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still  
Free!**

**BONAIRE**

March 9-16, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 11

# The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



**Busy Week  
For Dutch Mayors  
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Cover photos by Ruud Vermeulen



# Flotsam and Jetsam

**D**uring a public meeting the **Island Council of Bonaire ratified the transition agreement to its new ties with Holland** that was signed at the end of the governmental summit in St. Maarten on February 12. This is a significant step towards the "New Bonaire" set for December 2008. Then Dutch minister of Kingdom Relations Atzo Nicolaï (VVD), Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles Emily de Jongh-Elhage (PAR), the responsible Commissioners of the Island Territories of St. Maarten, Saba, Statia, and Bonaire's delegation-leader Ramonsito Booi signed the document. The Island Council ratified the agreement without any debate. The Curaçao island government voted not to participate in the transition.

► **The new Dutch cabinet has withdrawn the much criticized bill of former Integration-minister Rita Verdonk** regarding the deporting of criminal Antillean young persons to their birth islands. Premier Jan Peter Balkenende said that his cabinet will use a different approach.

► Justice Minister David Dick and the Lt. Governors of the islands of the Netherlands Antilles signed a protocol last Friday to establish a **new organization to be in charge of immigration issues**. The new organization must be in place within nine months and will not be a police responsibility. It will deal with administration of residence permits. The police will only be responsible for border control.



*Justice Minister David Dick*

During the next nine months all the necessary laws will be passed to establish the new organization and new immigration policy. A manager must be appointed and an electronic registration system has to be established.

The Minister will forward the protocol to the Dutch funding agency, USONA, to obtain the NAf 3-4 million financing for the project.

Currently foreigners living illegally in the Netherlands Antilles before 2001 can obtain residence permits if they can prove that they have been employed, paid medical insurance, filed their income tax documents and have no criminal record. Persons who arrived on January 2001 or after, up to January 2006, will qualify for legal residence providing they meet the requirements. Those requirements are proof of employment for at least six months earning the minimum wage, adequate housing and no criminal record. Persons who arrived after January 2006 and have failed to obtain legal residence will be deported.

► **Children will be exempt from new rules that will require travelers to show passports** when entering the US at land or sea borders, the Bush administration announced last Thursday.



► At the end of March, the Lima flight stopover at Flamingo Airport will be terminated. **However, Bonaire will be slightly more accessible for Dutch travelers.** KLM's acting Chairman of the Board, Peter Hartman, told the Bonaire press, "We will adjust our schedule at the end of March and definitely continue with daily flights to Bonaire: five non-stops, and two in combination with Aruba. Most important is that the seat capacity will not be reduced. The seat capacity will increase by 2% in the summer and 4% in the winter. There are 75 to 80 seats available daily for Bonaire, which is more than before," said Hartman, reflecting about the time KLM started with flights to Bonaire from Amsterdam. He mentioned entrepreneur Hugo Gerharts, who was on-island last week, consultant Co de Koning and UPB leader Ramonsito Booi.

Gerharts arranged Boeing 747 flights

to Bonaire in 1991. Part-time Bonaire resident Co de Koning was instrumental in restarting the daily flights in April 2000. Senator Booi made the Lima and Quito refueling stopovers in Bonaire possible by pushing for the construction of the refueling facility and extension of the runway.

► Mike Conway, Air Jamaica's president and CEO, **defended the change of his airline's fleet from Airbus to Boeing as part of a loss-reducing measure**, saying the Boeing planes cost less, carried greater payload and offered a wider range for travel.



*Michael Conway Air Jamaica president and CEO*

Air Jamaica, which has racked up a loss of \$100 million annually for the past 12 years, has a new business plan to cut losses and put the airline on a profitable path. However, according to a 2005 study conducted by MIT's International Center for Air Transportation, Air Jamaica contributed US\$5.5 billion (\$1.8 direct and \$3.7 indirect) to the Jamaican economy. For every dollar invested there has been a return of \$4.50 to the economy. Maintaining the current Airbus fleet had become a problem as "the supply chain to Air Jamaica has been difficult," Conway said last Wednesday at a forum in Kingston.

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Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2.

► Did you see the total eclipse of the moon last Saturday night? If not here's how it looked. Wilna Gronenboom photo



Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued on page 4.

## Bubbles from the Biologist

### Did You Know...There's fire on fire?

Fire worms and fire corals are both abundant in Bonaire. It is commonly believed that fire coral is red, when in fact it's not. Fire coral is usually a dull mustard yellow color, and fire worms can be reddish but are mostly orange or greenish. You'll want to avoid these venomous creatures as they have nasty defense mechanisms including stinging cells and venomous bristles that burn like 'fire' if you brush against them. But that doesn't mean you can't get close for a look. Fire coral grows upright and can be blade-like or branching, but it can also encrust ropes, rocks, ladders, etc. Another good reason not to touch anything submerged!

Another fun fact: fire corals aren't true corals – they're in a completely different class and are actually hydroid colonies. *Caren Eckrich*



Fire-Worm. Photo by Albert Bianculli

Caren Eckrich teaches Coral Reef Ecology and Scientific Diving to American University students at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. She's also the Director of Sea & Discover, a marine education center offering interactive learning programs to kids and adults. You can reach her at 717-5322 □.



## Butterfly Farm Preview



**B**onaire's Butterfly Farm had a soft opening last Saturday. Owner Gerard van Erp greeted invited guests at 4 pm for a preview presentation for those



involved in this huge project.

Currently there are only two kinds of butterflies flying in the farm. However, hanging in the "pupa cupboard" are additional varieties of butterflies ready to hatch. More are on the way.

The house for the butterflies measures 20 by 20 meters (400m<sup>2</sup>) and is covered with a screen, allowing wind and sun to come in freely.

The opening delay had to do with some typical island "problems" like no cement when it was needed and too much wind when they wanted to attach the 100 m<sup>2</sup> screens over the 7-meter-high metal construction. In a couple of

weeks Bonaire will have a new tourist attraction. □ *Story & photos by Wilna Gronenboom.*



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)



Curaçao's Isla refinery

► In Curaçao, **Judge Erik van Unen ruled that the pollution spewing from the Isla refinery (Refineria di Kòrsou -RdK) and the BOO (Build Own Operate) energy plant is illegal and continuing operating this way is unacceptable** because of damage to people and environment. The argument that complying with the standards would lead to automatic closing of the refinery is not convincing. Isla will have to specify how and when the refinery can operate according to standards by March 30<sup>th</sup>. Isla as well as the island government said that if the judge rules in favor of the plaintiffs, it would mean the closing of the refinery and economic disaster for the island. Isla's battalion of Rotterdam and New York attorneys argued that it is impossible to reduce the environmental pollution in such a way that would make the life bearable for the inhabitants under the smoke. The refinery is old and a modernization can only be accomplished in the long run at very high costs. Alternatives like production slow-down or the use of fuel with a lower sulphur level are economically not feasible.

The plaintiffs were not impressed with the economic argument. They argue that economic interest is no justification for the 40 premature cases of death per year caused by the pollution.

Van Unen said that he needs a professional report that indicated how and within what period of time they can achieve the standards indicated. The parties have till the end of this month to tell the Court who will be offered as experts.

► Reader Florence Ditlow sent us a reminder that the recently acclaimed film, "**An Inconvenient Truth**," will air **this Sunday, March 12, at 8 pm, on Showtime**; that's channel 4 on Flamingo TV. To preserve our air, land and oceans environmental information is basic to our future. Website <http://www.algore.org/>

node/132 has more information.

► **The likelihood of an above-average Atlantic hurricane season is growing** as a Pacific Ocean El Niño system that drove storms away from the Caribbean in 2006 wanes, US meteorologists said last Thursday. Due to the El Niño, the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season never came close to matching the record-breaking 2005 season, which spawned 28 hurricanes

Now a La Niña system in the Pacific seems to be building. More than normal Atlantic hurricanes are usually seen during La Niña events, meteorologists said.

They will now be tracking water temperatures in the western Caribbean which, if they run above average, could indicate more tropical storms early in the hurricane season. An average hurricane season has about six hurricanes with 10 named tropical storms. Bonaire is out of the "hurricane belt" but is affected by their waves and wind reversals.

► In a public Island Council meeting last Tuesday, **the ruling UPB party defined its position not to grant business permits to telecommunication companies.** Smitcoms NV, a St. Maarten company, wants to offer services in Bonaire. The debates in the Island Council were strong because the Democratic party opposition did not agree with the government decision.

In another telecom controversy, unrelated to this, UTS is waiting for a decision by the Bonaire government on their request for a business permit.

► United Telecommunication Services (UTS) **Director Paul de Geus said in a press conference last week that he is pleased to note that almost all UTS customers in Bonaire kept their Chippie service.** Former Telbo/UTS customers with 78x prefixes had to switch to Telbo/Diigicel to keep their same phone numbers. If they stayed with UTS, their numbers were changed to a 79x prefix.

He added that UTS would do its utmost to keep Chippie service in Bonaire, even though the UTS store was closed down because UTS had no license to run a business on Bonaire once their ties with TELBO were broken. UTS expects to reopen with a business permit soon. Meanwhile their service continues via the MIO permit.

Phone users report that cellular phone service on Bonaire hasn't returned to stability since Telbo's switchover from



► **A group of young mothers recently completed a parenting course and received certificates.** Topics included social adaptability, Papiamentu, home responsibilities, healthy cooking for children, budgeting work time, and healthy growth. (Couldn't we all use these?) UNESCO funded the project and FORMA conducted the course. Above are the proud moms, Education Commissioner Geraldine Dammers and SEBIKI sparkplug Riet Sealy.

UTS to Digicel.

► Digicel seems to have won the court battle for 786-prefix numbers, and now **Digicel Group Limited announced that it has raised \$1.4 billion in capital through a corporate bond offering** to acquire 100% ownership of Digicel by its founder and Chairman Denis O'Brien, Digicel officials disclosed last week. The offering represented the largest bond offering ever in the Caribbean and was five times over-subscribed.

Managing Director James Seagrave of one of the banks handling the transaction, JP Morgan, remarked, "This transaction is remarkable in many respects. Digicel's brand is increasingly ubiquitous across the Caribbean, as the Company has continued to expand its footprint and materially increase the number of mobile users across the region."

Digicel Chairman Denis O'Brien is quoted as saying Digicel's growth prospects in 22 markets will enable the Digicel Group to expand. Started in Jamaica less than six years ago, Digicel recorded annualized revenues of US \$948 million for the six-month period ended September 2006 and has a total customer base of more than four million.

► The Consul General of Venezuela in Curaçao, Lorenzo Angiolillo Fernandez, insinuated publicly that the **numerous mysterious fires were an American CIA assault on the Venezuelan proprietors in the Curaçao Free Zone.** The Antillean authorities want

(Continued on page 5)

## **BONAIRE** **The REPORTER** has moved!

*The Bonaire Reporter* has moved its headquarters to the Bolivia plantation area of Bonaire.

The new address is Bonaire Reporter, P.O. Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles.

The telephone numbers are: 786-6518 and 786-6125. Backup numbers are: 796-6125, 790-6518 and 790-8988

Email and website remain the same:

[reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)

[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com)

(*Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4*) him to explain his statement, especially since of the 36 businesses that were victims of the fires, only three were owned by Venezuelan citizens and five by Lebanese businessmen who might have the Venezuelan nationality. International experts are on the scene trying to determine the cause(s) of the fires.

► **St. Patrick of Ireland must have a lot of fans on Bonaire.** So far there are two parties set up in his honor. The first is a warm-up party at the Caribbean Club at Hill-top on Friday evening, March 16<sup>th</sup> going on into the 17<sup>th</sup> featuring Irish music by The Irish Crooners from Curaçao.



And on the 17th, his feast day, at the Sunrise Restaurant (Sand Dollar) there will be a St. Patrick's Dance Party from 9 pm to 1 am, featuring the Flamingo Rockers, DJ Papa and food included. Tickets in advance, NAf 20 (available at Antillean Wine Company store and other places ) or NAf 25 at the door.

► Remember the suggestion a few weeks ago in *The Reporter* for an "airplane" wreck site? Well, Curaçao beat Bonaire to it. **An old ALM Fokker aircraft was pulled out to sea in Curaçao at "Watamula" by Ocean Encounters and sunk to a depth of 18 meters to serve as a dive site.**

► **Get ready for the 29<sup>th</sup> Kontest di Fli (Kite contest)** on Sunday, April 1, in the field behind Kooyman's. You'll see

some of the most amazing kites, each one created by the contestants – be they individuals or groups. Sponsored by the Flamingo Book Store, it's an exciting all-day affair starting at 9 am. Contestants of all ages come from Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba, and it's fun for everyone. Want to join? Stop by the Flamingo Book Store on Kaya Grandi to sign up and find lots of materials to build your kite. Entrance fee is NAf3,50 for children; NAf7,50 for adults.



*Kontest di Fli, 2006*

► **Angelique Salsbach reports: "Sunday, 1st of April we (Top Health Fitness Center) will organize another hiking trip with our guide Bòi Antoin, this time IN Bolivia.** You know last time (See last week's *Reporter*, "Boi's Nature Walk") we were in the area OF Bolivia but not IN Bolivia (because it is too big). Time will be the same, 6:15am, and tickets NAf7,50. We will have soup at the end. The meeting place and the duration of the walk will be announced next week in *The Reporter*." □ G./L. D.

► You don't have to reset your clocks in the summer in Bonaire because the length of the day doesn't change drastically from winter to summer. But in case you have to adjust your TV watching schedule or contact the US or Europe they will change on the following schedule:

Year	US Daylight Savings Time Begins	US Daylight Savings Time Ends	Europe Summertime Begins	Europe Summertime Ends
2007	March 11	November 4	March 25	October 28
2008	March 9	November 2	March 30	October 26
2009	March 8	November 1	March 29	October 25



Congratulations to Sisters (nurses) Joyce Dennie, Toekije M. Nicolaas-Modrono and Greta deJong-Coffie. Toekije and Greta have been serving patients in San Francisco Hospital for 25 years each; Joyce for 24 years. All three ladies are head nurses. Toekije is a head nurse at the hospital; Greta is a teacher for the student nurses and works with home care. Joyce works in the operating room and the diabetic office. A celebratory service was held for these devoted nurses last Friday at the chapel at the hospital.

# LETTERS

## READER CORRECTION

Dear Editor:

With pleasure I have been reading the latest issue (of *The Bonaire Reporter*) #10. I only draw your attention to the picture of the cabinet which is the **former** cabinet Balkenende (3).

The article of the visit of the Dutch mayors to Bonaire was also very interesting. I wonder whether Mrs. Joke Geldorp has been shown the power plant at the transmission-site of TWR which actually was installed on the island of Texel until the island was connected to the provincial main electrical grid in December, 1994.

*Jan van Groenewoud*

## SCALE NOT THE ISSUE



Dear Editor:

Mr. Ian M. missed the point completely in his comment (OUT OF PROPORTION) on the two pictures of B.B. in the *Enviro-watch* in the previous issue of BR. If he read various articles about development of Bonaire in BR, he could know already that there is, unfortunately, no development plan on our island. Therefore, no

"accurate rendering of the planned waterfront" can be given and Mr. Ian M. will not be able to "fairly judge." It is not important if the added buildings are on a different scale than existing buildings. The author of the pictures just wanted to emphasize that unplanned, man made development will destroy our precious coastline.

*Jiri Lausman*

## FOCUS



Dear Editor:

As recreational scuba diving becomes more popular worldwide, the "voices of concern" about negative effects of this activity on the coral reef get louder. Public campaigns of exaggerated headlines, imaginary stickers, and cries for better diver education, make an impression that divers go there and destroy the reef. This is not so, and it only serves to take attention away from the real causes of coral reef deterioration.

First, regarding education. Most divers are well educated and aware. They dive to enjoy being on the reef, not to exploit it.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

**Happy Birthday, Wednesday, March 7, to Yuchi Molina.** Yuchi, a dear friend of *The Reporter*, has been delivering the newspaper every week to Rincon shops and restaurants for many years. Pabien, Yuchi, and many, many years of joy and happiness in the future.



They make conscious efforts to avoid damaging reef, and they often watch each other better than divemasters do. Certification agencies do a good job of educating divers to protect marine life. Studies show that only about 4% of divers are responsible for more than 75% of the diver inflicted damage.

Now, in regard to the damage itself. Scratches and cuts of living corals regenerate fast. Most longer-term damage consists of broken tips of coral branches, resulting from poor buoyancy control. Broken coral looks really bad, but it is not a dead coral, and it grows back. According to surveys, heavily used dive sites show an increase in broken coral but they don't show any decrease in live coral coverage. Divers do not kill coral! The amount of damage caused by divers is extremely small compared to the damage caused by other factors, both natural - like storms and parrotfish bites,

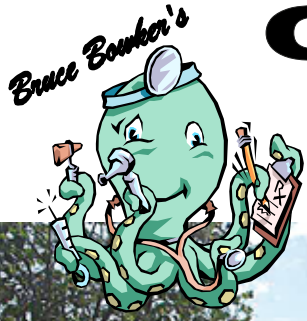
and, especially, unnatural - like fishing, coastal "development", and water pollution.

The largest single cause of the coral reef degradation is its direct exploitation, namely overfishing. All fishing - commercial and recreational, industrial and traditional, big and small, is a long-term destructive factor continually devastating coral reef balances and dynamics. Historical and archaeological evidence dating back thousands of years proves that overfishing, not recent coral diseases or other causes - certainly not a scuba diver - is the main cause of the accelerating death of the world's coral ecosystems. If one really cares about saving corals, one should stop a misdirected activity of blaming divers. Conservation efforts should focus on the real cause of the problem, the ravaging effects of fishing on coral reefs.

*Genady Filkovsky.*



**The Bonaire Reporter welcomes letters from readers.** Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number or e-mail address. Letters without that information will not be published. If a writer wishes to remain anonymous or just use initials we will honor the request. Letters should not be more than 400 words in length and may be edited at the Editor's discretion. E-mail: [letters@bonairenews.com](mailto:letters@bonairenews.com)



# Gear Doc

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

## Regulators With the Bends



Many divers here on Bonaire bring in regulators that won't seal against the tank o-ring. After a quick check the problem is obvious. I ask them if the tank fell off the back of a truck? "Yes," they say.

Preventing this problem is really easy. The damage done though can be quite severe. If the yoke is bent it is not at all wise to try to straighten it. This bends the metal a second time and can weaken it even more. The valve on the tank should also be checked. Did it get bent? The other problem is that the inlet area on the regulator can get crushed. On some regulators this is a retainer unit which can be replaced. On others it is part of the body and that is expensive and doubtful anyone stocks 1<sup>st</sup> stage bodies.

If it is just the nut and none are available, sometimes I can turn these on a lathe which is only a temporary fix. By turning it, the chrome plating is taken off which allows it to corrode. It takes time to corrode but that part should get replaced when you are back home. Also only a small amount can be taken off so if the crushed area is severe, turning it won't be possible. Time to buy or rent!

If you have not figured out how to prevent this problem I will explain it in some detail. Don't stand a tank on back of a truck without at least one hand on it at ALL times. In other words, don't stand tanks on back of trucks without at least one hand on it at ALL times.

Bruce Bowker

Since 1980 Bruce Bowker has been the owner-operator of the Padi 5 Star Gold Palm Carib Inn. Tel. 717-8819.



Picture Yourself With The Reporter



Tim and Ella Ritchie had this photo of themselves taken at the front entrance of the Daytona 500 International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida, USA. They wrote, "We visited Bonaire for the first time between 12/3/2006-12/17/2006 and fell in love with the people and island life. In fact, we were so impressed that we purchased a home and applied for residency. By mid-year 2007, we will be able to join you in paradise and share your genuine concern to protect one of the remaining beautiful marine areas left in this precious world we inhabit.

Don't forget to save a seat on a bench near the town pier so we can enjoy the sunset this summer! See you soon."

## DIVING with DEE Sea Urchins: Friend or Foe?

When I first came to Bonaire, longspined urchins (*Diadema antillarum*, “crown of the Antilles”) were everywhere. With spines up to a foot in length, they filled every crevice in rocks and docks. They lined the shoreline. There were so many urchins at Karpata that to keep the shore entry usable, the urchins actually had to be moved.

All those urchins provided wonderful habitats for other critters, too. Little fishes found sanctuary between the spines; shrimp lived on the spines; arrow crabs stayed close, ready to scurry to the safety of the spine forest at any threat.

And then, in the early 1980s, a disease struck longspined urchins from Georgia down through the Caribbean and as far south as Brazil. Urchin populations plummeted. This plague only took about a week to sweep through Bonaire. The first thing we noticed was urchins with silty spines. I’d never thought about it before, but urchins normally have silt-free spines.

Before I had much of a chance to think about the silt, though, I began seeing something else on the urchins: bristleworms. Urchins were walking along with bristleworms between their spines; the urchins were still alive, but the bristleworms were feeding on them anyway. Urchins, with and without bristleworms,

were staggering around, in the open, in mid-day, like hundreds of spiny zombies.

In a couple of days, I couldn’t find a single live longspined urchin, but there were urchin parts all over the place. You literally couldn’t dig your hand through the sand without stabbing yourself with an urchin spine. The sand was covered with urchin shells (correctly called “tests”). Bristleworms gorged on urchin corpses until even they couldn’t eat any more.

And then the urchins were just ... gone. We never saw urchins in the daytime; heck, the very few who were left had all the reef crevices they wanted in which to shelter. Seeing an urchin on a night dive became memorable, or at the least, noteworthy. It took more than two decades for urchin populations to increase enough for them not to be unusual.

One reason this took so long is the way urchins reproduce. At some signal – moon cycle, water temperature, light level, or a combination of those and other conditions – boy urchins and girl urchins eject sperm and eggs into the water. If the urchins are widely separated when this occurs, no fertilizations can happen. With normal urchin populations, eggs and sperm easily find each other. The fertilized eggs drift for a week or two, then hatch into predatory larva who feed on other plankton (probably including the



*This longspined urchin provides sanctuary for a baby banded butterflyfish (bottom left), three cardinalfish, and a school of baby brown chromis.*

eggs of urchins). After a period of time, the larval urchins who survive are ready to settle and begin life as juveniles.

If the plague had been over a small area, the urchin population would have easily recovered; larva would drift in from well-populated areas and settle here. Since the urchin disease was so widespread, though, no such solution was possible. Instead, the repopulation was dependent on urchins being close enough to each other for their spawning to succeed. From the very few urchins I saw then, the whole species came awfully close to being wiped out, at least where the plague hit.

But with each spawning, there were more urchins, which increased the successes of the next spawning. In late January, before the full moon, I noticed that there seemed to be more urchins “out” than usual in the late afternoon, and that they were walking on higher places than usual. The last time I noticed these behaviors, I later saw the spawning: a plume of milky fluid suddenly squirts out of an urchin. In the next five minutes, the urchin squirts two or three more times. Around it, other urchins are doing the same. It’s easy to see that – with normal

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Sea Urchins. Continued from page 8)  
 high urchin populations – broadcast spawning is a very effective way of mixing the genes of a group.

Over the last few years, our nicely dense urchin living conditions should result in hugely successful spawnings. We can again marvel at a creature we almost lost.

How to Marvel: **Find an urchin** next to sand or on rubble. Approach it in Reef Angel position (slightly positively buoyant; diver is at angle with fins 'way above bottom), one hand gently resting on sand or rubble. It helps to have a light (even in the daytime) so you can better see details on this black on black – or is it black on red? – creature.

**Look at the urchin:** Look at the spines, while remembering that they're covered with mucus which contains a mild poison. Adult urchins have black spines; the spines of youngsters look speckled or striped with white and brown. Under a microscope urchin spines look shingled. If you find an urchin spine away from the urchin, slide it between your fingers. You'll find it will move easily in one direction, but not so easily in the other; it's made to penetrate easily, and break off.

Hold your light (turned off) about a foot away from the urchin. [NOTE: Do this cautiously; there is no need whatsoever to move your hand so close that you damage a single spine of the urchin who is dedicating its time to teaching you.

Also, you don't want to get spined, and if you do, I refuse to take any responsibility!]

Did you notice that the spines closest to your light all swivel to "aim" at your light, protecting the urchin vigorously from possible danger? Move the light, staying the same distance away from the urchin but to another place, and watch the spines move. The ability to swivel its spines helps the urchin to defend itself in another way, also: the urchin can streamline its profile for entry into a crevice, then spread the spines to prevent itself from being removed from its crevice.



**"There once was an urchin  
 so fine  
 Who said, "Gee, last night as I  
 dined,  
 Baby chromis and butterflyfish  
 And even some cardinalfish  
 All showed up to live in my  
 spines!"**

The natural defenses provided by longspined urchins had always been appreciated by other creatures, who had to find new habitats after the urchin epidemic. As our urchins come back, though, some of their old residents – and maybe some new ones -- will return. Are there any elongated shrimp living along the spines of your urchins? What kinds of fish are hovering between the spines? Are crabs being protected by the spines closest to the bottom?

And, oh yes, the urchins' defensive skills are helping in one other very important area. As night falls, the urchins stroll to the top of the coral reef – providing great protection to vulnerable coral by giving immediate negative feedback to anyone falling too close! □

Story and photo by 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.



## STRAIGHT TALK

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



Betty Wills

**Question (Part II of III, continuing) from:  
 Better to rise than to fall in love.**

**Part I addressed the reader's perception of how most relationships are based on mutual understanding rather than true love and how economics create tolerance for a breadwinner's misbehavior in a relationship.**

Dear Betty,

There are three kinds of love as I can see:

First the strongest: The love from a mother to her child. Every woman has the ability to love her child in her, and before she has a child she gives it to her lover. Sometimes, but not often, does she have enough time or energy to give her man that same love after her child is born. If not, the man leaves her, looking for another woman to give him that powerful loving feeling again. Her love towards her child is unconditional, is real, true love.

Second is the lusty love of mutual attraction that makes a man and a woman fall in love to enjoy each other immensely in freedom and leads to sexual pleasure that mostly leads to the woman getting pregnant. Then she changes and the man's role to "plant his seed" is over, done. He mostly then looks for a next opportunity to plant his seed, unconsciously mostly, because that is the way of nature. Also, when no pregnancy results, the lovemaking becomes a habit and he with his hunter instinct looks for new and more excitement. We call it jealousy, but it is possessiveness, the want to own the other. Marriage is not a natural situation, as true love cannot flourish in captivity, it needs freedom.

Third is the love that Jesus showed us, total and pure. That kind of love is not possible in our world. Politicians and rich people and religious leaders have destroyed it completely. Examples enough: To show love for your country you must not love another country. To love your partner, you may not love another. To love your church you are not to love another religion, and so on and so forth

(Part III will address the remaining issues presented in an email from this reader.)

**ANSWER:** Why limit it to three? There are as many kinds of love as there are ways to express it – most of which can be lots of fun - but this is a "family" paper, so I will stick to the three kinds of love you mentioned...*First, the strongest being mother to child.*

It's perfectly natural for mothers to love and protect their children – as do fathers – and by giving equally of your love and time you can maintain balance within the family. When man plants his seed, he must also take responsibility to reap what he's sown. Children are a responsibility shared equally by both parents. Granted, they do reduce the time parents once spent together, but rather than see it as a negative in your relationship, consider your children an extension of your love, not a reduction of it. Neither parent should feel jealous or neglected because of the time or love a child receives from either partner. Such feelings are no different from the possessiveness you defined as jealousy, or the need to dominate. Furthermore, loving your children and spending time with them doesn't justify a cheating partner.

The demands of young children are enough for a parent to handle without adding the demands of a selfish partner who is jealous of his/her own children. Secondly – your reference to lust, a man's instinctual need to hunt, and the habit of love making, consider the following: early man instinctually hunted prey, not women. A diet of women is dangerous to a man's health. With the difficulties early man encountered in the absence of modern conveniences –no vehicle, rifle, or bullets; just his own two feet, a wooden club, and a few rocks – hunting for food was extremely difficult, and in many instances, he was probably the one being hunted. Dinosaurs could run really fast. Common sense tells us early man had his hands full taking care of one woman, their children, and probably their aging parents. Quite frankly, a man's need for more than one partner is nothing more than

(Continued on page 12)



## Ask the Dietitian

### Physical Activity and Healthy Nutrition

- The best medicine to prevent some chronic diseases!

#### According to the guidelines for healthy eating.....

The healthiest nutrition is rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, vegetable oils, fish and lean animal products (dairy and meat products) with little space for sweets or fatty snacks.

The International Healthy Nutrition Guidelines are based on preventing chronic diseases that are related to nutrition, like heart disease and diabetes.

Some of these healthy nutrition guidelines are:

1. Variation – Don't keep eating the same kinds of foods from each food group.
2. Make sure you have a daily intake of enough fruits (200grams=2 apples)\*, vegetables (150-200grams=3-4 serving spoons)\* and whole grain products. This guarantees you're getting the recommended 30-40grams of dietary fiber a day.
3. Eat fish regularly, at least twice a week. Fatty ones are allowed.

4. Reduce as much as possible those products with high amounts of fat, especially saturated fat and trans fats.
5. Reduce frequent consumption of foods and beverages high in sugar.
6. Limit your salt intake. Limit alcohol consumption: two glasses a day for men and 1 glass for women. \* These are recommended amounts for adults.

Obese (overweight) people should reduce their calorie intake by limiting high caloric foods in their diet such as fatty food products, foods and beverages with added sugar as well as their serving sizes.

In the last couple of years there has been a tremendous increase in the health-threatening phenomenon - OBESITY (being overweight). It has everything to do with an unbalanced calorie intake and calorie expenditure. When the calorie intake is higher than the calories burned, it leads to obesity. **Because of this, great emphasis is now being focused on physical activity to help stimulate calorie burning.**

Besides a healthy nutrition, **physical activity is considered another medicine to prevent some (chronic) diseases.**

Health promoters all over the world are not just advising people to have a healthy nutrition but are also recommending

strongly that people move more, whether overweight or not, as the way to assure good health and prevent diseases. This logical combination, "moving and healthy eating," is the way to fight health threatening obesity and promote robust, good health.

#### Physical Activity is now part of the Nutrition Guidelines

*Note: Every country has its own food model based on the International Dietary Guidelines. This illustrated model is a food pyramid newly designed by the public health department of Aruba.*

Guidelines for people with a healthy weight:

Enough daily physical activities. This means daily or at least five days a week for a minimum of 30 minutes, doing moderate physical activities such as cycling, walking, etc.

People who are overweight or who are trying to lose weight should increase their physical activities even more to **at least 1**

*Angèlique Salsbach is a Dietitian at the Department of Public Health and a member of the management team of Top Health Fitness & Health Center. Opening hours: 5-9 pm, Monday-Friday. Saturday 9 am to noon. It's a spacious place for fitness. They offer aerobic classes, hiking, nutrition plans, weight loss programs, detox programs. Their team of health professionals knows how to help you make your body your business. Ask for their specials. [Tophealthbonaire@yahoo.com](mailto:Tophealthbonaire@yahoo.com)*



COME BON Y HACI MOVECION



hour on a daily basis or at least five days a week.

On Bonaire more than 50% (number based on research) of the adult population is inactive, meaning that our people do not consider the link between being physical activity, food calorie intake and body weight. The outcome: high obesity with its consequences being the high numbers of people with diabetes and heart disease.

A healthy lifestyle consisting of a combination of balanced nutrition together with sufficient physical activity, moderate alcohol consumption and quitting smoking is the best medicine for preventing some chronic diseases.

So if these above mentioned guidelines are not included in your daily routine.....IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO START LIVING YOUR LIFE IN A HEALTHY WAY!

Angèlique Salsbach

  
**BONAIRE ON WHEELS**

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

**The Classic Shaft Drive "Beemer" of Aat Oudshoorn**

**F**ounded in 1916 as an aircraft engine factory (the BMW logo represents a propeller of an airplane), the Bayerische Motoren Werke entered the motorcycle trade in 1921 with a proprietary engine, a 493 cc flat twin cylinder side valve model. In 1923 their first completely owned and built motorcycle was shown in Paris: the BMW R32.

BMW has never (until very recently) built a motorcycle without a shaft\* drive, with a separate gearbox or with a twin cylinder engine not transversely mounted. The integrity of the 1923 design is proved by the fact that it is still the basis of one of the world's most prestigious and best selling makes, more than 80 years later. Aat Oudshoorn's BMW R65R was also built with a shaft drive and a gearbox fitted to the boxer twin engine.



In 1966 Aat and his wife and family left The Netherlands by boat, the *Prins der Nederlanden*, heading for Curaçao. Aat had gotten a job teaching chemistry. In 1967 he bought a second hand Vespa (Vespa is Italian for "wasp") scooter, a 125 cc single cylinder two stroke. The bike had a license plate numbered C - 1. With this hot little Italian he got his driver's license. Then, in 1970, he bought his first brand new motorcycle: a red Honda CB350 four stroke twin with overhead camshaft. Aat: "I can't really remember the name of the dealer. The garage was opposite De Hollandse Bakker

(The Dutch Baker). That garage was mainly selling cars in those days. I was one of the first owners of a brand new bike on the island of Curaçao.

In 1972 the family returned to the Netherlands. Aat took his bike with him. Those days, before the oil crisis, a motorcycle was very handy but kind of a poor man's way of transport. Unfortunately most people didn't like bikers and twice Aat was pushed off the road by a truck driver. Aat sold his bike. However, his love for the motorized two wheelers remained.

Aat bought his first Beemer, a BMW R45R, 450 cc. air cooled boxer twin, painted metallic grey. The bike was built in 1980 and has always been very sturdy and reliable. Then Aat exchanged his R45R for his present BMW, the R65R, built in 1979. He brought it to the island of Bonaire in 2004.

Aat really loves his metallic red 650 twin. "This bike is a real motorcycle: an engine, a frame, two wheels. That's all you need. No fancy fairings, no electronic gadgets. It is just a pure and Spartan motorcycle. Every part is functional and made of very high quality materials. A BMW can easily serve for several decades. It's just changing oil and filters. And every couple of years I need a pair of new tires and a battery. I use this bike several times a week. I go up and down the hill for shopping and pleasure. (Aat lives on *Subi di Rincón* or *Seru Zuid*, a steep hill south of the village of Rincón.) Sometimes Elly, my wife, and I make a tour around the island. We really love the

scenery and the sound of the wind and our boxer twin."

Aat always wears his white California Highway Patrol helmet, his leather gloves, a pair of trousers and solid shoes. He never exceeds the speed limits on the island. He respects mankind and nature. "Safety first," he says.

When you're on the road, just look for the man with the white helmet on a red bike and enjoy the typical sound from the two exhausts of the air cooled boxer twin!  
*Story & Photo by J@n Brower*

(\*A shaft is a cardan or a cardan joint, used by, among others, BMW instead of a chain to pass on the energy produced by the engine to the rear wheel. The chain is cheaper to produce; the shaft consumes more energy. jb).

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(Straight Talk. Continued from page 9)

commitment-phobia, a disorder that has nothing to do with man's hunting instinct or his need to plant seeds. He'd be much better served if he took up gardening. Thirdly – with regards to the love Jesus showed us, when He said love thy neighbor it wasn't a green light for men to have sex with all of them. And when He said to turn the other cheek, he was referring to a facial cheek, not a sexual position.

#### JOKE OF THE DAY

One day, Adam sat outside the Garden of Eden shortly after eating the apple, and wondered about men and women. Looking up to the heavens he says, "Excuse me God, can I ask you a few questions?"

God replied, "Go on Adam, but be quick. I have a world to create."

Adam says, "When you created Eve, why did You make her body so curvy and tender unlike mine?"

"I did that, Adam, so that you could love her."

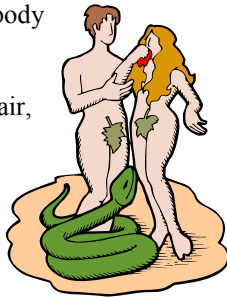
"Oh, well then, why did You give her long, shiny, beautiful hair, and not me?"

"I did that Adam so that you could love her."

"Oh, well then, why did You make her so stupid? Certainly not so that I could love her?"

"Well, Adam, no. I did that so that she could love you."

BW



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

#### SUPPORT BONAIRE

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

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Sailing Yacht for sale-41 Ft. Hans Christian, blue-water ready. Immaculate condition. Completely refit rigging, instrumentation, etc. 2005-too much to list here. Located in Bonaire. Serious Inquires only



For Sale: All (furniture, pots & pans, mattresses, dive gear, printer/scanner, clothes, plumbing tools and much more); porch sales 10<sup>th</sup> March at Kaya Mercurius 2, Belnem. 9:00 till 16:30. Call 717-4494 for an appointment.

# 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](http://www.SudokuShack.com).

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

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

Complete solution on page 19.

please. Contact Ron at [captron-bon@yahoo.com](mailto:captron-bon@yahoo.com). Include "BOAT" in the subject line.

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#### Lost & Found

Found: One Walt Disney's children's watch. 796 - 3637, [digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com)

Lost: License plate, registered: MF - 28. J@n Brouwer. 796 - 3637. [digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com)

#### Wanted

Local daycare Kresh Bon Kwido is in need of toys for new after school program. For children in the age of 4 till 7 years old:  
-picture and reading books  
-LEGO/wooden blocks/construction toys  
-cars/vehicles (big & small)  
-wooden and normal jigsaw puzzle  
-family games like dominos, memory etc.  
Second hand is ok, as long as it is in good condition.

Please contact us at: 717-8911/fax.717-8935 [kreshbonkwido@telbonet.an](mailto:kreshbonkwido@telbonet.an) Drop off at: Kaya MC Hellmund Boom 1 (behind the Hospital)

#### Wanted Staff

Obersi Electronics is looking for a technical staff to start as soon as possible in the following field; repair copiers, printers and or 2 way radio's (VHF/UHF). Applicant needs to have AS degree in electronics or equivalent plus drivers license. Experience in the mentioned field in addition computer repair knowledge is a plus.

Resume can be send to: Obersi Electronics, Kaya Grandi nr. 72, Bonaire, N.A. or call 701-0707 or email; [job@obersi.com](mailto:job@obersi.com)

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

Bonaire's coziest resort is looking for full time colleagues in the restaurant/ bar kitchen. Preferably speaking Dutch/ English/ German. Experience is required! Do you want to be part of our team? Call 717-7901 or send an email to: [info@caribbeanclubbonaire.com](mailto:info@caribbeanclubbonaire.com)

## Island to Island Meeting



*Island mayors with Geraldine Dammers, Ubaldo Anonhy, Onnie Emerenciana, Co DeKonig and Yonchi Dortalina* Ruud Vermeulen photo

Mayors from two Dutch Wadden islands with much in common with Bonaire had a 4-day whirlwind tour and conferences in Bonaire, sponsored by *de klos*, KLM and several Bonaire businesses. It was a first visit for both of the mayors: Baukje Galama – Mayor of Vlieland (population: 1,700) (*left*) and Joke Geldorp – Mayor of Texel (population: 15,000) (*right*)

During their visit they met with numerous people in government and business and toured a number of locations with an emphasis on environmental and cultural preservation:

- Gotomeer, Mangazina di Rei (with Gov. Domacassé, Hurbert Vis, Bòi Antoin, Edith Strauss-Marcera, Co DeKonig, Ruud Vermeulen),
- Slave huts (with Daniella Gustowski),
- Windsurfing Place (with Elvis Mar-

tinus),

- SGB, Jong Bonaire (with Geraldine Dammers),
- Washington Slagbaai, Stinapa, Klein Bonaire with Sea Turtle Club, Bestuurscollege (Governor, Ramonsito Booi, Onnie Emerenciana, Richard Hart, Jonchi Dortalina, and others).

They dined at restaurants Vespucci, Rose Inn Rincon, Wind and Sea at The Windsurfing Place, Rum Runners, Bistro de Paris, Capriccio, and La Balandra.

What struck Mayor Galama most was the natural beauty of Bonaire and the care taken to find a balance between economy and ecology, while looking for solutions in the area of employment, education, housing, youth care and crime.

*L.D.*

## Art by Eefje



*Eefje van der Stratten and Governor Domacassé*

Artist Eefje van der Stratten opened her art exhibition at Kas di Arte with style and flair. The opening started with the national anthem of Bonaire followed by verses and poems by Jackie Bernabella. Governor Domacassé and other notables were on hand as were many people in Bonaire's art world who commented favorably. The exhibition runs through March 26. Opening hours are from 5 to 7:30 pm. □

*One of the works of the artist*



## Pets of the Week

Here are two very happy pups getting a lot of attention from young Shelter volunteers Zahid and Carla. “Claudia,” the pup on the left, was brought into the Shelter in heat. The vet, after examining her, found she had already had at least one litter – and here she is only about one and a half years old. But she’s been sterilized and no longer has to worry about being chased by males! She is such a mellow and relaxed dog and so eager to please. Somewhere in her ancestry there must have been a ridgeback because there’s the telltale ridge down her back.

The other pup, “Frans,” shown with Zahid is another great dog. He also is about a year and a half and was found in someone’s yard. The people brought him into the Shelter where he has the opportunity for a better life. He too is mellow and gets along beautifully with other dogs.

Both these dogs are in excellent health, having had their tests and shots and are ready to go. If there is ever any question as to whether or not a dog or a cat is not in perfect health or is in any way not social it will **not** be put up for adoption. You can always be sure that you get a fine pet from our Shelter.

Drop in and see for yourself. The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

**Don’t forget to mark your calendar: Sunday, March 18 – Fundraising Show to benefit the Bonaire Animal Shelter Sterilization Program, aboard *Freewinds*, 7:30 pm. Tickets sold at the Shelter or from board members NA\$25. Call 717-4989 for more information. Even if you cannot make it that evening you may buy a ticket and know you helped to keep the Shelter Sterilization Program going! L.D.**



“Claudia” and “Frans” with Zahid and Carla

### 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
3-09	5:37	1.7FT.	15:43	0.9FT.					59
3-10	6:15	1.8FT.	16:12	0.9FT.					51
3-11	7:00	1.9FT.	16:39	0.8FT.					45
3-12	7:43	1.9FT.	17:10	0.8FT.					40
3-13	8:23	1.9FT.	17:39	0.8FT.					41
3-14	9:12	2.0FT.	18:00	0.9FT.					47
3-15	1:09	1.1FT.	9:56	1.9FT.	18:17	0.9FT.	23:22	1.1FT.	59
3-16	2:55	1.1FT.	10:42	1.9FT.	18:32	1.0FT.	23:25	1.2FT.	71
3-17	4:20	1.1FT.	11:36	1.8FT.	18:44	1.0FT.	23:53	1.3FT.	84

### Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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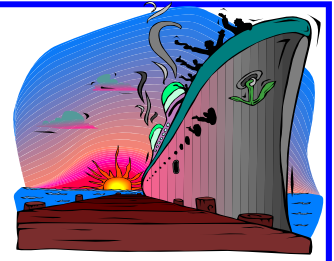
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Note: The Bonaire Animal Shelter Fund-raising Show to benefit the Sterilization Fund aboard the *Freewinds* is March 18.**



## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**Late Show**  
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

**Smokin' Aces**  
(Ben Affleck)

**Early Show (Usually 7 pm)**

**Primeval**  
(Dominic Purcell)

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**  
March: Charlotte's Web

### THIS WEEK

**Saturday, March 10—Lions Club 45th Anniversary**—food, drinks, artists, music. Wilhelmina Park 6—11 pm.

**Sunday, March 11 – Daylight Savings Time begins**

**Friday, March 16—Early St. Patrick's Day Celebration with the Irish Crooners from Curacao**, Bonaire Caribbean Club, Hilltop.

**Saturday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Dance Party** with the Flamingo Rockers, DJ Papa, Sunrise Restaurant at Sand Dollar, 9 pm-1 am. NAf20 in advance (at AWC across from Warehouse Bonaire), NAf25 at door (includes food)

**Until March 26 – Art Exhibit of works of Eefje van Twillert van der Straten**, Kas di Arte, open 5-7:30 pm.

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

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days** starting 10 am to early afternoon: Tues. Mar. 13 – *Lili Marleen*, *Sea Princess*

### COMING

**Sunday, March 18 – Fundraising Show to benefit the Bonaire Animal Shelter Sterilization Program**, aboard *Freewinds*, 7:30 pm. Tickets sold at Shelter NAf25.

**Tuesday, March 20 – Spring Begins**

**Sunday, April 1--29<sup>th</sup> Kontest di Fli (Kite contest)** in the field behind Kooyman's. All day from 9 am. Sign up at Flamingo Book Store. Entrance fee is NAf3,50 for children; NAf7,50 for adults.

**Sunday April 1 – Palm Sunday**

**Sunday, April 1 – Walk through Plantation Bolivia area with Bôl Antoin** – more details will follow next week. Information: 786-8908. See page 5

**Monday, April 2 – Full moon**  
**Tuesday, April 3 - Passover**  
**Friday, April 6 – Good Friday**  
**Sunday, April 8 - Easter**  
**Saturday, April 28 – World Tai Chi Qigong Day** – more information as date approaches

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days** starting 10 am to early afternoon: 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 playground 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.
- **Bike Trips**—Meet at Eden Beach Activity Center 4 pm. Free. Helmets mandatory. 785-0767
- **Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse, 2nd Saturday of the month**, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.
- **Flea Market every first Saturday of the month** from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

### Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm
- **Beginning Yoga** 6.30pm Harbour Village 786-6416
- **Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10. Buddy Dive Resort**, 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
- **Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm
- **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

### Thursdays

- **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. (No show Feb 26 and March 5)
- **Tuesdays & Wednesdays—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Buddy Dive Resort (717-3802) at 7:00pm. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at the Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8817) at 7:00pm.

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> **Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.  
**Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Zeezicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano)** 717-5246 or 7117  
**The Bonaire Swim Club**- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451; Valarie@telbonet.an  
**Bonaire National Marine Park** - 717-8444.  
**Bonaire Animal Shelter** -717-4989.  
**Donkey Sanctuary** - 560-7607.  
**Jong Bonaire (Youth Center)** - 717-4303.  
**Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care)** Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.  
**Special Olympics**— Call Claire 717-8290  
**Volunteers to train children in sports.** Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

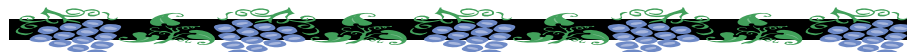
### CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.** Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on Sundays at 10 am.  
Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am.  
Children's club every Saturday at 5 pm in Kralendijk.  
Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.  
**New Apostolic Church**, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.  
**International Bible Church of Bonaire** – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332  
**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu, Spanish and English.  
**Catholic San Bernardus** in Kralendijk – Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 . **Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, **in English**. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.  
**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios)**, Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

Send event info to:

**The Bonaire Reporter**  
Email reporter@bonairenews.com  
Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

# DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE/ WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Balashi Beach Bar and Beach Service</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Extensive snack/salad/burger. Menu available daily from noon.
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm	<b>Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10,-); Wed. - Caribbean Night A la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7-1- pm)
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 pm	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Cactus Blue</b> Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564	Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Trend Setting Menu</b> Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	<b>Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday</b> from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
<b>The Great Escape</b> EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast Sandwich Lunch 10 am-12 noon	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof.</b> Breakfast Buffet 7:30-10 am every day Super beer selection—Happy hours 5 to 7 daily.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> Kaya Grandi 70 717-3293	Low-Moderate Open Tuesday through Saturday 7:30am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-2pm	<b>NAf10 take out lunch every day -</b> main dish with 2 side dishes. Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna.
<b>Papaya Moon Cantina</b> Downtown— Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate Open everyday except Tuesday For Dinner	<b>Margaritas a Specialty</b> 2 for 1 Happy Hour 6-7:30 Incredible Mexican Cuisine
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
<b>The Bonaire Windsurfing Place</b> At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all.	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A <b>genuine sandy beach restaurant</b> cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the <b>Wednesday Beach BBQ.</b>

# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



<p><b>AIRLINES</b> <b>Divi Divi Air.</b> 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.</p> <p><b>APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS</b> <b>City Shop,</b> 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.</p> <p><b>BANKS</b> <b>Maduro and Curiel's Bank</b> provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.</p> <p><b>BEAUTY PARLOR</b> <b>Hair Affair.</b> Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.</p> <p><b>BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS</b> <b>De Freewieler</b> rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.</p> <p><b>DIVING</b> <b>Carib Inn</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine)</b> -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly cleanup dives and BBQ.</p> <p><b>WannaDive</b> - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.</p> <p><b>FITNESS</b> <b>Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.</b> Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.</p> <p><b>FURNITURE, ANTIQUES</b> <b>The Plantation</b> Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.</p>	<p><b>GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</b> <b>Green Label</b> 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.</p> <p><b>GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR</b> <b>The Bonaire Gift Shop</b> has a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts - all at low prices.</p> <p><b>HOTELS</b> <b>The Great Escape</b> Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar. <b>New! Spa!</b></p> <p><b>METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP</b> <b>Bob - Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V.,</b> offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.</p> <p><b>NATURE EXPLORATION</b> <b>Outdoor Bonaire</b> for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com</p> <p><b>PHOTO FINISHING</b> <b>Paradise Photo</b> in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . <b>Full digital services.</b></p> <p><b>REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS</b> <b>Caribbean Homes,</b> "the Refreshing Realtor, " specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management. <b>Harbourtown Real Estate</b> is Bonaire's most experienced real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance. <b>Re/Max Paradise Homes:</b> Lots of Choices—international/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them to sell fast.</p> <p><b>Sunbelt Realty</b> offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.</p> <p><b>REPAIRS</b> <b>Bon Handyman</b> is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345</p>	<p><b>RESORTS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Buddy Dive Resort</b> offers diving, Adventure Fun hours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.</p> <p><b>RETAIL</b> <b>Benetton,</b> world famous designer clothes available low in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children. <b>Best Buddies and Pearls</b>—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.</p> <p><b>The Touch Skin &amp; Body</b>—Birkenstock shoes for men and women. New styles</p> <p><b>SECURITY</b> <b>Special Security Services</b> will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.</p> <p><b>SHIPPING</b> <b>Cocargo Freight</b> Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. <b>edEx agent.</b></p> <p><b>WATER TAXI</b> <b>Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.</b> Ride the <i>Kantika di Amor</i> or <i>Skiffy</i>. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein Bonaire.</p> <p><b>WINDSURFING</b> <b>The Bonaire Windsurfing Place</b> 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.</p> <p><b>WINES</b> <b>Antillean Wine Company.</b> 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 9am-12 noon.</p> <p><b>ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:</b> <b>Put your ad in The Bonaire Reporter.</b> Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125 Email: reporter@bonairenews.com</p> <p><b>Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for weekly advertisers?</b></p>
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# On the Island Since ... February 14, 1972

## David Romo

**"I** arrived here with my parents back in 1972. I was two years and four days old and it was Valentine's Day, so that's what made me fall in love with Bonaire! My parents came from Ecuador, South America, to work for Trans World Radio. Father was a radio programmer and broadcaster and my mom was a schoolteacher and a secretary.

I went to Reina Beatrix School, then to SGB high school where I did MAVO. Every two years I went to Ecuador to visit family and friends and once I went on a student exchange program when I was 15. I graduated MAVO in 1986, then went to the States where I finished high school in a town called Riverview, Florida. I got my high school diploma and came back to Bonaire to visit my parents and to renew my student visa so I could return to the US for college. I studied psychology there for four years and as I had a temporary work permit I had different sales and counselling jobs, but it wasn't anything steady.

I returned to Bonaire in January 1995 because I had to renew my papers so I could work permanently in the US, but because I didn't get my US residency on time I decided to stay here for one year until I did get my papers. It was at that time that I heard they were starting an academic study on Bonaire to become a teacher so I took the opportunity and studied from 1997 till 2002 and became a fully qualified elementary school teacher. During that time I worked at different hotels and restaurants - like Rum Runners and Habitat - to pay for my schooling and to support my family as I was married at the time. Also during that period I worked for two years for Jong Bonaire as a youth leader and a tutor in all subjects.

In 2002 I began working at the Wapapana School in Rincon and I have been working there ever since. It's a special school that gives individual guidance to children at elementary school level. I work with the pre-teens. In my group I have 11 boys and one girl. I love it; I love my job since I love kids very much.

I have two children of my own and they stay with me from Friday until Monday afternoon since my wife and I got divorced about a year ago. Paul David, the eldest, is nine, and Jonathan is six years old. The kids are my biggest motivation in life. They are the reason for me to persevere and to succeed in life... They are the reason for my existence... My two boys are my pride and joy.

Because of my upbringing and my Latin background I consider family values very important and I consider kids

especially important. That's the main reason why I chose to become a school teacher, to help those kids who are less fortunate, who need a lot of love and attention and also to be a sort of leader and father figure to those kids who don't have that example. As an educator I feel a lot of norms and values have gone astray; the norm of respect is becoming less in the young children and the family values and the unity of the families don't seem to be as important as they were when I was going to school. I feel the parents are not spending enough quality time with their children, which is making the kids lose that feeling of love and respect for others. It's a worldwide problem, but because Bonaire is so small you see it closer. Kids need rules, they need attention and discipline, they need structure; children need important

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**"As an educator I feel a lot of norms and values have gone astray; the norm of respect is declining in the young children and the family values and the unity of the families don't seem to be as important as they were when I was going to school. I feel the parents are not spending enough quality time with their children, which is making the kids lose that feeling of love and respect for others."**

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values and norms in their life.

When I chose to become a school-teacher it was also because I knew I was going to be a father soon and I wanted to use that knowledge to raise and educate my own boys." *David Romo (37) is a charming mixture; he's an outgoing, emotional person, but at the same time very matter-of-fact and serious. He's also intelligent and fast and his two boys are absolutely adorable.*

"Nowadays my parents, my oldest sister and my brother are all living in Tampa, Florida. It's a great place and I love to visit them, especially during the holidays. I also have many friends all over the States, including those I went to high school and college with. I consider myself very independent for I have always chosen to live away from my family and to try different job possibilities in other places.

I was away from the island for nine



David Romo with sons Jonathan and Paul David

years. Life here is very simple and safe and I love the Bonairean culture as it was also part of my upbringing. I love the friendliness and the warmth of the Bonairean people; it's very close to the Latin culture and yet it has a flavor of Europe, which is also interesting. My morals and values are very much like my parents' since they were the ones who instilled the South American culture in me and also because of the fact that they were missionaries." *He laughs:* "I consider myself an international Caribbean Latin boy!

As well as my regular job I also tutor kids and adults in English, Spanish, Dutch and Papiamentu (phone 796-1824/717-7579). My own kids speak three languages: English, Spanish and Papiamentu, almost four I should say, because they're also learning Dutch. I've brought them up bilingual; the books on their bedside are in English and Spanish, so now my boys can talk to their grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunts in the States and in Ecuador and this keeps the family bond.

For me languages are very important because I was a world traveller at a very young age. I not only travelled to the States but also to many Latin and South American countries because of my father's work. I have always loved to communicate with people from around the world in their own language if possible.

I know about four Ecuadorians on the island, but there may be eight. In Spanish we have the expression *De lo bueno poco*, which means," *he laughs,* 'From a good thing there is little!' From what I have experienced the Ecuadorian culture is very respectful. They are humble but at the same time they are very sociable, communicative and intelligent people. They are also fighters because when they don't like their government they throw them out! That makes me proud to be Ecuadorian! Also since I love sports and soccer is my favourite sport I was so proud of my roots when Ecuador

made it to two consecutive World Cups, defeating Croatia in the first and in the last one they defeated Poland and Costa Rica. I was the only Ecuadorian on the island driving around with my flag and my T-shirt, celebrating!

I am planning to go to Ecuador this year. Believe it or not, it has been a while because last time was in 1992! Hopefully I can go with my kids and..." *he smiles,* "maybe a new girl friend?"

I love the nature of Bonaire. I love to walk in the outdoors and I am a scuba diver as well; I love the underwater world very much. I am preparing to become a dive master in the near future and I would like to motivate the local kids, my students, to fall in love with their own nature and to become involved in the dive industry as well since it's of great value for tourism to have local dive instructors in the industry.

I have a lot of friends on the island - local friends, friends from when I went to school here and also foreigners. I consider myself a very sociable and outgoing person. I am open to whatever God has for me in the future; as far as where I shall move on from Bonaire, the possibility of living in the States or I would even like to try Europe since I've had my Dutch passport for over 22 years, and I can speak, write and teach in so many different languages. However, for the time being I plan to stay put on Bonaire and enjoy the time with my two Caribbean, Latin sons until God opens other doors. I am a family man, an educator and a professional who would love to run his own international business some time in the future, and I consider myself a young man who has great faith and belief in his creator and personal saviour, Jesus Christ, and only through him can we find the road to the future and success."



Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

## A Shrink Studies SCUBA

# Phobias

www.DivePsych.com



**Agoraphobia**  
(fear of open spaces or of leaving a safe place)

Last week I may have displayed some favoritism towards Bonaire as “A Diver’s Paradise.” Therefore, to balance my flagrant investigator and author and home-owner bias, I will examine a few named phobias which can be experienced on Bonaire. Selene Yeager also prompted this topic when she recently asked me to help her with an up-coming article in *Scuba Diving* magazine on “Scuba-phobia.”

Even though we all “breathe” amniotic fluid for months while swimming in the dark confines of our mother’s womb until our first gasp of air at birth, a primal fear is that of suffocating while breathing underwater. As Divers Alert Network vice president of research and former USN SEAL, Dr. Richard “Dick” Vann, puts it, “Breathing underwater is unnatural.” In our year 2000 survey the relative risk of panic when a diver “inhaled water instead of air” was 1.8 for men (n=9292) and 1.5 for women (n=2929). This applies as much to diving on Bonaire as anywhere else.

According to the APA’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (1994), a Simple Phobia is a “marked and persistent fear that is excessive or unreasonable, cued by the presence or anticipation of a specific object or situation” and “the avoidance, anxious anticipation, or distress in the feared situation(s) interferes significantly with the person’s normal routine. . . , or there is marked distress about having the phobia.” Agoraphobia (fear of being in places from which escape might be difficult or embarrassing) and claustrophobia (fear of confined places) are classic phobias that apply to scuba diving.

Combine the childhood fairy tale Hansel and Gretel’s fear of being baked in an oven and eaten (phagophobia) and the movie *Jaws* (selachophobia) and you get phagophobia-selachophobia (fear of being eaten by sharks). In our 2000 survey the relative risk of panic when a diver was in the presence of a shark was only 0.2 for men (n=9292) and 0.1 for women (n=2929). Bonaire is not known for shark attacks so I would consider such a fear



**Cymophobia/kymophobia**  
(fear of waves or wave-like motions)



**Claustrophobia**  
(fear of confined places)

unreasonable and hardly a reason to avoid diving on Bari Reef. All the same, one movie we do NOT have in our Sand Dollar Condo Resort rental unit is *Jaws*. There’s no point in spooking our guests and spoiling their vacation.

Other phobias diving on Bonaire might be bathmophobia/climacophobia (fear of climbing 1000 Steps), urophobia/bromidrosiphobia (fear of urinating in your wetsuit and smelling), frigophobia/rhytiphobia (fear of being cold/wrinkled after too much time underwater), pteronophobia (fear of feather duster worms), ataxophobia/nebulaphobia (fear of mask flooding/fogging), acarophobia (fear of mosquitoes and other insects whose bites cause itching), aichmophobia (fear of sea urchin needles/spines), thalassophobia (fear of the ocean or sea), cymophobia/kymophobia (fear of waves or wave-like motions), venustraphobia/gymnophobia (fear of beautiful/nude women sunbathing), ichthyophobia (fear of fish), bathophobia (fear of depth), pyrophobia (fear of fire coral), amychophobia (fear of being scratched by coral), and photoaugliaphobia (fear of glaring dive lights).  
*David F. Colvard. All photos except seahorse by Colvard.*



**Selachophobia**  
(fear of Jaws)



**Ostracophobia**  
(fear of shellfish—cleaner shrimp and lobster)



**Catapadaphobia**  
(fear of jumping from high and low places —LaDania's Leap)



**Equinophobia**  
(fear of horses—sea)  
Photo by Maria Uyarra

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





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## Three of my Favorite Stars

Every two or three years I like to tell you about three of my favorite stars because they're so easy to find in winter's skies.

Check the Sky Park any time this month in early evening. And when you look up I want you to check carefully for three stars that appear to be equally spaced and lined up in a row. They're easy to find because they're the only three such equally spaced stars in a row visible to the naked eye. Now for thousands of years in many cultures these three stars have been seen either as the waist or belt of a great sky giant, usually male but sometimes, female. Two bright stars above these three mark the giant's shoulders and the two bright stars below mark the giant's knees. And although this cosmic giant has been called many names throughout history, the name we use today is "Orion" who was a giant warrior hunter in ancient Greek and Roman mythology.



Orion NASA photo

His three belt stars have fascinated me since I was a young man for two reasons: one, because they are the only equally spaced stars in a row you can see with the naked eye, and two, for some reason I just love the sound of their names. **Alnitak**, **Alnilam** and **Mintaka**. Now according to some sources Alnilam comes from the Arabic which means "string of pearls" which also refers to all three stars. Alnitak means "girdle" and Mintaka means "belt." But no matter what they mean I just love to pronounce their names because they sound so poetic, don't you think? In fact, the 19<sup>th</sup> century poet Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote, "those three stars of the airy giant's zone that glitter burnished by the frosty dark."

But in addition to their poetic beauty their science is equally wonderful, and compared to our Sun they'll take your breath away. While our Sun is about a million miles in diameter, Mintaka is 20 times our Sun's diameter and Alnitak is even larger, 25 times as wide as our Sun. While sandwiched between them, Alnilam blows both of them away at a whopping 30 times the width of our own Sun.

But if even that's not enough to impress you, then think about how far away these three are. We measure distance to the stars in terms of the speed of light because they are so far away the term miles is almost useless. Light travels 186,000 miles per second. So we say that our Sun is 8 1/3 light minutes away because it takes 8 1/3 minutes for light to reach us from our Sun. So we actually see our Sun as it existed 8 1/3 minutes ago. The belt stars of Orion, however, are incredibly much farther away, 1,200 light years from Earth, which means that it takes 1,200 years for their light to reach us. **So when we look at Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka we are seeing them not as they exist now but as they existed 1,200 years ago, around the year 800 AD.** *Jack Horkheimer*

## DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

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

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



# THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, March 4 to Saturday, March 10

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Take matters in hand when it comes to dealing with clients or colleagues. This is a great time to get out and enjoy an entertaining evening with friends or lovers. You may find yourself in the midst of a pretty good deal. You will reach the most people if you speak out at an organizational function. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You may want to sign up for courses that will encourage you to have more confidence in yourself. Misunderstandings could cause confusion and upset. You're intuitive this week; however, this attribute could get you in trouble if you tactlessly say what you think. Be prepared to make changes to your personal documents. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Art investment will pay big dividends in the long term. Family outings will make you feel secure and happy. Your determination and sheer desire to do your own thing will be successful. You should follow through on educational endeavors you have wanted to pursue for some time. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Lack of funds may add stress to your already uncertain situation. Be careful not to let friends or peers make you look bad. You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been well. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Elders may get you going this week. A second chance will result in good work. Exercise your talents and present your ideas to groups you think you can contribute to. Pleasure trips will be a form of healing for your emotional state of mind. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You should spend your time trying to get things completed at work. It's a favorable time for real estate, investments and moneymaking opportunities to be successful. Chances to express your ideas and beliefs can bring popularity as long as you're not arrogant. Don't neglect these problems; deal with them once and for all, then move on to more pleasurable tasks. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) If you're already in a relationship, use this added energy passionately. Secret affairs will only lead to deception. Money may slip through your fingers. You will have a great day if you just say what you feel. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Problems with colleagues are likely. Ask family members for help and you will be able to complete the projects more quickly. They will not have the patience to wait for you to complete things that they've asked you to do. Your professional attitude will not go unnoticed. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Unforeseen changes in your location are apparent. Visit friends or relatives you rarely see. You are best to ask questions if you aren't certain about issues that are confronting you. Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Sign up for courses or join fitness clubs. Try to put your money away for a rainy day. Get thinking about prolonging longevity. Driving too fast or double parking will result in difficulties with officials. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Get busy trying to make more money. You should get out and enjoy social events where you are likely to meet new potential mates; however, don't over spend. Business partnerships should turn out to be quite lucrative. Travel for business will be advantageous. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You'd be wise to control your spending so your debts don't get out of hand. Brunch, a long walk, or a quiet dinner will secure your position in the relationship. Try to deal with the problems of those less fortunate; however, don't allow them to make unreasonable demands. Don't get depressed, get busy. You can accomplish a lot if you're willing to put in a little extra time. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.