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**BONAIRE**

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# The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

## Lora Count Coming

How to Tell a Lora From a Prikichi

Page 10



**Prikichi**  
Marian Walthie Photo

# Flotsam and Jetsam

**The Islands Summit on the future government of the Antilles held in St Maarten at the end of last week showed that Curaçao has strengthened its objections to the agreement it signed last year and does not want to commit to sharing a Central Bank, currency, pension fund or social insurance bank with St. Maarten as envisioned.**

The Islands Summit started late, at 2 pm instead of 9am, at the request of Curaçao because its delegation insisted on traveling aboard Curaçao-based Insel Air rather than the Bonaire-based Dutch Antilles Express (DAE).

Without the prospect of a monetary union with Curaçao, it is highly unlikely that The Hague will approve an autonomous status for St. Maarten, say informed sources. They feel the Dutch Parliament wants to stick to the Final Statement that is partly based on the sharing of several tasks by the two islands when the Netherlands Antilles ceases to exist.

This situation may not affect the fate of the three less populated islands of Bonaire, Saba and Statia. **A meeting to work out details between the Dutch and the three islands are were held in Saba this week but produced little according to several island delegates.**

While the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles could theoretically continue without the cooperation of the Island Government of Curaçao, there are many practical obstacles, such as the division of assets and liabilities, including the Antillean debt. Curaçao's main objections to the Final Statement regard the instruction authority of the Dutch Justice Minis-

ter towards the attorney general and lack of a clear time limit for financial supervision at the Kingdom level.

A new Dutch Cabinet is not expected to be installed until February so major policy decisions for the kind of new initiatives and alternatives probably won't be taken in The Hague for months.

There are Island Council elections on all Antilles islands in April. In Curaçao it is turning into a sort of referendum on the Final Statement between the parties in favor and those against.

**► The military airfield at Hato in Curaçao was officially transferred from the Dutch Royal Air Force to the Coast Guard.** This coming October 15 the sea surveillance done by the Dutch Air Force will be privatized. Provincial Airlines Limited, a Canadian company specializing in maritime air surveillance, using the Dash-8 planes under supervision of the Coast Guard, will take over patrol duties.

**► The Caribbean will have one less regional air carrier at the end of this month** when

Caribbean Sun ceases operations after just over a three-year run. The San Juan-based Caribbean Sun fleet comprises four Dash-8 100 series aircraft, each with 37 seats. The carrier serves nine gateways throughout the Caribbean with more than 161 weekly flights.



**► Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag has asked Bonaire's Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé to report any building activities in the Lac/Sorobon area that may be in violation**



Wilna Groenenboom photo

**of the Ramsar Treaty** for the protection of wetlands. A press release by his cabinet said the Governor requested this because he is getting signals that such activities are taking place in the buffer zone of 500 meters along the Lac lagoon which is protected by the treaty. The Lt. Governor has been asked to investigate the lawfulness of these alleged activities and report to the Governor. On January 3 the Governor annulled two decisions by Bonaire's Executive Council regarding the Mangrove Village project because it violates the treaty.

**► The recent annulment by the Antillean Governor of the decisions made by Bonaire's Executive Council to allow the Mangrove Village project prompted ruling UPB party leader, Ramonsito Booi, to say that his party is not against environmental conservation and has a good record to prove it.**



Booi

The UPB believes that on Bonaire conservation and development must be balanced. Booi said that the same laws must

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**Only 15 days before the Walk-a-Thon!**



## Bubbles from the Biologist



*Spotted Eagle Ray* photo by Albert Bianculli

### Did You Know... Spotted Eagle Rays shell clams using only their mouths?

Spotted Eagle Rays are one of my very favorite animals and watching one glide by with its graceful fins and incredibly long tail leaves me in a state of bliss. If you've ever seen one rooting around in the sand or mud with its shovel-shaped snout, then you've seen it hunting for prey. They also have electroreceptors that aid in detecting buried prey. The upper and lower teeth of Spotted Eagle Rays are fused into plates and help them to crush mollusks such as clams, oysters, and even large snails (conch and tritons). Some people believe that rays leap out of the water as a way to crush their prey between those two big plates when they fall and hit the surface of the water. Another fascinating aspect of their feeding is that they have papillae (small, fleshy projections) in their mouths that sort shells from flesh. The flesh is swallowed and the shells are not. In addition to shelled animals, Spotted Eagle Rays also feed on crustaceans, octopus, squid, sea urchins and bony fishes. Sometimes they will overturn large rocks in search of food or tear prey directly from rocks. Plate-like teeth, papillae, electroreceptors, flexible snout, flying acrobatics – who

knew it would be so complicated? □  
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.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



On January 13, MCB Bank-Bonaire had the pleasure of celebrating the 35th anniversary of their employee, Nelson Manuel, at Donna & Giorgio's Bar Restaurant. Nelson joined MCB on January 2, 1972, in the Operations Department. In 1994 he became Cash Supervisor and in 2002 assumed his present position as the Supervisor Office Services. The photo shows Nelson in the company of his family.

□ Lily-Ann Domacassé

## coral glimpses

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



Everywhere that reefs attract divers, they attract anglers, and anglers leave entangled fishing line, so divers often find fishing line on the reef. The encrustations on this fishing line show that it's been down a while; the coral has probably grown into contact with the line. After taking this photo, I removed the fishing line.

As the coral head grew, it pressed

against the line. The areas beneath the line have already "bleached" (the algae is gone from those areas), but when I magnified the original photo, I could only find damage to eight individual blades of the coral, in three separate spots, so the coral should recover well -- if it otherwise remains healthy.

□ Captions and photos by Dee Scarr. Photos restored by Jack Drafaahl of the Oregon



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

apply to everybody and discussed the Sorobon hotel project that started in the 60s but was later abandoned. The Island Council at that time decided no more permits would be granted for that area, but several construction projects were still approved later.

"Now that (Bonairean developer) Angelo Clarinda wants to build the Mangrove Village, it is suddenly not possible." Booi added that "there are many other projects under construction in that area, for which an environmental impact assessment was never made."

The reason the land deed was signed at a notary's office in Curaçao was because the Bonaire notary refused to have the deed signed at his office because he didn't want to be involved in the quarrel between Clarinda and Nolly Oleana of the opposition party who were once partners in this project."

► The Commissioner in charge of issuing building permits, Reginald "Jonchi" Dortalina, says that **considering construction during past years in the area of Sorobon, the Mangrove Village project is nothing out of the ordinary.**

The UPB Commissioner was reacting to the recent annulment by Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag of two decisions to allow the Mangrove Village because no environmental impact study was done in keeping with the international Ramsar treaty on the protection of wetlands.

Dortalina listed the projects built since the 80s when the treaty was signed: Sorobon Beach Resort, Marcultura, KonTiki and the windsurfing places. "There is too much

fanaticism in nature conservation; the island needs to get a chance to develop," he said.



► The Democrat party opposition on the **Island Council is concerned** about Digicel's acquisition of Telbo's cellular business and wants a look this week at details of the agreement and any contracts made by the government since Telbo is island government owned.

In December of 2003, Telbo and UTS, which is a Curaçao-owned company, entered a GSM-cooperation contract with an income split of respectively 45-55%. The contract expires next month and it's been announced that Telbo users must switch to Digicel or have their cell phone numbers cancelled. UTS won a lawsuit that challenged the transfer against Telbo and Digicel.

"The customers and employees of Telbo and UTS are currently very confused," wrote the Democrats in a letter. According to the party, while Telbo is a government-owned company, the Island Council was not made aware of this sale.

► Mobile telephone service provider Digicel, headquartered in Jamaica, claims subscriber growth in excess of 100% throughout the Caribbean. In a release issued last week, **Digicel declared that it ended the year 2006 with a total investment in the Caribbean region exceeding US\$1.5 billion** and now operates in 22 markets with four million customers, representing a subscriber growth in excess of 100%. Last year Digicel established a presence

in Trinidad & Tobago, Haiti, Turks & Caicos, Guyana, Bonaire and acquired existing operations in Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guinea.

Digicel now employs 3,000 people throughout its Caribbean operations and last year introduced a company-wide employee share option program.

► During his annual reception, held this year at the Tera Kòrà Community Center, Bonaire's Governor, Herbert Domacassé, said that in 2007 **attention must be given to Bonaire's people.** The reception, which formerly was held only in the Governor's residence but, in a tradition initiated by the Governor, is now held in a different bario every year, was co-hosted by the Governor's wife, Maria-Elena.



Domacassé

In his New Year address the Governor said that 2007 will be very active for Bonaire with much work to be accomplished. Changes began in 2006 especially for the civil servants. The government has improved the infrastructure of the island and many projects started up. The visit of Queen Beatrix to Bonaire was a highlight of '06. The signing the "Final Statement" (Slotverklaring) outlining the transition of Bonaire from a member of the Netherlands Antilles to a unique municipality of The Netherlands itself was an important event for the island in the past year. "Now we have come to the implementation stage and the implementation of the declaration must take place."

"A goal in 2007 is to work for the development of people on Bonaire. We cannot get a New Bonaire without the people. We

must work for the development of people on Bonaire and everyone must be productive. It is important to focus on the family and the young in 2007. We must take into account that we are all responsible for the youngsters to be able to grow up as a responsible adults," he added.

The Governor was again critical of easy access of alcohol to children and cable TV pornography. In closing he directed his attention on the elderly residents of Tera Kòrà who were on hand at the reception. "We must follow the example of my friend, Janchi Janga, who has done a lot for the Tera Kòrà neighborhood."

► The Bonaire Police Corps wants to become the 27<sup>th</sup> police district of the Netherlands. It wants to do this together with Statia and Saba, the so-called "K3" or "smaller islands" that hope to become a special municipality of the Netherlands this year. The Netherlands has currently 25 police districts, plus the national Police Corps, KLPD.

► **Preparation for the 40th Bonaire Regatta has already begun.**

Set for October 7-13, 2007, it promises to be the best organized and exciting yet and to attract more visitors to the island. A media plan has been prepared to publicize the event overseas. The venue will continue to be the Kralendijk waterfront and Plaza Wilhelmina. Contact Robert Evertsz at the TCB 717-8322 to coordinate personal and business activities



(Continued on page 6)

# Letters

## CHANGING TIMES

Dear Editor:

It takes virtually no imagination to plug Bonaire in here instead of Egypt. Bonaire's classic houses are disappearing. Perhaps our bread has not changed, but read carefully, especially the last three paragraphs, and give this some serious thought.

*From BCC Radio. As spoken by the administrator of the Muslim College of London:*

"I just returned from my first trip to Egypt in 30 years. I was there in January 1977 and now in January 2007. Well I couldn't help but think of the 7<sup>th</sup> century mystique's line, 'I keep hidden within myself an Egypt that doesn't exist'.

Egypt has changed. My village is no longer a collection of low level mud brick houses arranged along a canal. The canal has been piped underground and 3 and 4 story blocks are now the norm. The Egypt I remember from 30 years ago, of course, no longer exists.

Cairo has also changed and is now surrounded by recently built suburbs to which many of the middle classes have moved. There are huge shopping malls and massive arterial roads that mean that you can easily travel from one part of the city to another, if you have a car or can afford a taxi fare.

The steady creep of globalization can also be seen in the change in Egyptian bread. I remember the old of 30 years ago as a nutty brown flat bread, dense and tasting strongly of grain. I was amazed to see that the bread has become much whiter and more refined.

I'm suspicious of nostalgia and no one can deny that we and our societies must change and develop, but what struck me about the nature of development in Egypt was its relatively unplanned and chaotic nature. In this kind of environment if you don't have money to buy into the new society and have no status so you can defend your interests you are abandoned. You become invisible, occupying the spaces under overpasses struggling to survive in a situation where all your means of survival are negatively impacted by these new developments.

It seems that we all too easily lose perspective about what we want to discard and what we want to preserve. Whether it is in my village or even in this country all the negative sides of development seem to come from a failure to consult with those being affected.

It's precisely this tendency to ignore those without social or economic power that endangers all the positive possibilities inherent in progress.

The Koran says, 'consult with them about the affairs concerning them.' This seems to me the essence of a sensible development policy. The people's voice, a social consensus, is the best guard against destructive modernization." *B.B.*

# Guest Editorial expresses the opinions of the writer

## PROPERTY VALUES

There seems to be a lot of people, mostly foreigners, who are overly pleased that property values have skyrocketed, making their land and homes worth so much more. The excessive number of real estate agencies are doing extremely well, selling and reselling with prices climbing each time. Buy property, tear down old houses, build new and sell right away. Make money, raise values - the cry is "great for me but to hell with everyone else." With this comes the flood of speculators buying and selling to other speculators, leaving the average Bonaire citizen in the dust.

Has anyone given thought to the Bonaireans who have lived here for countless years and now, because of such inflated and fabricated real estate values, will most likely get taxed right out of their homes? Those who still have seaside land will soon not be able to keep it, forced to sell, most likely, to foreign rich. You say, "So what, the Bonairean's property also increases in value." What does this person do? Sell and go back home? This is or rather was home. Sell and buy a lesser quality home?



This trend is evident throughout the world. Speculators and developers come in and suddenly there is an increase in real estate agents and people dealing in property, just like here. The entire economy spins out of control - greater separation between the classes and higher taxes for everyone. Bonaire once enjoyed a reasonably close society but now the rich are richer and more Bonaireans are being left behind with only empty promises, nothing else. □ *A.B*



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4) in support of Regatta. President of the Bonaire Sailing Foundation (BSaF), Elvis Martinus, and BSaF coordinator, Byron Tromp, as well as the TCB hope all Bonaireans will cooperate and get involved in making the next Regatta the best ever.

► **The Dutch inflation rate was 1.1% in 2006, the lowest level since 1989, the Dutch national statistical office said.** The low inflation rate is mainly the result of lower government taxes and a reduced increase of energy prices. Excise duties on strong liquor were decreased and the price of audio and video equipment fell. Food was one of the few categories that recorded price increases. Last year was the third successive year that the Dutch inflation figure remained under 2%.

► As in Bonaire (see last week's *Reporter*) **Dutch housing prices are continuing to rise and sales volumes are reaching record heights**, the real estate agents association, NVM, said. NVM reported that the average selling price of a home increased by 1.1% in the fourth quarter of 2006. Over the full year, the average price went up by 3.7%, and the average selling price is now 241,000 euros. The number of house sales climbed nearly 3% in 2006 compared with 2005, news service NIS reported. In citing a small increase in interest rates and forecasting economic growth of 3%, NVM predicts a 5% increase in average housing prices in 2007.

► **St Maarten ordered 100,000 tons of salt from Bonaire** to counter the growth of midges, a mosquito-like insect that is a nuisance to communities surrounding Great Salt Pond, which is no longer salty enough. Some salt is still available from

the 100,000 tons of Bonairean salt bought last year to deal with a plague of midges that infest households and businesses.

► On Saturday, January 13, **the first cleanup dive of this year** was held, sponsored by Dive Friends Bonaire NetTech. Some 40 volunteers joined the activity. Dee Scarr and Christine Trosztmer, inspecting the collected materials, found the usual materials lost in the water: drinking bottles, cans, fishing line, plastic cups and plates, pvc pipes, pieces of iron, copper and stainless steel. Christine said, "This time we also found some really weird things in the sea: a full bottle of ketchup, an unused diaper and nearly enough parts to reconstruct a jet ski!"

At the barbecue afterwards, salads, an onion quiche and homemade (warm) cookies were brought. According to Clement Bartelet, a dive instructor at Dive Friends Bonaire, the chocolate cake made by Audrey Sonka from *Seafari*, was voted most delicious.

The next cleanup dive organised by Dive Friends Bonaire and NetTech will take place on Saturday, April 14. (J. B.)□

L./G.D.

## Construction of Waterlands Village Bonaire Reaches Highest Point

On December 15th, 2006, just before the construction trades' holiday for Christmas, the "highest point" was reached at the construction site of Waterlands Village Bonaire: time to celebrate *Spantenbier* (free drinks for attaching the highest rafter).

Construction workers are working very hard and with dedication to accomplish this beautiful small-scale resort along Kaya International. There will be 24 one-story cottages, a large communal pool, lush gardens and, alongside the waters around the peninsula a (man-made) beach, with seven docks. □ *Press Release*



## Divi Flamingo says: "Gimme 5"

Divi Flamingo loves its employees and they want to show it. Last week General Manager Sara Matera, as part of the "Gimme Five" program, handed out \$5 bills to those employees who received compliments from the hotel guests....\$5 per compliment. Employees receiving \$5: Selimah

Agostien, Claydrick Clarinda, Rollin Petersie, Orlando Thomas, Poppy martis, Serge De Groote, Caroll-Ann, Roy Martinez, Ibi Thomas, Pierre Anthony, Carmen Abadia-Martinez, Sheila Thielman.

\$10 winners: Oy Cicilia, Jaap DeKort, Marie-Jeanne, Gianna Martinus.

\$15 winner: Geertje DeGroot Top Winner for \$35: Mirna Arrindel of the Front Office. Over the last year the Divi has awarded \$800 to these very special employees.

All the past winners' names from last year were put in a box for a drawing. Lucky winner was Orlando Thomas who won the Grand Prize of a trip for two for three nights at the Divi All-Inclusive in Aruba. *At Divi you can say, "It pays to be nice!"* L.D.

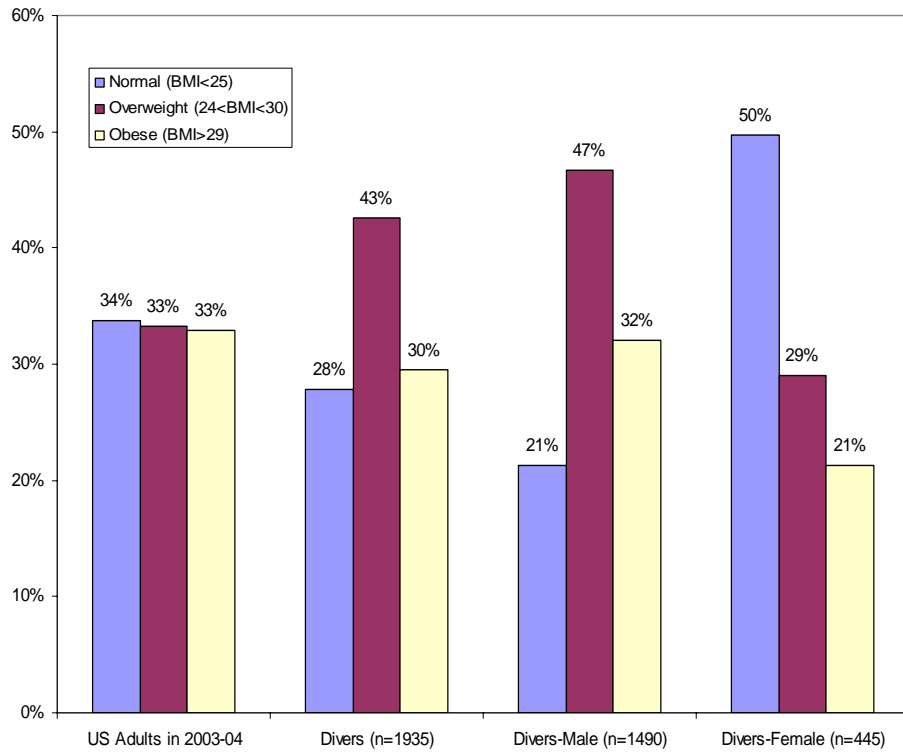


"Gimme 5" winners with Divi Managers

# A Shrink Studies SCUBA



**Table 1. Body Mass Index of Scuba Divers in 2003-04**



What do my beautiful wife Lynn, Bonaire super-dive-model Suzi Swygert, *Into the Blue* movie stars Jessica Alba and Ashley Scott, and 221 female divers have in common? They were among the 50% of female divers (out of a random sample of 445) who were NOT overweight or obese according to their self-reported height and weight in the winter 2004 online diver safety survey as shown in **Table 1**.

Actually, my wife and Suzi and the movie stars were not in the survey, but I've seen all of them in wetsuits. As a girl-watcher and physician I can make a pretty good guess.

According to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, an estimated 66% of US adults age 20-74 years were overweight or obese in 2003-04 as shown in **Table 2**. This was based upon measured heights and weights and calculated

body mass index (BMI), expressed as weight/height<sup>2</sup> (BMI: kg/m<sup>2</sup>).

Unfortunately, we guys are not in as good shape. Only 21% of male divers (n=1490) in the survey were not overweight or obese. Put another way, 79% of us appear to be out of shape and are doing worse than the national average of 66%. My guess is that is because so many of us are built like Hercules and Hulk Hogan and the BMI does not take into account our massive muscle mass. Yeah, right...

If you have participated in any of our online surveys since 2000 and/or have a particular question about the results for future articles, then please email me at [david@divepsych.com](mailto:david@divepsych.com). In next week's column I will report the survey results on decompression symptoms and their relationship to obesity, an area of some question in the dive literature. □ *D. Colvard MD*



David F. Colvard, M.D., is a private psychiatrist and clinical investigator in Raleigh NC, and a divemaster. He hosts the website [www.DivePsych.com](http://www.DivePsych.com) which provides evidence-based information for divers on psychological and stress factors in scuba divers. □



*Half of female divers have a weight problem; more than three-quarters of male divers do too* Internet photo



*In contrast we have Bonaire's dive-model, Suzi Swygert*

**Table 2. Age-adjusted\* prevalence of overweight and obesity among U.S. adults, age 20-74 years**

	NHANES II (1976-80) (n=11,207)	NHANES III (1988-94) (n=14,468)	NHANES (1999-2000) (n=3,603)	NHANES (2001-02) (n=3,916)	NHANES (2003-04) (n=3,756)
Overweight or obese (BMI greater than or equal to 25.0)	47.1	55.9	64.5	65.7	66.2
Obese (BMI greater than or equal to 30.0)	15.0	23.2	30.9	31.3	32.9

\*Age-adjusted by the direct method to the year 2000 U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates using the age groups 20-39, 40-59, and 60-74 years.

\*\*NHANES II did not include individuals over 74 years of age, thus trend estimates are based on age 20-74 years.







# Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

If you arrive by cruise ship, there is one thing you can't miss: the "fiery red" and the "hot pink" colors of the bar-restaurant Donna & Giorgio's. This was the former living house of Mama Telly Marchena-Boekhoudt born in 1880 and Tata Chris Marchena born in 1881. Chris was the captain of a cargo ship, sailing between Bonaire and Curaçao. They bought this house in 1912. Three of their four children, Martina, Ernesto and Julio, moved out when they got married. Sarah didn't marry and lived in this house until her death in 1997 at 84 years. Telly, her mother, passed away at the age of nearly 103 in 1982.



Chris



Titchi



Telly

It is a simple *Cas di Hadrey* (house with porch). On the right side of the *hadrey* was the kitchen with the old *formu* (oven) and water cistern (photo left below).

Later the kitchen housed a little shop. Sarah sold buttermilk or *kalmelki*, which came from the family *kunuku* Wanapa where they had cows and goats. She also sold candy and other things to the children who played on the beach and in the sea in front of the house. It was one of those candy buying children who started calling Sarah her well known name of "Cha-Cha-Cha." Although the family had given Sarah the pet name, "Titchi," Robby Beukenboom was the one who asked Sarah to give her name to the beach in front of her house, which is now known as Cha-Cha-Cha Beach.

For more than seven years after the death of Titchi the house stood empty.

When Donna and Giorgio bought the house in September 2005 they started restoration immediately. They had to make some drastic decisions. A living house is not a restaurant and bar which has different demands, so it was necessary to do some drastic rebuilding. They removed the cistern, some pillars and part of the back section of the oven on the right side of the *hadrey* (photo upper left). In rearranging the placement of the pillars they made new pillars around the terrace in the same style as the old ones, of which one remains on the left side in front of the *hadrey*.

By reducing the size of the oven it gives us the opportunity to understand and see the architectural structure and materials used.

The cross pan tiles or *panchi franses* on the house are still the same as those of a hundred years ago. They were cleaned and painted for better protection against the weather. The *hadrey* got new roof tiles.

The wooden floor in the *hadrey* was in such terrible condition that it had to be removed. The living room, or *sala*, still has its original wooden floor (photo right). The planks are different in size and structure. Probably they had to change a few of them during the years. Looking closely at these wooden planks you'll notice that some were made by hand with a chisel and wooden hammer. So they must be very old.

The kitchen walls were "decorated" with little papers, each with a little prayer: one asking for good health and protection, another asking for blessings for the house or good business. There was one about the protector of the Virgin Mary who protects her from danger. Most of the little papers were badly deteriorated and had to be removed, but this one is still in its original place in the doorway on the left side of the front desk.

For Donna Dovale and her husband Giorgio Arra there are many coincidences. The

street on the left side of the house is named Kaya Francia. Donna and Giorgio's daughter is named Franci. Above the left doorway from the *hadrey* to the *sala* is a portrait of a lady, painted in Venezuela, with the text: "Nuestra Senora Del Valle Del Espiritu Santo." Dovale means "from the countryside." The name has its roots in Portugal but through the years Del



One of the prayers for protection

Valle changed to Dovale. In reading about the Virgin Del Valle we can understand why the Marchena family, with a ship's captain, especially took her as their "protector." Del Valle or Virgin of the Valley is a very well know virgin in Spanish speaking countries.

Many simple but beautiful antique living houses often have a hidden history, sometimes difficult to discover. But for this story I got a lot of help from Donna about the Marchena family living on Bonaire and Curaçao.



The Virgin of the Valley

## Patronages

The most popular prayer to the Virgin of the Valley is from the sailors and fishermen who never go to the sea without asking first, "With God and the Virgin of the Valley." In 1981, on November 15, Pope John Paul II

officially proclaimed the Virgin of the Valley as the Patron Saint of the Venezuelan Navy.

## Miracle

Near the island of Coche off the Venezuelan coast, a fisherman went out to get oysters and was wounded on his leg by a stingray. It became infected with gangrene. The doctor decided that only the amputation of the leg would save him. The sick man and his wife appealed to the Most Holy Virgin of the Valley and they made a promise to dedicate the first pearl to her after he became well.

He was cured in a short time, and he again went diving for oysters. In the first one he opened there appeared a pearl in the form of a leg and on its side a mark like a scar exactly in the place of the wound.

This and many other signs have given witness to the power of God through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. □ W.G.

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



## The Difference Between Loras and Prikichis



*Loras in flight*

**B**onaire's annual lora count will take place at the end of the month so here are a few light hearted observations which will hopefully have you telling loras from prikichis at half a mile in bad light. Even if you are not volunteering in the count you may still like to know how to spot one of the island's best treasures, so do read on.

Several thousand years ago the prikichis realized how cool loras are and they put in a big effort to look more like them. The loras are brightly colored birds with yellow heads and green bodies. The prikichis got pretty close to the lora's colors, but their heads are more orangey-yellow, and their green bodies are a fraction darker. Should you only look at colors it may seem difficult to tell these two apart so we are going to look at some other key details, then the differences between these birds will hope-

fully become obvious.

### Appearance and movement

The difference in size between these birds is the first clue in telling them apart although it may not be obvious until you see them side by side. From head to tail a lora measures 33cm and the prikichi is smaller at 25cm. The difference is greater than the numbers suggest, however, because a lora is a full bodied and short tailed parrot, whereas the prikichi is a slim, long tailed parakeet. If you can't picture that, imagine a lora as a big tub of Lovers ice cream and a prikichi to be a single scoop on a waffle cone. The prikichi's tail is actually about the same length as its body and as a result the bird's silhouettes are very different when they fly.

Through the process of evolution these parrots have evolved into difference shapes

and as a result they move very differently. The prikichi with its pointy wings and long tail is like an efficient private jet flying fast and directly. The lora, on the other hand, appears to struggle a little with its more rounded wings and chunky body. It's more like a Hercules transport. The size and shape of a lora in flight can actually appear quite similar to that of the island's pigeons, but the way they move is very different. The lora has a very distinct and comical way of flapping its wings. A cruising lora holds its wings straight out and moves them up and down, seemingly as little as possible. If you saw a bird and felt concerned it was putting so little effort into flight that it may drop out of the sky it was probably a lora. A pigeon by contrast moves its wings up and down so much that when it takes off

its wings actually clap together at the top of the stroke.

### Call

The screech of a prikichi is unrefined, much like a cheap white wine. The lora, however, makes a delicious warbling and babbling sound and by comparison is more like a fine Italian red wine: it takes time to appreciate its full complexity. Once you can spot the difference (in the calls!) you will never mistake the two again, and often hearing their calls is the first sign they are nearby. Some would say the lora is noisy, but really it is just their enthusiasm for life, especially at the start of a new day.

*Continued on pg..12*



*When loras gorge themselves on calabas they dirty their faces.*



*A ubiquitous prikichi (also on the cover)*



## BONAIRE ON WHEELS

*A series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brower, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."*

### Hidden Beauty

One of Bonaire's best kept secrets is hidden in the peaceful and quiet village of Rincón. She is a bit sleepy, almost completely covered with sheets to protect her skin against the rays of the burning Bonairean sun. But with her left eye she winks at me, as if to say, "Hello, I'm here! Come on and have a closer look at me."

She is a four-door Chevrolet Belair, a grand lady, born in 1957 and owned by Raymond Nicolaas from Rincón. Her nickname is "Prechochin," which means something like "darling" or "my love." This two-tone Chevrolet Belair has a white roof and a blue/green body with rocket wings on the rear and two styled jet planes on the front of the bonnet. The four brand new whitewall tires make a nice combination with the body work. The Belair is equipped with a strong six-cylinder, in-line overhead valve engine driven by push rods. The car is almost completely made of steel and chrome and a little aluminum. It is very difficult to find any plastic parts. That's why this car has lasted this long.

This year she will be 50 years old. The



Chevrolet was made during the time driving a car was really hard work: no power brakes, no power steering, no power windows, no air-conditioning, just a fan as an extra.

Back in 1963 Raymond Nicolaas was the owner of a Chevrolet pick-up, built somewhere in the early 50s, also equipped with a straight-six engine. In that year he bought his blue/green painted four-door sedan. He is the fourth owner. The car was sold new in Curaçao. After a few years she was shipped to Bonaire to serve as a cab. Now the car has retired, like her owner. She may be retired, but she is still going strong and in a complete and good operating condition. The car is regularly taken for small tours around the island and she drives newlyweds. She is also used to transport celebrities and she

contributes to anniversaries. The B233 Belair and her owner are happy. They have got smiles on their faces.

Then, at the end of the interview, I thank Mr. Nicolaas for his time and all the information he gave me. I start my motorcycle, ready to leave for home. When I turn my head and wave I see Mr. Nicolaas carefully covering his beauty with the sheets against the sun. One eye winks at me.

*Story & photo by J@n Brower*

(Loras vs. Prikichis. Continued from page 10)

### Where to find them

The prikichi is one of the most numerous birds on the island. They can be found almost anywhere from Belnem northwards. The lora prefer to stay in the north and tend to be more particular about when to visit town. The loras are busiest and most vocal in the early hours and just before sunset, and they are more likely than the prikichi to have a nap through the middle of the day.

The key things to remember then are that you are looking for the coolest bird on the island which is a good size, a relaxed flyer who sings badly despite great enthusiasm for doing so. Now that you'll

be able to tell them apart you must not forget that the lora is recognized globally as an endangered species so don't forget how privileged you are when you do get to spot one. □

Story & photos by Sam Williams

Sam Williams and his colleague, Rowan Martin, were on the island for six months as part of their doctoral research, studying the Bonaire Lora. Both of them hope that their research, which will extend over a three-year period, will be of benefit to the Lora's conservation.



## 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

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

### IS YOUR HOUSE NEW TO YOU?

Make it more livable from the start. FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

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

### BONAIRENET

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

### CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m<sup>2</sup> 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-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

Tarot Readings- Call 700-9422 Louise

## Vacation Rental

### Cozy guest cottage available

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



## For Sale

**DANGER: If you are using a first stage from a scuba regulator to fill flat tires etc and do not have a 2<sup>nd</sup> stage attached, it is possible, if the first stage fails, to have the hose explode.** Carib Inn has a limited number of pressure relief valves at \$10 each to protect both you and the hose. These are small and simply screw into one of the LP ports on the first stage. Carib Inn 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm.



For sale: Brand New ECCO shoes in original box size: EU 38, US size 7. Asking price \$55. Store price: \$100. Call 701-5225 after 3pm.

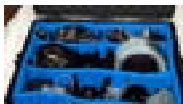
### NIKONOS III - Camera and Macro tube Set.

Still the best camera for macro shots. Original owner. NEVER been flooded. Past Nikonos Shoot-Out winner. Complete \$250. Call George 786-6215.



### For Sale: Nikon N90S Underwater System with Sea & Sea Housing:

Pelican Case; Nikon N90S; AFN Nikkor 2.8-80MM 1:3.5-5.6D; AF Micro Nikkor 60mm 1:2.8D; AF Nikkor 28-80MM 3.5-5.6D Zoom Gear; 2 aperture gears, Bower 62-52 gear; NX-990 Pro housing (Sea&Sea); NX-90 Dome Port/cover; NX50/90 Flat Zoom port/cover; aperture gear; dual sync cord (Sea&Sea); 2 YS-120 Duo Strobes (Sea&Sea); 2 Sea&Sea head adaptors; 4 ultralite clamps; 2 dovetail adaptors; 1 dovetail shoe; 2 strobe screws; 3 ultralite 4" D-ball; 2 ultralite 12" D-ball; extra o-ring set; Sekonic Marine meter II. Asking \$1,000. Call 717-2050.



New Diadora Cayman Mtn. Biking Shoes, size 39 (mens 6.5, womans 8) but seem to fit smaller than that, NAf 35. Swanson 717-8814

# 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](http://www.Sudoku Shack.com).

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

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

Complete solution on page 19.

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 new, worn twice. Black with magenta trim. Size 13-14. NAf70 (\$40) OBO. Call 786-6518.



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

1995 Toyota 4-Runner. Good Condition, low mileage, NAf 11500. Call 717-8019

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



FOR SALE: FIAT BARCETTA Cabrio, 1997, yellow, with hard-top and windstop. Tel. 786-5591.



FOR SALE-Deawoo Nubiria 98 In Good General Condition -Few Scratches and repair needed. Book Value is Fl 8000. Selling Price Fl 5000 Call-717-6997.

## Property, Sales & Rentals

FOR SALE: Kunuku (farm) 949 sq. meters. Modern house with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath inside, 1 outside. On water line, plus sweet water well. Electricity via solar and wind generator. Tras di Montana road. NAf1800,00. Call 785-6378.

Harbour Village Marina Front Condo For Sale- Large one-bedroom, two-bath apartment located in a secluded all-condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. [www.luxurybonaire.com](http://www.luxurybonaire.com)

## Wanted

Looking for work. Cleaning lady (speaking Spanish and Papiamentu) is looking for part-time work. 568 - 9506.

Dog kennel, medium size for dog weighing 13 kilos/30 lbs. Airline approved. (Not needed until March) 717-6862.

Cashier needed part time. Dutch, English, Papiamentu preferred. Last Bite Bakery. 717-3293

Kitchen/Prep/Dishwasher needed- part time Some English preferred. Last Bite Bakery call: 717-3293

## Missing Dog

Bonairean Ridgeback, reddish coat, white face, spayed female, a bit chubby

Lost in vicinity of Lagoen Road

Not overly friendly with strangers.

If found contact the Bonaire Animal Shelter at 717- 4989



Porch Sale 21- 28 January -Kaya Alkmaar # 6 ( Hato ) Various Porch set 2 and 4 seat with table.(plastic);Double semi Orthopedic bed; Side Tables - Hair Dryer - Bar Stool - Lots of old LP's / Cassette - Chest of drawers - Antique Lamp - TV - Lamps - Screen -Bed Cover- Vertical Blinds - Radio /Cassette/CD - Monitor - Showcase -cabinet ( vitrine kast ) And lots more.

## The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a person to do layout for the weekly editions.



Must be very competent with Microsoft Publisher and familiar with Microsoft Office programs. Great part-time job and could possibly be done from home. Call George at 786-6125 or 786-6518.



# Only 15 days before the Special Olympics Walk-A-Thon

**The Fifth Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon is on Sunday, February 4.** No matter who you are you're welcome to join the groups and individuals who will be walking, biking, roller blading, whatever, from the Slave Huts to the Pasa Dia in Rincon. No matter whether it be rain or shine, the Walk-a-Thon will go on. Special Olympics Bonaire National Director Claire Sealy promises some surprises along the way and another at the end at the Pasa Dia. Groups are forming to do the walk together. Signed up already is the enthusiastic "Go Fast" group coming in from Curaçao.

And even if you don't want to make the trek yourself you can be a sponsor of one of the groups or an individual person...or just buy a ticket and watch from the sidelines.

Tickets are only **NAf25** and it **all** goes to a good cause, sending our Special Olympic athletes to compete in this year's World Games in Shanghai, China, in October.

The Walk-a-Thon event, begun five years ago, was the inspiration of ex-head coach, Elizabeth Wigny, who wanted it to not only be a fund raising event but one that was historically important – the route taken by the slaves between Rincon and the salt pans where they labored.

## "How To" for Participants

Everyone meets at the Slave Huts in the southern part of the island at 5 am, where the 30-kilometer walk begins. You may leave your car at the Stadium in Playa and take the FKPD bus which leaves at **4:30 am Sharp** to take you to the Slave Huts starting area. It's a wonderfully quiet time before sunrise as you traverse the coastline.

**Get Your Ticket Now- Only NAf25**  
Includes a T-shirt, canvas carrying bag, water bottle and a hot meal at the end.



Birds will begin to awaken and you'll witness the sunrise. At the end, you'll be able to get a ride back to your car from the Pasa Dia in Rincon.

Those who did the trip on bikes can get their bike trans-

ported back to the Stadium. Along the route there will be refreshment stops every five kilometers where you'll be offered water, Gatorade, oranges and plenty of encouragement. The Red Cross will be on the road to make sure everyone is okay, and pickup trucks will be patrolling to give a lift to the tired ones. At the Pasa Dia you'll get a certificate and a delicious hot meal and drink and time to re-hash the day. For your **NAf25** you get: a free Walk-a-Thon T-shirt, canvas carrying bag, water bottle and a hot meal at the end. Get your tickets at TCB (717-8322), Chat 'n' Browse, Obersi Electronics, (Xerox), Bowling di Danilo or from any Special Olympics board member (**National Direc-**



Walkers from 2006

tor Claire Sealy; President Lupe Uranie; Treasurer Suzy Bakker; Head of Coaches Chio Semeleer; Board Member Aura Kock). Or [email: info@specialolympicsbonaire.org](mailto:info@specialolympicsbonaire.org). Present your ticket and pick up your gift bag at City Café/Hotel Rocheline in the lobby on Friday, February 2 from 4 to 7 pm, or Saturday, February 3 from 10 am to 4 pm. See you there! □LD

## Can't Do The Route?

But you can sponsor a walker or a group...

And...buy the book, "Recipes for Success," compiled by Delno Tromp for \$10 and all proceeds go to Special Olympics. It's sold at shops around town.

## TITLE SPONSOR 2007

**Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire**



# STRAIGHT TALK



**I**t's all about dating, love, sex, friendship, and marriage - so let's talk. Email your relationship questions to my attention: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com).

## Question from: "Real Love"

Betty Wills

*Dear Betty,  
How can you tell if it's real love or just lust?*

**ANSWER:** It depends on how much alcohol you've had to drink. More than five drinks and you may think it's real love, much the same way ugly becomes beautiful. One way to tell for sure is when you sober up. If you don't remember falling in love, it couldn't have been real. It was just 80 proof lust. On the positive side, too much alcohol is a good method of birth control - almost as good as having an 80-year-old body - and that's what you might find lying beside you when you wake up the next morning!

Another way to tell if it's real is to determine whether or not your love is unconditional, which is something that can only be determined over time. If your love doesn't falter, regardless of the annoyances, faults, and shortcomings of the other person, it's probably real love. Take the "tingly test," but only when you're sober. If you still get warm and tingly when you touch each other affectionately after 10+ years into the relationship, there is a good chance it's real love. The fact you waited that long to do the test, and are still touching each other affectionately are pretty good clues it's real love. □



## JOKE OF THE DAY

Did you ever notice that when you fall in love, you sink into his arms?  
But after the wedding your arms are in his sink?

### 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
1-19	12:43	2.1FT.	22:29	0.8FT.					92
1-20	13:31	2.0FT.	22:54	0.8FT.					96
1-21	14:16	1.8FT.	23:16	0.9FT.					97
1-22	15:16	1.7FT.	23:35	1.0FT.					94
1-23	6:23	1.4FT.	11:06	1.3FT.	16:15	1.5FT.	23:44	1.1FT.	87
1-24	6:46	1.6FT.	14:07	1.2FT.	17:47	1.3FT.	23:34	1.1FT.	78
1-25	7:28	1.8FT.	15:46	1.1FT.	19:47	1.2FT.	22:51	1.1FT.	68
1-26	8:06	1.9FT.	16:46	0.9FT.					59

### 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)

### Babel (Brad Pitt)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)  
Dejavu  
(Dezel Washington)

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  
January: Happy Feet

### THIS WEEK

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon: Tuesday, January 23 – *Veendam*, Wednesday, January 24 – *Crown Princess*

January 21 – 28 -Local well known people show their art for the Lions Club Fundraiser – Kas di Arte, 5-8:30pm  
Sunday, January 28 –BBQ at Kas di Arte in connection with Art Show at Kas di Arte, 5:30 pm followed by Auction at 8 pm.

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

### COMING

Sunday, February 4 -5<sup>th</sup> Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon—See Page 13.

Saturday, February 10 - The 2<sup>nd</sup> BWC Mountain Bike Tour. Meet at Eden Beach Resort Activity Center at 4 pm. NAf15 per person (includes drink + fruits). Sign up at Eden Beach Activity Center Monday through Saturday, 9am - 5pm or day of the tour. **Note:** Helmets are compulsory for the tour and can be rented at Eden's Activity Center

### 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.) 5-6
- 2 for 1 appetizers with entrée 6-7, 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 ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm
- **Beginning Yoga** 6.30pm Harbour Village 786-6416
- **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

- **Advanced Yoga** 6.30pm Harbour Village 786-6416
- **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
- **Mixed Level Yoga** 8.30am Buddy Dive 786-6416
- **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**

## Pet of the Week

Here's a cat that makes a statement. Just look at the photo of "Charles" and I'm sure you'll agree. Such self-confidence and handsome demeanor in this young eight-month old kitty. The Shelter staff reports that he's very perky and smart, in good shape and of course very social. If you like tabbies, he's your boy. He even has white feet and a white tipped tail to round out his stylish appearance. See him at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Already this year there have been 11 adoptions at the Shelter.

We're happy to announce that the found dog shown last week turned out to be "Skinny" and was retrieved by his owners.

It's not such a happy ending for a number of other pets who disappeared during the fireworks. At least a dozen people have called the Shelter looking for their missing animals. And the fireworks continue and pets continue to run away in fear. Shouldn't people be a little more considerate of our animals? □L.D.



"Charles"

- **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 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) 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 - Tuesdays - 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.  
**Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above 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 Claire 717-8290  
**Volunteers to train children in sports.** Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

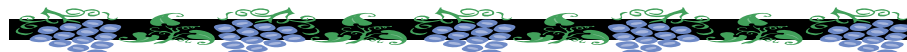
### CHURCH SERVICES

**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](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel: 786-6518 or 786-6125



# DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service</b> 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.
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> 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.	<b>Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> 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)
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> 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 to 10 pm	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Cactus Blue</b> Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564	Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Trend Setting Menu</b> Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	<b>Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday</b> from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
<b>The Great Escape</b> EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast Sandwich Lunch 10 am-12 noon	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof.</b> Breakfast Buffet 7:30-10 am every day Super beer selection—Happy hours 5 to 7 daily.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> Kaya Grandi 70 717-3293	Low-Moderate Open Tuesday through Saturday	<b>NAf10 lunch every day</b> main dish with 2 side dishes.
<b>Papaya Moon Cantina</b> Downtown— Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate Open everyday except Tuesday For Dinner	<b>Margaritas a Specialty</b> 2 for 1 Happy Hour 6-7:30 Incredible Mexican Cuisine
<b>Papagayo</b> Downtown, Kaya L.D.Gerharts, opposite MCB 717-8003	Moderate Open for Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Monday	<b>Breakfasts featuring Eggs Benedict</b> Burgers and Salads Open at 8 am
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredi- dents. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
<b>The Bonaire Windsurfing Place</b> At Sorobon Beach	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A <b>genuine sandy beach restaurant</b> cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the <b>Wednesday Beach BBQ.</b>

# 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.

## 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 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 ... 1962 Charbel Sassin

“I was born on Curaçao, but only because of the fact that my mother gave birth to me in the hospital there. My whole family was living on Bonaire; we are related by both sides – father and mother – to the Salehs here on the island and in Curaçao as well. My family had a shop in Nikiboko North, next to Achie Tours. So, after one week my mom and I came back to Bonaire where I lived until I was seven. I didn’t go to school on Bonaire, maybe for a few months, but that was it. I don’t remember much of that time because in 1968 we went to Lebanon with the whole family to live there for good.

We lived in the north of Lebanon in a small village about one and a half hour’s drive from Beirut. Father didn’t have to work, and I went to school, but in 1976 the civil war broke out, and in 1978, 10 years after we’d left, we all came back to Bonaire. We’d gone with four and we came back with six because two more brothers were born in Lebanon.

It was a great pain to leave the country, but we had no choice. Lebanon is beautiful and Beirut was like Paris; it had everything and there was a lot to do, but the war destroyed everything and there was no future any longer and that’s why we came back.

For me it was okay to be back on Bonaire again; I felt good because I was born here. I’d forgotten my Papiamentu; I’d spoken only Arabic and French, but I picked it up again fast. We stayed on Bonaire for four months and then all six of us went to live in Cagua, Venezuela, close to Valencia. We didn’t speak any Spanish, so we had to learn it. We had a lot of family there. I didn’t go to school because I was too old, but my brothers did. I was with my family all the time. First I worked as a shoe salesperson and then I worked for years in a furniture store that belonged to my mother’s family. In 1987 things went really bad in Venezuela because of the devaluation of the Bolivar and so we all came back to Bonaire.

I was 26 and a bachelor. I went to work in our fruiteria (fruit and vegetable shop) next to Achie Tours. The shop was doing well and after three years we moved across the street to a much bigger location where we also sold meat. It was more like a supermarket and we called it Commercial Cedros. I was working very hard and did all the business planning, but then, due to family circumstances, we had to downsize the business. The building and the business were sold and it belongs to a Chinese

man now.

I worked three, four years at Cedros, then we opened a discotheque where now the furniture shop and supermarket are, at the very beginning of Kaya Nikiboko North. I’d figured we would do well because people here like music, they like to dance and go out. But it didn’t because people would have parties outdoors and when those parties were finished they’d come to the discotheque at four in the morning and they would complain about the prices, telling us the entrance fee of NAf10 was too high. But we had to pay the bands that came from Curaçao, 10 to 15 people, the airfare, food and hotels. So, it didn’t work out and we closed after one year.”

*Charbel Sassin is a quiet, humble and honest man, a hard worker and someone who’s experienced the hardships of life.*

“Before I got married I’d been just a boy; I had some good times, but I never had the money to get married, and in my culture you don’t conceive a child out of wedlock.”

I kept on working at Cedros and in 1997 I went with my parents to Lebanon for vacation. It was there that relatives introduced me to Claudia. I liked her the moment I saw her. I asked about her and she had good references. You see, you can’t just marry wildly. It’s not easy to marry someone whom you just met. Divorce is prohibited in our religion; we don’t have civil marriage, we are only married in church. We are Catholics. The family is very strict about it and everybody knows who is who. I liked Claudia, the way she talked – she was serious and she had a very good education and she was pretty, but... pretty alone is not enough! However, she had many qualities. It’s not so easy to find a real good wife because most Lebanese are leaving the country due to the constant wars and when they come back to Lebanon, they come to look for a wife. It’s not the rule because others have married American, European or Latin girls.

It was a courtship of two months and then Claudia and I got married in Lebanon

in the church, I was 37.

Before I got married I’d been just a boy; I had some good times, but I never had the money to get married, and in my culture you don’t conceive a child out of wedlock. So, when I was 37 I thought: Three more years and I’ll be 40! I want a child! One gets tired of living on his own... We came back to Bonaire together.

In the beginning Claudia cried a lot; it was terribly difficult for her as she was very homesick for her family, but it was impossible for us to live in Lebanon as the wars hit us with a hammer on the head. We have a beautiful country, but we cannot enjoy it because we have bad neighbours. After two years, in 1999, our daughter, Marie Elena was born in the hospital in Curaçao. We have only one daughter. She’s very intelligent, she’s got flair and she’s very witty! *Een leuk meisje!* (A cute girl!)

In 2000 my wife and I opened a small supermarket, Tera Kora Trading, in Tera Kora. I wanted to start something together with my wife; I was a married man and wanted to go on my own. It was a good location. I didn’t think the business would grow here, it was just to make a living, but God has helped us and we’re doing really well.

It’s a hard job to have a business here because we work with 52 agencies from Curaçao which represent all the different products and we have five people working for us. Yes, I do get stressed sometimes and I don’t want to kill myself. I only have one child and I would like to take it easier because life is not only about money. I have some plans for the future but I have to work it out first. Bonaire is growing now and there are many opportunities. Maybe in the very end I will have a fruiteria again, a small shop, pretty, with air-conditioning and tiles and everything nicely displayed, just to have something to do.

After I married I never went back to Lebanon again, but my wife has gone twice with Marie and Claudia’s mother came here three and a half years ago to see her grandchild and how we lived



Charbel, Claudia and Marie Elena Sassin

here.

I like Bonaire; it’s my country. Although I was born in Curaçao I was brought up here and you can’t deny the country where you live and work and produce. I made it here. When I don’t work I feel bad, but when there is time I play with my daughter or I go around for awhile, but mostly I work, day in day out. What is life without work? I wouldn’t know. To have an income you have to work a lot and only after you have it can you retire. I like to socialize; I would like to see the world, to speak with the people and see their life and to be with my family more often, but my work is here.

I live in Tera Kora and it’s tranquil. The people are very nice and the business is booming. Papa and Mama live here too. My father is retired; they are so used to Bonaire, they like it so much. All three of my brothers also live here; Joseph, Mario who has the hairdresser’s salon in the shopping mall in town, and Mike, who has a wholesale store.

I suffered a lot because I didn’t get the chance to study. I had to make many sacrifices, but... I made it. However, to gain your future you have to sacrifice your family, your freedom, your dreams and you have bad nights. In life nothing is easy, but it’s a joy for me to help my family and when you’re very straight everybody appreciates you and respects you and that’s my biggest joy... my family and my work.” □

story and photo by  
Greta Kooistra



# Picture Yourself with The Reporter

## Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain



The two Englishmen, Rowan Martin and Sam Williams, who are studying Bonaire's parrot, the Lora, presented information at a world parrot convention in Tenerife late last year. Of course, they took a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with them for this photo. Sam Williams returns to Bonaire briefly this week to help with the annual Lora count coming up in two weeks. See page 10. □

**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](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2007 photos are eligible.) □

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### Home-Beauty-Income-Appreciation—this Villa has it all!

Cross the road and step into the Caribbean from this **stylish, superb Bonaire property**. Adjacent to a small, full-service hotel making it perfect for your full-time home, seasonal get-away or income rental. Architect designed with flowering inner garden, the villa, exemplifying both Caribbean and Antillean architecture, is perched just above the ocean. View of the sea from nearly every room! Quality construction, very low maintenance.



Living room, modern kitchen, three bedrooms, (one a separate apartment), Airco, 3½ baths, Travertine floors and baths, luxury fittings, atrium, two terraces, mature tropical gardens and much more.

The Villa, portrayed by artist John Jay Gebhardt (NY collection) [www.gebhardtart.com](http://www.gebhardtart.com)

Lot: 811 sq. m. (8730 sq. ft). House: 226 sq. m. (2433 sq. ft.)

**\$535,000 Contact Sunbelt Realty (Ad at left)**



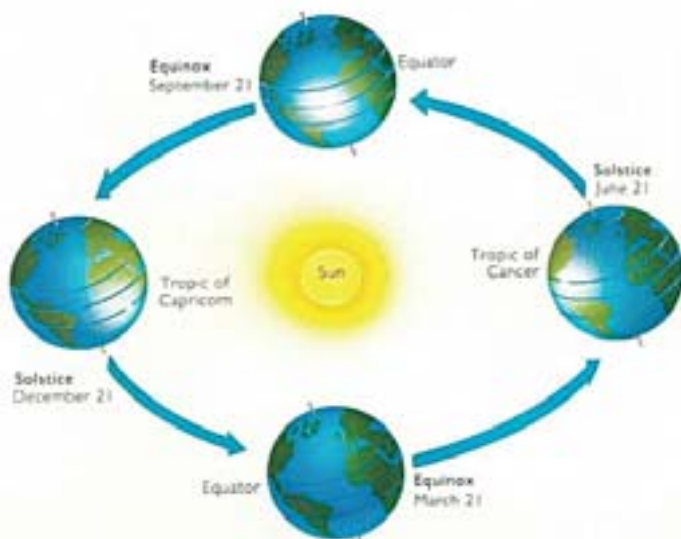


# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

I'll just bet that most of you are under the impression that the four seasons are equal in length. In fact none of them are the same number of days and nights long. So which season is the longest and which is the shortest? Well I'll bet most school children would say that summer is the shortest because it seems to just fly by. But is that true or is it simply a matter of human perception? Let's find out.

Which Season is the Longest? And Which is the Shortest? Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter



Everyone knows that our **Earth** makes one trip around the **Sun** every year. In fact, astronomically speaking that's exactly what a year is—the amount of time it takes for any planet to make one trip around the Sun - and one Earth trip is 365 1/4 Earth days long. Now according to Kepler's laws of motion the closer a planet is to the Sun the faster it will travel. The farther it is from the Sun the slower it will travel. So, because our Earth's orbit is not a perfect circle, but is a slightly stretched out circle called an **ellipse**, and since our Sun is not at the center of this ellipse our Earth actually varies its distance from the Sun during the year. When it's closest to the Sun it travels fastest and when it's farthest it travels slowest. Now believe it or not our Earth is actually closest to the Sun in January and farthest in July. So our Earth actually travels faster when it's **winter** in the northern hemisphere and slower during the **summer**.

On the first day of **spring** our Earth is traveling at a speed of 66,900 miles per hour and is moving farther from the Sun and slowing down and thus takes 93 days to go from the first day of spring to the first day of summer. So spring is 93 days long. Then the Earth continues to slow down until it is at its farthest point from the Sun the first week of July when it reaches its slowest speed of 65,500 miles per hour. Thereafter, because it's starting to move back closer to the Sun, it slowly starts to speed up. Even so it takes 94 days for our Earth to travel from the first day of summer to the first day of **fall**, which makes summer 94 days long. Then as it moves closer and closer to the Sun it picks up more speed day by day so that it takes only 90 days to travel from the first day of fall to the first day of winter. Thus fall is 90 days long. And our Earth continues to speed up until it reaches its closest point to the Sun the first week of January, zipping along at 67,600 miles per hour which is 2,200 miles per hour faster than its speed in July. In fact, it takes only 89 days for our Earth to go from the first day of winter to the first day of spring.

So even though summer feels like the shortest season to any school kid, winter is actually 5 days shorter and is the shortest season of the year for the northern hemisphere. And summer is the longest. In the southern hemisphere it would be just the reverse. Happy 'shortest season of the year'. □ *Jack Horkheimer*

## DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

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

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



# THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, January 14 to Saturday, January 20

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Travel should be on your mind. Your charm will attract members of the opposite sex. Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly. You can get good solid advice from relatives or close friends you trust. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- may 21) Talk to someone you trust if you need advice about broaching the subject. This might not be a day for hasty decisions. You can make career changes that may put you in a much higher earning bracket. Find ways to make extra cash. Start making things or reusing rather than buying ready made. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) This is a turning point. Talk to your mate about a vacation and discuss the expectations of your relationship. Take care of your own responsibilities before you help others. Friends may not be completely honest with you. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You won't have to look for the action. Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable and confused. Get involved in jobs that require creative input. You can win points with both peers and superiors. Changes to your self image will be to your benefit as long as you don't over pay. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Try to be there for someone if they need assistance. Opportunities to meet new lovers will evolve through your interaction with groups or fundraising functions. Be willing to listen, but don't be fooled. You can make money if you're willing to push your ideas on those in a position to support your efforts. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Make amends if you can. Get into fitness programs to keep in shape. Your ambitious mood may not go over well with loved ones. Consider starting a small business on the side. Look for a marketable gimmick. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Reciprocate by offering helpful hints. You can set your goals and make a beeline for your target. You need an outlet. You must make sure that all your personal documents are in order. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Channel your efforts into achieving your goals. Use your creative flair. A change in position could be better than you thought. Difficulties with your mate may lead to isolation. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't let your emotional partner upset you this week. Someone you work with could try to undermine you. Try not to attempt to do something unless you are fully intent on following through with the plans. Your lover may disappoint you in such a way that estrangement will follow. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) If you are not already, think about going into business for yourself. Female colleagues may be able to help you get the job done. Your involvement in sports or entertainment will lead to new romances. Get back into the swing of things. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You need some help this week. You can make personal changes that will enhance your reputation and give you greater self confidence. Your partner could also use some time alone with you. You will have original ideas for ways to make extra money. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can expect to feel confused about your personal prospects. Try not to judge too quickly. You can continue to forge ahead if you make a few long distance calls pertinent to closing pending deals. New interests are preoccupying your time. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday. □