Cymbert Sances

Windsurf Juniors

- 1 place Arthuro "Payo" Soliano
- 2 place Bjorn Saragoza
- 3 place Harvey Piar

Windsurf Baby kids

- Anais Pauletta

Micro Boot Class 30

- 1 place Angel di Jerry Domacasse
- 2 place Machu Pichu di Roy Winklaar
- 3 place Matador di constantino Thielman

Micro Boot Class 35

- 1 place Gipi di Constantino Thielman
- 2 place Sobra di Dios di Jopie Soliano
- 3 place Crocodile Dundee di Rpy Winklaar

Micro Boot Class 40

- 1 place Bobbejans di Contantino Thielman
- 2 place Double Trouble di Le Roy Winklaar
- 3 place Dios ku nos di Jerry Domacasse

Jachten

- 1 place Panta Rey
- 2 place Marinella
- 3 place Ella Rosa
- 4 place Second Wind
- 5 place South Of Reality
- 6 place Wishful Thinking

Fishing Boats

- V.D. 17

Aquaspeed Bonaire Windsurfers thank all their sponsors for the End of the Year race including Edwin Vrieswijk of Akkermans Auto Supplies N.V., Toyota, Lexus and also Peter and Ninico of T.I.S.

Why Divers Cancel Dives

The chart below is from an online survey completed by 1,982 divers conducted in early 2004 and shows the conditions cited by 383 divers who cancelled dives in 2003 for medical reasons. The total is more than 100% because some divers cancelled dives for more than one medical reason. *David Colvard M.D.*

Beginning with the June 2000 Bonaire Dive Festival, David F. Colvard, M.D., a private psychiatrist and clinical investigator in Raleigh NC, a divemaster, and a Sand Dollar Condominium Resort home-owner, has been conducting online surveys of thousands of divers around the world. His first study on diver panic in

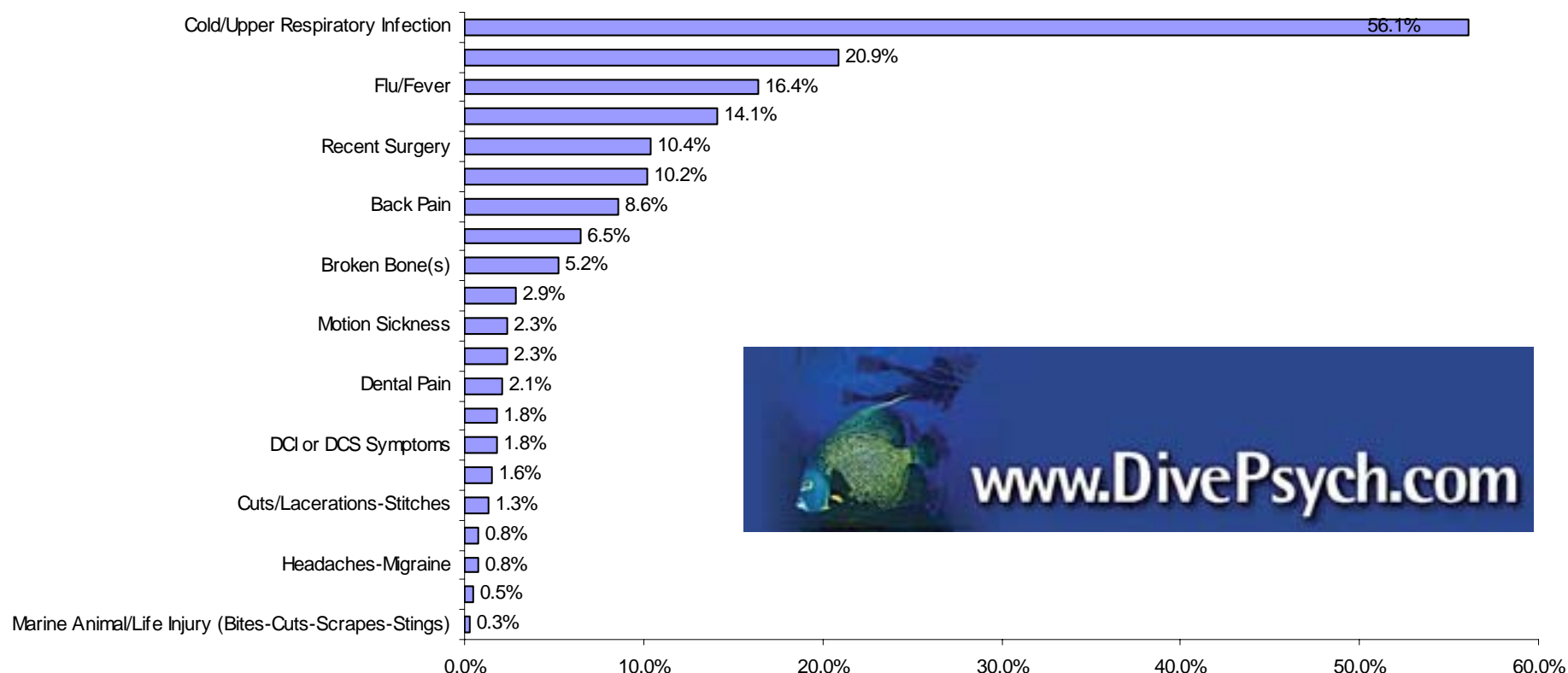


David Colvard

over 12,000 divers was sponsored by Rodale's *Scuba Diving* magazine and was supported by Drew Richardson at PADI. Dr. Colvard presented a poster and abstract at the 35th Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society Scientific Meeting in San Diego, CA, in June 2002. He and his wife Dr. Lynn Colvard, wrote *A Study of Panic in Recreational Divers* for *The Undersea Journal*, (Professional Journal of Professional Association of Diving Instructors), which was the feature article in the winter quarter 2003 issue. He has continued to conduct follow up online surveys of those divers and others on a variety of topics, including PTSD in the divers who survived the Decem-

ber 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami. Dr. Colvard recently completed a study of middle ear pressure equalization using SINUS RINSE™ for NeilMed Pharmaceuticals and represented the company at DEMA Show in Orlando. He has made several presentations to the staff of Divers Alert Network at Duke University Medical Center and is frequently quoted in *Scuba Diving* magazine and elsewhere. He hosts the website www.DivePsych.com which provides evidence-based information for divers on psychological and stress factors in scuba divers. For fun David enters underwater photography competitions.

Medical Reasons Divers Cancelled Dives in 2003*



(*Total is more than 100% because some divers had more than one problem)



Barracuda photo by Albert Bianculli

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...
Barracudas 'dress' for their grooming appointments?

Barracudas, if large enough, can inspire fear and respect in the bravest of adventurers. But when it comes time for their cleaning, barracudas are as gentle as pussycats. If you've ever seen a barracuda turn very dark (instead of its normal silver color) and hover over a coral head, then you've witnessed a barracuda getting cleaned. Many fish change colors as a cue to cleaners that they're ready for their daily (or hourly) grooming. The

difficult part about understanding fish behavior is that you must be familiar with the fish's normal coloration to be aware that they have changed colors and that indeed something interesting is taking place. Then you can observe the fish and search for the tiny cleaners flitting about on the fish's body or in and out of its mouth or gills. Now if you see a barracuda all dressed up in his 'cleaning suit', you know what's going on. *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.





Another Brilliant Christmas (Pasku Briante) Triumph



Hóbennan di Bon Kurason team



The Christmas gift assembly line

Last Saturday the “Goodhearted Youngsters” (*Hóbennan di Bon Kurason*) group, as part of the Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation, organized the seventh edition of the Brilliant Christmas gift-giving marathon. Under sponsorship of USONA the teens purchased, wrapped and presented gifts to many of Bonaire’s less advantaged children.

BYOF photos



Decorating the boxes



Wrapping the gifts

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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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.SudokuShack.com.

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

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

Complete solution on page 19.

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 786-6518 or 7866125 or email ads@bonairereporter.com

JANART GALLERY

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Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don & Janet). 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

LUNCH TO GO

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

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!

JELLASTONE PETPARK

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

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: bonaire-cottage@aol.com

For Sale

Phillips 29" TV. Perfect condition. NAf225. Call 786-6518 or 786-6125

For sale —Dive tanks - 80 cu ft. aluminum. NAf125 Call 717-8819 8 am - 5 pm

For Sale – Woman's shorty ScubaPro wet suit with long sleeves. As newworn twice. Black with magenta trim. Size 13-14. NAf70 (\$40) OBO. Call 786-6518.



Gear Doc

Here's a new bi-monthly series in The Reporter devoted to helping you maintain your dive gear.

My first thought for this new column was to use a too well worn name and call it Scuba Maintenance for Dummies. But divers aren't dummies and this is not really rocket science. Some topics that will be discussed are really simple maintenance issues, most likely mentioned in the basic scuba course but sometimes forgotten. Other topics will be repairs that can easily be done with wrench or two. I do hope you enjoy this, get something from it and keep your scuba equipment top condition.

Dust Caps

Dust caps keep dirt out, but just as important they keep water out so make sure it is in place when washing the regulator. A simple maintenance procedure is to dry the dust cap before placing it back on the first stage air inlet. This can be done easiest with just a small amount of air from your tank. Years ago I knew a "macho man" who used to set his tank in the back of the dive van, open the valve up to what seemed like all the way and held his dust cap two miles from the valve. This was more for attention than anything else. Those in the van certainly noticed with all of us holding our ears until we were deaf.

Some tanks have hard-to-turn valves so test it first. Then put the dust cap tight against the tank valve, allowing just a tad of air to dry it, not making so much noise that people need a set of Bose noise canceling headphones! I like to hold the cap directly against the valve and let a minimal amount of air flow. This is quieter for sure and blows the water out which is quicker than drying it.

Some people actually "dry" the regulator air inlet, only which in theory could not have any water, and then put a wet dust cap in place, negating whatever they thought they were trying to do in the first place. Obviously be careful not to blow the water from the dust cap, or from anywhere else, into the air inlet when drying. Some plastic dust caps have an o-ring in them. Without the o-ring it is probably not water tight so check that the o-ring is there.

Bruce Bowker, Owner-Operator of Carib Inn



Bruce Bowker

High quality Universal® printer/copy PAPER- Large format 11" x 17" (279mm x 432mm). Two cases of 2500 sheets. White (84 brightness) 20 lb. grain long NAf60 per case., two for NAf100. Call 786-6125

Cars For Sale

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



For sale: FIAT BARCHETTA Cabrio, 1997, yellow, with hard-top and windstop. Tel. 786-5591.



Property, Sales & Rentals

Wanted starting January 07, 6 apartments for medical students. Call Natalia, Xavier, 717-3966.

Harbour Village Marina Front Condo For Sale- Large one bedroom, 2 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 sale. www.luxurybonaire.com

STINAPA
NATIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION
GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
STINAPA Bonaire is looking for a serious and responsible retailer to rent the giftshop in the Washington Slagbaai National Park. Business plan required. For more information call
STINAPA Bonaire at 786 - 5229

Sea Turtle Satellite Tracking Annual Update

As has become a tradition on Christmas, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) prepared an overview of this year's satellite tracking activity and included our prior years' work as well.

STCB's **Andy Uhr** writes: "Our plans for 2006 called for us to track two turtles. Unfortunately due to some technical issues with a transmitter, some poor luck and some mistakes on our part, we only tracked one, 'Heit'. In late November we thought the last breeding female had left the area, but in mid-December we were surprised to discover two others had arrived. We did manage to capture one, a female hawksbill, on December 15, right at sunset, directly in front of the Divi Flamingo Hotel, and were ready to deploy the second satellite transmitter. Upon closer examination of the turtle, it was apparent that she was very old, not in good condition and she was released immediately.

At the same time, dive operators reported seeing the second hawksbill in the water near Harbor Village. Intensive efforts, including two nights on Klein Bonaire hoping she would come ashore to lay her eggs, and two days of searching in the water from Small Wall to Harbor Village, were unsuccessful.

2005 and 2006 Satellite Tracking

'Heit's track is the "pinkish" line in the lower right of the map that is shown above in the right-hand column. As you can see comparing her path to all the others, she headed in a different and, at least for us, an unexpected direction. In August, she arrived at her home foraging grounds in the Los Roques Archipelago approximately 180 km from Bonaire. In October, Mabel Nava, STCB Project Director and Gielmon "Funchi" Egbreghts, STCB Project Assistant, traveled for a one-week working session with their counterparts in Los Roques and attempted to retrieve 'Heit's transmitter. While the search for 'Heit' was unsuccessful, the trip provided an excellent opportunity to compare field techniques used by both projects, to learn from one another, and to establish a cooperative relationship in order to improve the protection of our sea turtles. The trip, funded by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), is the beginning of an ongoing collaborative effort between STCB and *La Fundacion Cientifica Los Roques* (FCLR).



www.BonaireTurtles.org



2005 and 2006 Satellite Tracking

As for 2007, current plans call for us to track two turtles. In November, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands visited Bonaire and agreed to sponsor a satellite transmitter for 2007. The turtle will be named for her eldest grandchild, Eloise. The other turtle will be named Darwin at the request of Karen and Ken Miller, our very patient and understanding sponsors for 2006.

Again we want to also thank 'Heit's sponsors, Jeannette and Ria Heitkönig.

Our best wishes to all for a happy holiday season and the best of New Years." *Andy Uhr*



2003 and 2004 Satellite Tracking

STRAIGHT TALK



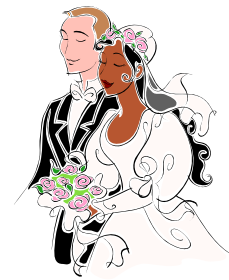
It's all about dating, love, sex, friendship, and marriage - so let's talk. Email your relationship questions to my attention: reporter@bonairenews.com.

Question from: "Desperate for a relationship"

Betty Wills

Dear Betty, I consider myself an attractive guy with a good sense of humor. I'm 38, never been married, and have a pretty good job, but when it comes to being in a relationship, I can't seem to get beyond the initial dating sequence. I either lose interest or stop calling, or if I am interested, my phone calls aren't answered or returned. I desperately want to be in a relationship with someone I truly care about, maybe get married and have children some day. I'm ok with living alone because I don't depend on a partner for my happiness, but on the other hand, I don't want to be alone, either. What are your thoughts?

ANSWER: Hmm...you're ok with living alone, and don't depend on a partner for your happiness? How can you possibly be ok without a loving partner to argue with all the time? You're missing out on the best part of a relationship....(drum roll, please)make-up sex! What are you thinking? You can certainly enjoy sex alone, but sharing makes it twice as good, mirrors excluded. Dead-end dating may also be the result of choosing the wrong date, which may be why you're not getting the call backs. Another problem may be unrealistic expectations, which may be why you're not calling them back. Perhaps you simply like the excitement of dating and subconsciously sabotage any potential for a relationship. Your lack of commitment to marriage and having children may be another obstacle. Bite the bullet. Make a commitment, and join the hundreds of thousands of men who have been committed.



JOKE OF THE DAY

Man is incomplete until he is married. Then he is finished.

Betty Wills

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)							
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides							
DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
12-29	0:15	1.0FT.	9:11	1.9FT.	17:51	0.9FT.	22:05 1.1FT. 57
12-30	9:48	2.1FT.	18:46	0.8FT.			62
12-31	10:24	2.2FT.	19:48	0.7FT.			71
1-01	11:07	2.2FT.	20:36	0.7FT.			80
1-02	11:48	2.2FT.	21:29	0.6FT.			87
1-03	12:26	2.2FT.	22:16	0.6FT.			92
1-04	13:10	2.1FT.	22:52	0.7FT.			92
1-05	13:47	2.0FT.	23:24	0.7FT.			89

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Zwartboek
(Carice van Houten)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
Deck The Halls
(Danny De Vito)

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
December: The Santa Claus
3: The Escape Claus
December/January:
Happy Feet

THIS WEEK

Until March 30—Guest Artist **Markus Taurer** Exhibit at the **Cinnamon Art Gallery**.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting around 10 am to early afternoon: December 27 – *Crown Princess, Silver Shadow*; Thursday, Dec. 29 - *Prinsendam*

Sunday, December 31—**COMCABON Run, 2-4-5 km. Start 1730. Different shops will sponsor**

Sunday, December 31—**Disco Heaven at Buddy Dive**, 10 pm until late. Free entrance.

Monday, January 1—**Maskarada**—colorfully costumed, masked, silent characters dance and pantomime—Wilhelmina Park area, morning hours. Uniquely Bonaire.

COMING

Saturday, January 6—**Big Monthly Rincon Marshé**—Now a Bonairean tradition – stands selling gifts, fruits and vegetables, candles, drinks, BBQ, local foods and sweets, music, friendly people, 6 am to 2 pm. In the center of Rincon. www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off **Buddy Dive Resort**, 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

- **Steak Night On the Beach** (a la carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, kitchen open 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
- **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

- **Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10.-. Buddy Dive Resort**, kitchen open from 6:00 pm - 21:30 pm
- **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**.
- **Beach BBQ 7-10 & Live music by Flamingo Rockers -The Windsurf Place** at Sorobon –Reserve ahead. Tel. 717-5091, 717-2288
- **Live music by Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar 5-6:30.**
- **Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort**, kitchen open from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

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
- **Buddy's Bingo Show - Buddy Dive Resort**, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

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**
- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm) & All-u-can-eat BBQ (7:00 pm - 22:00 pm) - **Buddy Dive Resort**
- **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

Monday—Dee Scarr's "Touch the Sea" Slide Show, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. Call 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 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

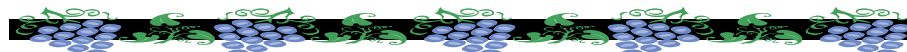
Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Extensive snack/salad/burger. Menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30 am - 10:00 am. Lunch daily 11:30 - 17:30 am. Dinner on theme nights 6:00 pm - 10 pm.	Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights: Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10.-); Wed. - Caribbean Night A la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7:00 - 10:00 pm)
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	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	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast Sandwich Lunch 10 am-12 noon	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Breakfast Buffet 7:30-10 am every day Super beer selection—Happy hours 5 to 7 daily.
The Last Bite Bakery Kaya Grandi 70 717-3293	Low-Moderate Open Tuesday through Saturday	NAf10 lunch every day main dish with 2 side dishes.
Papaya Moon Cantina Downtown— Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate Open everyday except Tuesday For Dinner	Margaritas a Specialty 2 for 1 Happy Hour 6-7:30 Incredible Mexican Cuisine
Papagayo Downtown, Kaya L.D.Gerharts, opposite MCB 717-8003	Moderate Open for Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Monday	Breakfasts featuring Eggs Benedict Burgers and Salads Open at 8 am
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	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the Wednesday Beach BBQ.

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. Now flying to Aruba.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. 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.

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. **OPENING HOURS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER: Monday through Saturday: 9 am to 6 pm, non-stop**

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, 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. Easiest landing on Klein

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.
Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125

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

On the Island Since ...2004

Peter Benekendorff and Maria Isabel Calvo de Benekendorff

I was born in Berlin in 1940, just at the beginning of World War II. It was a very difficult childhood: everything destroyed, nothing to eat. From when I was very little I learned what it was to be hungry, and until today I can't understand why people throw away food because there are still very many people in this world who are hungry.

When I was 14 I started working in a motel near Hamburg. I learned to clean, to cook, to serve - anything. Later I worked in restaurants and hotels in Germany, Switzerland, Spain and the Canary Islands. In 1962 I met my first wife in St. Moritz, Switzerland, and we married in 1963. That changed my life because we went to Frankfurt where I went to study at the Orthopedic University of Frankfurt to become a physiotherapist. My wife was a physiotherapist and so I thought it was time to stop drinking so much alcohol and living the nightlife and start doing more decent things.

I studied two and a half years in Frankfurt; then came the hospital practice, but in between I had to do military service, and that for me was really a waste of time. After a year and a half of practice in the hospitals I was ready and got the certificates from the government. I worked in my mother-in-law's practice for a year, and then I opened my own physiotherapy practice.

I worked well and very hard - too hard - because in three years I had two practices and three souvenir-art shops where I was selling arts and handicrafts imported from Africa, India and Ceylon. I was making a lot of money, but I got very tired of paying a lot of taxes. So, in 1982 I sold everything and packed up all our things, and my wife and I and our three children went to Paraguay in South America. I had visited a friend of mine in Asunción, and to me the country looked very inviting. It was a very big change though, especially for the children who had to learn everything all over in Spanish. I opened an art shop, just like I had in Germany, but later I went back to my physiotherapy profession because I love my job; it means a lot to me when people can move again and feel good. We had a nice life in Paraguay but then my wife died of cancer in 1987.

In 1989 I met my present partner and that was the best thing I found in my whole life - I found a diamond." *He caresses his wife's arm and looks at her and she gives him a gorgeous smile.*

"Maria Isabel was born in 1946 in Asuncion, Paraguay. She studied to become a commercial secretary in Argentina; then in Paraguay she studied cosmetic aesthetics - everything about skin care. She specialized further in Spain, the US and Argentina and later in Venezuela

where she lived and worked while she was married. After her divorce she came back to Paraguay in 1987. When a mutual friend introduced us in 1989 I asked her out for dinner and then I was lost... Six months later we went to Argentina to get married in Formosa. It had rained a lot and everything was flooded and we had to go in a little boat to the office of the justice of the peace to ask him how to go about it if we wanted to get married. The judge said I had to pay 200 pesos. I answered that I wasn't prepared to get married right away and that I didn't bring any witnesses, but he said, 'No problem!' and he whistled on his fingers and two men came from somewhere and he made out the marriage certificate and we signed and 10 minutes later we were married! We had no photo, nothing! It doesn't happen every day like this.

In 1990 my children went to Germany. They're still living there; everybody is

"Most of our clients are locals and we're happy about that because now I can see results in a client and that gives me the inspiration to do this work."

married and I have 10 grandchildren. My wife has three daughters and four grandchildren, all of whom live in Paraguay, except for one granddaughter who is studying in Venezuela. She's now here on Bonaire and we're very happy to spend the holidays with her and we're going to show her every corner of the island!

Well, in Paraguay we had our own practice - massage and cosmetics - but in 1997 we got the idea of working and living in Venezuela where Maria Isabel had lived for a long time. There I met the previous owner of the thermal baths in Trincheras, close to Valencia. We talked and he asked us to come to work for him. It was a very nice spa and we both worked as therapists. My work is therapeutic massage; every massage is relaxing, but I specialize in back pains, headaches, shoulders, everything around the spinal vertebrae. Also I am a Reiki Master in Usui Reiki, the Tibetan system of natural healing. Maria Isabel is the esthetic specialist in cosmetic treatment and especially here on the island it's something you need because the sun is very strong and we have a lot of dust too. She also is a specialist in aromatic Hindu



Peter Benekendorff and Maria Isabel Calvo de Benekendorff

massage and she does cellular nutrition by injections.

We had a very good life in Venezuela and we built our house in Valencia thinking we would never leave Venezuela ever again, but then the political atmosphere made us change our minds. In the Trincheras spa we met our best friend that we have here, Rosemary Winklaar from Bonaire. She came to the spa as a client. We talked and she told me she was from Bonaire, and I asked, 'Where is Bonaire?' as I'd never heard of it. She told me that we should come over one day to see the island. So we came to visit for a few days and we fell in love with the island because of its beautiful nature and its quiet life. We applied for the permits and Rosemary helped us very much, but we also got help from James Kroon, Jonchi Dortalina, Nerry Gonzales and Alejandra Dolleman. That was very important. It took a year and a half to get the permits, then we found this location next to the Government building, across from the Post Office. Maria Isabel named it 'Pedisa' - Pedro and Isabel!

We came to live here in 2004. At first it was a big change because we were without all our friends and Maria Isabel felt very much alone, also because she speaks only Spanish. But when we started working it went better and better. My wife has found new friends - even someone from Paraguay named Daisy. Together they are the only two Paraguayans on the island, and last year they were together in the parade of the nations representing Paraguay! We're doing fine now, except around this time of the year we long for our families. Paraguay is a very colonial country and its music is beautiful, the people are sensitive and gay, they like to dance and they like the barbecue! The

country is in the heart of Latin America, in between the big ones: Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina. I love to visit Germany, but not to live. I am terrified of the cold. I can't stand it anymore.

I really love this island. All year round you can wear short sleeves and I've never seen such a crystal clear sea and it also inspires me to paint. We work five days a week, Tuesday through Saturday, and when we have time we go snorkeling and swimming and we go to the famous Saturday market in Rincon to have breakfast. We are very lucky to be here on Bonaire. Most of our clients are locals and we're happy about that because now I can see results in a client and that gives me the inspiration to do this work."

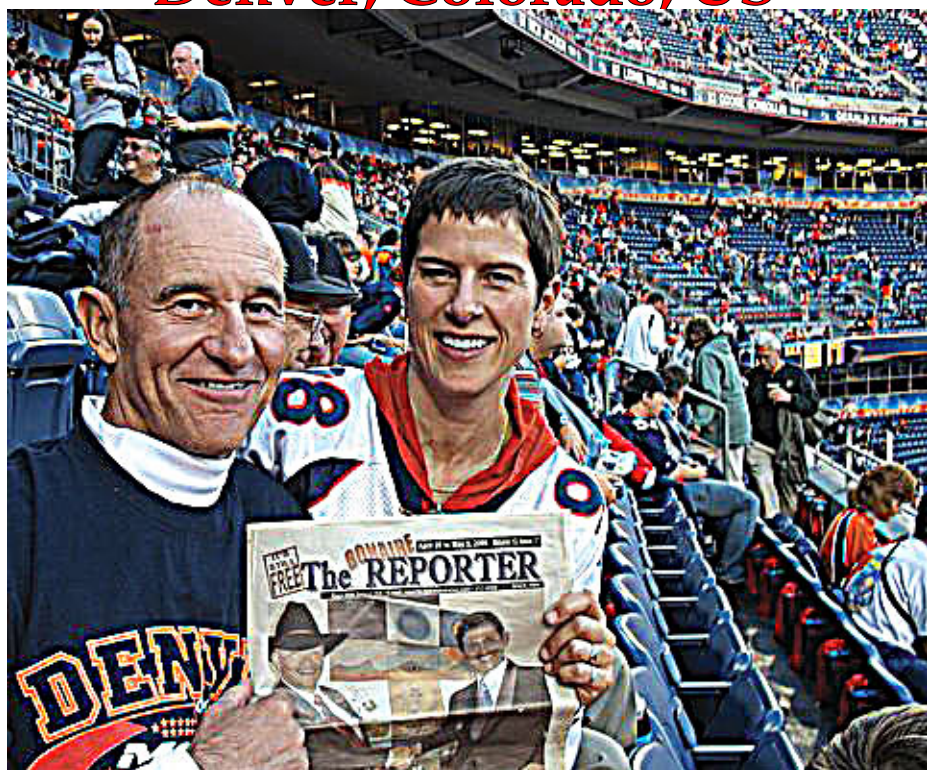
"We work with knowledge and the heart, and that's the difference," *Maria Isabel says, smiling. Peter looks at her - there's a lot of tenderness between them - you can sense it and it makes you feel good to be with them.* "She's my best comrade and my best wife," *Peter says* "and we do everything together and we have a lot of things in common - we are inseparable."

"He is the most beautiful thing that ever happened to me in my life," *Maria Isabel says and then they laugh and I take their picture. And when that's done Peter says, glowing* "It's the most special thing, something you will never find again in your life. In this kind of world where we live in it is so important to have somebody on your side that you can trust with closed eyes - that is something so special - I have no other words."

Story and photo by Greta Kooistra.



Picture Yourself with The Reporter Denver, Colorado, US



Reporter readers Pete and Diane Gutman are American football fans. They sent us this photo of themselves at a Bronco-Raider Football game in Denver, Colorado, on October 15, 2006. "By the way we were rooting for the Broncos and they won 13 to 3!" they reported.

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, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2007 photos are eligible.)

Picture Yourself with The Reporter 2006 Winner

The 2006 Winner of the Picture Yourself competition is on this week's cover, in the center. Submitted by Jane Madden, the photo shows Bonaire property owner, Dennis Kellner, at the top of Mt. Everest, the planet's highest mountain, showing his copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* (July 28, 2006 issue). The technical problems of preserving the newspaper in the wind and a frozen camera were just some of the problems. Congratulations, Dennis!

You are the winner of a *Bonaire Reporter* "night on the town:" a pizza at Pasa Bon and two Movieland passes.

In an effort to top this several Bonaire residents are working on getting a photo of *The Bonaire Reporter* in space... remember an astronaut visited Bonaire last month.

Year 2006 runner-ups to will be announced in upcoming issues. G.D.





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Celebrate New Year's Eve Again With the New Year's Eve Star

Every year I encourage you to celebrate New Year's Eve the cosmic way because if you happen to go outside at the stroke of midnight every New Year's Eve you will see something very special which I like to call the **New Year's Eve star**.

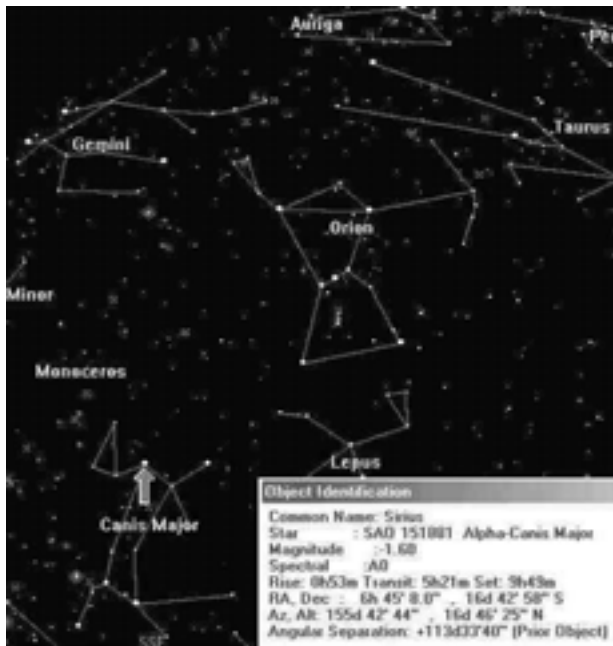
Around 8 pm Sky Park Time, this Sunday, December 31st New Year's Eve, face due south. And first, like all good astronomers, draw an imaginary line from the due south horizon straight up to the zenith point overhead and then down the other side of the sky to the horizon due north. This line is called the **meridian** and it divides the eastern half of the sky from the western half.

Now as our **Earth** slowly and endlessly rotates from west to east we are treated nightly to the grandest optical illusion in nature - that of watching the stars appear to rise in the east, slowly travel across the sky all night long and eventually set in the west. And if you watch the stars every single night you will eventually deduce that the highest point any star reaches above the horizon in its nightly journey is when it is on the meridian.

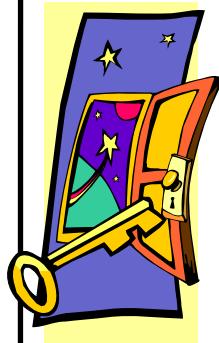
Now this is very important to telescope users because the higher a sky object is above the horizon the better its telescopic image will be. So several years ago when I was researching which planets would be high up off the horizon for viewing that New Year's Eve I stumbled across something which to me was and still is an amazing coincidence, something which I had never read about in any astronomy book. That coincidence is that no matter where you happen to be on New Year's Eve, **Sirius**, the brightest star we can see, will slowly climb up the southeastern sky hour after hour and at midnight will reach its highest point almost on the meridian. Think of it, the brightest star visible from our planet reaches its highest point above the horizon at midnight every New Year's Eve.

How wonderful, how poetic. Almost like a cosmic reminder that this most brilliant of stellar lights is welcoming in and shining on the New Year, giving us all hope for a bright new beginning. And even better if you happen to miss it on New Year's Eve because it's too cold or cloudy out, don't fret because Sirius will be in almost the same spot at midnight each night for the first week of the New Year. And think about this as you gaze up at Sirius this New Year's Eve. While our Sun is a million-mile-wide, relatively cool, yellow star, Sirius is a much hotter, almost twice as wide white star. And it's very close, cosmically speaking, only 8½ light years away, which means that when we look at Sirius this New Year's Eve we will actually be seeing the light that left it 8½ years ago in June of 1998.

So step outside at midnight this Sunday night and make your New Year's Eve bright with cosmic light. Happy New Year and keep looking up! *Jack Horkheimer*



Sirius



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, December 23 to Saturday, December 30

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ASTROLOGY Date: Sunday, December 24 – Saturday, December 30

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Avoid being intimately involved with clients or colleagues. Social activities will be satisfying. The answers can only come from within. You'll need to exercise control. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Minor fevers or infections will develop if you're over-stressed. You will have a tendency to put on pounds. You may have major blowups with someone you love if you don't back down. Your competitive nature will enable you to win any contest you enter. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) If you are in the midst of a financial deal, this is your lucky time. Spend time by yourself to avoid any conflicts with family members. Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments. Use discrimination and play hard to get. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Get involved in physical activities that will stimulate you. Travel for business purposes may bring the highest returns. You won't be admired at home if you haven't been taking care of your share of the work. You will be appreciated for the competence you exhibit and for taking on responsibilities. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Spend time by yourself to avoid any conflicts with family members. Don't deny yourself this week. You will be able to talk to your lover about future goals and perhaps make plans for the two of you to take a vacation. Don't overdo it. You need to enjoy yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Do not expect others to do your work. Work quietly on your own. You don't like confrontations at the best of times; however, you may find them difficult to avoid. Losses are likely if you have left your financial affairs in other people's hands. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may have difficulties finishing projects you start. However, you must not neglect your family. Check into art objects or precious stones. You can do well in group endeavors. Overindulgent people will cause disruptions in your life. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. Cutbacks at work will be a cause for worry. Deception is evident around you. Don't push your luck with authority. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Think about your budget before booking a trip. You can make extra cash if you act on a hunch. Friends and relatives may not understand your needs. Travel will entice you; however, a tendency to overspend is quite possible. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You must take care of health problems that have been lingering. Refuse to get involved in idle chatter; it will only make you look bad. Avoid any hassles. Be honest if you wish to solve the problem. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) A residential move may be in order. Be extra careful with your valuables; loss and theft are evident this week. Organize your house and be sure to include the whole family in the projects you have set out to do. Pushy people must be kept at arm's length. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Difficulties with your mate may lead to estrangement. You can make favorable changes in your home environment. Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. Listen to the problems of others and offer suggestions where possible. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

And the solution is: (puzzle and directions on page 12)

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