

**It's  
still  
Free!**

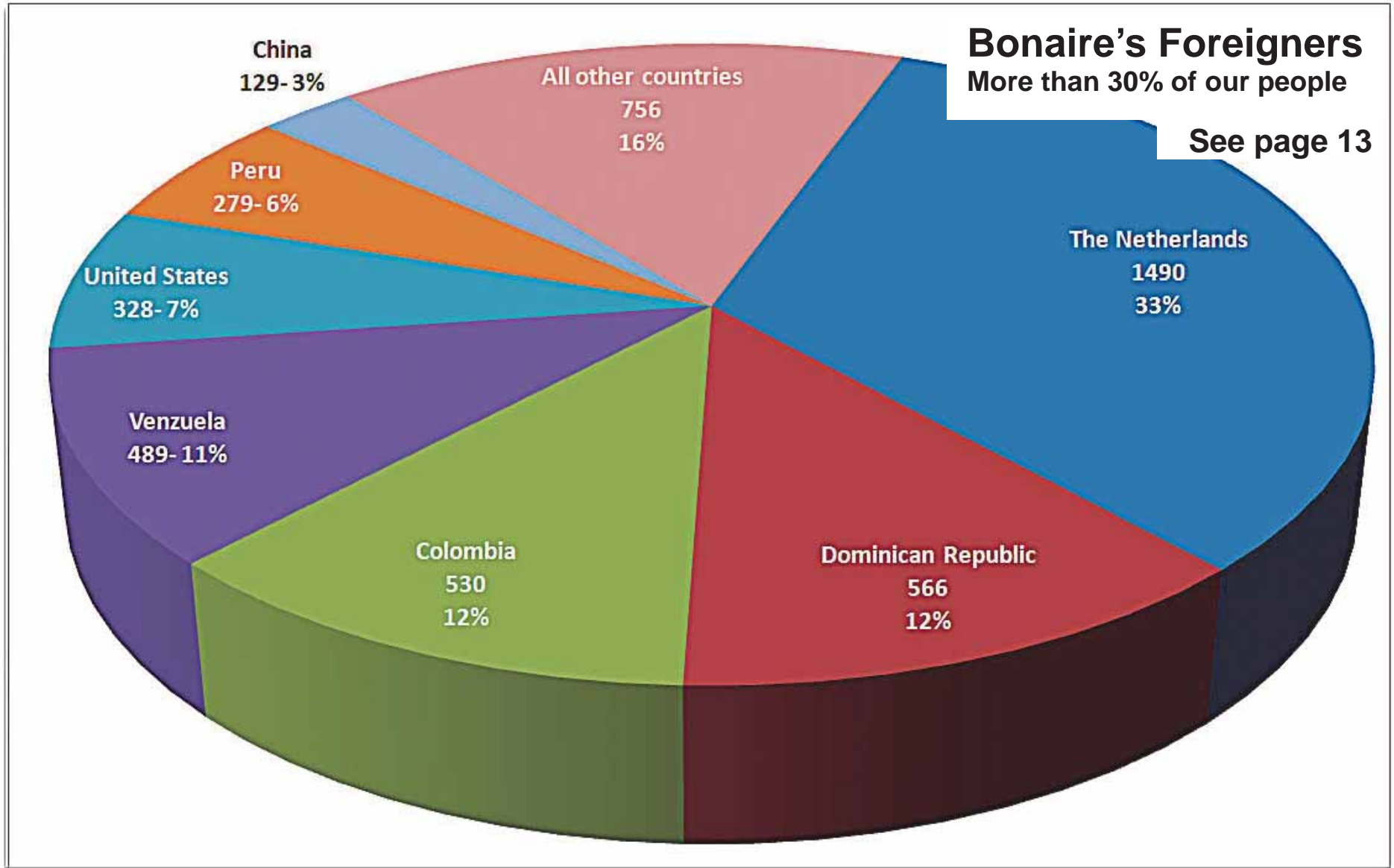
**BONAIRE**

June 8 - 15, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 23

# The REPORTER

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

SINCE 1994



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To Help**  
  
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**The news this past weekend that four nationals from the English-speaking Caribbean were plotting to destroy John F. Kennedy Airport** by igniting fuel lines was a surprise to those expecting terror to be sourced from the Eastern hemisphere rather than close to home. A former Guyanese politician and a former cargo worker at New York's JFK airport are among four Caribbean nationals charged with conspiring to attack the airport in a fiery blast that would also take in a section of the residential neighborhood of Queens, designed to inflict losses of \$120 billion per day.

Kenneth L. Wainstein, Assistant Attorney General for National Security at the US Department of Justice, said that "the defendants sought to combine an insider's knowledge of JFK Airport with the assistance of Islamic radicals in the Caribbean to produce an attack that they boasted would be so devastating to the airport that 'even the Twin Towers can't touch it'."

Shock in the Caribbean over the initial news that four of its own were charged with conspiring to blow up JFK International Airport has worn off and is being replaced by **doubt given the lack of capacity and ability of the alleged plotters to execute the plan.** The source of information about the plot is an FBI informant, a drug dealer.

► The UPB party is putting their experienced members into key island positions and giving party newcomers experience in the Central Government. The Central Government will be disbanded in December 2008 when Bonaire links directly with The Netherlands.

Political novice Elvis Tjin A Soe will replace Burney El Hage to become the new Minister of Labor and Economic Affairs of the Netherlands Antilles effective July 1. Tjin A Soe is a Bonaire businessman with a background in Information Technology and the Internet. El Hage takes a seat as a Commissioner on Bonaire's Executive Council (BC), a posi-

## ► Sea Wasp Caution

Bonaire naturalist Dee Scarr writes: "Sea wasps are the nastiest stingers a diver or snorkeler is likely to encounter on Bonaire. We almost always see them at night; they seem to be attracted by light; they move through the water much faster than other jellyfish; and they often send people to the hospital.

Sea wasps are 3" – 6" long, transparent, elongated jellyfish, with four tentacles up to a foot or more in length. The appearance of sea wasps on Bonaire seems to correlate with moon cycles: we see (and feel) sea wasps most often the 8th, 9th, and 10th nights after the full moon.

Word on this correlation is spreading slowly – too slowly, according to a group leader friend of mine who had two students stung in May.

If sea wasps appear in Bonaire this month, and if the correlation is correct, sea wasps will be around **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**. Sensible people make the effort to avoid being stung by sea wasps."



Sea Wasp Journal of Young Investigators photo

tion he held a couple of years ago.

The current four UPB Commissioners, the officials who are responsible for the day-to-day operation of Bonaire's local government, are all from the UPB, Patriotiko, party: James Kroon, Geraldine Dammers, Reginald Dortalina and Onnie Emerenciana. They will be replaced by El Hage; Anthony Nicolaas, currently an Antillean Parliament member; Boy Clarendo, Director of the Mariadal Foundation (San Francisco Hospital); and former Antillean Education Minister Maritsa Silberie. Nicolaas will be replaced by Island Council member Ginia Elhage-Cicilia, who has prior experience as a parliamentarian.

► Mike Conway, president of Air Jamaica, declared that dropping AJ's long-haul route from London and two Airbus A340s, **would not change plans to reshape Air Jamaica's fleet of eight A320s, six A321s and two A340s.** Reportedly, the London route was responsible for almost 25% of Air Jamaica's losses of

\$25 million last year.

It was reported initially that Air Jamaica was considering "replaning" its entire fleet, but Conway said that the plan now was to replace only six A321s with six leased Boeing 757-200s. Air Jamaica flies to Bonaire every Saturday. *Lavern Clarke*

► Upset about the \$32.50 international departure tax at Bonaire's airport? Perhaps you didn't know, **but American departure taxes are "built in" to your ticket fare from the US and run around \$50.** According to a recent study the following are the costs incurred for departure from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport: \$30.20 for the US international travel tax for arrival and departure; \$7 for immigration inspection fee; a \$2.50 charge for enplanement; a NY City passenger facility charge of \$3; \$4.50 for security charges; and \$5 for insurance service charge: **a total of \$52.20.**

► **Insel Air will start flying to Miami**

**from Curaçao in August,** announced its Chief Commercial Officer, Edward Heerenvéen. The Curaçao-based airline is currently flying to 10 destinations.

► **The Bonaire Executive Council plans to revoke permits to establish a business from those businesses that have been inactive for more than six months.** Because it's contrary to the Establishment Regulation for Businesses, AB 1991, no. 29, the Island Government wants to put a stop to dealing in permits. The regulation prohibits the establishment, taking over, continuation, moving or modification of a business without a permit of the BC. Violation of the prohibition will result in a fine or imprisonment. With this measure the island wants to stop the trade of licenses. Especially in construction, restaurants, cafés and hotels there is a huge trade with licenses. The measure is also meant to keep an eye on new future businesses and to achieve a healthy economic development.

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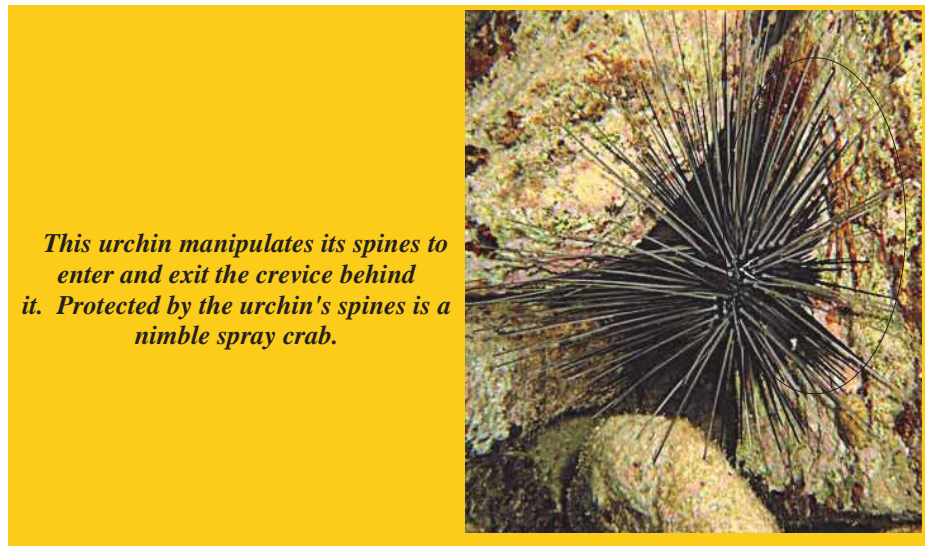
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# Coral Glimpses



*These three arrow crabs are taking advantage of the protection they get from the urchin.*



*This urchin manipulates its spines to enter and exit the crevice behind it. Protected by the urchin's spines is a nimble spray crab.*

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.



# "Adrift" Spectacular Sculpture Show Saturday

**T**ransformation – metamorphosis – That's what happens when artist Wilna Groenenboom gets hold of materials that one time may have been "adrift!"

The materials she uses to construct her tables and sculptures have been manipulated, sanded and crafted for untold hours until they are turned into works of art. They are unique and unusual, steps above the usual "driftwood" articles we see so much of on the island. Artist-writer-photographer-teacher Groenenboom is well known for her *Bonaire Reporter* series, "Antique Living Houses of Bonaire," her details of Bonairean architecture photographed in the Sunbelt Realty magazine and her exhibits at Cinnamon



Art Gallery and Kas di Arte. She's been an art teacher at the SGB high school for seven years, inspiring her students to extend themselves – producing art exhibits in many medias, murals and three-dimensional structures. Sadly, the artist will be leaving Bonaire next month, returning to her native Holland. **The "Adrift" exhibition will be this Saturday, June 9, starting at 5 pm, at the artist's traditional Bonairean home in Nikiboko**

**on Kaya Macario St. Jago 39.** There will be silent auction between 5 and 6pm for one of her tables that several people have offered to buy. **For more information call 717-6832 or 700-2378. □ L.D.**



# PET OF THE WEEK

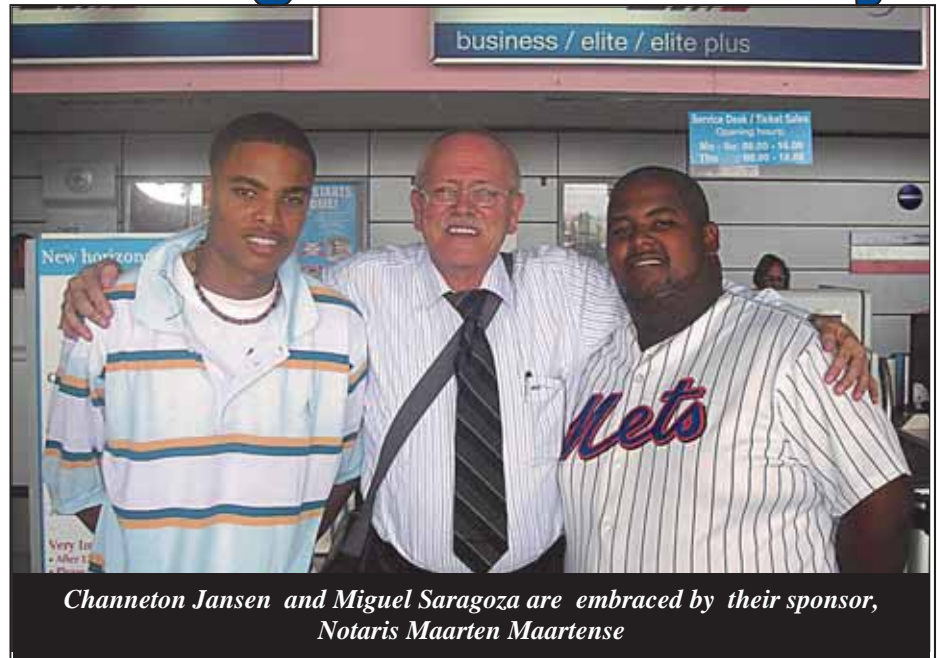


“Charles

This handsome fellow, “Charles,” was found wandering around in the Sabadeco neighborhood. The kind people who found him weren’t able to adopt him because they have three other cats who will just not tolerate another feline in the house! So that settled that, and the lady brought Charles into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. His background is a mystery it would seem. He was castrated already and he’s in good shape. So why should he be wandering around like a lost cat? Only Charles really knows for sure. But in the meantime he presents a very attractive picture of a well adjusted cat. Just look at the way he carries his tail. Such elegance. Charles had his exam by the vet, was tested for feline leukemia, wormed and given his shots, so he’s passed the “healthy cat” test. And he’s proved to be “social” and friendly with people – that’s the second test he passed with flying colors! You may meet Charles and all the other healthy and social pets up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1pm. Tel. 717-4989.

If you’ve lost an animal or found one be sure to call the Shelter at 717-4989. They act as an agency for the lost and found pets. □ L.D.

# Young Chefs to Italy



Channeton Jansen and Miguel Saragoza are embraced by their sponsor, Notaris Maarten Maartense

Last Saturday, two young student chefs from the SGB high school, Miguel Saragoza and Channeton Jansen, flew off to the Emilia Romagna region of Italy to work as culinary trainees for the summer. They will be working and training at a Michelin Star Restaurant, *Locanda il Girasole* in Riccione for three months (<http://www.locandailgirasole.it/home.php>). Both students have trained in Italy before: Channeton in October 2005 and Miguel in June 2006. When they return to Bonaire they will continue their second year at SBO, which is the highest level of the culinary school.

Thank you to the main sponsor, Notaris Maarten Maartense, for his insight and generosity, and to the Bonaire Culinary Foundation for its organization to make this trip possible for these two young men. We wish them success in learning kitchen skills as well as lessons in life!

The plan is still set to send several SGB students to a four-week training session this October, as has been done before for exceptional culinary students. We will keep you posted on who those top students selected will be. □ Sara Matera/L.D.

# DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

Sudoku means “the digits must remain single” in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site [www.Sudoku Shack.com](http://www.Sudoku Shack.com).

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

Complete solution on page 18.

# Parrot Watch

The overhang nest this week has been a relatively calm place. There are no additional eggs, and it will be a short while before chicks appear. Oswald has been as regular as clockwork and Olivia has been a good mum, giving her full attention to incubation.

Seeing inside the lora nests has revealed all sorts of behaviours we simply didn't know about previously. Generally we have the impression that birds sitting on eggs stay motionless for hours on end, but this is certainly not the case. Olivia gets up from time to time, readjusts the eggs around, has a preen, and even chats to herself a little. The camera is fitted with a microphone so we can hear what is going on outside too. Loras are pretty feisty parrots and when something is kicking off outside someone is screaming then Olivia gets up and goes to have a look. She even lean out of the nest and shout too. It's just like parrot suburbia! For our location team it's been another week with another couple of nests. Our nest finding successes have continued and we've found yet more eggs. As parrots lay an egg every other day we have to return to nests having three eggs to try and determine when the first egg was laid. This is a sensitive area and we take great measure not to disturb the birds.

The next week offers us a chance to catch up on other jobs before the first chicks hatch and everything gets busy-busy again. We'll be fitting at least one more camera this week so visitors to [parrotwatch.org](http://parrotwatch.org) will soon be able to see inside another nest.

Thanks to those of you who have supported us and we hope you like the movies and field reports.

□ Sam Williams



her position. The camera on the side and might the parrot early the lady or fewer time and with anything one other our reports.

(Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 2)

► **Large crowds took to the streets in Venezuela** protesting their President's refusal to renew the license of Venezuela's oldest and most popular TV channel, RCTV. The station closed down last Sunday. Justification to silence RCTV was that the criticism of the Chavez regime voiced by the channel posed a threat to national security.

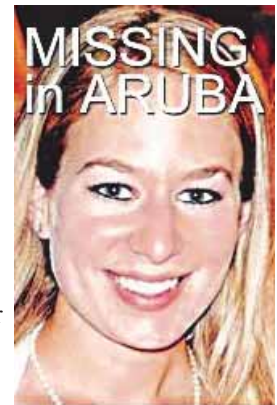
The incident brought out masses of people, including students, in more than seven cities. According to published reports there is concern in The Netherlands and the US that Chavez's ambitions may threaten the ABC islands in the future.

► **Two years ago an 18-year-old American student, Natalee Holloway, disappeared while on a "graduation" vacation in Aruba.** The search for her and the apprehension of those responsible

made continuous headlines in the US. The criminal investigation is on-going. The main suspect in the case, Joran van der Sloot, said in April that the case will probably be closed in May because the usual duration to pursue criminal cases is two years. The Prosecutor in Aruba agreed that the basic principle of criminal cases in Court of First Instance is that the trial and verdict indeed take place within two years after the reasonable term has started.

That reasonable term starts the moment a suspect can reasonably assume that he will be prosecuted. This is not laid down

(Continued on page 9)



## Ask Olivia

Email your parrot related questions to [Olivia@parrotwatch.org](mailto:Olivia@parrotwatch.org)

Dear Olivia,

I have really enjoyed watching your videos on [parrotwatch.org](http://parrotwatch.org), particularly the one where you are feeding your chicks. In the last edition of 'Ask Olivia' you said that loras can have four chicks. How do you feed so many growing children on your own, or does your husband help? My husband never helps me with the shopping! I am looking forward to seeing this year's footage of your children growing up. Keep up the good work!

Elizabeth Schmitt

Dear Elizabeth,

I'm glad to hear you've been watching my videos! It is hard work feeding four hungry, young parrots, but thankfully my husband helps me out lots with the feeding. When I am stuck in the nest incubating he has to come to the nest and feed me. When the chicks first hatch I feed them little and often, but as they grow I feed them more but less often. When we have a family we are kept very busy collecting food and hardly have time to relax! We store the food in our crops to make it easier to carry lots and then regurgitate it into the chicks' eager mouths. They frequently fight over who gets fed first. We try to treat them equally, but it's difficult to see which one of the chicks you're feeding in a dark, crowded hole, especially when they get bigger.

Hope this answers your question. Thanks for your support at [parrotwatch.org](http://parrotwatch.org) and if you have any other questions please just email them to me. My email address is [Olivia@parrotwatch.org](mailto:Olivia@parrotwatch.org)

□ Olivia Parrot

# AMFO's Back



*AMFO Director Betrian (2nd from right) emphasizes a point*

It would be nice if the problems of poor people followed a precise schedule and if they had personal computers. Then the strict procedures set up by the reborn Dutch-sponsored, poverty-fighting agency, AMFO, would have a better chance of really helping them.

Five staff members of AMFO Curaçao Headquarters gave a two-hour PowerPoint and question/answer presentation for Bonaire's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the Amboina *Sentro di Bario* last Friday afternoon, June 1. The presentation was in Papiamentu, the slides in Dutch. The presentation began at 4 pm, still working hours for many of the NGO volunteers, but after 5 pm more people arrived, making a total of about 50 in attendance. It's estimated that there are 80 NGOs active in Bonaire.

A "sharing," based on population of the initial NAf23million in aid to be distributed, was presented:

Curaçao-31.5%  
St. Maarten- 26.5%  
Bonaire- 18%  
Saba-12%  
Statia-12%

There are categories for small (up to NAf 10,000), medium (between NAf 10,000 and NAf 50,000) and large (over NAf 50,000) projects. Submission and tracking requirements are more exacting for the larger projects. There are strict deadlines for submission and applications for all projects. Applications for small and medium projects are accepted only on a bi-monthly schedule; large projects on a quarterly schedule. NGOs should expect a response to their requests from five to eight weeks after submission. Prime targets for aid are projects for youngsters, the elderly, the disabled or sick, families, vulnerable groups and society's problem people.

Bonaire can receive grants up to NAf 4.1 million this year, with the first project requests having to be submitted by June 20 to meet the initial deadline, said Director Stanley Betrian.

He described the revised organization, which appears to be a "top down" approach to funding, as opposed to the grass roots, bottoms up approach of AMFO's original NGO-based setup. It includes a highly paid directorate (reportedly, the Director has been paid about NAf500,000 to date) and an elaborate organizational structure. All applications require computerized input, auditing and control procedures. During the presentation it was emphasized that requests would be rejected if the paperwork had errors.

Betrian explained that it had taken over 18 months to define the new process which was



*Attendees at the AMFO briefing*

necessary because of abuses of the previous system. He did not say what those abuses were. Fortunately, during AMFO's lengthy reorganization, some 100 poverty alleviating projects were completed by USONA.

The painstakingly established NGO Platforms of the past will no longer be used by AMFO to review and process applications. Betrian felt that the new route would eliminate any undue influence on projects, whether it is by an elected official or an individual. The new structure has a "back room" dedicated to evaluating and approving submitted projects, away from possible manipulation, because it will be outsourced to a professional organization.

It will be up to local NGOs to determine whether they want to keep a "platform," not supported by AMFO, in place, a step not required under the new procedures. Additionally, AMFO will also not finance construction and infrastructure development, building or land acquisitions, projects that are primarily for art, culture, sports and environment unless they benefit the AMFO target groups specifically. However, if a project needs outside expertise it can be included as a cost in the project outline and budget. NGO training and workshops are not covered.

All projects requesting NAf10,000 or more will require the NGO to have a bank account that can be used for auditing. All written proposals must be accompanied by electronically readable media like a CD or diskette with the required information.

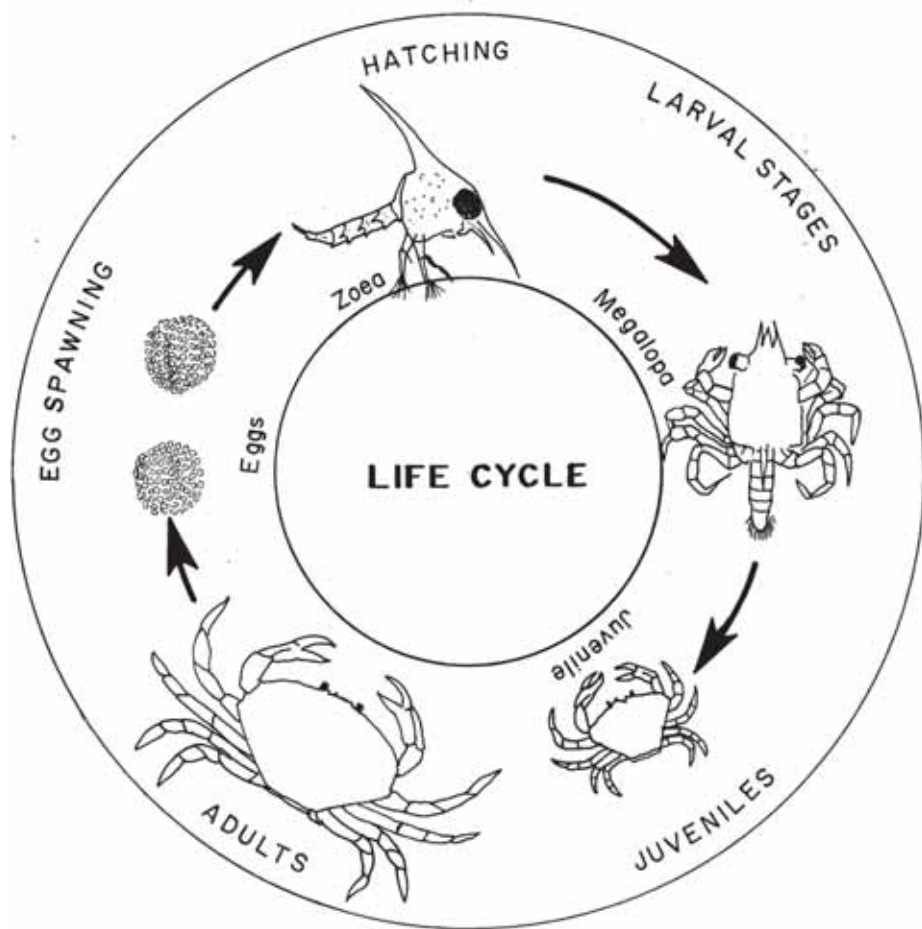
Financial accountability for the projects is the personal responsibility of the board members of the NGO making a request.

Grant application forms, explanatory information, and other data are to be available on the Internet at [www.samfo.org](http://www.samfo.org) in Dutch, Papiamentu and English, but at press time only the Dutch versions were posted. For Bonaire, AMFO is based at Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 31 C, phone 717-7776, fax 717-7779, email: [info@samfo.org](mailto:info@samfo.org). □ G.D.



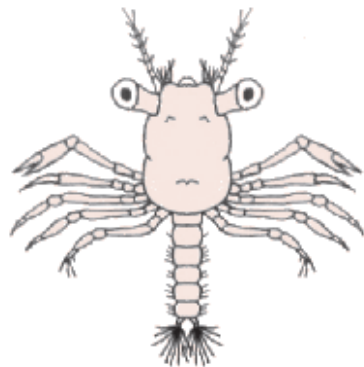
# Picture Yourself With The Reporter

## Panama Canal



**D**id You Know...Crabs come to Bonaire in hordes? Last week I had several calls about the influx of tiny crabs in our inshore waters. I went for a snorkel and had to escape the tiny chelae/claws of millions of crabs that were looking for something to grab onto. The tarpon, snapper and even the seagulls were in heaven. I'm not sure which species of crab it was, but they were plentiful! Crabs, as do most marine creatures, have a planktonic larval stage. Crab females, with help from crab males, fertilize their eggs and then release them into the water column as microscopic larvae. They are arthropods and have an exoskeleton that they must moult every now and then in order to grow larger. Crabs go through many of these moults while they're drifting in the plankton and take on many strange forms, including the zoea and megalopa stages that don't even look like crabs! While they are planktonic, they are at the mercy of the currents and drift until they reach shallow waters. If they're ready to settle, they look for suitable substrate and begin their lives on the bottom of the sea (or in the intertidal/sandy beach area). Many species of marine animals mass spawn, which was probably the case with this species. The larvae then drift in patches of nutrient-rich waters. Only about one in a million is expected to survive until adulthood. One of these patches reached Bonaire last week. I was told that when the crabs arrive in the millions like that to keep my eyes peeled for large planktivores such as whale sharks and mantas. I wasn't that fortunate but perhaps one of you were? □

Caren Eckrich



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 □ .



Bonaire resident Patrick Diegrond writes:

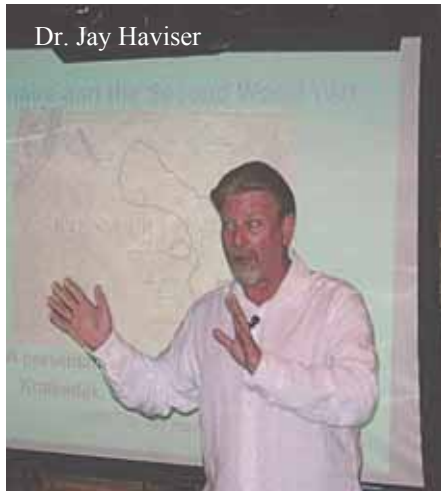
"I went on holiday to Panama and took a photo by the Panama Canal. It was great. I hope that you can put this one in *The Reporter*. It's me, Patrick, and Lorna, in January '07.



**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: [picture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2007 photos are eligible.) □

# Bonaire in World War II

## A New Bonai Project



Dr. Jay Havisier

There's a wealth of interesting information about Bonaire's history waiting to be told. Now, after long and detailed research, archeologist Dr. Jay Havisier and his BONAI Group have come up with some astonishing information about the impact World War II had on Bonaire. It will probably change the history books of the island.

"The island Bonaire was changed forever due to World War II," says the archeologist. "Before the war, life on the island was quiet and simple. It was a self-sufficient farmer, fisherman's and sailor's village. It changed completely due to the events of 60 years ago." Dr. Jay B. Havisier has been the Archaeologist for the Netherlands Antilles Government since 1982. He is President of the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology and past President of the Museums Association of the Caribbean. Havisier is also the founder of the BONAI (Bonaire Archaeological Institute) group, focusing on students from the ages of 14 to

18, to do scientific research with them on the history of Bonaire. To Havisier it's extremely important to get these young people to understand their heritage. "They need to know about the history of Bonaire," he explains. "So we have to inspire these young people to learn more about it, especially because they will probably be the future leaders on the island." He seems the perfect man to do the job.

During the presentation he turns out to be an excellent story teller, and his passion about the Bonairean history is contagious. The reason that Havisier retrieved so much new information about the island is because many of the top secret files and other files about the war were finally opened for public viewing after 50 years. It wasn't easy to find out though. He explained how he had to make digital photos of every page in the huge number of documents at the US National Archives and the US Military Archives in Washington DC that had the keyword 'Bonaire' in it. The contents of these files showed a lot of new information about the events that occurred during that war and show a lot of new insights that many Bonaireans don't know anything about yet. Havisier continued, "There's still a lot of investigation to be done by the BONAI group. The upcoming work will consist of getting more information through oral history by holding interviews with locals who are still alive and with historians. We also want to do some fieldwork."

A new discovery Havisier made with historian Bòi Antoin is a military camp with latrines that dates from the war years. "We really hope to find something there because if soldiers lost something in these latrines,

they certainly wouldn't go looking for it." He also wants to investigate other sites with his group, like the Guatemala Plantation. These investigations are planned for the months of June and July.

According to Havisier, one reason Bonaire changed so much is mainly because it is a Dutch Colony. He gave a little history lesson to emphasize why. "What nobody in Holland actually expected would ever happen, occurred on the 10th of May 1940. The German army flew into Holland by night, unnoticed, with silent sliding gliders, and were dropped off behind the Dutch border. The quick victory was because many of the German soldiers were wearing Dutch uniforms, so the confusion among the Dutch army was enormous. The result was a simple victory for the Germans, and the Dutch Queen Wilhelmina escaped to London. This invasion was a shock for the rest of the world, and everybody had the same question: what is going to happen next?" Havisier continued, "It's unbelievable how much correspondence I found between countries on that day, simply because, and what I really was surprised about, oil refineries on Aruba and Curaçao were providing 80% of the aviation gas for the allied air forces. That's why the Queen immediately called in British troops to protect these islands that day. When a call came out to also call US troops to protect the islands it changed the islands forever."

"On October 10, 1942, the first radar base was placed on Bonaire. Franklin D. Roosevelt was personally concerned for the ABC islands. The Venezuelan government wasn't happy about this at all. They were rightfully concerned that the US would take over the islands permanently. The moment the US troops arrived, the Germans immediately started attacking the Dutch islands. US military command at Trinidad controlled the southern Caribbean, and many other US bases were placed in the region. The Germans torpedoed many merchant ships with their U-boats (submarines), trying to stop the flow of goods going to Europe. To try to prevent this, steel nets were placed along the coastlines of many islands to prevent U-boats from entering their waters. Still, many Bonairean men lost their lives in merchant ships that sank during the war. As Bonaire was a fisherman's island, many of them worked on these ships. The attacks on merchant ships caused the most deaths of locals of Bonaire which had the greatest number of deaths during the war of all the Dutch islands."

The closest attack near the Bonairean coastline was that on the Bonairean merchant ship, *SS Alcoa Partner*, April 26, 1942. (see letter) It was torpedoed by a German U-boat. Ten Bonaireans died, 14 men were saved. "On Bonaire itself though, there wasn't much war fighting going on. As all the attacks were at sea on the merchant ships, on the island itself life for the stationed soldiers was pretty quiet. That was probably also a reason why some Bonairean men tried to join the US Army." The name of a local, Havisier retrieved from docu-



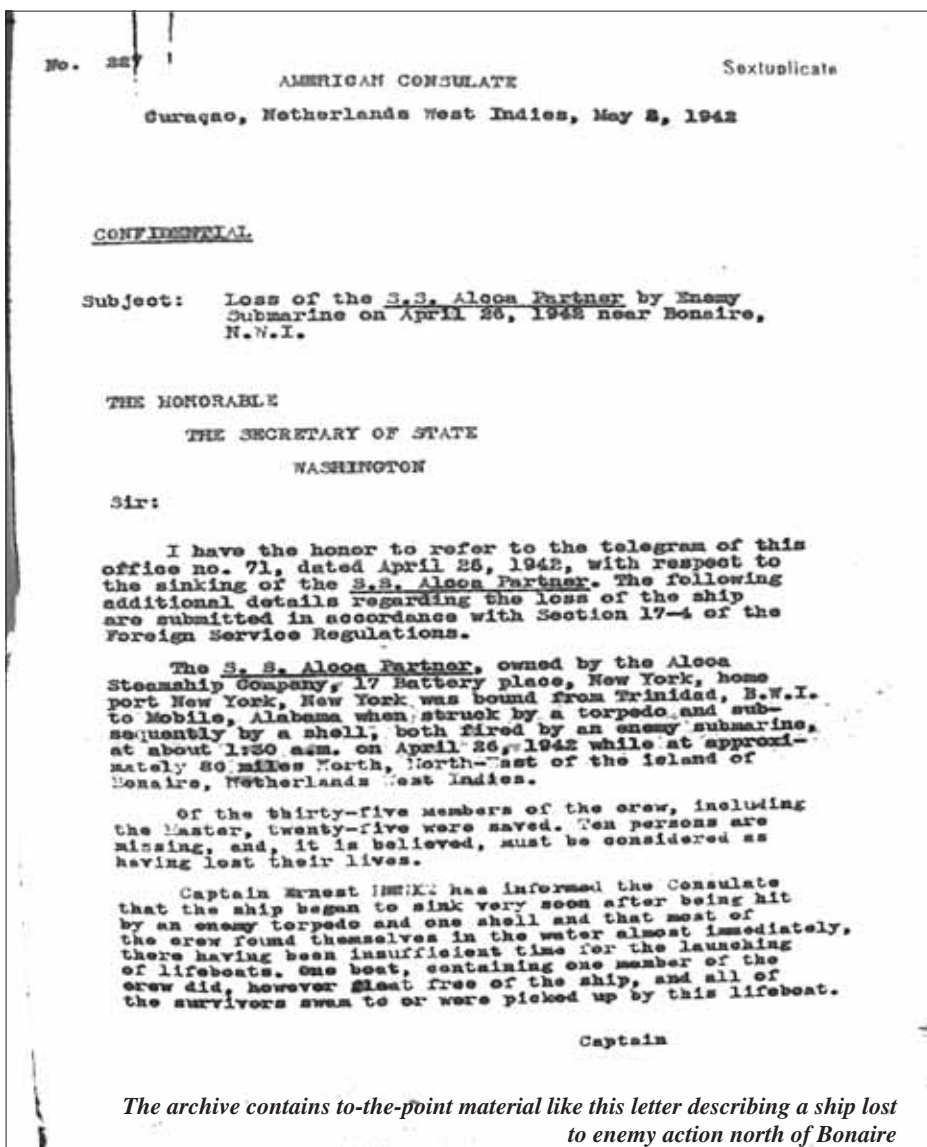
The top secret refrigeration building at the Bonaire airfield  
Archive photo

ments, is Carl Joseph Krijt Jr., who was able to join the Army. "What shouldn't be mistaken was that the Dutch were still in control of Bonaire. Dutch marines and the police still had the authority." That the Caribbean has a long history of piracy and still had some influences of it was clear with the problems the authorities had to cope with during the war. The only problems Havisier detected in files on Bonaire were of people being arrested for intoxication, fighting, and because of discrimination. "The war also changed a lot of the infrastructure on Bonaire. Many more roads were built. Before the war that wasn't really necessary, as there were only 31 cars, 35 trucks, 25 buses and three motorcycles on the island. Also the US radar station was built near the Subi Blancu Airfield in an area now called *Tanki Maraka*. ("Nowadays it is a little more expensive to fly from Bonaire to Curaçao. At that time, it was only 18 guilders on KLM.")

What Havisier also found was a 'Top Secret File' of a picture of a refrigeration building at the Bonairean airfield. "At that time the Army didn't have refrigerators yet, so to keep their food supplies from going to waste, everything was put in that building. The reason is clear why it was top secret as it was crucial for feeding all the troops. "With the BONAI group," Havisier said, "we're going to try and find the exact location of this building and we'll try to get some new information about it." "Something that's still the case nowadays on Bonaire is that love is always in the air. This was also the case in Bonaire during wartime. Of course the American soldiers were very attracted to the beautiful local women on the island. And although the US greatly discouraged marriage to local women, it happened a lot, illegally. This resulted in several births, so probably nowadays some people on the island have an American background." All of his new findings Havisier wants to bundle into a book so the group will be able to give presentations. He also thinks the book can be used as a tool for the tourism industry as the war created amazing relations between Bonaire and the US. "Tourists from the US love it," Havisier said, "when they have been part of the history of the destinations they go to."

So there's a lot of work left for Havisier, and he still needs a lot of funding - \$10,000 to be precise. But Havisier hopes it will be possible to collect this money because he has a simple goal in mind: to make young Bonaireans proud of their heritage. □

Story & photo by David Radomisl



The archive contains to-the-point material like this letter describing a ship lost to enemy action north of Bonaire

Archive photo



# Was Eleanor Roosevelt on Bonaire?

In Wilhelmina Plaza there is a big bronze plaque commemorating the visit of US First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to Bonaire during the war. But had she really been here? And is that part of history a mistake or maybe a misinterpretation of her visit to the Dutch Antilles?

The story about Eleanor Roosevelt visiting Bonaire is quite a funny one. It's funny because it seems she actually never did set foot on our island. The wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt planned a Latin America 'secret tour' from the 4<sup>th</sup> until the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, 1944. It was kept secret for safety reasons as war was still being fought in Europe and the Pacific. But what archeologist Dr. Jay Haviser did find out about the tour were its exact dates and time schedules, based on archived telegrams of Roosevelt's arriving and departing from destination to destination. Haviser explained, "It's a good thing that time never lies. And what I found in the telegrams is that she visited Venezuela, then flew directly over to Curaçao, spent the night there, and then flew to Aruba and Colombia the next day." Strange, because the plaque on Wilhelmina square, actually does say:

*"This memorial plaque is in honor of MRS Eleanor Roosevelt for her first visit to Bonaire on March 2, 1944, while inspecting the American and Dutch Army in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Representing her husband, the President of the United States, Mr. Franklin Roosevelt. The people of Bonaire will always remember her in their prayers. The government of Bonaire. October 13, 1982."*

Dr. Haviser continued, "I'm 99.9% sure she never visited Bonaire. I found in the documents (only) one sentence about her presence on the islands, what probably



Memorial plaque in Playa  
Wilna Groenenboom photo

made the people who placed the plaque think she also paid a visit to Bonaire." He explained that these findings weren't done to embarrass the people who placed the plaque. "The information they had about it was just misinterpreted. But due to new discoveries we can correct a historical mistake that has been made. We should be proud of it. If we do that, it means we take our history very seriously. Also, since it was a mistake that could have been made easily, it should also be easy to change it again. It's clear Eleanor hasn't been here, just very near here."

Although Mrs. Roosevelt didn't visit Bonaire there were some royal visits. The first was on the March 2, 1944, by Princess Juliana. Prince Bernhard also occasionally visited the island, as he was a huge fan of Bonaire. The story goes that he sometimes even flew over from Curaçao just to go for a swim. □ David Radomisli

(Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 5)

in a specific rule, but the beginning of the reasonable term can be when the suspect is taken into custody, or when a charge is made against the suspect. "Both possibilities occurred in this criminal case," said the Prosecutor. Van der Sloot was taken into custody on June 9th, 2006.

► Bonaire leaders visited The Netherlands last week to discuss the details of what the Slotakkoord/Slotverklaring (the "final agreement" that spells out Bonaire's new closer ties with Holland following the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles) means for the island more precisely. Currently Dutch civil servants and the Bonaire government are in conflict over several issues and about the

specific interpretation of the plans.

A delegation from Bonaire's UPB ruling party, including party leader Ramonsito Booi, Finance Commissioner Yonchi Dortalina, and Burney El Hage, Minister of Economic Affairs of the Antilles, went to The Hague to discuss plans for financial supervision and other matters with the Secretary of State of Kingdom Relations, Ank Bijleveld-Schouten.

Dutch leaders had drafted a proposal to define budgets and other financial issues that includes a three-person supervisory committee (the CFT). During the transition period leading to a new political structure in December 2008, this three-man committee can impose binding financial restrictions on Bonaire, St. Eusta-

(Continued on page 11)

# Sweating with the Triathlon

Although there were more competitors during the Triathlon at City Café two years ago, the organizers of Jong Bonaire had a very successful day with 146 contestants of every age. Last Sunday they competed in swimming, bike riding, and running, to earn a precious medal.

The contestants had the choice of an easy route, the Fun Route, or the hard one, the Pro Route. They also had the choice of racing the entire route individually or completing it with teammates

The Mini Fun Triathlon consisted of swimming 850 meters, starting at Kas di Regatta and ending at City Café. After the swimming the contestants had to ride a bike for 11.6 km all around town, and afterwards the contestants still had to run five km around Kralendijk as well.

The Pro route had the same routes, only here the contestants had to swim around the buoy and had to bike and run two laps instead of one. The route consisted of 1500 meters running, 23.3 km bike riding, and 10 kilometers of running.

Luckily it was a cool morning, so none of the competitors had to suffer from dehydration or any other sort of illness, and all the participants made it to the finish line at City Café. The youngest competitors needed to take some time off though, to catch their breath again after finishing the heavy race.

The fastest sportsman that day was Henk Sanders, by completing the Pro Route in an incredible time of 1.03.00. □ Story & photos by David Radomisli

## Results Triathlon 2007

### Fun Men Individual:

1. Bruce Brabec - 1.12.21
2. Paul Meijer - 1.24.01
3. Marco Meeuwssen - 1.28.19

### Pro Men Individual:

1. Marcel Leuxs - 2.27.15

### Fun Women Individual:

1. Maria Schuttpelz - 1.20.53

### Fun Team:

1. Henk Sanders, Gerrie F - 1.03.00
2. Erika Sanders, Anouk Loos, Corine v.d. Hout - 1.06.59
3. Richard Berends, Rico Vingerhoets, Eduardo Vingerhoets - 1.09.56

### Pro Team (Adults and Kids)

1. Monica Schreuders, Mocky Arends, Bert Schreuders (volwassenen) - 2.38.16
2. Yael Soliano, Eduard Arends, Asdrubal Marcano (kinderen) - 2.39.56

### Fun Team Kids

1. Rooske Wagemakers, Ludgandra de Windt, Ryda-Luz Emer - 1.08.50
2. Philip Winkel, Giada Binelli, Soekarsie Gravenhorst - 1.13.35
3. Adriaan Arends, Luis Marcano, Mikel Schreuders - 1.35.37

### Mixed Team Fun

1. Elmeron Frans, Stephen Rosario, Radiva Rosario - 1.11.40
2. Jan Schröder, Marie Craane, Ryan Rasmijn - 1.34.52
3. Jong Bonaire team (Lisandra Marchena, Erseldson Chirino, Alberseeto Cecilia) - 1.44.43



Team member Henk Sanders reaching the finish



Young Champions



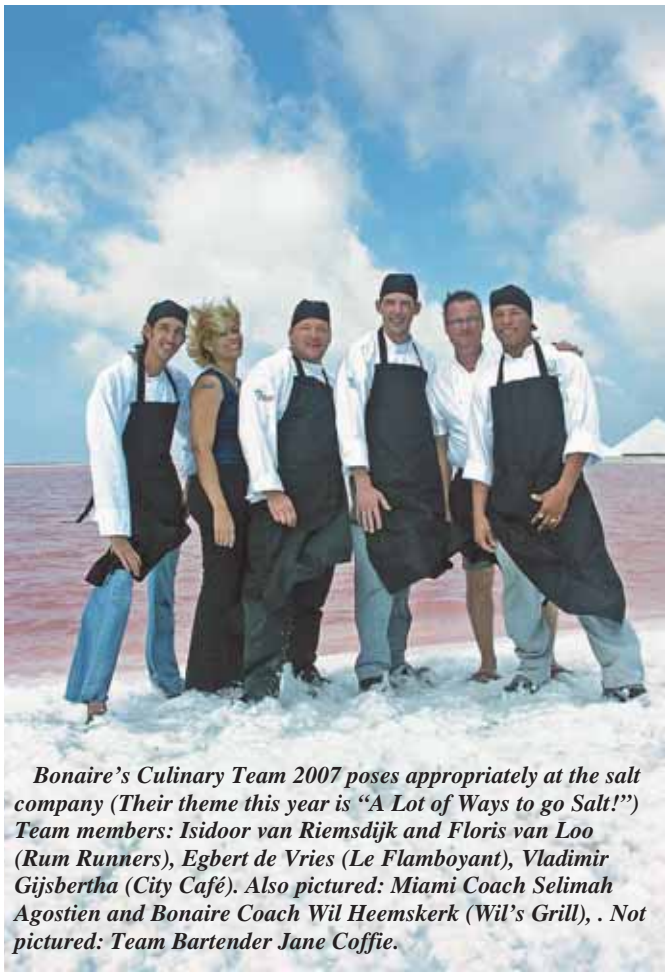
Swimmers take off

# Bonaire Chef/Bartender Team 2007

**B**onaire has been sending a team of chefs and a bartender to the Caribbean Hotel Association's "Taste of the Caribbean" Culinary Olympics since 1997. They haven't gone every single year. Once it was due to Hurricane Georges in 1998 which cancelled the whole event. Other times it was because there weren't people and chefs able to spend the time and energy to put a team together. It's a herculean job: the hardworking chefs must use take time from their days off to come together to brainstorm for new and innovative ideas, to be able to work together as a team, and to practice, practice, practice!

The team bartender this year, Jane Coffie, won a Gold Medal last year at "Taste."

This year's team has worked hard, devoted hours to perfecting their sample menu and cooked for lucky diners on Sunday nights at Chez Nous, the SGB restaurant. They leave for Miami on June 16 to compete against 13 other pro teams from other Caribbean Islands. Previous members of the teams, after having tasted this year's menu, say, most assuredly, "They have a very good chance for getting the Gold this year." □ L.D.



*Bonaire's Culinary Team 2007 poses appropriately at the salt company (Their theme this year is "A Lot of Ways to go Salt!") Team members: Isidoor van Riemsdijk and Floris van Loo (Rum Runners), Egbert de Vries (Le Flamboyant), Vladimir Gijsbertha (City Café). Also pictured: Miami Coach Selimah Agostien and Bonaire Coach Wil Heemskerk (Wil's Grill), . Not pictured: Team Bartender Jane Coffie.*

# “We Welcome Everyone”

The Al Houda Mosque Bonaire has some good news. They are building a new recreational area next to the mosque with soccer fields and a basketball field, where every islander, regardless of nationality or religion, is welcome to play. They are also building a new school for children to learn Arabic and English.

“What’s so good about our mosque in Bonaire is its diversity,” said American-Iraqi Doctor Mohammed Al-Tikriti, who is the Speaker during the services at the mosque. “Our members consist of a considerable number of different nationalities. It’s a big mix of people and cultures. People from Lebanon, Syria, Morocco, Suriname, America, India, and even some from Bonaire. As it’s a house of God, we welcome everyone.”

The main reason there are so many different nationalities as members of the community, compared to previous years, is mainly because of the opening of the St. James School of Medicine, where Al-Tikriti is also a neuroscience and histology teacher himself. “Many of my students are religious and pray at the mosque. In their free time they are looking for a place to enjoy sports. We will be providing this for them soon.” (Note: Students from the Xavier Medical School attend as well.)

Al-Tikriti emphasizes that the youth project won’t be purely for religious people. “Our Muslim community is very small. So the recreation area will be for everybody. We want to encourage all the people to participate with us and in our activities, from government members to all the locals. With this project we want to prevent ourselves from getting isolated.”

The plan is to finish building the recreational area in one month. “But this depends on how fast the construction workers are willing to work,” Al-Tikriti said. “As everyone knows on this island, everything goes *poco poco* (slowly, slowly) so you never know when it actually will be finished.”

Next to the sporting facilities a new school will be built and there will be a little room next to the mosque. The school will be for young children to learn Arabic and English. “The plan is to make it a Sunday school, and the teachers will be volunteers. The small room next to the mosque will be for guest speakers, for instance an Imam from abroad.”

That the Muslim community is very open-minded towards other religions is proved by the fact that the construction site, right next to the mosque, is meant for a new Mormon church. Al-Tikriti doesn’t mind this at all. “We welcome them. It’s even a very good thing.”

In Holland the Muslim community is so proud of what the Bonaire Muslim community is establishing in Bonaire that they are collecting money for them to help with their funding for school supplies and have sent out a press release about it in Holland. In response to the question as to what this money will be used for exactly, Al-Tikriti and Mosque Vice President Farouk S. Elmouhajer, can’t really give an answer. It’s simply because the members of the Al Houda committee don’t know anything about the fundraising initiative in Holland. “We have all the money we need to complete our little project,” said Al-Tikriti, “from donations of business people on the island who attend the services at the mosque. Perhaps the community wants to help us in getting study materials in Dutch for our Sunday school. But I can’t say that with any certainty. For the other things we don’t need any money. Besides our project we only pay for the electricity and water in the mosque, and that is out of our own pockets as well.”

Al-Tikriti doesn’t expect to get many new members from Holland when Bonaire becomes part of that country although circumstances aren’t very pleasant for Muslims in the Netherlands. Politics are leaning to the right more and more at the moment. “We don’t expect Dutch Muslims to emigrate because of the situation in The Netherlands. Holland is actually a very nice country for Muslims. The cause of the problems against our religion in Holland started after 9/11 and when a columnist (Theo van Gogh) was killed. In the newspapers the entire Muslim community was accused of these crimes, although it was caused by individual crazy extremists. Our religion is absolutely against extremism; we isolate those people and don’t accept them in our community. We want to hold the stick in the middle, instead of only on one side. If you only hold it on one side you get pulled into a direction we don’t belong to. If people knew more about our religion they would understand this.”

Even the mosque in Bonaire had to suffer from the consequences of those events. Al-Tikriti said, “We had to fix the windows of the mosque daily as stones and bottles were thrown through them. We even had to get a new and better lock for our gate because it was broken several times. We didn’t react to this or go to the police; we just let it pass. If you react to it you’ll only create a domino effect. Our way of dealing with it is to open up to the society, for instance with this youth project, and teach them more about our religion. As I said before, we don’t want to become isolated.” □ *Story & Photo by David Radomisli*



Speaker Doctor Mohammed Al-Tikriti (left) and Mosque Vice President, Farouk S. Elmouhajer

The Bonaire Islamic Center Masjidjied was built in 1994. It has a committee of five people, and around 250 members on the island. The mosque is open every day, with a special service on Friday afternoon. Services are given by Dr. Mohammed Al-Tikriti. Because most of the members work during the day, most of them only attend the evening services at 8.30 pm during the week and pray the rest of the day at home (Muslims pray six times a day). Next month the recreational area will be opened with a football field and a basketball field and will be open to everyone.

(Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 9)  
tius and Saba. The CFT not only assesses the draft budgets, it also supervises them and the transactions resulting from the budget. In accordance with the draft, the CFT does not make the budget, but only a budget approved by the CFT is acceptable.

**Because the CFT can overrule the elected democratic bodies of the islands, Statia and Bonaire feel it is undemocratic.** No other than Miguel Pourier, a former Antillean Prime Minister, during a seminar about democracy and autonomy in Holland, said that Dutch financial supervision threatens “to choke” the islands.

This week, on June 5 and 6, a new consultation round is taking place on Bonaire between the Netherlands and Statia, Saba and Bonaire.

► Dutch Public Health Minister Ab Klink wants to introduce a **smoking ban next year**, not only in Dutch restaurants and hotels, but also in cafés and nightclubs. A similar proposal was made last week by the Antilles ministry.

► **Individuals with a Dutch passport living on Aruba and the Dutch Antilles can vote for the European Parliament from now on.** Previously, it wasn’t possible for people from Aruba and the Antilles to vote for the Parliament if they hadn’t lived in Holland for more than 10 years. This new decision doesn’t change anything on the status Aruba and Antilles have at the moment though. The islands won’t belong to the European Union, and the European law won’t apply on the islands either.

► **The Dutch government plans to introduce a new tax on high emission vehicles** such as the BMW X5 and Citroen C6, State Secretary of Finance Jan Kees de Jager said. The measure to boost the cost of buying a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) will raise some 100 million euros for the treasury every year.

At the same time, the Minister plans to cut the extra tax paid by company car drivers if they select a fuel-efficient vehicle. At the moment company car users have to pay an extra tax of 22% on the catalog value of their car. But that will be slashed to around 12% for the users of “green” cars such as the Honda Civic or Toyota Prius. We’ve been asked, “**Why aren’t there any “green” cars in Bonaire?**”

► **The second tropical storm of 2007**, named Barry, bore down on Florida from the Gulf of Mexico just in time for the official June 1 start of the Atlantic hurricane season. **The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season is forecast to be more active than normal due to warmer ocean waters**, with as many as 10 hurricanes, and three to five of them could be major, the US government’s top climate agency predicted. NOAA foresees 13 to 17 tropical storms this season, with seven to 10 developing into hurricanes. Three to five could be major ones of Category 3 or higher with winds over 110 mph (177 km), the agency said in its annual forecast.

An average Atlantic hurricane season

(Continued on page 16)

# New Noses at the Donkey Sanctuary



*Tranquilized donkey goes down*

**B**ecause of the drought during the last six to eight months, more donkeys have been coming into town to search for food and water and risking mortal and fatal collisions with cars.

Fortunately, generous donations made by individual Americans to purchase 20 additional hectares (about 60 acres) of land to expand the Donkey Sanctuary has enabled Marina Melis, Director of the Donkey Sanctuary, to work with volunteer veterinarian Thijs Flahou to rescue these donkeys wandering in Sabadeco, Republik, Sorobon, Lima, Belnem, and near the airport. According to Melis, the Donkey Sanctuary promised government officials to take in "problem" donkeys when there was sufficient space to accommodate them. So far 30 new donkeys have been added to the

325 already at the sanctuary, and 24 more are in line to be taken in before Flahou leaves on June 12. As a direct result of the Sanctuary's ongoing rescue efforts, car and donkey accidents have decreased from a high of 120 registered with police in 2005 to only 6 in 2006 and 4 so far in 2007.



*Vet: Thijs Flahou with tranquilizer gun*

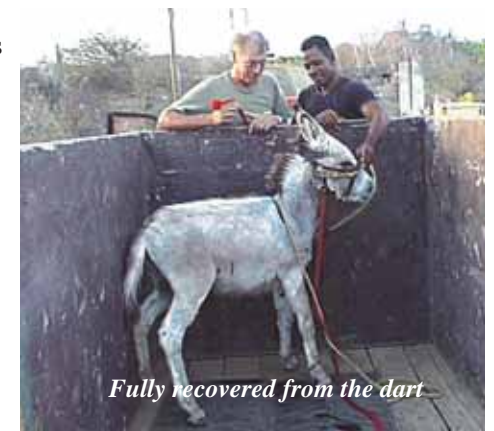
With the acquisition of the additional land and the recent grant from the Pegasus Foundation in the US to fence in the land, Melis was ready to bring in the donkeys but she needed a veterinarian to help. Since no veterinarian on Bonaire was able to assist her, she asked Flahou to volunteer during his holiday in exchange for covering his travel expenses. Another donation, by the Weernink family of the Wercon company in Holland, covered both Flahou's expenses and medicines for the donkeys being tranquilized. For Flahou, the decision to help was an easy one: "I knew that the car accidents with the donkeys were a big problem, and if I didn't help Marina, the problem probably wouldn't be solved." It's not easy to catch wild donkeys and acclimate them to living in the sanctuary. The process involves a lot of time and patience.

First, the donkeys are befriended by feeding them with old bread in the morning and the evening. Once the donkeys begin to trust Melis, she returns with the trailer, some helpers, and Flahou, who shoots the donkey with a tranquilizer gun. After a few minutes, the tranquilized donkey is carried into the trailer, usually requiring four people to carry one donkey weighing 180-200 kilos. While the donkey is asleep, a halter is put on and he/she is tied in the trailer. Then an antidote to the tranquilizer is given so the donkey can stand up and get ready for the trip to the sanctuary. Here the new donkeys are placed in separate fields from the established residents, with mothers and babies being separated from older males. They are all examined, wormed, and nurtured into good health. After a couple of months, once they have become totally acclimated to the easy lifestyle of the sanctuary donkeys, the new donkeys are re-

leased into the main sanctuary. Eventually young males will be castrated, but much older males, the ones Melis calls the "fighters with bloody necks from so many fights," will be euthanized since they would wreak havoc with the other donkeys.

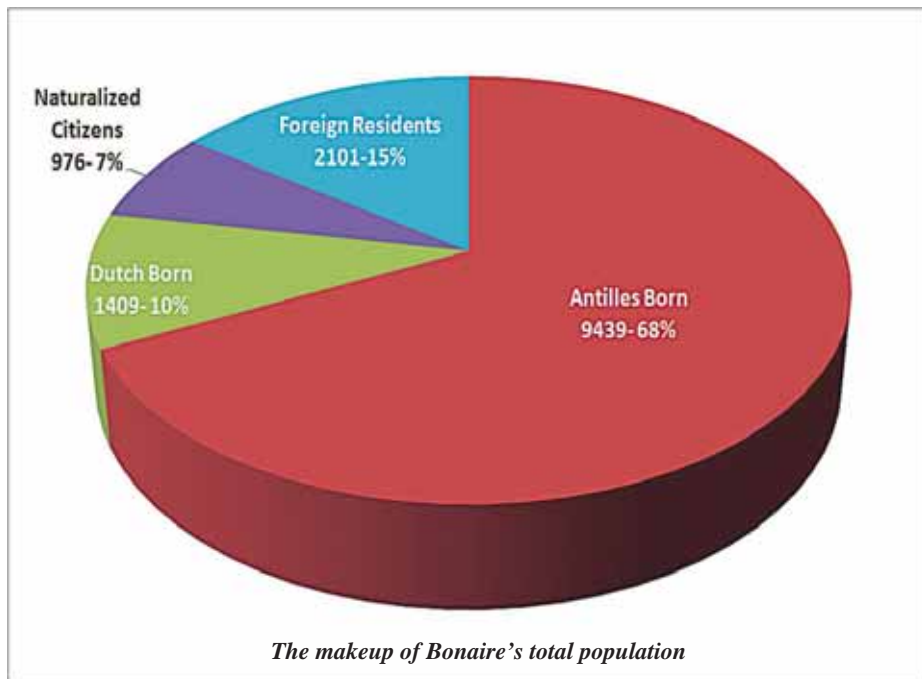
Working with the donkeys has given Flahou some interesting insights: "Many people think the donkeys are stubborn and stupid, and, yes, they are stubborn but not because they are stupid. In fact they are really intelligent, more so than horses. That's my assessment, and I have many colleagues who think the same." After Flahou leaves, the donkey rescue will end even though it is thought there are approximately 100 donkeys still remaining in the wild; however many of them, like those living in Bolivia, for example, are not considered problems and seem to be healthy and happy. Besides, as Melis so succinctly points out, "I can't rescue the whole world of donkeys!" □ *Pauline Kayes*

*Photos by Michiel van Bokhoorst*



*Fully recovered from the dart*

# Bonaire's 62 Nationalities



**B**onaire is currently home to people of 62 different nationalities! And that's out of a total population of just 14,006 (as of December 31, 2006, according to *Bevolking*, the census office/civil registry).

This high number of nationalities beats previous years. In June 2005 there were people from 55 different countries represented on the island.

However, for the first time we have the figures not only for those people from individual countries but also for those from that particular country who have since become naturalized Dutch citizens.

As expected, most of the people living on Bonaire are Dutch citizens - 11,905. Of that number, 9,439 people are Antillean Dutch (born in the Netherlands Antilles-Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Martin, and St. Eustatius - and Aruba before 1986); 1,490 are European Dutch; and 976 are "naturalized citizens" (born elsewhere). Men comprise 51% of the total population; women, 49%.

For Foreign-Born Persons the top seven countries represented are:

- 1) Holland (European born Dutch) – 1,490
- 2) Dominican Republic – 281 + 285 who now have Dutch passports = 566
- 3) Colombia – 371 + 159 with Dutch passports=530
- 4) Venezuela – 351 + 138 with Dutch passports=489
- 5) United States - 308 +20 with Dutch passports=328
- 6) Peru – 200 + 79 with Dutch passports=279
- 7) China – 95 + 34 with Dutch passports=129

Double Digit number countries:

- 8) Canada – 50
- 9) India – 45
- 10) Germany – 43
- 11) Suriname -39
- 12) Haiti – 34
- 13) UK – 28
- 14) Italy – 24; Lebanon – 24
- 15) Portugal – 20
- 16) Guyana - 19
- 17) Trinidad & Tobago - 18
- 18) Belgium - 15
- 19) Switzerland – 12

Other countries represented with single digit numbers of residents are – from A to Z - Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Czech, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Philippines, France, Gambia, Honduras, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Morocco, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Russia, Salvador, St. Lucia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

Other interesting population figures to ponder:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Antillean-born                            | 9,439        |
| European-born Dutch                       | 1,490        |
| Naturalized Dutch                         | 976          |
| Foreign Residents without Dutch passports | <u>2,101</u> |
| Total population                          | 14,006       |

That's a total of 4,567 foreign-born people on the island. That means 30% of the people who live on Bonaire's came here because they chose to, not because they were born here.

It's interesting to note that for the second top foreign country (Dominican Republic) more than half of have Dutch passport (285 with; 281 without). Colombia is second in that respect (159 with Dutch passports; 371 without).

Stay tuned as *The Reporter* brings you more population statistics such as who lives in what neighborhoods, how many people in each of the age groups, whether they're men or women, and more. It will be interesting to see whether the figures will show a big change after December 2008 with the closer ties to Holland.

Many thanks to the staff at *Bevolking* who provided this information to *The Reporter*. □ L.D.



Bonaire has some beautiful people like Boy Janga and his family.

Photo Greta Kooistra

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**Porch Sale:** Saturday June 9th – Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>; 9 am–5 pm at Kaya Proud 26 (Playa), follow the signs: household (appliances), furniture, beds, closets, chairs, motorboat, art, books...you name it! Contact: 717 4884 / 786 2206 / 786 0436

**Cars & Scooters**

Te koop/for Sale: **Suzuki Samurai-** NAf 1500 2<sup>nd</sup> hand motor, rijdt goed, kleine gebreken. Tel: 780-9760

**1960 Morris Minor for sale.** NAf30.000 (\$17,145). Great condition, original style motor, authentic 1960 supercharger. Call 717-7488, ask for Kevin.



**Twin Cab Toyota Pickup 4-Cyl. Diesel;** New: Front suspension, tires, battery. Low mileage. Low price: NAf 4999.99. Call: 790-7272 ; 717-7892 .

**Property**

**Harbour Village Marina Front Condo**

For Sale- Large one bedroom, 2 bath apartment located in a secluded all condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. [www.luxurybonaire.com](http://www.luxurybonaire.com)



**Historic 4-bedroom 3-bath modernized home** close to the sea and all conveniences. see: [thecraane-house.com](http://thecraane-house.com). contact: [reservations@thecraanehouse.com](mailto:reservations@thecraanehouse.com)



**House sitting**

Missionary couple of Jehovah's Witnesses **looking to rent or house-sit long term** a 1-2 bedroom house or apartment. Please contact: Ron or Cris Adams at 700-7855, 691-1169 or email at [roncrisadams@hotmail.com](mailto:roncrisadams@hotmail.com).

**Bonaire experienced house sitters with references** available 3-8 July & 22-27 July. Contact [roben@dds.nl](mailto:roben@dds.nl)

Reporter staff member wishes to house sit long-term starting now. Call David 700-7536, email=[dradomisli@hotmail.com](mailto:dradomisli@hotmail.com).

**SEEKING**

Looking for a small, fluffy puppy or dog no larger than 18-20 inches and weigh no more than 8 pounds or so. I

want to be able to take the dog with me where I go and will give it a loving home. Please call me at 786-7072 and ask for "TC". (Remember my dog that rode on my motorcycle with me-she went to Doggie Heaven and I would love to have a motorcycle buddy to ride with me again.)

**Looking for:** a bed for one person with mattress, table model fridge, 2-burner electric stove, kitchen sink, tap, shower tap, white toilet, outside door, door frame, inside doors, locks. Tel. 717-2529

**Found**

-in Sabadeco Shores, a kitten about 3 or 4 months old, brindle in color. Very social so I know it belongs to someone. Call the Shelter at 717-4989.



**Lost**



Lost: our black mid sized dog, J@n Brouwer, Hato, 796-3637, digital-is1956@hotmail.com

**JOBS**

**Looking for a Part Time Cashier** — at Last Bite Bakery. Some English needed. Call 717-3293

**ADVERTISE  
It's Good Business**



Of Bonaire Reporter sponsors **It's Past High Season. Get your share of island visitors— Be a Reporter Advertiser**

The largest number of tourists in Bonaire's history are arriving this vacation season.

Let them know about **your business or restaurant with an ad in this newspaper.**

A 1/8 page ad, similar to this, will bring to you many more clients

Call 786-6125 or 786-6518  
To reserve your spot

# Bonaire Windsurfer Reports

Reports from world windsurfing events by Bonaire's rap windsurfer, Ruben Petrisie

Podersdorf, Nuesiedler Zee, Austria -  
The Second Event of the European  
Freestyle Pro Tour

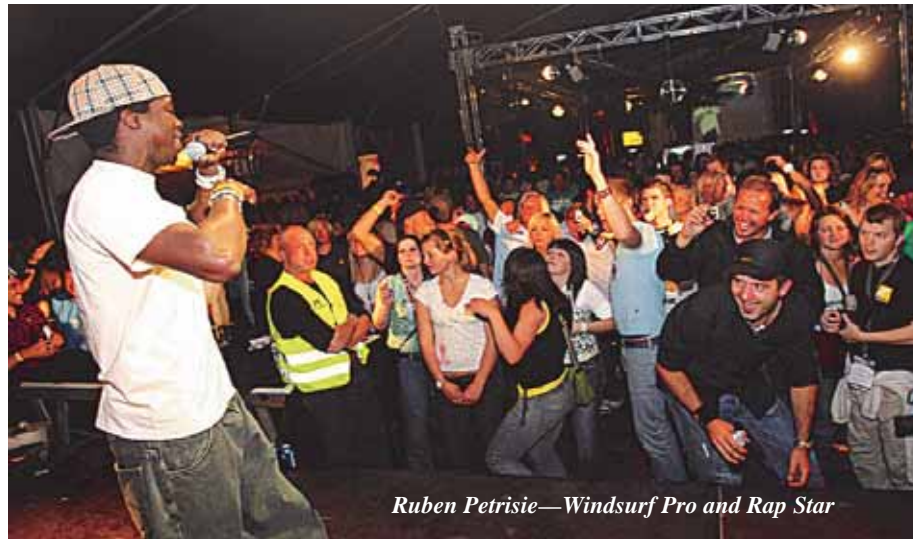
It was time to say goodbye to Spain and move up to Germany to hook up with DJ Roonbeat to prepare beats and a performance track for my Austrian music debut.

After spending time in the studio in Germany I flew to Austria for the second EFPT event held in Nuesiedler Zee. Again it was a well organized event full of spectators, sponsors and daily activities and a ramp on open water for the riders to jump over and impress the crowds.

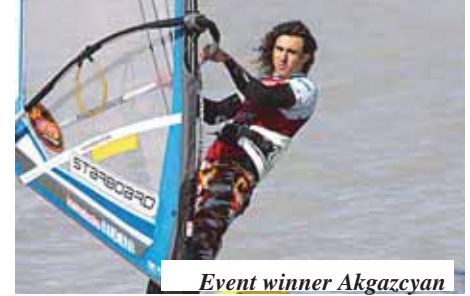
I arrived at Vienna Airport to be picked up by the event organization together with the Italian rider, Andrea Rossati, and Belgian EFPT Judge, Sven Fransen. Some riders had arrived a few days earlier for some training time.

The weather conditions were sunny and warm-- a whole different scene from last year's freezing conditions. Even though the forecast didn't look too promising for the upcoming days, none of us worried too much and took it as easy as possible. Later that day, after signing up, we had a "meet and greet" party organized by one of the local windsurf shops.

On that same afternoon I found out that someone had stolen some of my windsurf gear: fins, foot straps, harness lines and screws. It was the worst thing that could happen because the conditions looked likely to be light winds, and it was important to have the fins I used to train with in light winds. Thanks to the local Naish distributor who fixed me up with the nec-



Ruben Petrisie—Windsurf Pro and Rap Star



Event winner Akgazcyan

essary parts.

Next day at the skippers meeting at 9 am the wind seemed to be blowing strongly, but it went down a bit while the temperature was rising. After lunchtime the wind started to kick in a bit from the Northwest, which created gusty conditions.

The event started off with the qualification rounds because of a huge entry list. Some riders without rankings had to qualify themselves to get into the main event. Shortly after that it was time for me to hit the water. Wind conditions were from 13 to 17 knots.

I started the heat off with enough speed to complete some maneuvers. It felt like I was leading the heat because of not falling off at all. And then came this big empty space without wind where I was stuck and not planing for two minutes out of the five minutes allotted. In situations like this the

Race Director should have canceled the heat. But I took a look at the flags and the green one was still up, meaning that the heat was still on while I am gliding around and almost falling off because of no wind. Finally by the end of the heat I knew I had had a bad one. The local Austrian rider took the win and I was out of the single elimination. The day continued with gusty winds and lots of cancellations of heats. The final four heats could not be run because of light wind. The first day of the event ended without proper results.

Skippers meeting was at 8am the next day with a bit of gusty wind while some riders were still in bed dreaming about who knows what.

There were four more heats to go. The wind slowly started to drop and it was almost impossible to plane. The boys try hard to pop out tricks. The Race Director

extended each heat with an extra two minutes. Back on the beach we had lots of angry riders complaining about the bad wind conditions. But the event organizer would not cancel the heats because he was afraid of not having results at the end of this event. To tell you the truth, it looked like an amateur operation.

In the end an angry Norman from Germany met with the French star Nicolas in a seven-minute heat - a few pumps, a few moves and slowly trying to flip the sail and board around to get extra points. The Frenchman put more style into his performance and took the title for the single elimination on the last day. There was not much time to run a double elimination, so I did not have a chance to climb up.

The event organizer got the sponsors and press together and there was a late afternoon expression session with huge jumps over the open water ramp and stylish moves close to the beach.

At the Awards ceremony we had freestyle's goodwill ambassador, Brian Talma, as a special guest in Podersdorf who, like always, cheered up the crowd with his talks.

(Continued on page 22)

# A Shrink Looks at SCUBA



## Does Your Dive Buddy Have Nitrogen Narcosis?

According to my poll in 2004, over 80% of scuba divers fail to recognize or remember having any signs or symptoms of nitrogen narcosis (lightheadedness, euphoria, elation, laughter, poor coordination, slowed thinking, poor judgment, or reckless behavior). So, what can you do? Well, you can risk diving stupidly and slowly and clumsily at more than 60 feet (3 ATM). Or, you can dive relatively safely at less than 60 feet all the time. And last but not least, you can dive with a dive buddy who will check on you. Whoa, I knew there had to be a reason for the buddy system. This assumes your dive buddy is less susceptible to nitrogen narcosis or "stupidity of the deep" than you. For starters, remember the "Martini Rule" that states that the symptoms of nitrogen narcosis are similar to being inebriated and that every 50 feet of depth is like having one martini. Therefore, the first thing you want to avoid is a dive buddy who starts out the dive day with a couple of 50 foot alcoholic drinks or who is still hung over from a night of heavy drinking. Just like there is no such thing as having "one for the road" when driving, there is no such thing as having "one for the dive." Antihistamines, anti-seasickness drugs and patches, sleeping pills and some other medications can

multiply the sedative-hypnotic-like effect of nitrogen narcosis, so watch out for those, too. Marijuana also emphasizes the anesthetic-like action of high pressure nitrogen at depth. It is best to avoid it and divers who use it if you want to dive safely. Back in 2000 when I started doing research in scuba diving, a retired internationally renowned diving scientist told me he stopped diving on the West Coast because he no longer felt safe in the water with so many "high" divers. I hope he was exaggerating the extent of the problem. OK, what else do you look for? Last year *Scuba Diving Magazine* published "Top 10 Signs Your Buddy Is Suffering from Nitrogen Narcosis." I think even a board-certified psychiatrist like me could spot these, as long as I don't drown laughing my fool head off, which is a definite possibility if I am at the same depth of cognitive impairment as my dive buddy.

On a more serious note, professional tech diver Bret Gilliam, who made a record dive to 452 feet on air in 1989, developed a simple low tech test for nitrogen narcosis: Every few minutes, hold up a number of fingers to your buddy (say, three fingers). He has to respond with the same number plus one (four fingers). "If you really wanted to screw a guy up," writes Gilliam in his



*If you want to kiss a jellyfish, you are narced for sure*

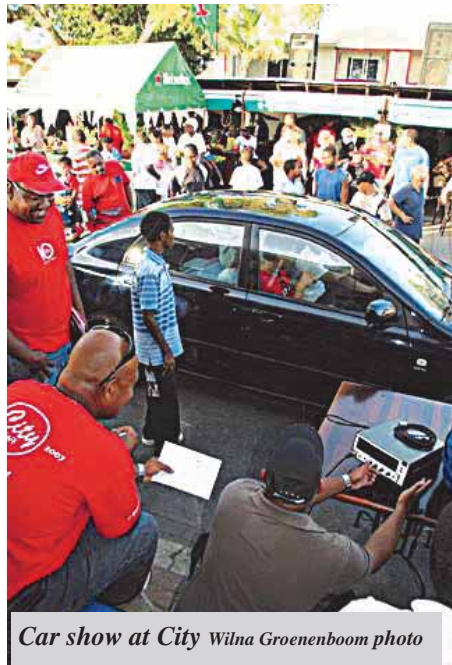
book *Deep Diving*, "you gave him all five fingers and then he had to use both hands to come up with a six-finger response." So, if you want to check on your dive buddy's state of nitrogen narcosis, then ask him or her to give you more than one finger. □ *David Colvard.*

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



(*Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 11*) brings 11 tropical storms, of which six reach hurricane wind speed of 74 mph (119 kph), including two major hurricanes, NOAA said. The hurricane season typically peaks between August 1 and late October.

► **City Café's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is underway this week.** So far there has been lots of music, cake cutting, a car show and biker parade, the Triathlon (see page 9), free lunches and there's a lot



*Car show at City Wilna Groenboom photo*

more to come, all ending with a fireworks show this coming Sunday night. Stop by "The City" and take part. Following the busy week the management is treating the staff to a vacation visit to Valencia, Venezuela.



*Wind reversals occur when tropical storms pass to the north of Bonaire.*

► **Plataforma Rincon has bought a bus to transport the elderly and handicapped with NAf140,000 provided by Dutch-funded USONA.** The Elderly Sector of Plataforma Rincon is responsible and a committee is in charge of the maintenance. The bus is available for all the elderly in Rincon and for wheel chair handicapped. The bus has a chair lift.

Father Socrates Gonesto of the Rincon parish blessed the new bus last week. □ *G.D./L.D./D.R.*

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of May **Amelia (Meme) Thode celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday** at the Protestant church in Rincon. Here is a picture of her surrounded by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Interestingly, she is younger than the grandfather of her youngest great-grandchild.



*Amelia Thode with grandchildren and great grandchildren Fleurtje Veldkamp photo*

### TOP 10 SIGNS YOUR BUDDY IS SUFFERING FROM NITROGEN NARCOSIS

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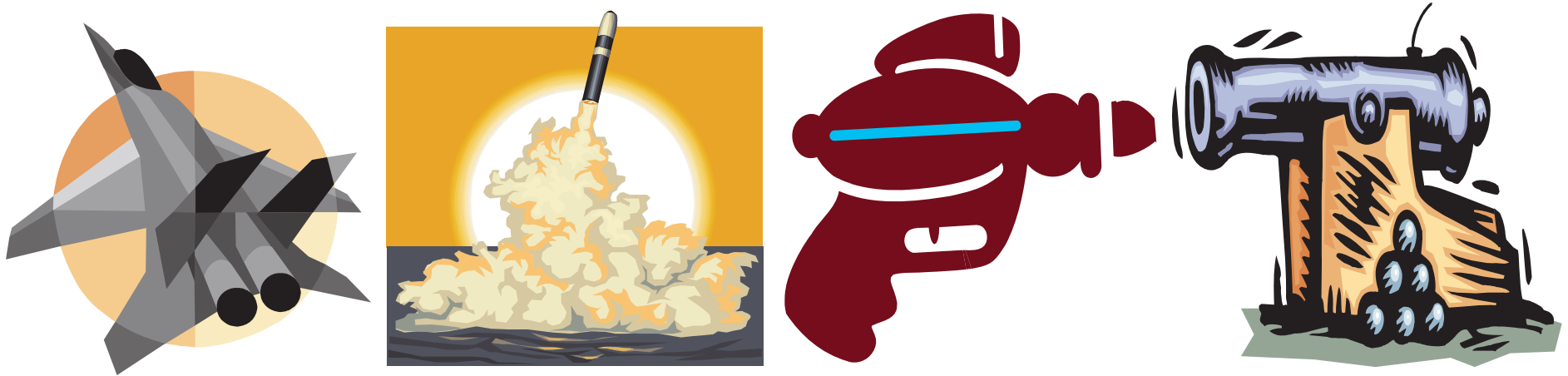
- 10) He keeps staring at himself in your mask.
- 9) You find him buddy-breathing with a grouper.
- 8) He pees in his dry suit.
- 7) He doesn't pee in his wetsuit.
- 6) After you surface, he keeps trying to buddy-breathe through your snorkel.
- 5) She keeps giving her octopus to an octopus.
- 4) He pulls off your fin and tries to breathe off your big toe.
- 3) His mask fogs under water, and he spits in it.
- 2) Your mask fogs under water, and he spits in it.
- 1) He looks at you cross-eyed and slurs his bubbles.



These 10 items may be funny but remember: Narcosis can lead to fatalities.



# Want a Secret Weapon to attract customers?



Instead of these may we suggest advertising in

**BOINAIRE**  
**The REPORTER**  
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Contact George or Laura at  
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[ads@bonairereporter.com](mailto:ads@bonairereporter.com)

# DO YOU SUDOKU?

Sudoku Answer– Puzzle on Page 4

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

### 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 |
|------|------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|------|
| 6-08 | 2:24 | 1.3FT. | 6:28  | 1.5FT. | 13:38 | 1.0FT. | 20:47 | 1.5FT. | 57   |
| 6-09 | 4:12 | 1.2FT. | 7:46  | 1.3FT. | 13:26 | 1.0FT. | 20:55 | 1.7FT. | 54   |
| 6-10 | 5:38 | 1.0FT. | 9:09  | 1.2FT. | 13:11 | 1.0FT. | 21:25 | 1.8FT. | 57   |
| 6-11 | 6:41 | 0.9FT. | 10:38 | 1.0FT. | 12:41 | 1.0FT. | 21:59 | 2.0FT. | 66   |
| 6-12 | 7:49 | 0.8FT. | 22:35 | 2.1FT. |       |        |       |        | 76   |
| 6-13 | 8:43 | 0.7FT. | 23:19 | 2.2FT. |       |        |       |        | 86   |
| 6-14 | 0:00 | 2.2FT. | 9:42  | 0.6FT. |       |        |       |        | 94   |
| 6-15 | 0:47 | 2.2FT. | 10:28 | 0.6FT. |       |        |       |        | 98   |

### Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

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

**Pathfinder**  
(Karl Urbun)

**Early Show (Usually 7 pm)**  
**A Perfect Stranger**  
(Halle Berry/Bruce Willis)

**Kaya Prinses Marie Behind Exito Bakery**  
Tel. 717-2400  
Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

**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**  
The Robinsons??

### THIS WEEK

**Friday, June 8 -World Ocean Day—Free Buoyancy Clinic, 1:30 pm, Dive Friends' Yellow Submarine.**

**- Bands: Palu Blanku Mudslide, Chispa Band, Christal Breeze" at City Café.**

**Saturday, June 9—Art Exhibition "Adrift" - tables & sculptures by Wilna Groenenboom, 5 pm, Kaya Macario St. Jago #9. Info call 717-6832, 7002378. See page 3**

**—City Café's Market Festival 4 pm to midnight, Market place. Bands: Lions, Los Compadres & Chispa live on stage 8 pm 2 am.**

**Sunday, June 10 - Bonaire Culinary Team dinner 3-course meal with cocktails and wine. Tickets NAf50 (\$29), Margreth Kloos, Tel. 717-2897**

**—Final City Café celebrations: 4 pm—midnight— Market Place; Bands: 8 pm to midnight: Foyan Boys, Happy Band & Trafassi. 10 pm Fireworks**

**- Mountain Bike Pre-Race (race on July 29), 3:30pm by antennas on Kaminda Broertje Janga (Subi Rincon). Bonaire Wellness Connexions, 717-3637. NAf25 adults, NAf10 kids; info@bonairewellness.com**

### COMING

**Sunday, June 17—Father's Day**  
**Sunday, June 24—St. John's Day-San Juan Festival.** Music, food, fire-jumping in the barrios, at the home of Doei Diaz, Museum, Rincon  
**Thursday, June 28 -San Pedro Festival—Same as San Juan Festival above**  
**Sunday, July 1 - 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dia di Arte in Wilhelmina Park - All day and evening starting at 10 am. Artists, musicians, craftsmen and top notch local foods and drinks. Participants: sign by starting May 31. Call Edwin Martijn 786-**

8400, Mishuylu Sint Jago 786-2292

### REGULAR EVENTS

**Friday Weekly Market 9am- 2pm** at Wilhelmina Plein, with Local Art, Local Food, Summer Fashion, Jewelry, Glasswork, Bonaire Pictures, Local Music, Driftwood Art, Paintwork and all kinds of Bonaire Souvenirs.

### Daily

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort, 5:30-6:30**
  - **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.
  - **Wine Tasting at AWC's** warehouse, **2nd Saturday of the month, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire.** Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.
  - **Flea Market every first Saturday of the month** from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

### Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo.** Open daily 5-10 pm

### Mondays

- **Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10. Buddy Dive Resort, 6 -9:30 pm**
- **Reporter writer Albert Bianculli presents his Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday"** at 6:30pm, 7:30 pm or 8:30pm., Casablanca Argentinean Grill
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon,** the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

### Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 5-7 Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine, 5 -7, Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Caribbean Gas Training free** "Beyond Gravity - An Evening with DIR," 6 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure 786-5073.

### Wednesdays

- **Live music by Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar 5-6:30.**
- **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 Sunrise Poolbar and Sportsclub, 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.

**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 7m. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at the Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8817) at 7pm.

**Monday- "Land & Ocean Bonaire,"** by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of their facility at Bonaire Dive & Adventure.

**Tuesday "Diving Facts And Fiction - An Evening with DIR"** slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure

### 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, Bridge Club: Wednesday 7.30 p.m.** at Flamingo Airport (Technobar), airco, all levels, NAf2,50. **Call Joop 717-5903, or be there in time (7.15 p.m.)**

**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

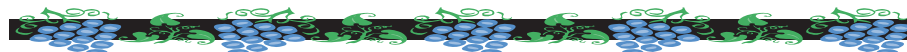
Send event info to:

**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<br/>Bar and Beach Service</b><br>At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront                             | Open every day<br>8am - 8pm.<br>Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.                                | Extensive snack/salad/burger.<br>Menu available daily from noon.   |
| <b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b><br>Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort<br>717-5080, ext. 538                                | Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - .<br>Lunch daily 11:30<br>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) 10:00 pm) |
| <b>Bistro de Paris</b><br>Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46<br>(half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070                             | Moderate<br>Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm<br>Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 pm            | <b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting<br>Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef<br>Owner-operated Eat in or Take away  |
| <b>Calabas Restaurant &amp;<br/>Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b><br>At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront<br>717-8285 | Moderate-Expensive<br>Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner<br>Open 7 days                                | <b>Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday</b><br>from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.   |
| <b>Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant</b><br>One block south of the Post Office<br>717-4433                                     | Moderate<br>Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30<br>Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm                      | <b>Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian</b><br>Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm   |
| <b>Hilltop Restaurant</b><br>At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road<br>717-7901                               | Moderate<br>Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner  | <b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country</b><br>Frequent Dinner Specials<br>Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.   |
| <b>The Last Bite Bakery</b><br>Kaya Grandi 70<br>717-3293  | Low-Moderate<br>Open Tuesday through Saturday<br>7:30am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-2pm                    | <b>NAf10 take out lunch every day -</b><br>main dish with 2 side dishes.<br>Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna.  |
| <b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b><br>On Kaya Gob. Debrot<br>½ mile north of town center. 780-1111  | Low-Moderate<br>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.<br>Call ahead to eat-in or take out 780-1111   |
| <b>Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant</b><br>At the lighthouse, Harbour Village Marina<br>717-7725                               | Moderate<br>Lunch Tuesday-Friday<br>Dinner Tuesday-Sunday                                       | Authentic Argentinean Cuisine<br>Owned and operated by the Pablo Palacios Family from Argentina<br>The beef is here and more.  |
| <b>The Bonaire Windsurfing Place</b><br>At Sorobon Beach<br>Get away from it all.  | Low-Moderate<br>Open from 10am-6 pm daily,  | <b>A genuine sandy beach restaurant</b> cooled by the trade winds<br>Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the <b>Wednesday Beach BBQ.</b>  |

# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## AIRLINES

**Divi Divi Air.** Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

**City Shop,** the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. Fast service and in-store financing too.

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

**Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine)** -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly cleanup dives and BBQ.

**WannaDive** - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Cafe 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.

## 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 downtown offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. **Full digital services.**

## PHOTO SERVICES

**Capture Photo** at the Divi Flamingo. Photo classes, camera rental, digital processing, all state of the art!

## 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.

## 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.

**Valeries Airport Shops** — Convenient shopping for unique items, magazines, gifts and more.

## 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.**

## SUPERMARKETS

**Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria**—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

## 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  
Email: reporter@bonairenews.com

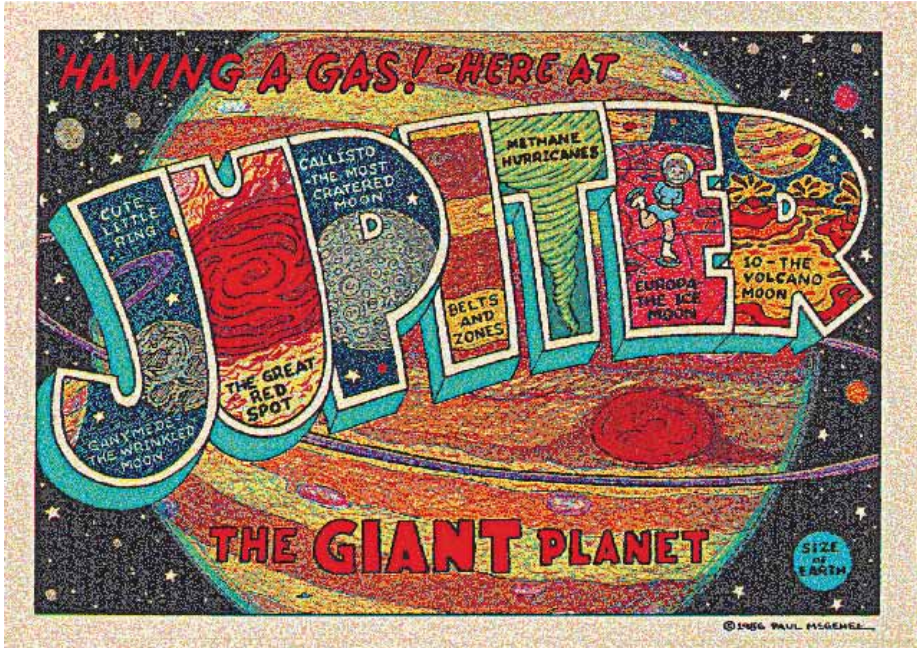
**Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for weekly advertisers?**



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

# Jupiter



## This Week Jupiter is at its Closest, Biggest and Brightest for the Entire Year

Get ready for some super **Jupiter** watching because this week Jupiter is at **opposition**, which means that this week it is at its closest to **Earth** and thus at its biggest and brightest for the entire year. Plus it's parked right next to one of my favorite constellations, **Scorpius the Scorpion**, with its wonderful red star, **Antares**.

About two hours after sunset, face southeast where the brightest thing you'll see will be the largest of all our planets, 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter. And parked just to its right, the wonderful stars of my favorite summer constellation, Scorpius the Scorpion, whose bright red star, Antares, marks its heart. Now whenever an outer planet is at opposition it means that it is directly opposite the **Sun** in the sky as seen from Earth -which logically tells you that it should be visible all the hours that the Sun is not.

And, yes indeed, all this week just after the Sun sets in the west Jupiter will rise in the east. And as hour after hour goes by Jupiter will slowly climb the southern skies until midnight, which is really 1 am Sky Park Time, it will reach its highest point in the heavens, due south. Then, as hour after hour goes by, Jupiter will slowly descend the southwestern sky and set in the west just as the Sun rises in the east. So whenever a planet is at opposition it is visible all night long and always at its best because it is also at its closest and thus biggest and brightest for the entire year, which also makes it look larger and more detailed through a telescope. So those of you who have small telescopes are in luck for the next couple of weeks because you'll be able to see Jupiter at its best and all night long. And Jupiter is fascinating to watch through a telescope because night after night you can watch its four largest moons constantly change their positions as they orbit the planet king.

And talk about close, this week Jupiter is only 400 million miles away, which is a lot closer than its farthest distance which can be as much as 600 million miles away. But what I really like about this opposition is that it is parked just to the left of Antares, which is a gigantic star so huge we could fit over 317 trillion Jupiters inside it. In fact Antares is so gigantic that if we placed it where our Sun is it would reach out past the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars. And talk about distance. Jupiter is so close it takes its light less than 36 minutes to reach us this week whereas Antares is so far away it takes its light 600 years to reach us! So watch Jupiter and Antares all week long. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, June 3 to Saturday, June 9 2007

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Those close to your heart may be difficult to reason with. You need an outlet that will not only stimulate you but also challenge your intelligence as well. Physical limitations are possible if you aren't careful. Try to accommodate them without infringing on your own responsibilities. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You may have problems with skin, bones, or teeth if you haven't been taking proper care of yourself. You could lose money or precious belongings if you aren't careful. Use your charm, but don't sign or agree to anything. Be prepared to make compensations and adjustments. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You need to get down to basics with regard to yourself. Try to deal with the problems of those less fortunate; however, don't allow them to make unreasonable demands. You are best to put in some overtime rather than get involved in family gatherings. You need to concentrate on the areas where you can make a difference. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Your ideas are right on the mark and your work commendable. Any capricious behavior will confuse loved ones and your mood swings will result in loneliness. Get busy putting your place in order. You must avoid gossip and focus on what you have to do. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You may want to take a trip; however, before you do, make sure that your car is serviced properly. You are best to be accommodating for the time being. Sudden romantic infatuations won't be lasting. Do things you enjoy instead of being a chameleon. Losses are likely if you have left your financial affairs in other people's hands. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Unexpected visitors are likely. Be prepared to do your chores early. Opportunities will come through behind the scenes activities. A residential move may be necessary to get a better job. Your ability to add a sophisticated touch will help you capture the look you're after. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You need to fulfill your needs and present your talents. Turn things around, make sure that they do their share. New partnerships will develop if you join investment groups. Stabilize your own position by locking up your savings. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't be shy; show your abilities! Interaction with colleagues will only be upsetting. Travel will promote romantic connections. You should be in business for yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

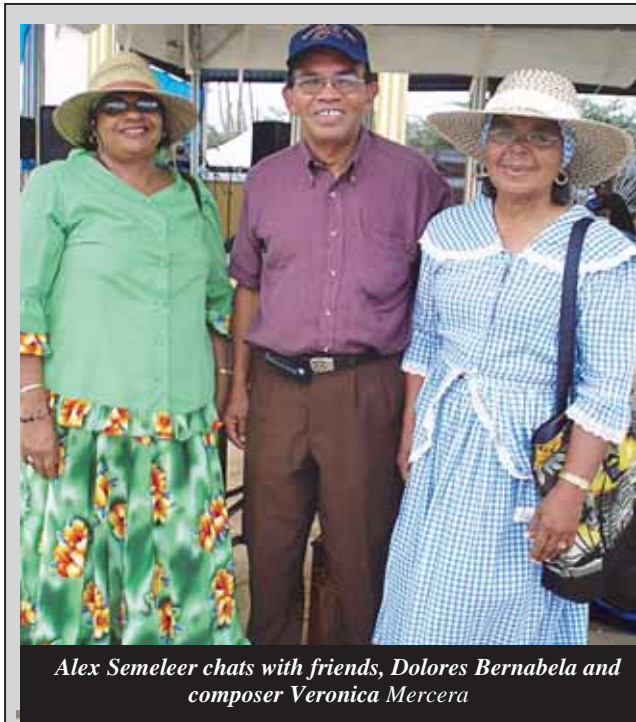
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Make changes in your domestic scene. It might be time to shake a leg and do a personal makeover. Your charm will attract someone special. Don't let your anger consume you and don't allow important matters go unattended to. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Read between the lines when signing contracts. Delve a little deeper if you really want to know the score. Keep your ears open, especially to those who care about you. Moneymaking opportunities will surface. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You have been going through a period of change that no doubt caused problems with your loved ones. Be honest with yourself before getting involved with someone who is likely to lead you on. Your outgoing nature will win hearts. Property deals will pay big dividends. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't get involved in expensive entertainment that involves gambling. You can get a promotion if you put in a little extra detail. Try to bend to their wishes if you want to avoid conflict. Don't go overboard; start small and work toward building it up slowly. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

# Washington Park Anniversary Open Day



Alex Semeleer chats with friends, Dolores Bernabela and composer Veronica Mercera



These youngsters bicycled all the way from Playa to attend the festivities.



The Washington Park Museum is world-class for a museum of its size. And it's interactive!



Some of staff ready to greet visitors to the Park

Washington-Slagbaai National Park had a birthday last Sunday and everyone came. The Park was open for free and all sorts of activities offered – hiking, walking, bike trips, live music, museum tours. The pictures tell some of the story. □L.D.

## Windsurf Report (Continued from page 15)

And yes, the word ACTION is never out. After his speech Brian introduced me to the fans as a Windsurf Rapper.

It was time for me to take over the mike and present my tracks to the crowd. The DJ was ready, and BANG, off we went, rapping in front of 5,000 fans. It was a huge step for me to be performing for the first time in front of such a large number of screaming people. All my friends were

up front and everybody seemed to be enjoying my songs.

After my presentation the prize giving was held and ended up with lots of action on the stage. Nicolas took the victory as a newcomer on the EFPT tour. For more action pictures you can surf to: [www.efpt.net/gallery](http://www.efpt.net/gallery).

Final results of EFPT Podersdorf Lak Nuesiedler Zee 2007 :

First, Nicholas Akgazcyan; Second: Norman Gunzlein; Third,, Andre Paszkowski; Fourth, Ruben Petrisie.

Next up is Le Defi, one of the biggest long-distance windsurf races of the world, held in the south of Gruissa, France, in combination with board sponsor Exocet. Thanks for reading. □

Ruben Petrisie

# On The Island Since: January 1970

## Natasja Statie-Gerharts

“My mother, Doesjka Baart, is Dutch, but as a child she lived six years on Aruba where her father was a minister. He, my grandfather, the Reverend Wim Baart, was also well known on Bonaire where he preached in the Protestant church in Playa years later when I was about 14. My father, Hugo Gerharts, was doing a lot of business with KLM, and my mom was working for Martin Air at the time. That’s how they met. Dad was living on Bonaire and Mom in Holland, and I was born there, in a town called Naarden.

When I was four my mom and I moved to Bonaire, and two years later my parents got married. We lived in the house that is now the casino of Divi Flamingo. When I came here I was very impressed to meet my half-brother Larry and my three half-sisters, Jennifer, Debbie and Grace, and when I was almost seven my brother Alexander was born. I didn’t expect to get a brother; I’d put all my Barbie stuff in the baby’s room because I wanted a little sister, but” she laughs, “I got over it!

Every weekend we went swimming at Hotel Bonaire. I had lots of girlfriends – one of them, Shadira, is still my best friend - and we went on vacation frequently. From the time I was 13 until I was 17 I was a DJ at Discotheque E Wowo. My father was okay with it because I was good and that was good for the business, but my mom was very much against it. I met Iby Statie, who now is my husband, when I was 15. He liked me a lot, but I wasn’t so interested, maybe because he was six years and one day older than I.

In my last year of high school my parents got divorced, and when I was 18 my mom took us to Holland. I worked for six months as a trainee for KLM, and when my mom met her second husband, an American, and moved to the States with my brother, I stayed in Holland for one more year. I studied at Schoevers, a secretarial school, and shared an apartment with my girlfriend Shadira in the center of Amsterdam and... that was lots of fun in 1985!

In 1986 I went to Miami, but after six weeks it appeared that my Green Card had not been processed at all, so I went to Bonaire to wait and I met Iby again and... this time we got into a relationship. He’d changed completely – I found him so handsome, very good-looking! Meanwhile I was working for ALM, passenger handling at the airport – it was a very good year. When ALM Miami needed people they told me they would get a visa for me and I left for Miami. Iby and I stayed in touch; we

called each other frequently, and I flew up and down a lot. After one year ALM Curaçao asked ALM Miami if they had someone for them, and so I moved to Curaçao – I still didn’t have a Green Card – and one week later Iby was transferred from the Bonaire police department to the Curaçao police – and that was just one big coincidence!

After two years on Curaçao I could finally get a student visa for the States. I was 24; I had no family on Curaçao; and I wanted to live close to my mom - we have a very strong bond - and so I went to Miami Dade Community College where I studied Airline Management. Again Iby and I stayed in contact, and we’d fly back and forth to see each other, but it was a long-distance relationship.

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**“From the time I was 13 until I was 17 I was a DJ at Discotheque E Wowo. My father was okay with it because I was good and that was good for the business, but my mom was very much against it.”**

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Not even four months after I got my student visa I finally got my Green Card. It was 1990; I left college and started working and founded Bonaire Sunset Travel. The company was at the house. We also represented Sunset Resorts in the US, but everything went by phone and fax – people weren’t into E-mail at the time. And... after waiting for so many years for my Green Card I left the US three years later to come back to Bonaire for no other reason than... Iby.

We moved in together and I was running the ALM/KLM passenger office in Playa, which belonged to my father. Having worked for KLM as a trainee I’d learned a lot, especially how to be customer friendly, and amongst other things we trained the people here to be the same. Two years later when KLM had an inaugural flight – a direct flight Amsterdam-Bonaire with a Boeing – I was asked to accompany the press and some officials first to Holland and then back with the inaugural flight to Bonaire. After four extremely busy days, it was January 21<sup>st</sup> 1995, we arrived on Bonaire – I didn’t even unpack my suitcase. I was exhausted and went to lie on the bed, and then Iby said, ‘I want to marry you...’ First I didn’t react at all – but then it sort of entered my mind in slow motion, and I asked, ‘Can I call my



Natasja Statie-Gerharts, her husband Iby and kids Victoria and Joshua

mom?’ And he answered, ‘If you say ‘Yes!’ Seven months later we got married. My friend, Maddy Visser, was my witness. This year we’ll be married for 12 years – God, how time flies!’

Natasja Statie-Gerharts (41) is a lovely, warmhearted and open minded person. She likes talking and she knows what she wants, and she has a great sense of humor. “Before we had our first wedding anniversary we moved into our newly built house, where we still are. Iby already had children; they live on Curaçao and they’re in their late teens now. We still see them, but when they were younger they used to come for the weekend and with us on vacation. However, we also wanted one child together. It wasn’t as easy as we had hoped for, but in 1997 after an IVF treatment I got pregnant. Our son Dillan was born on Curaçao three months early. He was born alive, but he passed away. We lived through some painful and sad months, but six months later, after another IVF treatment, I was pregnant again and this time to our great astonishment and joy I was expecting twins.

During my second pregnancy I was not allowed to work and had to take bed-rest, so I went to Miami to stay with my mom who took care of me. It wasn’t a happy pregnancy. Only after seven months when the children were supposed to be viable did I regain some trust and start to feel some joy. Joshua and Victoria were born after eight months, April 14, 1999, and they’re eight years old now. My mom came with me and the children back to Bonaire to help me, and once she saw how much work it was, she stayed three months. I am still very grateful to her. Daniella Bernabela was also sleeping here often during the first three months to help us feed the babies at night. She always says Joshua is hers! Daniella is like a mother to me and still, when I

need her, she’s there.

Six weeks later I started working again. I love to work; especially my kind of work is what I like to do best. In 1999 some friends of mine convinced me to start my own company, and that became Bonaire Travel. It was tough to start a business and to have two little babies at the same time – the days were long. The first two years I had a very nice nanny from Curaçao, named Edmee, and the last six years we have had Claudia, and she’s the first prize in the lottery!

I started Bonaire Travel with three people – amongst whom was my best friend Shadira - and it went well. But of course there has been a time when we were hit by the Internet competition real bad, and when the airlines reduced their commissions it wasn’t so easy either. However, the last two years the business has picked up really well, especially the cruise business, and KLM-wise we’re doing very well too. It’s a small business but I’m happy and satisfied.

Iby is still working with the police. He’s a lieutenant and recently he was appointed as the district police officer for Antriol. He’s a very good husband and a great dad. We’ve known each other for so long now. The children are at the Pelikaan School because I think it’s very important to have Dutch as the instruction language and... when I’m not working I love to take pictures. Photography is a great hobby of mine, and I also love operatic music and to cook and bake cakes and cookies. Saturdays are hectic, but Sundays are for the family. We go to the beach and we barbecue and play cards and dominos with family and friends. It’s a lovely life on Bonaire; it’s quiet and I feel safe and for the children it’s paradise!” □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

