

**It's
still
Free!**

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

Special Olympics Walkathon

Page 8



Flotsam and Jetsam

Based on the figures reported by *Bevolking*, the island's census department, **Bonaire's population increased last year by 466 persons, from 13,540 to 14,006.** That is the final number based on births (123) and immigrants (1,129) minus the numbers for deaths (46) and emigrants (740).

The highest number of births, 14, occurred in December; the fewest, 5, in May.

The highest number of immigrants, 122, occurred in August. Number of deaths was pretty much spread out through the year. The highest number of emigrants, 166, was in July. More population figures will be coming from *Bevolking* and will appear in future editions of *The Reporter*.

► **A roundtrip ticket from Curaçao to St. Maarten should cost NAf444 and to Bonaire, NAf175, demands the new Curaçao airline Insel Air.** The proposal made to the Transportation Minister, who is taking her time in answering, is strange considering the fact that Insel Air currently charges NAf360 for the ticket and 50% off for a second person traveling together to St. Maarten and has a very limited flight schedule to Bonaire. Competitor Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) hasn't asked for minimum tariffs. Neither has Divi Divi Air. DAE charges NAf447 to fly to St. Maarten.

"First they say that we're going to compete, because it's good for the consumer. Now they want to agree on a minimum price. What's still good for the consumer then?" asks DAE director Floris van Pallandt. The minimum price is not much lower than the current lowest fare. The Curaçao press quoted him as saying price fixing is absolutely wrong. "You would go to jail for this in America." Insel Air alleges that Bonaire-based (not much longer, see next item) Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) has ties to KLM that would allow it to operate below cost to kill off the Curaçao airline.



EZ Air Harbin aircraft

► The Papiamentu language daily, *Extra*, reported that many **DAE personnel on Bonaire must transfer to Curaçao because DAE is moving administration, reservations and maintenance there.** Currently DAE and Divi Divi Air fly daily between Bonaire and Curaçao. Insel air flies at the end of the week. **Soon a new "commuter" airline, EZ Air,** organized by former DCA/ALM pilot Rene Winkel, who also used to run the Air Ambulance, will begin flying with a 14-passenger, Chinese-built Harbin airplane.



► **This Fokker 100 jet is in the hangar at the airport of Bonaire being painted with DAE livery.** As soon as the 100-seat jet is ready DAE will start using it on the St. Maarten route. Later next month, the second Fokker 100 will arrive from Europe. DAE will permanently move its operation center to Curaçao because all the new regional flights will originate from there. DAE announced earlier that the company will start with flights to Colombia, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Surinam, and Caracas.

► President and CEO of Air Jamaica, Mike Conway, says that **replacing its Airbus fleet with Boeing aircraft will cut costs by more than US\$38 million within two years.** Air Jamaica currently flies weekly to Bonaire from its Montego Bay hub.

The airline plans to lease nine 737-300 and six 757-200 Boeing aircraft but, in their report to the committee, some of the airline's technicians argued that the new fleet was unable to fly beyond 1,400 nautical miles and are not as fuel efficient as the Airbus, which has a longer range.

"That's not true," said Conway on Friday. "The airplane has a greater passenger and cargo capacity as well as a range of over 2,000 nautical miles [and] can fly any route we fly with the exception of London and Los Angeles."

Conway said that on full Airbus A320 flights from the northeast US it was not unusual for Air Jamaica to leave up to 100 pieces of luggage behind.

The aircraft swapping will take place on a staggered basis over an 18- to 24-month period, beginning in the second half of this year. Conway noted that Boeing was prepared to give Jamaica a good deal on the 15 new planes.

► **Royal Dutch Airlines, KLM, is reducing the fuel surcharge on its tickets** in response to continued decreasing fuel prices. The fuel surcharge will be reduced by five euros, about NAf12, per stretch on all intercontinental flights, including those between Amsterdam and the Netherlands Antilles.

► Recent *Bonaire Reporter* columns have discussed **the escalating cost of housing** on Bonaire and its impact on local people. China came up with its answer last week. Foreign home buyers in Beijing will have to prove they have lived in China for a year for work or study and will be barred from renting out the property, the Beijing *Morning Post* and *China Daily* newspapers said. China's government is trying to restrain a jump in housing prices and cool an investment boom that Chinese leaders worry could spark inflation or a finan-

cial crisis. Developers will pay a value-added tax of up to 60% on new projects.

► After five years of research **Parliament approved a controversial draft law on undivided property-squatter's rights-** applicable to all islands of the Netherlands Antilles last week. The law proposes that a judge have authority to assign an undivided property, or parts of it, to those who are using it. The person in question must have been using the property for at least the past 10 years and residing legally in the island territory in question.

The law proposes too that persons who aren't directly using a property, but by all indications are the rightful heirs, be named as the rightful users of the property. The law also deals with possible problems with inheritance; for example, in case the heirs aren't willing to cooperate or the whereabouts of the heirs are unknown.

► The **Partido Demokratiko Bonairiano (Democratic Party of Bonaire -red), Obrero Nobo (the New Labor - blue) and Partido Boneriano Sosial (Socialist-yellow) have again decided to join forces** against the ruling **UPB (Patriot - green)** in the upcoming **April 20 Island Council Elections.** The new party is called the "Aliansa Demokratiko Boneriano."

UPB Leader Ramonsito Booi warned that a vote for the opposition would be a vote against the agreement that Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba signed to become overseas municipalities of the Netherlands. Bonaire radio talk shows recently have aired the concerns of some people that closer ties with Holland would not be in Bonaire's best interest.

It should be a good race.

► **Crime among young Antilleans is on the rise in Rotterdam,** the Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad* reported last Friday. According to the study Antilleans are especially involved in violent crimes and crimes related to drugs.

Young Antilleans, mostly hailing from Curaçao, are also generally more involved in murder and manslaughter. Of the youngsters born in the Antilles, ages 12-17, almost one in five has come into contact with the law. Crime among Antillean adults has decreased slightly in the last two years.

Antilleans living in Rotterdam have criticized the study as being based on outdated information and inaccurate. About 20,000 Antilleans and Arubans live in Rotterdam, where they constitute 3.4% of the city's population.

► An important **precedent-setting lawsuit is underway in Curaçao.** People living "under the smoke" of Curaçao's Isla oil refinery are suing the operator, Isla, (subsidiary of *Petroleos de Venezuela*), the Antillean Government, the Island Government-owned holding company "Refineria di Kòrsou" and the Build Own and Operate (BOO) energy plant of the Curaçao Utilities Company (CUC). The plaintiffs want the court to order the operations to halt the pollu-

(Continued on page 4)

BONAIRE THIS WEEK: The REPORTER

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Walkathon



Bonaire Barracudas On the Road

Forty-four Bonaire Barracuda swimmers participated in the 3rd Annual Bonaire School Swimming Championship on Sunday, 28 January. One week later six Barracuda team members were “on the road again” traveling to Curaçao for the Curaçao Swimming Federation 5th Open Swim Meet held at *Sentro Deportivo Korsou* on Saturday, 3 February.

Barracuda swimmers continue to show

(Continued on page 5)



Rooske Wagemakers swims the 100 meter butterfly



Barracuda Boys (front row L/R) Luis Marcano, Samson Evertsz, Asdrubal Marcano, Olivier Wagemakers, (back row L/R) Alejandro De Lima and Christian van der Dijs (Bulado Swim Team)

coral glimpses

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

Although flower coral doesn't build massive formations, the polyps grow and split like the polyps of massive formations. The polyp(s) in the center of the photo is (are) in the process of splitting; three split polyps surround it (them).

□ Captions & photos by Dee Scarr. Dee's Photos restored by Jack Drafa of the Oregon Coastal Digital Center See also Dee's article on morays, page 11.



Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...There's a step called the "Scorpionfish Shuffle?"

We have a very common species of scorpionfish here in Bonaire called the Spotted Scorpionfish. It's not the most beautiful fish by any means, but I love to point them out because most novice snorkelers/divers never notice them due to their incredible camouflage. If I want to show someone a scorpionfish, all I usually do is search in the shallow rock/rubble zone. I'm talking shallow – between two and five feet deep. I never enter the water without fins or booties on because I have a healthy respect for these venomous fish. They have several hollow dorsal fin spines that inject venom into anything that presses down on them. If you're determined to enter the water barefoot and it's rocky, I would strongly advise you to do the "Scorpionfish Shuffle" and slide your feet along the bottom as you go. If there happens to be a scorpionfish, chances are it will swim away when your foot bumps it from the side. If you're stomping around and step down on its back, you'll regret it. But even the scorpionfish shuffle won't save you from other hazards such as urchins and fire coral, but that's another story altogether! □ 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.



Scorpionfish Photo by: Albert Bianculli

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

tion that they allege is damaging their health. If the refinery is closed the owners must assume responsibility for cleanup as well. Bonaire environmentalists are also concerned about the cleanup of the BOPEC trans-shipment site if it should close. The area south of the BOPEC facility, where divers used to enter the water and fishermen launch their boats, is currently being fenced in.



Stinapa photo

Netting masbangu at Lac

► Lac Bay was the focus in Bonaire for the observance of **World Wetlands Day** on Friday last week. Lac is the nursery for many of Bonaire's fish and sustainable fishing by Bonaire's indigenous fishermen. Lac bay was prominent in *Reporter* pages in recent months because Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag annulled decisions by Bonaire's Executive Council to allow Mangrove Village to be built there without a favorable environmental impact study.

► Because of a jump in burglaries, the **Bonaire Police established a special team on January 8th to focus on those crimes.** Investigation has collected evidence so more arrests will take place in the next few days. Complaints were analyzed and a plan was drawn up to tackle this problem. The team has already arrested five persons suspected of burglary. The burglaries took place at houses in Republiek, Kaminda Lagoen, Playa Pabou, Antriol and in some hotels. The youngest suspect is 26 and the oldest is 62. The police ask everybody who has information about a burglary or robbery to please call them at 911 or 717-8000.

► **The rectory of the Church of Rincon in Bonaire must be restored.** The historic building is in bad shape and the recent rains forced Pastor Ranulfo Socrates to move out. The Island Government will look for private funding for the work

► **The 2007 Bonaire Jazz Festival is set to begin on May 16 and run for five days.** Starting with an art exhibition,



“Jazz and Art,” at Kas di Arte on Wednesday, May 16, and ending with a jam session at Little Havana on Sunday, May 20, the event will feature jazz greats from America, the Antilles, Aruba, Europe, Puerto Rico and South America. *The Bonaire Reporter* will keep you informed as the Festival gets closer.

► Thirteen singers, accompanied by Happy Band, Grupo Aichi, Glenn & Friends and Bon Bini Combo took part in the **tumba festival** last Saturday evening. **Jonathan Clarinda, just 16 years old, was crowned king in the singing competition.** He was accompanied by Glenn & Friends band. The winning tumba ‘Sak’e way’e’ was composed by Johnny Leoneta, who has won the best song writer award for three consecutive years. Almar Nicolaswon best arrangement. In an unrelated competition, Tico Balentien, a Bonerean native, was named king of tumba in Curacao.

► Venezuela's Congress last Wednesday **granted President Hugo Chavez powers to rule by decree for 18 months** as he tries to force through nationalizations key to his self-styled leftist revolution. The vote allows anti-US leader Chavez, who has been in power since 1999, to deepen state control of the economy and other sectors of public life. Afternoon headlines in the anti-Chavez Venezuelan press were scathing. *Tal Cual* splashed with “Heil Hugo” and equated the enabling law with powers granted to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. *El Mundo* had the headline “SuperChavez Enabled.”

► **Bonaire was featured as a romantic destination on About.com.** Only five destinations were chosen and Bonaire made it. Readers were encouraged to take advantage of special romance packages in Bonaire at Black Durgon Inn. You can read the article by clicking on <http://gocaribbean.about.com/od/couples/tp/Romancepackages.htm>.

► Several of *The Bonaire Reporter's* restaurant advertisers are offering specials to commemorate Valentine's Day. Check their ads on pages 12, 13, 24.



► **The new 5th edition of Bonaire Shore Diving Made Easy is now available in Bonaire and on the web at www.bsmdme.info.** In the photo Sandra Blonk of Buddy Dive receives the first on island copy from Editor Susan Porter. The fifth edition is Susan's second since taking over the guide from Jessie Armacost in 2005. Contact Susan at Susan@bsdme.info for a copy or more information.

► **A new photo shop focusing on digital imaging will open this month at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort,** reports Divi General Manager Sara Matera. “Capture Photo” will be a full-service



Kathy, Dan and Sara

underwater photography shop for divers looking for unparalleled facilities.

It will offer underwater camera and video camcorder rentals, photography lessons, digital imaging. It's co-founded by Dan Blodget, owner of Sub Aquatic Camera Repair Company, the world's largest underwater camera repair facility, and Kathy Lapsys, entrepreneur from, Austin, Texas.

► **Duofest 2007 is coming on February 26th** onboard the ship *Freewinds* at 7:30 pm. Tickets are on sale at Boutique Vita, Bonaire Boekhandel, Flamingo Bookstore and the Rose Inn Bar Restaurant -Rincon for NAf 25 to benefit the Foundation for Art & Culture of Bonaire. See “On the Island Since...” on page 21 to find out more about the organizer of this great event.

► And don't forget the **big Karnaval events begin this weekend** with the Children's Parade in Rincon on Saturday and Playa on Sunday. Have fun. It's Bonaire after all. □ L./G.D.

LETTERS

UNCONVINCED AND UPSET

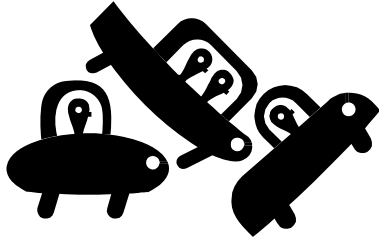
Dear Editor:

Like many residents of Bonaire, I am very concerned about issues related to the development of the island, and am interested in all data and ideas in this regard. I looked forward to learn about "The GOOD Example of Bermuda" in the last week Guest Editorial. Unfortunately, it was very disappointing, even disturbing to read. Not only because the author failed to convince me that the Bermuda example is at all good. Not only because many of the measures mentioned in the article, I feel are not appropriate for Bonaire. Not only because many of the Bonaire issues are not referred to. But mostly because of the "slip of the tongue" of the author that the Bermudian citizens to be protected by the real estate regulations are "61% black". Black? What does the skin color of the Bermudian citizens have to do with the issue? Obviously nothing, and obviously it was not what the author had in mind.

I'd like to know what is the relevance of the 61% black." Are we supposed to infer something about these people because they are black? Does Bermuda's government, which makes these regulations, also have 61% blacks? How does it relate to Bermuda as an example?

Genady Filkovsky.

SLOW DOWN – IT'S GOOD INSURANCE



Editors:

As a resident of Hato who walks my dogs on Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot, I'm very aware of the vehicles traveling through this area, and that too many of them are traveling at speeds much too fast to be safe in a residential area.

But then I thought, Hey, maybe these folks really **really** need to save time. So I did a calculation:

How much time do drivers save if they zoom through Hato at 80 kilometers per hour rather than 40 km/hr?

Answer: 27 seconds. Less than one-half of one minute.

That's considering the Hato residential area to begin just after WEB, where the cell phone tower is, to the coral rock wall at the tourist road. This stretch of road is six tenths of a kilometer (.6 km) in length according to my

Samurai's odometer. .6 km at a speed of 40 km/hr takes 54 seconds; at 80 km/hr it takes 27 seconds. The difference between them, that precious time saved or wasted, is only 27 seconds.

Other residential areas, such as the one along the waterfront promenade, are a little longer – let's say a whole kilometer.

The difference between speeds of 40 and 80 km/hr over one kilometer is 45 seconds.

Beloved cats and dogs have perished; children have been hit -- for time savings of less than a minute.

Of course life is 'way too busy. But even if you're really **really** in a hurry, please consider this:

* how much time will you lose if you run into a donkey?

* even if it doesn't slow you down, how will you feel if you hit someone's pet?

* what if a child darts into the road and you can't stop?

* **get the cheapest insurance ever: slow down in residential areas for safety, and pay less than one minute per trip.**

Thanks.

Dee Scarr

(Barracudas. Continued from page 3) their strength in the Boys 9 – 10 and 11 – 12 years categories. Alejandro De Lima achieved an "A" time in the 50-meter backstroke while Asdrubal Marciano swam an "A" time in the 50-meter breaststroke and Samson Evertsz had an "A" time in the 50-meter backstroke. Samson, Asdrubal and Olivier Wagemakers have consistently finished in the top three places in events swum in their age categories so far this year. Rooske Wagemakers, the only female swimmer from Bonaire to participate in this meet, improved her personal best times in each event she swam as did 8-year-old Luis Marciano.

The Barracudas plan to send a team to the 4th Bulado Meet in Curaçao March 30 – April 1. This short course meet is organized by Curaçao's Bulado Swim Team and will be held at the 25-meter SOV Asiento swimming pool in Rust & Burgh. Masters swimmers are also invited to

swim in this meet and do not have to be affiliated with the Swimming Federation of the Netherlands Antilles or the Curaçao Swimming Federation. Masters swimmers interested in participating in this event should contact valarie@telbonet.an for more information.

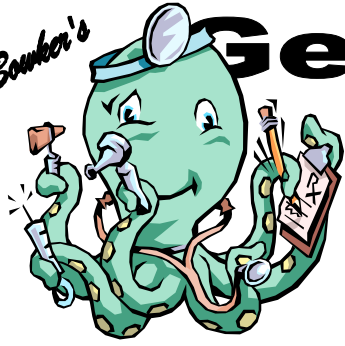
Sixteen Barracuda swimmers qualified for the swim team which will represent Bonaire at the *Weganan Escolar Interinsular* (Interisland School Games). Dates for this competition are pending.

The 8th Dutch Caribbean Invitational Swim Meet will be held in Aruba at the end of April.

This will mark the third year of competition in this international contest for the Barracudas. Fundraising efforts are underway to allow as many Bonaire swimmers to participate as possible. Donations to the Barracuda Travel Fund can be directed to luisabm@telbonet.an. □ Story & photos by Valarie Stimpson



Bruce Bowker's



Gear Doc

A bi-monthly feature in The Reporter devoted to helping you maintain your gear.

Hissssssss!

— **a** really irritating problem. Especially if you just paid a lot of money to have a regulator overhauled. That little continuous hiss from the 2nd stage just after you turned on your air is usually an easy fix.

First though, in defense of those who did overhaul your regulator, it is very possible it was working fine when it left their store. A regulator can “settle in” for lack of a better term, and a minor adjustment is necessary.

What does keep the air from constantly flowing through a 2nd stage? There is an orifice that is coned shaped and this rests against a small rubber disk. A spring pushes this rubber against the orifice. When you inhale you are mechanically pulling that rubber disk away from the

cone and air passes through. Those cones are made from metal or a tough plastic. Sooner or later that rubber disk will leak air.

Not all, but most modern regulators can easily be adjusted. Remove the hose from the 2nd stage end. Always use two wrenches - one on the 2nd stage fitting and one on the hose. Look in the hole (tube) where the hose was. You should see what looks like a slotted flat head screw with a hole through the center. Mares and a few others have a hex head hole and not the slot. If there is no slot and the hole does not accept a hex wrench, the adjustment is from inside the 2nd stage. Not impossible, but extremely awkward



Two Views of an Orifice



at best. Sorry, but better to have someone do it who knows exactly what is going on in that case.



A typical 2nd stage. Orifice is located inside the chrome “tube” on the right side of this 2nd stage.

Using a screw driver or the correct size hex wrench and being very careful not to scratch the sides of that tube-like piece on the 2nd stage, turn the orifice (screw) clockwise about 15 degrees. 15 degrees is about how far the hour hand turns from 12 o'clock to 12:30. The hour hand – not the minute hand! Put the hose back. Try it again. If it still free flows (hisses air) try another 15 degrees clockwise. For the record, 90 degrees is a huge adjustment and in that case maybe the little rubber disk or other parts need to be replaced - something best done by a professional. If you can't turn it easily it may be semi-

frozen. Better for a professional to fix.

You can also make a regulator breathe easier by turning that orifice counter-clockwise Turning too far though will cause the regulator to free flow - hiss. I define free flow as any unwanted air coming from the 2nd stage, whether it is a little blip every 20 seconds or a mad rush of air. □

Article & photos by Bruce Bowker, owner-operator of Carib Inn.



Bruce Bowker

Bonaire Energy Update

E C O N C E R N

EcoPower Bonaire BV, a consortium of Econcert, Enercon and MAN, has signed a contract with the Water and Energy Company of Bonaire (WEB Bonaire NV) to build a new wind turbine. This is the first step in a wind/diesel project that will supply the island with 10 MW (million watts of electricity) from wind and 13 MW from diesel. Bonaire requires approximately 12 MW at peak times. The system will be able to provide the whole island by the end of 2008. It aims to lower energy prices for consumers while at the same time reducing Bonaire's dependence on the fluctuating oil prices. The labor union of WEB, Bonaire's power and water company, disputes the claims and cites figures that say wind park power raises rates, not lowers them.

Dirk Berkhout, member of the board of Econcert: "The cost of the wind/diesel combination is approximately 35-40 million dollars. We expect that some of this can be recovered via



Dirk Berkhout

CO₂ credits (Payments made by air polluters to pollution free energy providers which are part of an international system whose ultimate goal is to reverse the effects of global warming. *Ed.*). The main objective of the first phase of the project is to gain experience with wind energy on Bonaire and to reduce short-term electricity costs. The final system design will rely on 40% of the total power supplied by wind. The remainder will be supplied with fuel oil, preferably biofuel. By 2010 it is conceivable that Bonaire will get all of its electrical energy from natural, renewable sources."

EcoPower intends to install a new Enercon E33 wind turbine at Sorobon. An obsolete Nedwind turbine will be removed. The turbine has not been operational for the last 10 years. The Sorobon site is the ideal location for the new wind turbine, with its favorable climate conditions and the existing grid connection for one medium-sized device. The first wind turbine will start supplying electricity in the second quarter of 2007.

The next phase - to be completed in the 3rd quarter of 2008 - will involve the construction of a 10 MW wind farm and a 13 MW diesel power plant. The wind farm (11 or 12 turbines) will be built on the Northeast coast, the windward side of the island. Each turbine has the capacity to produce 0.8 - 0.9 MW of energy. Under

ideal circumstances, this wind farm alone could meet Bonaire's current electrical needs. The wind farm will be designed based on measurements registered by a Met mast that was installed in January. A new 13-MW diesel power plant will be built by MAN at the BOPEC site. The plant will be equipped to burn both conventional and biofuels.

Econcert is the holding company of Ecofys, Evelop, Ecostream and Ecoventures. The mission of these European companies is to ensure 'a sustainable energy supply for everyone'. Econcert delivers unique projects and innovative products and services for a sustainable energy supply. The Econcert group employs about 550 professionals in 15 countries.

The new company, Ecopower Bonaire BV, will build, own and operate (BOO) the facilities. It is also responsible for technical management during the first phase. MAN, the largest diesel engine manufacturer in the world, will manage the technical aspects involved in building the new power plant near BOPEC in the



Enercon wind turbines

Enercon photo

northwest corner of Bonaire. Enercon, the world's fourth largest manufacturer of wind turbines, will deliver the turbines. □
Press release/G.D.

Editor's note: For more information contact Linda van Maaren, PR Officer for Econcert, 31 (0)30 - 280 83 90

Walk-a-Thon Success

It was dark; it was cold; it was exciting when all the participants in Bonaire's Fifth Special Olympic Walk-a-Thon gathered at the Slave Huts in the south side of the island at 5 am, prepared to make the 30 kilometer trek to Rincon. Rain clouds threatened, but nothing could dampen the spirits of the walkers, runners, bikers and roller bladers as they set out in the dark on the road along the beaches. Along the way others joined. Some dropped out but were nevertheless proud of their achievements. About every five kilometers they were greeted by enthusiastic volunteers who offered them water, oranges, watermelon, pan dushi (sweet rolls) and lots of encouragement.

After a couple of hours the sky opened up and it poured. But they all kept on trekking. Some had wisely brought rain gear and extra shoes. The ambulance and cars patrolled the route, checking to make sure everyone was okay and in good spirits.

At the end at Pasa Dia in Rincon each arrival was cheered. Shoes were kicked off, feet put up, and stories were traded. Everyone got a hot meal prepared by the staff at Pasa Dia and a suitable-for-framing certificate.

The organizing committee is so

pleased with the results: There were 450 participants. 500 tickets were sold. Some people gave them back to sell again. The total collected in fundraising was NA/15.000. That ought to get them a long way towards their goal of competing in the 2007 Special Olympics International games in Shanghai, China, this October.

The Board wants to say thank you to all the sponsors, coaches, all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time and financial help and especially to all those who did the route. □L.D.



Walking buddies, Bòl Antoin and Rudsel Leito



Agony of "De feet"

TITLE SPONSOR 2007
Maduro & Curiel's Bank
Bonaire



Also J.C. Herrera and Ennia



The Bonaire Bikers station offered laughs and refreshments



Nunu and Robbie patrol the route.



Roller bladers too.



Waiting in the dark for the 5 am start.



Some yacht cruisers joined the Bonairean walkers



Energy food



North Salinja's Pia Pia walkers



Norka's, the first stop

FKPD Directors with Jordy Bernbela, winner of the logo contest



New Canteen at Pasa Dia Rincon



Last Friday a small party took place at the FKPD (Foundation for Handicapped Care) facilities in Rincon where a new eating facility for the clients was opened.

“As part of the FKPD complex recently moved from Rincon to Playa some space became available and so we developed this brilliant idea to transform the room into a cozy canteen,” Director Lupe Uranie laughs. “There’s space for 16 people and as we have 32 clients here for lunch, people can choose for an early or a late lunch; it’s up to them! The clients used to eat in a corner of the kitchen and the people who were working there always had to move out during lunch hours, so now the problem is solved. We always want to move on and improve what can be improved,” according to Mrs. Uranie.

The party was a big success. The canteen looks beautiful and very professional and there were lots of happy faces... as always at the FKPD! □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Finest Sea View on Bonaire?

Cliff-hugging villa overlooking the sea on the coast of Bonaire. Superb home or income property. Just steps away from the Caribbean and spectacular dive sites. Adjacent to, but separated from, a small hotel with a dive shop, pool, and restaurant with three bedrooms, separate entrances, atrium, two terraces and much more. Price \$535,000

The villa has an unsurpassed million dollar view of the sea and Klein Bonaire. There's peace and quiet. In fact there is a view of the sea from every room (except the guest bathroom).

It's a light, airy place with a natural inner garden with a shade tree and flowers. The villa, exemplifying both Caribbean and Antillean architecture, was designed for the tropics - to catch the trade wind breezes and pass them from room to room. Just steps away from the sea and a spectacular dive site. The villa is located near a small hotel with a dive shop, pool, and restaurant.

One of five villas with a permanent view of the sea. The land is separated from the sea by a coastal road. It sits 45 feet above the sea... low enough to see the fish jumping, high enough for storm protection.

The villa consists of a living room with two terraces, kitchen, two bedrooms that border on a patio garden, and a studio with a separate entrance. The master bathroom has a bath, shower, double sink, toilet and bidet. The guest bathroom has a shower, single sink and a toilet.

A separate powder room is in the hall (toilet and sink)

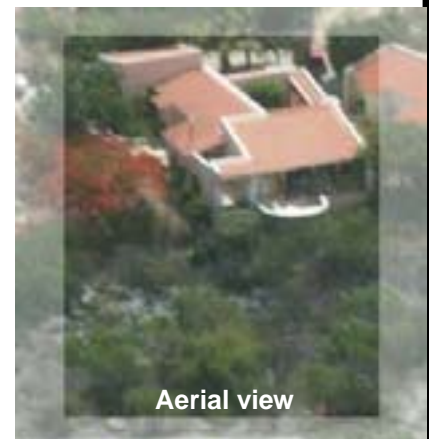


There is a large indoor/outdoor laundry room and two large built-in closets - an "owner's closet" a pantry for the kitchen. All bedrooms have large built-in closets.

The studio is made up of a large room with built-in closets and a bathroom consisting of shower, toilet and sink. There is ample space for an apartment-sized kitchen.

Mature garden with many shade trees and flowering shrubs. Built-in recycled-water drip irrigation system.

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PORTRAITS OF BONAIRE

Fish For Sale

Story by Guus Gerritsen;
Portrait by Henk Roozendaal.
From the book,
Portraits of Bonaire, Vol. II.

The rainy season is almost over, and we are enjoying breakfast at the kunuku house of 'Doei' Diaz, beyond Kaya Nieuw Amsterdam, with a lovely crisp *repa* and *sanger* on our plate. Early that morning a goat was slaughtered, its blood was gathered in a big pan. The blood was cooked with herbs and onions into a sweet tasting paste. We dip pieces of *repa* (sorghum pancakes) in it:

delicious! My wife suggests it might be an original business class breakfast for our national airline: 'A taste of Bonaire'!

Around us, men are working in the field, cutting the tops of *maishi chiki* with machetes. They collect the corn ears under a makeshift little rooftop. The corn will dry there until it is ready to be threshed – hitting the corn cobs with sticks until the kernels come off. Then flour will be ground from the kernels.

Meanwhile, the women sort and clean the sweet potatoes and the long green beans they grow on a separate little field. A 15-liter pan is cooking on a wood fire: the goat soup they'll be having for lunch. Bertje, Doei's youngest son, mixes the



'Doei' Diaz

soup and prepares the leftover meat with herbs and spices for that evening's barbecue.

Doei welcomes the helpers, having a kind word left and right to everyone. All the same, he keeps a keen eye on the proceedings in the field. All children, friends and fellow kunuku owners from the area are here to bring in the entire harvest of two acres of *maishi chiki* in one day – maybe tomorrow it will rain again. Today looks good though, the *botelir* is already walking around with a bottle of rum, passing out little shots; supposedly to widen the arteries and increase motivation.

Constantino Pedro 'Doei' Diaz was

born on Bonaire in 1934, son of a Venezuelan fisherman and a Bonairean woman. His father died at 33, when Doei was just a year old. "We were alone. There was family playing 'Father' in important matters, but normally it was just us and my mother. I'll never forget the day she came home from her work in a shop and said her boss assured her we could work there after we got our educations. Children need to learn before they work. I'm still grateful for that, and I often thought of that moment with regard to my own children. They all have had good educations and have fine jobs now."

Doei was raised at the seaside, right where his father built his first little home. The salty air and gentle surf on the leeward side of the island formed the backdrop of his youth.

"If you live next to the ocean, you have one dream: to sail the seas. I went to work on ocean-going ships, and when I came back I took my own boat to go fishing. I lived my life on the sea. In time, I took a job as a pilot boatsman in the Bonaire harbor, a job I kept for 30 years – starting out as a young hand fastening ropes, then as assistant and finally as helmsman and captain. We had a wooden pilot boat from Holland back then, not so flashy as today's ships, but sturdy and fast. It was a 24/7 job, bringing in ships and helping fishermen who had run into trouble. Being on the pier by the boat, I've seen my share of near-drownings as well.

I remember little Robbie Swinkels, six years old at the time – you know him, I see you and him playing in a band from time to time – he fell off the boardwalk and panicked. I saved him by taking him out of the water with my emergency hook. My youngest son Bertje is now captain of the pilot boat; one of the pilots, Rob Sint Jago, is the son of my sister. The fruit doesn't fall far from the tree, as they say!"

Doei walks off; there's a lady wanting to buy some fish. Chana, his wife, closes the sale of two pounds of *wahoo*. "We've been selling fish here for over 35 years now. I buy it from the guys who now use my boat, the *Speranza*, for fishing. I've stopped going, but in the olden days I was always at sea, either as a pilot or as a fisher. I've lost two boats, one close to Curaçao, one here at Klein Bonaire. They were sailing boats, and I lost them in heavy storms. Luckily, I came away unharmed both times. These days, I clean the fish and chop it into pieces. I sell salted fish as well. People eat that a lot around here."

He gazes into the distance, his seaman's eyes scanning the horizon as if looking for something. Memories? Does he clamor for a life on the big pond behind his house?

(Continued on page 16)

Good News for Loras



Lora with a dirty face from eating calabash gourds. Sam Williams photo

For the second year running the annual Lora count result was high. The Lora population has historically always hovered around 400 individuals, but last year a surprising 700 parrots were counted. Skeptics (myself included) doubted that such a number was possible, and this year the Lora count organizers put a lot of effort into improving the pro-

cedure and accuracy of the count. As a result we have a lot of confidence in the population estimate of 650 birds. It seems the parrots have had a good few years and their future looks bright. But what has caused this population increase and what effect will it have on the island's ecology?

Almost certainly the number of chicks taken from wild nests to be sold as pet birds has reduced. The effect of the 2002 registration campaign and an increase in public awareness is finally being seen. Well done, people of Bonaire! Letting the birds do their thing without humans upsetting the balance has made a big difference. Poachers continue to take parrot chicks from Bonaire to sell them on other islands, however, and this is something that needs to be stopped.

The weather over the last couple of years has also been good for the Loras. Plenty of rain and good food availability during the Lora breeding period means more chicks have survived in each nest to go on to join the wild population. But that is not to say the parrot population is without limits. An equal number of males and females would lead to 325 breeding pairs, and that certainly is not the case. Even if there were 200 pairs nesting on the island we would be finding nests everywhere, and we are not. The Lora does not make its own nest. It requires a tree or cliff cavity. Nest site limitation is some-



Pelican School Students Go Lora Watching

Pelican School photo

On Tuesday, January 30th a group of 15 Pelican school children and parents visited Dos Pos along with their teacher, Femke, and parrot biologist, Sam Williams. No parrots made an appearance at Dos Pos, and it was clear that talking about parrot food items and troupial nests wasn't going to hold the kids' attention for long! So off they went to a nearby roosting place where, much to Sam's relief as the light faded, 20 or so Loras were eventually seen. Everyone had a great time and there are already plans for future visits to see more parrots. □ *Sam Williams*

thing I will look at with my ongoing research.

But is it necessary for there to be "so many" Loras?

The simple answer is YES! It is important to let the population grow as this im-

proves the population's **genetic health**.

Future years may not be so kind to the Lora and in particularly dry years the population size will inevitably be reduced. This is a natural process, and the "fittest" animals will survive. The impor-

(Continued on page 17)



WHERE TO FIND THE REPORTER

Snip and save so you can always find a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* if there are no more at your favorite spot

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12/29/06

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Picture Yourself with The Reporter Michigan Lake, Michigan, US



Here is Nancy Truxiel enjoying a summer day near her home in western Michigan along the lake shore. Nancy and her husband, John, have been visiting Bonaire yearly, sometimes twice since 1996. Their dog, Merlyn lurks in the background. □

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STRAIGHT TALK

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



Betty Wills

Question from: Sole Provider

Dear Betty,
My husband and I both had jobs when we got married three years ago. I still have my job, but my husband hasn't worked steady in over two years. We have a year old son, so it really has been a struggle trying to make ends meet on just my paycheck. My husband turned down several chances at employment this year because he said the jobs were beneath him and didn't pay enough. His car was repossessed a few months ago, and our credit cards have reached their limits. I asked him if he thought getting his car repossessed was beneath him, but all that did was start an argument. All we do lately is argue over money. How can I convince him that any job is better than no job at all?

ANSWER: When he said the jobs were beneath him was the position gravedigger? If not, he might want to consider it because he could very well end up burying his marriage and digging his own grave if he doesn't find a job pretty soon. The marriage is in a financial rut, and the only difference between a rut and a grave are the dimensions.

The most common reasons for failed marriages are:

- Poor communication
- Financial problems
- A lack of commitment
- Infidelity
- Dramatic changes in priorities

What you argue about is not as important as how you argue. Remember to maintain civility when presenting your position. Doing so will make it easier to convince him to take whatever job will help pay the bills. If you manage to maintain your calm throughout the argument, and he still refuses to work, calmly hand him a shovel.



JOKE OF THE DAY

Marrying for money is the hardest way to get it.

Vacation Rental

Cozy guest cottage available

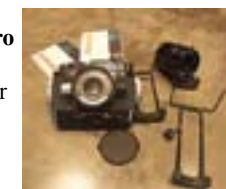
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Kitchen/Prep/Dishwasher needed- part time Some English preferred. Last Bite Bakery call: 717-3293.

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

Found

Found: Baseball cap – lost by Dutch gentleman at the beginning of the Walk-a-Thon this last Sunday. Call 786-6518.

DIVING with DEE Morays



This Chain moray was too busy looking at the camera to give me a profile...

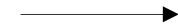
Whenever I see a Goldentail moray, I think, "That eel looks as if its tail is trapped and it's trying to escape." I don't know why they wriggle so enthusiastically -- maybe to get a bet-

ter view of what's going on around them. Goldentails around Bonaire are most likely to be brownish with golden flecks; toward the eel's tail there are

(Continued on page 16)



The long-jawed Purplemouth moray



At first glance, this little Spotted moray looks normal. From the front, the serious damage to this moray's upper jaw is apparent. What's also apparent is that the injury is healed and the moray is surviving. I'm hoping this eel sticks around so we can see how its progress continues.



(Morays. Continued from page 15)



more and larger flecks until the tail itself is yellow. We also have the occasional solid-brownish Goldentail, and I was thrown for a loop a couple of years ago by a yellow eel with thin dark honeycomb-like markings that turned out to be a “reverse color pattern” Goldentail moray.

No matter the color variation, every Goldentail has a distinctive mouth: the inside is cotton-white, the teeth are relatively short and stocky, the jaw itself is shorter and wider in proportion to the eel than the jaw of, say, a Spotted moray. Morays have a middle row of teeth on their upper jaws, which is especially noticeable on the Goldentail. When I saw the puzzling yellow eel with brown markings, I knew it was like a Goldentail but thought maybe it was a related species.

[As of not so many years ago, there was no way to distinguish whether fish, including eels, were of the same species or not. The test with mammals is, can the two animals interbreed, and can their offspring produce offspring? For example, although a horse and a donkey can interbreed, the product (a mule or a hinny) is usually sterile.

That system doesn't work with fish, though, because almost all species of marine fish spawn externally, by releasing sperm and eggs into the water. Those eggs which are fertilized, and the larval fish who hatch from the ones which aren't eaten by plankton-pickers, drift near the surface for a week or so before settling to the reef. Duplicating those conditions in a controlled way is almost impossible. Nowadays, DNA testing could probably answer a lot of fish-relationship questions, but such testing is not yet inexpensive enough to be used non-commercially.]

The Chain moray is shaped like the Goldentail, but grows larger, up to around three feet. Both types are happy in shallow water – I used to find Chain morays in tide pools a lot – they're shaped about the same, and they each have a short wide jaw with short stocky teeth. Since crabs and other crustaceans feature prominently in the diets of both Chain and Goldentail morays, their very sturdy teeth are necessary.

The other two morays we most commonly see around Bonaire are the Spotted and the Purplemouth. They are shaped similarly, with longer, thinner jaws and longer, thinner teeth than the chain and goldentail. We're more likely to see very young spotted morays than purplemouths, and purplemouths grow larger. Purplemouths can appear a mottled

greenish-grey, sort of like a Spotted moray that'd been dipped in pea soup. Because Purplemouths are greenish, people describe them as Green morays, which they might not realize isn't the same as Green morays, the largest of Caribbean morays. The inside of a Purplemouth's mouth is always – imagine this! – purple.

A couple of weeks ago while snorkeling I came upon parts of a little tunney, an oily muscular fish the rest of which had been used for bait. The tunney had attracted two Chain morays, one from each direction. The two morays pulled at the large fish from opposite directions, using each other for leverage to rip away pieces of the tunney.

I'd never seen that behavior before, and I suspect that it was luck rather than deliberate cooperation – Moray eels are not team players.

So, what would a solitary Moray do if it discovered that tunney?

A Green moray would swallow it in one piece. If a Spotted or Purplemouth moray found that carcass, the moray would take a bite and try to rip it away. If that doesn't work, the moray wraps its tail around its head and pulls its head through the resulting knot, giving itself the leverage to rip off a piece of the carcass. The eel swallows that mouthful, then repeats the procedure until there's no food left, or it's too stuffed to eat any more.

The two little tubes protruding from a moray's upper jaw are nostril tubes; they continue into the upper jaw of the eel and end in a little hole in front of the eel's eyes. So although the moray doesn't breathe through its nostrils, it does detect scents through them. When there's a scent of fish in the water, morays appear – even from upstream – in a matter of moments. Spotted and Purplemouth morays hunt most actively at night, exploring crevices on the reef. When the moray's nostrils make contact with a sleeping fish, the moray strikes more quickly than the sleepy fish can react.

I did see a Spotted moray get a snack in the daytime once, though. I'd named the moray Captain Don, so when a three-inch damselfish took up residence at one end of the pipe that Don lived in, I named the damselfish after Captain Don's lady, Janet. My dive buddies and I visited the Captain two or three times a week, and we usually found him looking out of the end of the pipe away from Janet. Then one day Captain Don realized that we always arrived from the direction of Janet's end of the pipe. When we approached, he turned around and greeted us from Janet's entrance.

Janet, being a damselfish, didn't like having anyone so close. She began to harass Captain Don in that infamous damselfish way, pecking at his body and his head. As we watched, Captain Don flinched a couple of times, but Janet kept on hassling him – until finally he whipped his head to the side, caught Janet in his jaws, and swallowed her!

Moral: just because morays are less aggressive than they look, doesn't mean they should be underestimated. □

Dee Scarr

Dee Scarr conducts “Touch the Sea” dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her slide show “Touch the Sea” at Capt. Don's Habitat, Mondays, 8:30 pm.



(Portraits. Continued from page 12)



“The sea life gets to you. Even if you don't sail yourself anymore, it's in your way of life. About 15 years ago a couple of friends and I thought up a fun entertainment. Some 50 boats, all registered on Bonaire, partake in this event; most of them hand-built, small vessels. We throw a couple of nice prizes together, prizes that the sponsors come and present in person. The final scores are presented here in the garden, after

which we have a party with fish, drinks and music. You should come next time! It's like a fishermen's family gathering, held on the patrons saint's name day.”

Doei, 71 years old now, looks at us kindly. You cannot fail to notice his friendly, charming face and his calm, reassuring demeanor. It's a character trait hard to come by these days.

At the same time, he hardly sits still. He stopped working for the pilot service years ago, but his days are as busy as ever. His mornings start early, as he goes to his kunuku house to check up on the hundred goats he owns, or to chase away birds from the maishi chiki crops. Afterwards, he goes home to sell the day's fish with his wife Chana. Doei is always working, and always willing to give advice to his children and friends in important matters. A real Father, a man who exudes power and warmth. “That's life for you. You're born on land and live your life at sea. You grow older, spending the rest of your days on land again, in the kunuku, but close to the ocean. I'm a happy man, though! Could you wish for more than a loving wife, beautiful children and a crowd of good friends?”

It is the first of May, the parade left from the station at 4 pm. Family, friends and fellow kunuku owners make up the crowd. The women wear wide, flowing dresses; they dance and wave flags and the best corn ears they could find. The men carry the dressed-up scarecrows, relieved of their duty on the fields – harvest is in. Others carry dishes filled with potatoes, beans and corn.

Doei and Chana Diaz's Simadan Parade is making its way towards their house at J.A. Abraham Boulevard. Spectators along the route join in the celebration. People dance and sing the traditional songs: ‘Dan Simadan,’ ‘Mailo,’ and ‘Dalia mi densio.’ The members of the Pal' i Wiri orchestra, standing on a platform on wheels and accompanied by boys blowing on *karko* shells and *kachus* (cow horns), excite the crowd with their *tambu* drumming and *kuarta* playing (the *kuarta* is a small, four-string guitar). The closer they get to their destination, the more exalted the atmosphere becomes. The chanting grows louder and louder and is repeated until they have arrived.”

He is waiting there, greeting the arrival of the parade with his wife. The crowd is invited into the garden and treated to drinks and food. Pal' i Wiri, the orchestra his daughter Lucy sings in, continues playing in the garden. People are dancing into the night, hand in hand in long serpentines, like one big family.

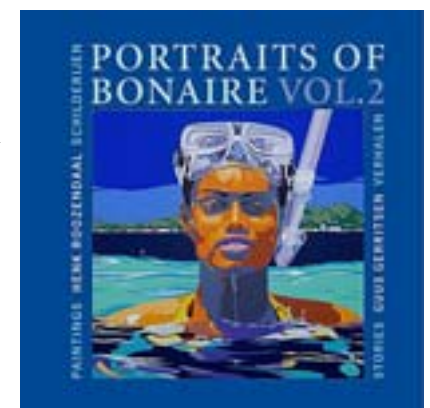
At Doei's signal, the band launches into the last song of the evening: ‘Bon nochi, te manan.’ (Good night, see you tomorrow.) Everyone joins in, closing off the party in a single voice.

When we stand to leave, we run into Bertje, who prepared the goat soup and sanger earlier and did the live sound for the orchestra tonight. “I almost forgot to give you the sanger recipe! Listen: slaughter a young goat, catch the blood in a pan. Knead the blood with your hands before it clots, pressing the substance between your fingers. Make sure it's nice and creamy! Next, add onions, garlic, a little *yerba di hole*, let simmer to a paste... Enjoy!”

We bid our goodbyes to Doei. He is content, and looks younger and stronger than ever. I'm sure he will be up at five again tomorrow, tending his kunuku garden.

Bon nochi, Doei! Te manan. Story by Guus Gerritsen; portrait by Henk Roozendaal.

Portraits of Bonaire, Volume 2, is for sale at better shops around Bonaire.



(Loras. Continued from page 13)
 tant thing is that from a bigger population the genetic structure of surviving Lora will be healthier. Global climate change is likely to bring changes to the Bonairean environment. A Lora population with good genetic health will be able to adapt to the new environment. On the other hand a population of closely related "inbred" individuals may not have the particular trait needed to survive in a changing world.



Lora chick

People will soon be saying there are too many Lora. I've actually already heard it! Without question an increasing Lora population will not please everybody. People with fruit trees in their gardens may be unhappy to see their fruit (worth a few guilders) being eaten by Loras. We have to congratulate these generous individuals for doing their bit for Bonaire's most endangered parrot before they have a chance to raise any complaint!

The Loras with their loud voices find it difficult to go unnoticed, but has anyone counted the number of fruit-eating troupials? There are probably three times as many troupials as Loras, but because they are quiet people do not notice them so much. What's more, whilst the number of introduced troupials soar, Bonaire's native yellow oriole population, that competes with the troupial, is struggling. The Prikichi population is also buoyant right now, and it is likely to be due to the fact that Lora numbers (a competitor of theirs) have historically been kept so low. The increasing population of Loras is a fantastic indication that we can help restore the island's ecology after plundering it for so long. The Lora is a charismatic bird and something people on Bonaire should all be proud of. Don't miss out. Take a trip to Dos Pos or Fontein one evening and you'll probably get to see large groups of Loras and some other amazing sights. □ Photos & story 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.



Pet of the Week

With a quizzical look, "Poogy" poses for the camera. This handsome dog, some call a "Bonairean Dalmatian," was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter a week ago with his sister, "Sarata." They had been well taken care of, but the owner who lives on a kunuku has just too many other dogs and cannot continue their upkeep. Poogy is the larger one, his sister a little more petite, but both are beautiful with shining black and white coats. Both are very enthusiastic and willing to please. After giving an enthusiastic greeting Poogy proved to be very mellow and relaxed and loved posing for his portrait. Both pups seem to have inherited the finer qualities of Dalmatians. They're seven months old, in excellent health and have had their shots and tests. You may see them at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 2 pm. Tel. 717-4989.



"Poogy"

So far this year already there have been **12 adoptions** from the Shelter. And more good news is that thanks to the Sterilization Fund, **14 dogs** belonging to people who have limited funds have been **sterilized**. Think how many unwanted puppies those 14 could have produced had they not been sterilized. □L.D.



Parke Publico Flea Market Dare to care photo

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)

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

Complete solution on page 19.

Chairman of the Board of the Shelter, Paul Wichers, reports that the Shelter stand at the Flea Market at Parke Publico last Saturday did very well, with nearly everything sold out. All the items that were sold were donated, the stand is manned by volunteers and all the funds go to the Shelter. The next Flea Market at the Parke will be Saturday, March 3. Paul says they can use donations of more books, clothes and other items to sell. Call the Shelter at 717-4989 or Paul at 787-0466. Get rid of what you don't want and help a good cause. □L.D.

LOST DOG

Who has seen our boxer Tyson?

He ran away last week in the area of Nort Salija and Mal Macho. He is a large, light brown dog, dark face, white tipped tail. Reward for finder. Call Linda, Tel: 701-2244



DO YOU SUDOKU?

ANSWER

And the solution is:

(puzzle and directions on page 17)

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

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
2-09	7:38	1.8FT.	17:19	1.0FT.					43
2-10	8:03	1.9FT.	17:49	0.9FT.					36
2-11	8:31	1.9FT.	18:15	0.8FT.					34
2-12	9:08	2.0FT.	18:40	0.8FT.					38
2-13	9:44	2.1FT.	19:13	0.8FT.					48
2-14	10:20	2.1FT.	19:44	0.8FT.					60
2-15	11:04	2.1FT.	20:09	0.8FT.					72
2-16	1:30	1.0FT.	2:20	1.0FT.	11:47	2.0FT.	20:33	0.9FT.	84
2-17	1:34	1.1FT.	4:01	1.1FT.	12:31	1.9FT.	20:57	1.0FT.	93
2-18	2:07	1.2FT.	5:38	1.1FT.	13:26	1.8FT.	21:16	1.0FT.	99
2-19	2:52	1.4FT.	7:27	1.2FT.	14:18	1.6FT.	21:26	1.1FT.	101
2-20	3:49	1.5FT.	10:03	1.2FT.	15:36	1.4FT.	21:22	1.2FT.	98
2-21	4:43	1.6FT.	12:38	1.1FT.	17:22	1.3FT.	20:52	1.2FT.	92

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

The Pursuit Of Happiness (Will Smith)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm) Dreamgirls (Beyonce Knowles)

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

Saturday, February 10 - The 2nd 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. **Notice:** Helmets are compulsory for the tour and can be rented at Eden's Activity Center

Saturday, February 10—Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.

Wednesdays in February - Happy One Year Birthday at Cactus Blue Restaurant. Dine there and win great prizes; music by Moogie. Open 5 pm until late. J.A. Abraham Blvd. #12. Tel. 717-4564

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

COMING

Monday, February 26th - Duofest 2007 onboard the *Freewinds* at 7.30 pm. Tickets on sale at Boutique Vita, Bonaire Boekhandel, Flamingo Bookstore and the Rose Inn Bar Restaurant -Rincon Cost: NAf 25 to benefit the Foundation for Art & Culture of Bonaire

Sunday, March 4 - Bonaire Animal Shelter Fundraising Show to benefit the Sterilization Fund, on board the *Freewinds*, 7:30 pm. Tickets sold at the Shelter, NAf25.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days starting 10 am to early afternoon: Mon. Feb. 12, *Lili Marleen*, Tues. Feb. 13—*Veendam, Sea Princess*; Wed. Feb. 21 - *Crown Princess*; Thurs. Feb. 22 - *Silver Wind*; Tues. Feb. 27 - *Lili Marleen*; Tues., Mar. 6 - *Veendam*; Wed. Mar. 7 - *Crown Princess*; Tues. Mar. 13 - *Lili Marleen, Sea Princess*; Wed. Mar. 21 - *Crown Princess*; Tues. Mar. 27 - *Lili Marleen, Veendam*

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** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **Parke Publico** children's play-ground open every day into the evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Steak Night On the Beach** (a la carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 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

- **Beginning Yoga** 6.30pm Harbour Village 786-6416
- **Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10. Buddy Dive Resort**, 6 -9:30 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**.
- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **Beach BBQ 7-10 & Live music by Flamingo Rockers -The Windsurf Place** at Sorobon -Reserve ahead. Tel. 717-5091, 717-2288



Karneval Schedule

- Feb 10 Children's Karneval Parade (Rincon)
- Feb 11 Children's Karneval Parade (Playa)
- Feb 17 Adult's Karneval Parade (Rincon)
- Feb 18 Adults' Karneval Parade (Playa)
- Feb 19 Farewell Youth Parade
- Feb 20 Grand Finale Evening Karneval Parade (Playa)
- Feb 21 Ash Wednesday



- **Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 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- 9:30 pm

Fridays

- **Mixed Level Yoga** 8:30am, Buddy Dive 786-6416
- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 - 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 pm
- **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, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

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 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

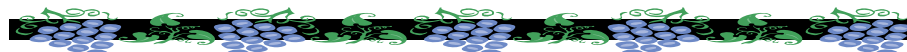
Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach Bar 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—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—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 (7-1- 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 Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 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 7:30am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-2pm	NAf10 take out lunch every day - main dish with 2 side dishes. Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna.
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
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all.	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. 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.

DAY SPA

Day Spa by Nubia offers relaxing body and facial treatments, nail and foot care, waxing. Special packages for Divers and Honeymooners.

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, 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

Born on Bonaire

Emma Sint Jago

“I was born in Rincon, March 24th 1951. In 1935 my father built his house on this land, and everybody was born here: my two brothers, my three sisters and I, the youngest one. My father is Olimpio Eustacio ‘Tavio’ Sint Jago. He’s now 92, and I live here with him. My mother was Micaela Rosa ‘Chi-Chi’ Piar, and this place was named after her. That’s why it’s called ‘Rose Inn.’ Everybody always came to stay with us. We had a full house all the time; my parents were very hospitable – too hospitable!

In 1938 the governor told my dad: ‘Why don’t you apply for a permit to start a guesthouse?’ And so it happened that my dad built his guesthouse and named it “Pension de Goede Hoop.’ We had to help our father. In the morning we had to get up early and set two long tables for 20 persons. My mom would cook, but if we had a lot of people we also had good cooks from Rincon, mostly sailors, men who could cook for large numbers of people. Our guests were musicians, groups of schoolchildren, football teams, people like that. The guesthouse had a big room with more than 12 bunk beds and another big room where the bar is now. I learned how to wait tables when I was a little girl.

We had a good upbringing. First we had to do our chores, but after that we could do what we wanted, and every Sunday we had to attend the holy mass. My sister Sonia played the organ and I remember helping her pump from the time I was very little. We played volleyball at the girls’ school. Sometimes the government truck would come to pick us up to take us to Playa to play there in the artificial light at WSF (next to the Maduro parking lot) to get more experience. We played softball every day on the field behind our house. Our clubs were always the champions; other teams would break up but we stayed together.

I went to school in Rincon and later on in Playa, but very often I didn’t feel so well because I suffered from anemia. So I told my dad I didn’t want to go to school anymore. I was 16. I didn’t stop learning because I took correspondence courses and in the evenings I’d attend lessons in general education in Rincon. I started in sports, but in between I was singing in the choir, something my father wanted us to do. In his time he was a singer, composer and poet, and for every occasion he would have a speech or a song. He even got a document from the Pope as he wrote many poems and songs for the church. He also received

the gold medal from the order of Knighthood of Oranje Nassau from the Queen. I can compose a song too, but it takes me a long time. I have to think a lot!

At 16 I started working as a salesperson in Lidia Supermarket in Rincon, but after I got my diplomas (my dad was always looking for a better job for me) I got a job as an administrator with Radio Netherlands. Then I started working as a typist at Kralendijk Trading, what later became Bonaire Trading and is now Bonaire Air Services. I made my career and I am still there. I am the sales and ticketing agent for BAS, but KLM is paying BAS for their services. I learned a lot with them; I learned steno and how to make reservations when

“I am still single and the reason is that when you want to be in show business and you marry someone who isn’t into it, you’re going to have a problem!”

Bonaire Trading was the ALM representative. And when BOPEC started and many ships came in I learned about shipping; I was always willing to help out. Sometimes all five telex machines were rattling all day long and I didn’t even feel like listening to music anymore by the time I got home!

From the time I was young I always wanted to be in show business, and if it would have been only for myself I would have done so, but I also wanted to help my father with the guesthouse; to help build it up and maintain it well. I am still single and the reason is that when you want to be in show business and you marry someone who isn’t into it, you’re going to have a problem!

In the 60s I played in a beat band and in the 70s I started a duo with Milton Koeks. At the time he was studying in Curaçao. I’d leave Friday morning for Curaçao to stay with my sister and Milton would join me there after school. Then we would practice and the same night we sang on TV in Curaçao in the ‘Show di Job.’ Our hit was ‘Mi Uniko Amor,’ composed by Milton. We also played in Aruba and performed at the hotels on Bonaire. We had a very successful radio show for teenagers called ‘She and Me’ on Radio Hoyer III. In the street people would often ask me, ‘Are

the two of you in love?’ But then I would say: ‘No, we only sing like we’re in love!’ We did it for four years and those were the best years.

I don’t regret the fact that I’m single because I think that one should do what he or she wants and that

no one can forbid you to do so. For me the most important thing is that I want to transmit my show business knowledge and experience to the young people. Since 1987 I’ve been very busy promoting and supporting local artists. In 1996 I started with my ‘Foundation for the Art and Culture of Bonaire,’ and my biggest wish is to build a theatre. I am a person just like anybody else, but what I want, I’ll do! So now I am off to make National Theatre Bonaire happen! With less talking (although I love to talk) and more effort and cooperation it has to be accomplished. And it will!”

Emma Sint Jago is an amazing person. She seems so relaxed, but it appears she knows exactly how to make dreams come true and she’s ready to go for it.

“I’ve represented Bonaire at international festivals in Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Aruba, Curaçao, Texas and in the Netherlands. And in 1989, when I brought out my first album, I organized an international show in Rincon and in Kralendijk. It’s a pity that Bonaire is often not very supportive of its own talent. I love to bring artists from other countries to the island, but I also think we should encourage our own artists. In 1992 I started singing folkloric music when my father wrote a song for Kanto Krioyo, for Dia di Rincon. He said: ‘Emma should sing it!’ It was a waltz and the lyrics were about what happens on Dia di Rincon and... I won the first prize!

From the 90s until 2000 I sang in hotels with various groups and I was often invited to sing at fundraisings. In 1993 I was invited by the Red Cross, but just then my voice wasn’t so good. I wanted to do something for them anyway and so I called my niece. She was planning on forming a family band for Christmas.



Emma Sint Jago

We were six ladies and she told me: ‘Emma, you have to get some musicians!’ I immediately found a group and in December 1993 we performed for the Red Cross and that’s how ‘Tutti Frutti’ started.

July 1st 2007 will be the 15th time I am going to organize Dia di Arte. It’s a lot of work, but I am very satisfied with the results from all the different artists on the island. Another thing I did from 1992 till 2000 was to organize the ‘Duofest’ onboard the *Freewinds* - a festival for duos with new songs - to give artists, songwriters and composers a chance to profile themselves. On February 26th at 7:30 pm there will be another ‘Duofest’ onboard the *Freewinds* after seven years. As a follow up I will send the winners in May of this year to Curaçao to compete in the Caribbean Gospel Festival where Rolando Casimiri from Bonaire won last year.

In 1994 I was chosen ‘Personality of the Year’ from among people like Miguel Pourier, Nochi Willem and Lionel Capriles, and in 1997 I was named ‘Freeman of Bonaire.’

My family is the most important thing in my life, but right after that I want the children who are growing up now to accomplish something in their life. I don’t want them in the streets and so I will go on doing what I have to do, in spite of all the ups and downs. But as you cannot do everything alone it would be very helpful if I could get more volunteers because that’s what we need on this island. We have to do it together and we have to do it well.” □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



A Shrink Studies SCUBA



Obesity and Diving

Obesity is important in diving because of its relationship to fitness, the controversial risk of decompression illness, fit of wetsuit and weights, and co-existing diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and sleep apnea. So, how can the obese dive more safely? Let's start with buoyancy and weight distribution.

Bonaire tech diver Andy Owens* says, "It is harder to deal with buoyancy issues if you are overweight from a body fat standpoint, thereby more buoyant, thereby needing more lead, thereby needing more air in your BCD sometimes, which makes for higher risk of uncontrolled ascent, and voila, higher DCS risk. If you are fat, then you are probably going to need more air and are going to suck the tank down most of the time, so training for proper air consumption is imperative. But, if you need extra weight, then why not use heavier, higher capacity steel tanks? I would much rather carry steel than lead.

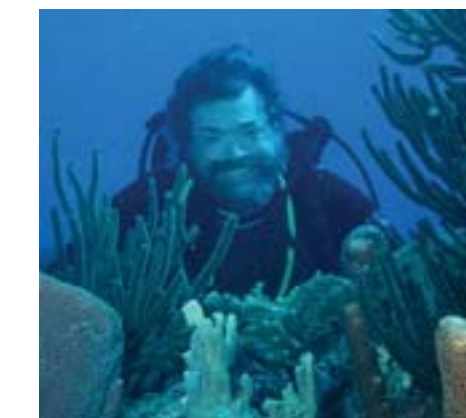
When I was at 375 pounds and used a normal design BCD, I needed 36 pounds of lead to be neutral. The benefit of a steel

tank versus aluminum for a fat diver is that there is not as huge a spread in buoyancy as the tank empties. A pressed LP steel 108 is 5 pounds negative when full and a HP aluminum 80 is 2 pounds negative when full." (See accompanying tank buoyancy chart – the range is wide)

So, if you are an average larger person needing 18 to 25 pounds of lead, then you have more than enough room in your weighting to have plenty of weight to drop. In fact, if you are large, then you are pretty buoyant, so dropping that much weight would be a disaster. The better the weight is distributed between droppable and undroppable weight, the better. Maybe a 50/50 split is reasonable."

Duke University Medical Center Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology Research Associate Neal Pollock, PhD, comments:

"The problem with Andy's strategy is the increase in non-ditchable, negatively buoyant weight. This can be problematic. I encourage anyone who wishes to dive with a negatively buoyant tank to check out this effect in a swimming pool. Don't only the tank and buoyancy compensator and then



Andy Owens is a happy diver

* Andy Owens, MBA, is a musician and marketing consultant from Deep Gap, North Carolina, and an avid diver with two advanced trimix certifications, and can sometimes be seen above the water in Bonaire with his band, The Bonaire Bluegrass Band.

He's been diving for eight years and has 400 dives. Favorite dive spots are Truk Lagoon and Bonaire, at a max depth dive of 315 feet. □

empty the buoyancy compensator (as might be the case if the BCD failed during a dive). If kicking alone is not sufficient to comfortably keep the head above water, then it may be a good idea to consider a less negatively buoyant tank. Easily ditchable weight is much safer.

The reason I recommend the pool test is to make allowance for personal differences. Some individuals might very well be able to manage the negative buoyancy of the tank with little difficulty. If not, though, they should think carefully. The 50/50 rule can sound good in theory, but the most important thing to me is practical testing to really learn what you can and cannot handle before being in a situation when the outcome could be direr."

Thank you, Andy and Neal, for an excellent discussion of this "weighty subject." □ Story & photos by David Colvard, M.D.



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 which provides evidence-based information for divers on psychological and stress factors in scuba divers. □

Cylinder	Service Pressure	True Capacity	Buoyancy* Full	Buoyancy* Half full	Buoyancy* @ 500 psi	Weight Empty
Luxfer 6	3,000 psi	6.1 c.f.	-1.4 lbs	-1.1 lbs	-1.0 lbs	2.5 lbs
Luxfer 13	3,000 psi	13.2 c.f.	-1.7 lbs	-1.2 lbs	-0.9 lbs	6.0 lbs
Luxfer 14	2,015 psi	13.7 c.f.	+0.8 lbs	+1.3 lbs	+1.6 lbs	4.9 lbs
Luxfer 20	3,000 psi	19.9 c.f.	-1.4 lbs	-0.6 lbs	-0.1 lbs	8.2 lbs
Luxfer 30	3,000 psi	30.0 c.f.	-1.0 lbs	+1.0 lbs	+0.8 lbs	11.6 lbs
Luxfer 40	3,000 psi	40.0 c.f.	-0.7 lbs	+0.8 lbs	+1.8 lbs	15.3 lbs
Luxfer 50	3,000 psi	48.4 c.f.	-2.3 lbs	-0.5 lbs	+0.8 lbs	21.2 lbs
Luxfer 63	3,000 psi	63.0 c.f.	-2.2 lbs	+2.2 lbs	+1.7 lbs	26.7 lbs
Luxfer 80	3,000 psi	77.4 c.f.	-1.4 lbs	+1.5 lbs	+3.4 lbs	31.4 lbs
Neutral 80	3,300 psi	77.4 c.f.	-5.7 lbs	-2.8 lbs	-0.9 lbs	35.4 lbs
Super 80	3,000 psi	80.0 c.f.	-5.3 lbs	-1.6 lbs	+0.4 lbs	35.0 lbs
Luxfer 100	3,300 psi	98.8 c.f.	-4.3 lbs	-0.6 lbs	+1.9 lbs	41.0 lbs
Limited 106	4,350 psi	105.2 c.f.	-4.8 lbs	-0.9 lbs	+2.1 lbs	33.8 lbs



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

This Week the Ringed Planet Saturn Is At Its
Biggest, Brightest and Closest For the Entire Year



This is the greatest portrait yet captured of Saturn. It is composed of 126 individual images captured through red, green, and blue filters over a period of two hours on October 6, 2004. At the center of Saturn's globe the image has a resolution of 38 kilometers per pixel. NASA photo

And yes, you read the title correctly. The most beautiful planet in the solar system, the one which we're visiting right now with the **Cassini-Huygens spacecraft**, is this week at its closest point to **Earth** for the entire year. And thus it looks bigger and brighter in the Sky Park than it will for all of 2007. In fact because **Saturn** is slowly moving away from the **Sun** it will not be this close again until the year 2029, which is 22 years from now. So you'd better see it now because it's going to be a long wait.

This Saturday, February 10, Saturn is officially at **opposition**, which means that it is precisely 180 degrees opposite the Sun. That, simply stated, means that Saturn is directly opposite the Sun as seen from Earth, which, if you think about it, would lead you to the conclusion that Saturn should be visible all night long from the time the Sun sets until the time the Sun rises. And indeed this week and next, as the Sun sets in the west, Saturn will rise in the east and will continue to climb higher and higher as each hour goes by until at midnight Sky Park time it will reach its very highest point due south and then will slowly descend hour after hour and set in the west as the Sun rises in the east.

So Saturn is essentially visible all night long. Although this week and next I suggest you start looking for it about two hours after sunset when it has risen high up enough off the eastern horizon and cleared all obstructions. And since Saturn is up all night this means that you can take your telescope out and look at it any time of night.

So just how close is it? Well six months from now on August 21, when it will be at its farthest from Earth for the entire year, it will be 952 million miles away. But this Saturday it is 190 million miles closer, only 762 million miles away, and for Saturn that's close. Now although we say Saturn is the second largest planet in the solar system because it's only 75,000 miles wide compared to Jupiter's 88,000-mile width, nevertheless if we count Saturn's rings Saturn is actually twice as wide as Jupiter from one edge of its ring system to the other. And believe it or not its average density is less than that of water, which means that if we could find a cosmic bathtub big enough Saturn would float. However, because it is Saturn it would leave a ring around the tub.

So sometime this week and next get out that small telescope you stashed away in the closet or find a friend who has one or an astronomy club and take a look at Saturn now because you'll be able to see not only its big inner ring called **Ring B**, but also its narrower outer ring, **Ring A**, separated by the space known as **Cassini's Division**, named after the famous Italian astronomer for whom the Cassini-to-Saturn space craft is also named. Spend a night with the Lord of the Rings! □

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, February 4 to Saturday, February 10

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't consume more than necessary. Your high energy will enable you to take the role of leader in group functions. Arguments will flare up if you get backed into an emotional corner. You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You need to look into new philosophies. You can expect sorrow to evolve from the information you discover. Younger relatives may seek your advice. Plan your social events carefully. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Put your efforts into moneymaking ventures. Romance is quite possible if you are willing to approach someone who interests you. Don't push your opinions on others this week or you may find yourself in the doghouse. Family outings that aren't expensive will be enjoyable and help strengthen ties. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Turn your present relationship around or start a new one. Plan a trip to the country or take a drive to the beach. Don't overspend on luxury items. Outings with relatives or good friends will provide you with stimulating conversation. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Overindulgence could lead to problems with digestion. Do not be surprised if your partner doesn't understand your needs. There's a good chance that they won't come back. Look for professional guidance if it will help unite the family. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Do what you can but don't jeopardize your health trying to please everyone. Sentimental feelings may make it difficult to get much done at work. You can pick up wonderful buys if you really look hard this week. Someone you least expect may not have your best interests at heart. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) This will not be the time to start new business ventures or make drastic changes in your career. Your involvement with children will be most rewarding. Don't turn down offers that include sports activities or children. You can expect to experience delays or additional red tape if you deal with institutions. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may need a physical outlet that will help you relieve your tension. Make sure to arrange in advance to spend quality time together. Be inquisitive about unfamiliar circumstances. Focus your efforts on your work. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't let your emotions interfere with completing your chores. Think twice before you say something you might regret later. Extend an invitation to clients you enjoy spending time with. Your hypnotic eyes will capture the hearts of those who interest you. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Help if you can, but more than likely it will be sufficient just to listen. Responsibilities with respect to older relatives may be a burden. You can make money through real estate or by using your head when it comes to personal investments. Get into some activities that will help you in making new friends. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't let opposition from those envious of your talents daunt your progress. Travel and creative hobbies will be your best outlet. Concentrate on your job. If you are not already, think about going into business for yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You'll find it easy to meet new people. Investments may not be as lucrative as you thought. Make sure you concentrate if operating machinery or vehicles. Don't start any arguments unless you're prepared to accept irrevocable results. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. □