

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Silver and Salt

Win For Bonaire

See Page 4

Bonaire's winning team: Isidoor van Riemsdijk, Egbert deVries, Team Manager Selimah Agostien, Coach Wil Heemskerk, Vladimir Gijsbertha, Floris van Loo. Not pictured Jenmarie Coffie.

Laura DeSalvo photo



Daniel V. Klein photo

Last Sunday *The Reporter* was notified about a mass death of birds in Rincon. Elsmarie Beukenboom, STINAPA's Director, investigated. Here is what she reported: "It was very peculiar since 47 troupials and 2 doves were dead. Peculiar because there were a lot of birds flying around and only troupial were dead. I wish we can find out what happened to them, more for scientific investigation than for legal investigation.

Troupial do not fall under any form of protection. They are exotic birds which we suspect to be causing harm to protected birds like our endemic lora (Bonaire parrot) and the native troupial kacho (yellow oriole).

The troupial were all dead under a tree of an abandoned house at Kaya Giumbo 9, in Rincon. **If anyone can give more information on what was given to these birds to have caused their death can do so by calling me at STINAPA (717-8444).** I repeat that there will be no legal consequences since troupials are not legally protected. For conservation purposes it would be good to know what happened to these birds to have caused their death." A reader who was part of the alert wondered if it were "true that people are being encouraged to kill them as they are harmful to other species?"

► **A new regulation requiring foreigners to pass a naturalization exam before qualifying for Dutch citizenship will probably go into effect as of October 1,** Justice Minister David Dick informed Parliament last Tuesday. Dick explained that the Ministry of Education will oversee the process of the naturalization exams. This regulation is part of the Law on Expulsion and Admittance

and says in part that every foreigner who wants to work and live in the Netherlands Antilles will have to pass this course.

The main language in the Antilles will remain Dutch while English and Papiamentu will be recognized as the second languages. The Netherlands Antilles also requested maintaining the required condition that a foreigner must have an uninterrupted stay of at least 10 years in the Antilles to apply for Dutch citizenship. The Dutch have changed the Kingdom Law on this matter, making it only five years. In Holland the citizenship test is already mandatory.

► **The government in Curaçao may soon find itself the owner of the most famous brothel in the Caribbean.** Last week the Court of First Instance affirmed a government claim of about NAf18 million against Campo Alegre. The brothel's owner was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for laundering millions of drug guilders via the brothel. The more than NAf18 million is the estimated amount that the owner had made in this business. He is still in prison. If he can't pay up he will get another six years in prison and Curaçao will own the brothel. If the ruling holds up in higher courts, the government may auction off the place.

Brothels are legal and regulated in the Dutch Kingdom. Bonaire's most famous brothel is Pachie's Place.

► **The Dutch government will be making 24 million euros available for the Education Delta Plan.** Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten and Education Minister Omayra Leeftang signed the necessary documents last week. In addition, Bijleveld-Schouten said that the Dutch government has agreed that another 24 million euros of 2006 unused funds, which had been frozen, would be available as well.

The Delta Plan is a comprehensive education plan which not only deals with the education of a child but also provides guidance to the job market and sees to it that dropouts get a second chance.

► Based on a proposal by Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, the Kingdom

Council of Ministers agreed to **nominate six new judges to be appointed to the Joint Court of Justice of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.**

► The Antillean postal system is operated by a privatized branch of the Canadian Postal Service, and the **Canadians want to back out of the agreement.** Consequently, the **Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister, Maxime Verhagen, has been asked to use diplomatic channels** to draw the attention of the Canadian government to the problems between the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles and Canada Post International Limited

► **Robert Zoellick, the US choice to head the World Bank, warned Saturday that Venezuela's economic and political troubles were growing under President Hugo Chavez's leftist government.** "It's a country where economic problems are mounting and we are seeing (that) on the political and press side it's not moving in a healthy direction," Zoellick told a news conference in Mexico City. He also suggested that the World Bank's influence would not suffer if Chavez goes through with his plan to pull Venezuela out of the lending institution.

Chavez has said the World Bank is a tool of the US that keeps poor nations in debt. He has set up a commission to examine leaving the institution.

► **Preliminary results announced last Friday indicated that 80% of HAVO-level SGB High School students passed their kingdom standardized exams.** This rate is better than schools on some of the other Antillean islands. According to reports, 27 of the 33 candidates passed their exam the first time. This percentage can become higher after the re-examinations. The next issue of *The Reporter* will have complete details.

Director of the school, Serapio Pop, said other departments need improvement. All eight AGO candidates have passed. These are students who take an interim exam, and once they pass they can start working right away. Of the PBL students, 73% passed; PKL, 64%; TKL-4 (MAVO-level) 55%. Students in this sector have the chance to do a re-exam which can result in a higher percentage. Graduation June 28th.

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► **Parliament approved a draft amendment to the law regarding ships' registry, giving the Netherlands Antilles a more competitive position in the world shipping industry.** The amendment changes the fee for ships registered in the Netherlands Antilles to a net tonnage basis instead of the gross tonnage.

► **A new airline, Constellation West Indian Airways based in Trinidad, started this Wednesday with bi-weekly flights from Port of Spain to Panama City via Curaçao.** The second weekly flight is on Sundays. Service is via Boeings 757s. The fare for a return ticket for Port of Spain-Curaçao or Curaçao-Panama, are US\$139 or \$300 respectively. CWIA is the competitor of Caribbean Airlines, the successor of the old BWIA.

(Continued on page 6)

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Unto this world
A boy is born
To the grandparents
a new generation unfolds
To the aunts and uncles
a nephew is welcomed
To the family and friends
a reason for celebration
To us, the parents,
The most beautiful gift from God
JURGEN

Is welcomed with love by Jan-Pieter & Roosje van der Hoek

Poetry by RvdH

"Bonaire Reefs At Point of No Return"

"Careful policy and management are required now or conditions will worsen and the corals will not survive...." Coral researcher Brian LaPointe



Workshop Presenters

On June 11 and 12th, Captain Don's Habitat played host to the workshop, "Nutrient Levels in the Coastal Waters of Bonaire, Curaçao, and St. Lucia and the Relationship to Waste Water," sponsored by the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Development, STINAPA Bonaire, and SMMA St. Lucia. About 40 people from Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, and Martinique attended the first day of the workshop to hear Brian LaPointe, an international expert on nutrients in coastal waters, give an overview of the effects of wastewater pollution on coral reefs. LaPointe's presentation was followed by a description and discussion of the nutrient monitoring program on Bonaire and Curaçao by Paul Hoetjes and Mark Wieggers of MINA and Frank van Slobbe of DROB. The highlight of the first day of the workshop was the presentation of four months of data from the new monitoring program for 14 sites on Bonaire and 11 sites on Curaçao. **The results are cause for concern and action.**

Brian LaPointe, a top researcher from the Center for Coastal Research at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Ft. Pierce, Florida, characterizes Bonaire's reefs as "between the border of healthy and polluted." He should know. When an excess of nitrogen and phosphorus built up in the Florida Everglades, much coming from the sugar industry, a lawsuit resulted to establish "thresholds" for dangerous nutrients and to determine the exact causes of the toxic pollution that decimated 100,000 acres of sea grass and killed huge coral colonies from white-spot disease. In fact, Florida lost 90% of its elkhorn coral while snappers, groupers, and grunts decreased from 24% to 5%, and parrotfish and blue tangs doubled in a "no take" marine sanctuary. Both the Florida Everglades and the Florida Keys are examples of what happens when excess nitrogen "undermines nature's equilibrium." That's happening on Bonaire right now.

Given the fact that corals have existed for roughly 50 million years, LaPointe argued that the effects of nutrients on corals are very recent, with **human waste being implicated as a major source.** LaPointe graphically summarized the "domino" effect of increased nutrients on corals: large macroalgae ("killer algae") invade the reef, which undermine coral symbiosis and cause them to "starve to death," while at the same time microbial diseases compromise the corals further, making them more vulnerable to predators like sea urchins and parrotfish. As the reef dies, fish diversity and abundance decrease drastically, severely impacting humans who depend on fish and reefs for food and tourism. According to LaPointe, **reefs can disappear in just months, as is the case in St. Lucia and Jamaica.**

In the last 20 years, scientists have arrived at a consensus about the nutrient "thresholds" at which reefs begin to get overgrown by algae, sicken and die. For example, there are "tipping points" for nitrogen, phosphorus, ammonium, chlorophyll, etc. which indicate the imminent change from a healthy reef to a sick one. And now with the initiation of a monitoring program that can "fingerprint" the sources of nitrogen—(i.e. is it coming from agricultural run-off (fertilizer) or human sewage?)—it is possible to deduce the exact source of the nutrient input in order to mitigate the problem. LaPointe cited the National Academy of Science's Millennium Report (2005) in which 1,300 scientists agreed that nutrient-rich freshwater spilling into oceans is the most significant source of pollution. For coral reefs, there is no question that the results of nutrient-rich freshwater is the decline and death of

(Continued on page 6)

Bonaire Chefs Win Silver Plus



Members of the Bonaire Team:
Bartender Jenmarie Coffie (Divi Flamingo)
Chef Vladimir Gijbertha (It Rains Fishes)
Chef Egbert deVries (Le Flamboyant)
Pastry Chef Isidoor van Riemsdijk (Rum Runners)
Chef Floris Van Loo (Rum Runners)
Team Manager Selimah Agostien (Divi Flamingo)

Bonaire's proud chef/bartender team returned from the Caribbean Hotel Association's "Taste of the Caribbean" Culinary Olympics with not only a **Silver Medal** but a special award

for **The Most Innovative and Creative Menu**. The menu used Bonairean Sea Salt in each dish. This year, for the first time, the team was judged as a whole – culinary and bartender. "It was emo-

tional and it was stressful," reports Chef Floris Van Loo, "but there was a lot of camaraderie among the teams." Third year chef contender Isidoor van Riemsdijk says, "The levels keep getting higher, but I think we did a great job!"

Bonaire competed against 12 other teams from islands and countries which are in many cases much larger and richer, with more restaurants and hotels: Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Grenada, Puerto Rico, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the US Virgin Islands. The only Gold winners were Puerto Rico and Trinidad & Tobago.

This is a very intense time for the culinary teams. After all their months of practice and trying out new recipe concepts they are "on stage" – 13 teams working at the same time in 13 individual kitchens. Each team has three hours in which to choose their ingredients from a Mystery Basket, create three-course menu with recipes and prepare the meals for 20 persons. The judging is based on execution of skills, presentation, portion size, taste, nutrition, use of their island's products and more. They are even judged on what the cost of the dish would be and if it can make money for the restaurant as well as how much waste is thrown away. Bartenders must prepare three drinks - non-alcoholic, vodka and rum – and demonstrate their



Sara Matera Photo

Bartender Jenmarie Coffie with her vodka drink, "My Seahorse."

creativity, skills, personality and showmanship. They have 10 minutes to prepare each drink. Bonaire's Bartender Jenmarie Coffie's drinks sported super creative garnishes. Non-alcoholic was "Banana Joe;" vodka drink was called "My Seahorse;" Rum drink, "Dushi Boneiru."

A very special and fun event this year and last was a power point presentation, put on by each of the team's managers, which emphasized the colorful and dif-

(Continued on page 5)

Bonaire Chefs... (Continued from page 4)
 ferent cultural aspects of each island. Often with imaginative showmanship they showed us the island's signature dish, its origins and history and how to prepare it. This was a real highlight and showed the culinary diversity of the Caribbean. We learned about *Pom* from Suriname, *Sofrito* from Puerto Rico, *Doubles* from Trinidad & Tobago, *Conch* from the Bahamas, *Bajan Black Pudding & Souse* from Barbados. Bon-

Bonaire's Winning Menu:

Appetizer

Grilled watermelon, tomato, fresh green herb salad and Angostura infused with Bonairean Sea Salt.

Coconut foam topped cold tomato ginger shooter Watermelon Pearls Vanilla, coriander and Bonairean sea salt cured yellowtail snapper

Entrée

Guava glazed pork loin medallion and barbeque rubbed beef loin with rosemary and roasted bell pepper infused, flatap and potato tuille with smoked sea salt.

Dessert

Bonairean sea salt caramel ice cream. Banana fritter served with spiced orange horseradish sauce with a dash of Angostura.

Bonairean sea salt chocolate toffee lollipop. Banana crème brulee.



The judges critique the team.

aire's Selimah Agostien gave an animated and colorful description of Bonaire and *Kabrito Stoba ku Funchi*. Hats off to the CHA who sponsors this event every year. Many of the judges and sponsors are the same diligent individuals who started it in the 90s and have striven to make the event better and better each year.

Why is this event so important to Bonaire? Because it honors the profession and raises the consciousness of all our chefs, inspiring them to learn, to

experiment, to be creative and competitive. And since even the 1997 competition the level of the island's cuisine has risen. Everyone wins—the chefs, the diners, the local restaurants, the economy and the island's reputation.

All this takes a lot of commitment and dedication from many people. The chefs and bartender have to give a lot of their time on their days off to plan and practice. They must create and test new recipes and learn to work together as a team. The restaurants that employ the member

About the Organizers

The Taste of the Caribbean event is sponsored by the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) and was held at the Hyatt Regency in Miami. CHA is a federation of 36 national hotel associations, from Bermuda in the north to Guyana in the south, from Barbados in the east to Mexico and Belize in the west.

About 900 member hotels in 36 member destinations represent some 120,000 rooms in the Caribbean, from small independent guest houses to the chain megaresorts. Allied members comprise airlines, tour wholesalers, travel agents, ad agencies, and hotel and restaurant suppliers – making up close to 600 allied members. All together they are the Caribbean hospitality industry and CHA is their voice.

of the team have to give their employee extra time off, often with pay. The members of the committee organize all the background support, do publicity, solicit financial donations, arrange for meetings, do the shopping and more. Local business support the team through financial donations.

And because of this Bonaire has become an island known for its culinary excellence. □ *L.D.*

Bonaire Reefs... (Continued from page 3) coral reefs. Unfortunately, secondary sewage treatment is incapable of solving the problem as it only changes organic matter into inorganic while leaving in nutrients that are flushed into the sea. According to LaPointe, the solution is **“tertiary” treatment, which removes nutrients, and is not that expensive to include when building a new plant** (as would be the case on Bonaire).

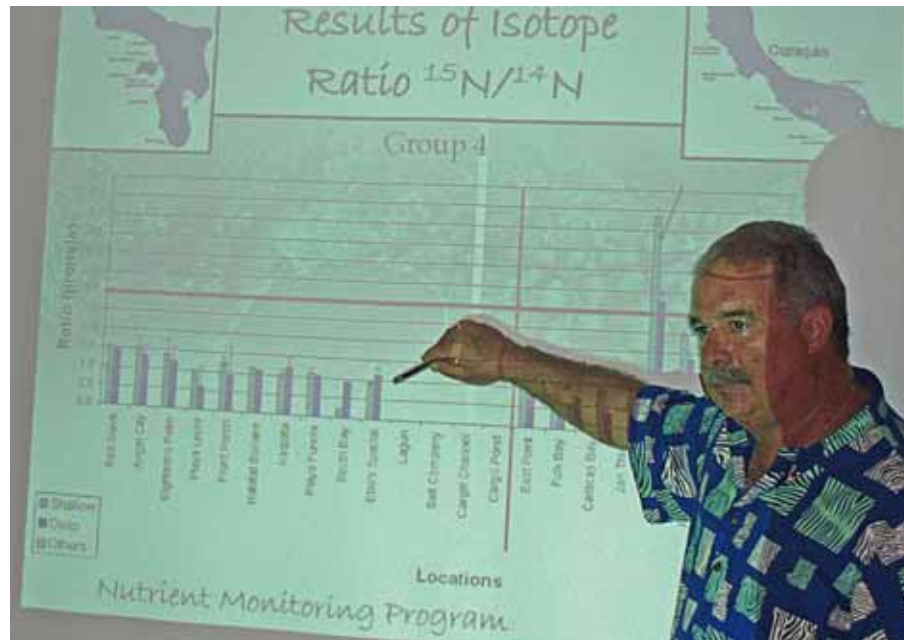
Paul Hoetjes, Senior Policy Advisor for the Department of Environment, described the nutrient monitoring program that was set up in cooperation with LaPointe in March of 2006 and began with four rounds of sampling on Bonaire and Curaçao in January 2007. After getting the needed volunteers and interns, the project worked with DROB, STINAPA, Captain Don’s Habitat and other dive shops. According to Hoetjes, the challenge now is how to continue the monitoring program so there is constant information about the state of the coastal waters around Bonaire and Curaçao. Mark Wieggers of MINA then explained the methods used to gather and evaluate samples in 9 different areas:

What Gets Checked?

1. coral cover of the reefs
2. ratio between macro algae cover and turf algae cover
3. chlorophyll a concentration in seawater
4. ratio between nitrogen isotopes
5. phosphate concentration in seawater
6. total dissolved phosphor concentration in seawater
7. Nitrite and nitrate concentration in seawater
8. ammonium concentration in seawater
9. dissolved inorganic nitrogen in seawater

Wieggers and Frank van Slobbe from DROB then provided a detailed description of the results for Bonaire and Curaçao. In Bonaire, the following sites were tested: Red Slave, Angel City, 18th Palm, Playa Lechi, Front Porch, Habitat Bonaire, Karpata, Playa Funchi, Ebo’s Special, Lagun, Salt Company, Cargill Channel, and Cargill Pond. The overall assessment by these experts, based on the nutrient monitoring results, is that **both Bonaire and Curaçao are “at or just above the nutrient thresholds” for decline of the reefs.**

In particular, **Bonaire’s reefs are “between the border of healthy and polluted reefs.”** In fact, LaPointe describes them as at the **“point-of-no-return” and stresses that careful policy and management are required immediately or conditions will worsen and the corals will not survive.** All the experts pointed to the **need for further research and monitoring, particularly for the impact of sewage, groundwater run-off, and salt company discharge and percolation.** One telling fact is the level of chlorophyll a on Bonaire’s reefs: the threshold is .2 and all of the Bonaire sites are nearing .2 or a bit over .2. If this data is compared to that of the Bahamas (between .1 and .2 signifying more “healthy” reefs) and Florida (which is at .6 with rapid die-offs of reefs), it is clear that **Bonaire’s reefs are exhibiting the symptoms of the long-term effect by**



Brian LaPointe explains nutrient monitoring results for various Bonaire sites.

Dive Sites Checked in Bonaire

1. Red Slave
2. Angel City
3. Eighteenth Palm
4. Playa Lechi
5. Front Porch
6. Habitat Bonaire
7. Karpata
8. Playa Funchi
9. Ebo’s Special
10. Lagun
11. Salt Company
12. Cargill Channel
13. Cargill Pond

nutrients coming from the island itself (in the forms of sewage and fertilizer) and not from the rain, Venezuela, or the Orinoco River, as some have theorized.

Finally, all the experts issued a “wake-up call” for those in the government to prioritize a sewage plant with tertiary treatment before it is too late. As LaPointe clarified, once the thresholds for nutrients have been surpassed and corals begin dying, it is virtually impossible to reverse their decline. □ *Story & Photos by Pauline Kayes*

Next Issue: Part II—Inspection and Analysis of Specific Monitoring Sites on Bonaire—Playa Lechi, Lagun, Red Slave, Salt Company, and LVV sewerage canals.

Breaking News: As we go to press Minguel Martis, Department Head at DROB (Public Works), has confirmed that the sewage plant with tertiary treatment has been approved and the contract has been signed with the German firm of Dorsch Consult. Dorsch was hired on June 25 and will be on Bonaire on July 25 to begin implementation of the project.

Further details will be forthcoming in Part III of our series on the effect of nutrient wastewater on coral reefs.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)



Kitesurfing Bonaire photo

► Roan Jaspers of Kiteboarding Bonaire reports: **“Last weekend the first kiteboard clinic for kids** aged 10 to 16 was organized by Kiteboarding Bonaire. The participants first learned to fly a small kite on the beach and then moved on as soon as they mastered all the exercises with the trainer kite. Next they entered the water with a real kite and board under the strict supervision of our staff. Within only a few hours many made great progress, surfed their first distance and impressed us all! A stack of burgers helped replenish the energy levels at the end of the day. It was a huge success as many learned to master this new sport with great enthusiasm. The clinic will continue for the next several Sundays, starting at 1300. All are welcome to come. In order to continue to provide free kiteboard lessons to **Kiteboarding Bonaire is looking for sponsors.** For more info or to become a sponsor, call me (Roan) at 786-6138.”

► **The Bonaire Pro Windsurfing Kids’ Team will be heading off island this summer to compete in several events and to promote Bonaire’s August Starboard Pro Kids Freestyle World Event.** The first stop is in Aruba at the Aruba Hi Winds. Over 60 Bonaire sailors will be there to compete in the freestyle and slalom action. Another team of Pro Kids head to the Slalom Pro Kids Worlds in Turkey later in July: Jurgen Saragoza (9), Amado Vrieswijk (10), Dylon Robles (12), Bjorn Saragoza (15), Clifton Pier (15) and his older brother Harvey. The adult chaperon will be former Bonaire Olympian Patun Saragoza. *Bonaire Reporter* writer, rap star and windsurfing pro, Ruben Petrisie, will be on hand to help raise the Bonaire flag at the Pro Kids opening ceremony. Ruben has been representing Bonaire on the European Freestyle Tour for several years. Later, Bjorn Saragoza, a Starboard and Hot Sails Team rider, will head to the EFPT Turkey event celebrating his rise to Pro status. For event details contact ann@bonairewindsurfing.com. Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations (www.prokidsfreestyle.com) will arrange accommodations, gear and vehicle rental as well as hospitality support.

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A Shrink Looks at SCUBA

www.DivePsych.com

A Diving Musician Grieves

Every now and then life's events transcend what we thought was important. A dive buddy and neighbor at Sand Dollar Condo Resort named Andy Owens, who was featured in this column a few months ago, had such an experience this spring on Bonaire.



Andy Owens



The Hilma Hooker Karen Oliver photo

I thought I would finish the song under water, so a few days later I dove by myself to a shipwreck called the Hilma Hooker. (*ed. DivePsych does not endorse solo wreck diving.*) At 100 feet deep I crawled inside in the dark, hung up a light, and with several tanks of air wrote the rest of the lyrics. When I tried to get out I was by myself and I got stuck. I thought, 'Oh, no, I don't have the melody yet—I can't die here!' but I wrenched myself free and got out.

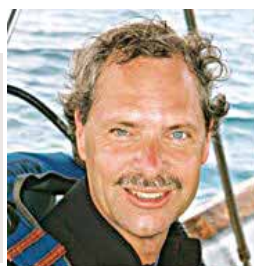
The sad part is that although I didn't know it while I was writing the song, simultaneously my friend was dying of complications from his cancer. I had to rush back and bury him. I will finish the song soon...and maybe put it on the next album."

Andy's story reminded me of another dive buddy, Bob, who approached me a few years ago for lunch to talk about the recent death of one of his regular dive buddies during decompression on a 160-foot wreck dive in Lake Michigan he had opted out of. He was dealing with grief and survivor guilt and needed a good listener. That was the start of a close friendship and since then we have collaborated on several scuba research projects and articles for *The Bonaire Reporter* and *The Undersea Journal*.

Sublimation in the form of artistic and intellectual pursuits is one of the most mature coping mechanisms, as Andy and Bob illustrate. Another is altruism, serving others without expecting any direct benefit to oneself.

When my wife and I started studying scuba panic back in 2000, I started getting emails from around the world from divers who had lost friends in dive accidents and were still struggling with grief. That is not the kind of statistic that shows up in DAN's *Annual Diving Report*, but for every diver fatality, there are hurting survivors out there, some of whom just need someone to listen to their story. Will you be available to help another diver? □ 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 which provides evidence-based information for divers on psychological and stress factors in scuba divers. He will be on island at Sand Dollar from July 1 through 12.



"I turned 50 this past year and it was kind of a wake-up call. I was writing about making the best use of your time. I wrote some love songs. I was writing more ethereal songs—more about life and getting older, songs that are more philosophical in nature. But, I think I just had the weirdest songwriting experience ever. My best friend of 35 years, who got me started in music, was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer. I felt that losing him was going to be like losing a journal of my life history. While doing a night scuba dive, I had this song line pop into my head underwater, which was, 'Tell me my life story,' a song about losing a good friend. This buddy of mine loved to hear about all my adventures. He was a stay-on-the-farm kind of guy.

Bonaire Windsurfer Reports

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

The World's Biggest- LeDefi

After the European Freestyle Windsurfing Professional Tour event in Austria, I headed back to Germany and hung out with my producer, Roon, preparing to move the studio to Alacati, Turkey, which is more to our taste with sunshine and proximity to the beach. Surf by day and record tracks by night sounds pretty okay. How did we do that? We drove with all the electronic equipment to Anconas Port in Italy. From there we took the two-day ferry crossing to Cesme, Turkey.

The same day we arrived in Turkey I had to arrange a trip to be in Gruissan, France, the next day for a photo shoot on the beach. It was a long trip to get there, flying via three different airports. But in the end I made it on time and was welcomed by the Exocet crew and team.

At that same time the Le Defi long distance event was underway. Le Defi is an event that has become the biggest-ever get together of windsurfers in the world... and how! About 700 riders registered for the Defi Wind, with 450 on the waiting list.

There were 100 more riders than the previous year and 100 riders less space on the water, even less on the beach once all the gear was out of the carriers. As everyone had hoped, the wind was up, well up... the infamous Tramontana (blowing across the mountain), notorious for its sustained strength. Already blowing 30-35 knots at breakfast, it steadily filled in during the morning, quickly reaching 40-45 knots. All of which had the riders racing to get up their smallest sails possible. But the wind was still too strong. In town especially for the screening of *Windsurfing, the Movie*, Jason Polakow didn't bother wasting time; he went straight onto this 3.5 m² small sail zone!

On the water it was as tough for the pros as it was for the amateurs, with the wind now surging stronger and stronger...50, 55, 58, even up to 62 knots. The anemometer on the officials' boat was fit to bust... The event site was full of caravans, cars and everywhere you could see people trying to find a windless spot to rig up their gear. Sand was flying everywhere... sometimes you felt like you were being pushed by the force of the wind.

At 2 pm the 700 riders were invited to a skippers' meeting. Race director and overall bigwig of the Defi Wind, Philippe Bru, had left it as long as possible before admitting that the wind had got the better of the event, putting all the riders on standby. It was a wise decision considering the 55 knots now blowing steadily. Seasoned pros like Antoine Albeau agreed. "Even on my 5.0 there've been some hairy moments!"

In the interests of putting on some kind of show, some of the top pro riders were invited to take part in a fun slalom contest, a slalom won by the said Albeau,



Ruben says "Hi" to the helicopter Exocet photo

after a tussle with Anders Bringdal that showed you can't count him out in big conditions.

I had a session in the afternoon and was struggling on a 4.3 m² sail which was way too big. The second day of the Le Defi Wind looked a lot smoother. The wind decreased a bit, still blowing between 25 and 35 knots.

Our photo shoot was held in the late afternoon so I hung out at our boards stand and got my freestyle equipment ready.

The skippers' meeting was held and everybody got the one-hour countdown to get themselves ready for the big start. With 30 minutes to go before the start my sponsor advised me to join the race for fun; I couldn't say no because I was excited about joining the race since day one, but I didn't come with my own gear because of being focused on the photo shoot. Luckily I got to borrow a Loft Blade from my team rider Joss and a Warp Slalom 58 from Exocet.

I got myself ready as fast as possible and went for the start with 10 minutes to go. We had to sail about 40kms in all.

There were 700 riders at the start, all trying to get over the one-km-long starting line at the same time. I just made it right on time to squeeze between all the riders at full speed heading to the first mark. The French star and last year's champion, Antoine Albeau, had a bit of a bad start. Way up front were two big names and most experienced old boys like Anders Bringdal and Phil Mc Gain, until they took the wrong buoy and let the French star take the lead.

I got to test my skills and beat some interesting people along the way such as Robby Swift, Ben van der Steen, and many more. I finished the race in 15th place.

Back on the beach everybody got a little break shortly after the second countdown started. This time the start seemed to be a lot better than in the

(Continued on page 18)

Divi's Digital Shootout Success



Photo courtesy Wetpixel's Chief Editor, Eric Cheng

Divi Flamingo Beach Resort and Divi Dive Bonaire again hosted Bonaire's traditional underwater competition event with more than 60 participants from all over the diving world. The week-long event began on June 16 and offered technology and knowledge to bring each of its participant to the next skill level. Every day four dive boats ventured out with the latest photo and video gear aboard, guided by photo pros, to Bonaire's coral reefs to try to capture the perfect image.

The event was sponsored and organized by Dan Baldochi from Light and Motion Industries together with Berckley White from Backscatter. Jon Dary, Sea & Sea Marketing Manager, unloaded boxes of high tech camera gear including the D200 housings, digital cameras and strobes. All were free to use by the participants. Russ Sanoian from Light and Motion had lots of great giveaways.

It was five days of diving with intense photo and video seminars. Jim Watt was one of the first photo pros to switch to digital photography and is a highly published underwater photographer. Jim gave seminars on cutting edge digital techniques and split image composition.

Other classes filled the week, but with the digital era here, there's also new printing technology. The Divi Flamingo classroom was equipped with the latest printing technology by Mark Liebman from Pictopia. Together with Daniel Brown, the Adobe evangelist, participants learned how to fully use the digital technology and create the perfect images and prints. Eric Cheng from Wetpixel.com uploaded the images for the world wide web to enjoy every day.

Capture Photo, Divi's new photo shop, sponsored and helped the participants first hand with camera repairs and the building of Divi's Photo Wall, a gigantic

surface covered with images from this year's Digital Shootout. But video was not forgotten. Mary Lynn, the video pro, guided the video participants.

On Friday the shootout ended with a photo-video competition. It all began with money prizes and moved to Sea & Sea camera gear and diving trips to locations like Wakatibi, Southeast Sulawesi and Kumodo.

The Digital Shootout will be back in 2008 with an even bigger event. Check it out at www.thedigital-shootout.com

The exceptional equipment packages sponsored by Sea & Sea and Light and Motion along with the Divi Flamingo chemistry made this event into an unforgettable shootout experience. □

Special to The Bonaire Reporter by Hendrik Wuyts— Scubavision Nature Films Bonaire

Parrot Watch



Olivia has babies! At least two of the eggs have hatched and we even have a movie of the second chick hatching from its egg on parrotwatch.org. There are also movies on the website of Olivia feeding both chicks. They are amazing to see. The chicks are tiny and she feeds them so delicately with a beak strong enough to tear holes in people's fingers. We'll soon try and give the chicks names, and sponsors of parrotwatch will be able to vote on these.

This week we have also uploaded a couple of project movies including a

nest inspection involving an abseil down a 40-meter (120 foot) cliff. It was so windy the rope didn't drop down the cliff but instead blew sideways.

The really great news is that the Watakeli nest is finally active again. We'd almost given up on Walter and Wilhelmina and were thinking they were having a year off, but the good news is she is actually sitting on four eggs. Naturally there is a movie on parrotwatch.org. Please have a look at the site and help us in our efforts to protect Bonaire's lora. □ *Sam Williams*

Ask Olivia

Dear Olivia,
I saw the Parrotwatch website for the first time yesterday and plan to sign up later today. It looks fantastic! I was wondering about the development of your chicks; how fully grown are they when they hatch? How long does it take for them to reach full maturity and look like an adult?

Thank you,

Dave Grainger



Dear Dave,
I'm glad that you are going to sign up for the parrot watch website. You'll see on the videos that the chicks are completely naked when they hatch. Their eyes are also closed and don't open for a week or so. Their ears are not developed but that happens quite quickly and within a week their ears open. It's amazing to see how fast they grow. Some of the chicks double their weight in two days!

It takes about two months for the chicks to grow all their feathers and fledge the nest. Before the chicks fledge they are heavier than an adult, but we stop feeding them before they fledge because otherwise they'd just stay in the nest forever! It's an exciting but emotional time when all my babies fly for the first time.

You'll be able to watch all the progress of the chicks if you sign up. Enjoy!

Olivia Parrot

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 6)

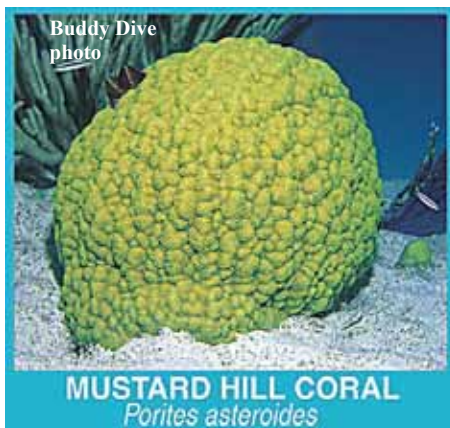
► **Scott Hausman** takes back more batteries to the US for proper recycling.

With his help, the Carib Inn has emptied one entire bucket of old batteries, none of which will poison Bonaire's landfill.



► **Once again it's time for the Great Annual Fish Count** held each July to introduce divers and snorkelers to fish watching and to educate the public about marine resources. Under REEF guidance, volunteer divers and snorkelers are mobilized and taught to identify and document fish diversity and population trends in REEF projects areas. Currently there are three REEF stations in Bonaire: DiveFriends/Yellow Submarine, Bonaire Dive and Adventure, and Capture Photo at Divi Flamingo. Classes in Basic Fish Identification are being held each Wednesday at Capture Photo at 6 pm and Advanced Fish ID at 7pm.

The kick-off event for GAFC will be held this year at Dive Friends/Yellow Submarine on Saturday, July 7th at 9:30am. For more information call 791-4262.



► **A unique underwater park has been created on Buddy's Reef, the Buddy Dive Resort house reef.** In an effort to create awareness and educate divers about the importance of our reefs, Buddy Dive, with the consent of the Bonaire National Marine Park, decided to create an educational underwater diving trail.

Initiated and created by **Buddy's Dive Operations Manager, Augusto Montbrun**, "The Underwater Park has two diving trails allowing multi level dives. During the dive our guests will get to see different species of coral that grow in colonies at different depths along the topography of Buddy's Reef Underwater Park. The corals will be clearly marked with an underwater sign that has a printed photo and its common and scientific name on it. The sign will be fixed to the sea bottom to prevent divers from damaging the coral. All signs and materials used are environmental friendly." "The more we learn about our coral reefs the more we'll understand about the im-

portant role they play for the environment," says Buddy's Managing Director Ruud van Baal.

During the month of September Buddy's Marine Life Education Program with world-renowned naturalists and marine life authors, **Ned and Anna DeLoach**, will educate and entertain Buddy's guests for the entire month. "Without their help and advice this unique underwater park wouldn't be what it is and we'll ask Ned and Anna to do the official opening this coming September," says van Baal, "since originally it was supposed to be opened by them in September 2006."

► Like *The Reporter*, they are free: **Spanish lessons at the Instituto Venezolano Para Cultura y La Cooperación (The Venezuelan Institute for Culture and Cooperation) at Abraham Boulevard #11.** The excellent lessons, with a more-than-15-year history and numerous successful graduates, are being re-started. Your instructor will be Raphael Fernandez who will teach you Spanish at introductory to advanced levels. To sign up visit the office between 9 am and 3 pm or call 717-5275.

► **Bonaire contributing writer, Dive Shrink, David Colvard, will be on-island July 1st through 12th.** He's just back from South Africa where he discussed psychological and other issues regarding diving. Dive shop owners and individuals who would like to contact him can email: dfcolvard@bellsouth.net.



► **Congratulations to a friend of Bonaire, photo-journalist Els Kroon, who won the 2007 Caribbean Tourism Media Award-Travel Feature Category** at the Caribbean Hotel Association's "Taste of the Caribbean" last week. The award is sponsored by the CHA, American Express and the Caribbean Tourist Organization.

Els is a familiar face and personality in Bonaire as she snaps award winning shots and writes articles about Bonaire's on-the-water sports during Regatta and windsurfing events

SPECIAL NOTICE

► In response to requests for more copies of *The Bonaire Reporter*, **beginning with the July 20-August 3 issue, we will print twice the number of newspapers that we do now and switch to a twice monthly schedule.** □

G.D./L.D..

Dia di Arte



Annual Dia di Arte in Wilhelmina Park

Don't miss it – It's the 15th Annual Dia di Arte **this Sunday, July 1**, starting at 10 am until evening. It's an all-day fun event for the entire family, with artists, musicians, craftsmen and top notch local foods and drinks and the island's very friendly ambiance. It's sponsored by the Foundation for Bonairean Art and Culture. Stroll through the exhibitions, see old and new friends and purchase something special and unique. □ L.D.

Help! A Play at Pelikaan School



Kees Kok (Jorge) was the unlucky one right after his wife gave birth to seven babies at the hospital. Now he's choking on a bone. Boy, Jaimy, Nikita, Yvette, Merel, Noah, Finn, Ties, Chip, Deidre, Jordan, Bas, Samson, Urs, Yana, and Allan (lying down) play the parts.

“Stress” was the main theme of the musical *Help!* performed by students of the Pelikaan primary school recently, but the young students acting in the musical clearly didn't suffer from it. They gave an impressive show with ease at Jong Bonaire. The show was full of music, dance, and clearly, lots of fun. The performance by the students of the seventh and eighth grades was a great success. The audience was packed with parents proudly watching their kids.

The musical took place in the first aid room of a hospital, beginning in the morning when the nurses take their posts until night when everyone goes home again. In the department everything is taken care of that needs attention—from a broken leg to a broken heart, and from a sick gold fish to a broken x-ray machine. In the meantime funny and silly things happen.

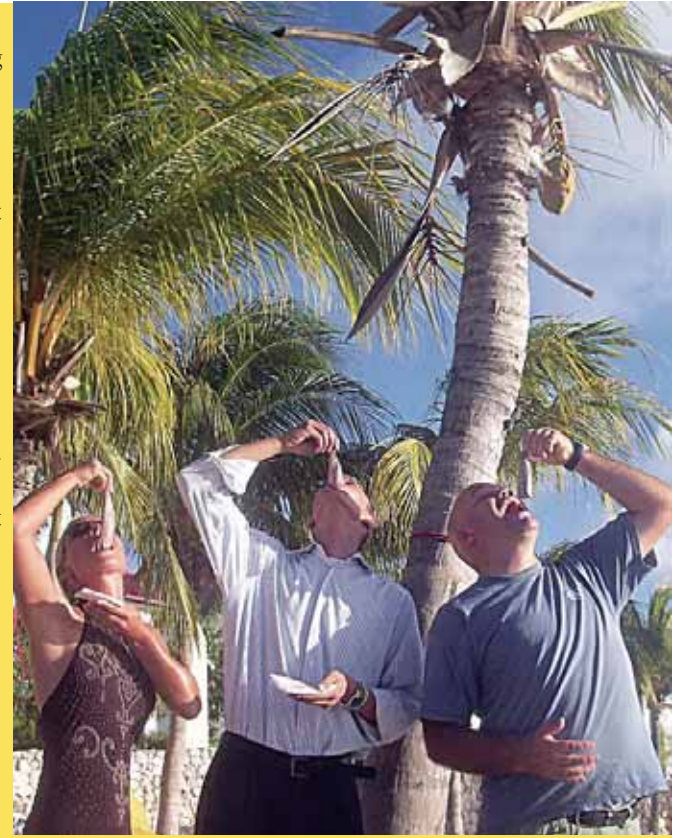
Teacher Femke used the occasion to say goodbye to the departing eighth graders who will move on to high school next year. □ *Story & photo by David Radomisli*

Herring On The Beach

The relationship between herring and the Dutch is inextricable. The Dutch have been beating this raw fish for centuries. In almost every market square in Holland there's a stand selling herring, especially in May or June. It's called *Hollandse Nieuwe* (New Dutch). Homesick Dutchies on Bonaire had the opportunity to satisfy their craving at Plaza Resort recently when the fish was especially flown over from Holland and prepared by chef cook Chris Nesbitt.

Although it's a little strange to have this Dutch delicacy on the tropical beach of Bonaire, the plate with the herring that was being passed at the Coconut Crash Bar was empty in no time. Many Dutch gourmards were at the bar just to renew their taste for the fish.

The event will be repeated next year. People who can't wait until then to get a taste of the fish can go to Watta Burger. □ *Story & photo by David Radomisli*



To eat a herring properly, one must drench it in slices of onions, take it by the tail, bend the head backwards and eat the entire fish in one or two bites. Plaza employees Chantal Schuijling (Head of Sports & Entertainment), Mark van Slooten (F&B Manager) and Michiel Bokhorst (alias DJ Shrek) give a demonstration.

Indonesian Cuisine



A new Indonesian restaurant, *Warung Louise*, opened on Kaya Grandi next to Wilhelmina Park and guests were invited to have a taste of the food that will be served. Elsmarie Beukenboom, owner of the building, officially opened the restaurant by cutting the ribbon at the entrance.

The family recipes for the restaurant's dishes have been passed down from generation to generation. That's why the owners of the restaurant gave it the name *Warung Louise*. *Warung* in Indonesian means "Little Restaurant." Louise is the name of the grandmother of hostess Debbie van Suylenkom and mother of hostess and cook, Jessyca Boermeester. Louise lived in many places, like Sumatra, Java, Bali, Sumba, Flores, Timor, and Halmahera. "With Louise's written recipes we want to give our guests the opportunity to enjoy authentic Indonesian taste." The ingredients, impossible for the owners to get on the island, are being flown in from Indonesia through Holland. At the moment only dinner is being served, but the owners also want to expand to lunch and take-away. □ *Story & photo by David Radomisli*

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Contact: bonairecottage@aol.com

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Apartment - Separate from the house, at Hato. For 1/2 persons, including water, electricity, dishwasher, linen, boiler, 220V -127V, kitchen equipment, cleaning, with furniture, washing machine. Per July 1st per month NAf 1200,-/1500,-, no animals. Monique tel.717-2529

SUPPORT BONAIRE

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

For Sale

For Sale: Sony Digital Camcorder, boxed and unused, Model DCR HC96E in PAL format, takes Mini DV tapes has Widescreen, 3 Mega pixel still camera, Carl Zeiss Lens, 2 Years guarantee, includes new case, tapes etc. Unwanted gift \$720, Call: 717-2675

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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

Apartment - Separate from the house, at Hato. For 1 person NAf 1000.- by 2p. NAf 1300.-, one bedroom. gas, dishwasher, . No animals. Monique 717-2529.

Apartment for two ladies or couple, 32m² in Hato, 2-bedrooms, bath/shower, Minimum stay 2 months. No animals. NAf. 1000.-(450.-+550.-). Monique Reekers 717 2529.

House sitting Reporter staff member wishes to house sit long-term starting now. Call David 700-7536, email: dradomisli@hotmail.com.

SEEKING

Looking for table model fridge, tap, bicycle store, kitchen sink, Monique, Tel. 717-2529.

Newbie Scuba Diver Needs Used fins, snorkel and mask. Size 6 women's. Please call 786-3134

Looking for a spare rim for a Chevrolet S10 pick up, 15 inch, 5 holes, 796 - 3637, digital-is1956@hotmail.com

Looking for a spare rim for a Toyota Hilux pick up, 14 inch, 5 holes, 796 - 3637, digital-is1956@hotmail.com

JOBS

Rento-Fun Scooter & Car Hire are looking for a **person with technical/mechanical knowledge** to be responsible for the maintenance and repair of scooters, motorcycles and bicycles and the checking of motor vehicles for rental. The applicant must have a license to drive a car and motorcycle. Please apply to: Rento-Fun Drive, Kaya Grande 47. Or call: 717-2408

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**Pet of
The Week**



"Julio"

Looking for a big solid dog who you can play with, swim and run with? "Julio" is the perfect answer. He's a little more than a year old and is a handsome boy with his black coat and tan trim- a Bonairean shepherd type. He has a lot of pep and enthusiasm for new things and he should respond well to training. Julio gets along beautifully with his kennel mates; he's certainly no prima donna. That may be because he's had a hard life - but only he knows for sure. But we do know that this is a terrific dog with fine character. As are all the other pets up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter Julio has had his shots, tests, is sterilized and is in perfect health. You may see him at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

It's still puppy season and pups are coming in. The good news is that people are bringing in their unwanted dogs and cats, but a lot of this could be avoided by having the dogs and cats sterilized. The Shelter is behind this 100% and has established a Sterilization Fund which aids those pet owners who cannot afford the full price of sterilization. As of this week, the Fund has made possible 67 sterilizations so far this year. You don't have to be a brilliant mathematician to compute just how many unwanted puppies and kittens that this has spared. And you can help. Donate what you can to the Sterilization Fund, MCB Account #1061-6410 or through Support Bonaire, Inc. for credit card donations. Their website is WWW.supportbonaire.org

L.D.

The Bonaire Reporter is seeking a person **experienced** in newspaper layout using Microsoft Publisher. Part-time, good pay. Call George 786-6125

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Reporters and feature writers wanted for The Reporter. Get paid by the word and for your photos. Call George 786-6125



Sunday, July 1st, 10.00am-12 noon, LAGOEN HILL 36 Various household goods for sale due to emigration. EVERYTHING MUST GO! Tel: 786-8648 for details.

LETTER To the Editor

BALANCE FOR NATURE

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to send a short message in support of much of what Dr. Kayes says in *The Reporter*, issue 24.

I fully understand the position of Ms. Croes saying that "Bonaire has to develop economically" as I'm sure everyone will, BUT no one should lose sight of the fact that it is purely the natural world that makes Bonaire viable.

Let's be honest here. If it wasn't for the diving, snorkelling, wind surfing and other nature based activities nobody would really visit Bonaire, at least not in enough numbers to make it economic.

I like Bonaire very much and intend to move to the island just as soon as I can, but even I wouldn't call it a golden, sandy tropical paradise and I'm pretty biased!

It seems to me that this reliance on nature is a key factor and must be at the top of the list when considering future developments.

I know it is difficult when trying to balance the needs of various groups, and sometimes unpopular decisions need to be made, but PLEASE don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Richard Willis

Kibrahacha photo by Herman van Leeuwen during the recent bloom



A Step Closer to Holland



(L to R) Will Johnson (Saba), Ank Bijleveld (Holland), Ramonsito Booi (Bonaire), Roy Hooker (Saint Eustatius) had a hard time coming to an agreement. But in the end they all signed.

Important agreements were signed last week following a meeting at the Plaza Resort between the Dutch State Secretary, Ank Bijleveld of Kingdom Relations, and representatives of Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba (the so called BES-islands). These new agreements affect the new status the islands will have in December 2008 when they become part of The Netherlands.

"It was a very positive meeting, and the results show all parties are willing to cooperate in the future," says Ank Bijleveld. "Some important decisions have been made, but it's also clear that there's still a lot of work to be done before the islands receive their new status."

The Secretary and the representatives of the islands signed a list of commitments and agreements during the meeting, most importantly that of the financial surveillance the Netherlands wants to have over the islands after December 15, 2008. As a result the islands will be supervised financially by Holland after they receive their

new status. "Of course it hasn't been easy for the islands to agree on this heavy subject, and we have had some long discussions about it during the meeting," explained Bijleveld. "We'll just keep an eye on it and help them by providing some experts. The islands are still responsible for their own budget. The surveillance is only meant to guard the islands for possible debts in the future." The ranking representative of Bonaire, UPB party leader Ramonsito Booi, said that he was happy about the outcome of the meeting but that it wasn't easy to agree with issues. "It's not easy to make a decision about tolerating surveillance on your own country, but because we want to create the best situation for our citizens we have signed the agreements. Bonaire is on the right track now, but there is also still a lot left to discuss." □

Story & photo by David Radomisli

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>COEF</u>
6-29	10:10	0.7FT.	23:57	2.1FT.					72
6-30	0:25	2.1FT.	10:41	0.7FT.					80
7-01	1:01	2.1FT.	11:17	0.7FT.					86
7-02	1:41	2.0FT.	11:47	0.7FT.					90
7-03	2:24	1.9FT.	12:08	0.8FT.					90
7-04	3:15	1.7FT.	12:22	0.9FT.					86
7-05	4:04	1.6FT.	12:27	1.0FT.					80
7-06	1:48	1.3FT.	5:18	1.4FT.	12:19	1.0FT.	19:44	1.5FT.	71

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show (Usually 9 pm)
Call 717-2400
To Be Announced

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
To Be Announced

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

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY

SUMMER SCHEDULE
OPEN—THURS THRU SUN

SATURDAY 4 PM
CHILDREN'S SPECIALS
To Be Announced

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 1 – 15th 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. More on page 9

Sunday, July 1, Monthly Rock 'n Roll party. Musical guests, drink specials and snacks, and the Flamingo Rockers perform, 4:30 -7:30pm. **Sunrise Pool Bar**. Great place for the family to kick back and enjoy the music, food and pool.

Sunday July 1 - Silver Award winning Bonaire Culinary/Bartender Team presents their menu and drinks, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Calabas Restaurant, 7 pm. Dress: Caribbean Bright Colors, NAf 70 (\$40) cash only, per person includes wine & soft and Janie's Cocktail samples. Call or write A.S.A.P. Margreth@bonaireyellowsubmarine.com Phone: 717-2897. More on pages 4-5

COMING

Saturday, July 7 – Big Monthly Rincon Marshé, now a Bonairean tradition. Stands selling gifts, fruits and vegetables, candles, drinks, BBQW, local foods and sweets, music, friendly people. 6 am to 2 pm. In the center of Rincon. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

Saturday, July 7 – Monthly Flea Market at Parke Publico, 3 to 7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. More info and reservations for a spot call 787-0466

Saturday, July 7 Kick-off event for (GAFC) Great Annual Fish Count, Dive Friends/Yellow Submarine on 9:30 am. For more information call 791-4262. See page 9 for details.

Sunday, July 8- "Taste of Bonaire" sponsored by TCB at Wilhelmina Park, 6 to 9 pm. Stands selling food from

local restaurants, handicrafts, gifts, and more. Music, fun.

REGULAR EVENTS

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 play-ground open every day into the evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Steak Night On the Beach** (a la carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm
- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon. **Extra big Marshé 1st Saturday of the month, 6 am-2 pm.**
- **All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.
- **Wine Tasting at AWC's** warehouse, **2nd Saturday of the month**, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.
- **Flea Market every first Saturday of the month** from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

Sundays

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

Mondays

- **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 & 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
- **Friday Weekly Market at Wilhelmina Park** with local art, music and food; summer fashions, jewelry, glasswork, Bonaire pictures, driftwood art, paintings and all kinds of Bonaire souvenirs, 9 am to 2 pm..
- **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 : 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 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Zeezicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

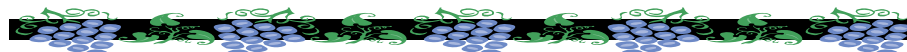
- **Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano)** 717-5246 or 7117
- **The Bonaire Swim Club-** Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451; Valarie@telbonet.an
- **Bonaire National Marine Park** - 717-8444.
- **Bonaire Animal Shelter** -717-4989.
- **Donkey Sanctuary** - 560-7607.
- **Jong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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

Send event info to:
The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Extensive snack/salad/burger. Menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm	Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights: Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10,-); Wed. - Caribbean Night A la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7-1- pm) 10:00 pm)
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 pm	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm
Hilltop Restaurant At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
The Last Bite Bakery Kaya Grandi 70 717-3293	Low-Moderate Open Tuesday through Saturday 7:30am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-2pm	NAf10 take out lunch Tuesday through Friday Main dish with 2 side dishes. Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna.
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 780-1111
Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant At the lighthouse, Harbour Village Marina 717-7725	Moderate Lunch Tuesday-Friday Dinner Tuesday-Sunday	Authentic Argentinean Cuisine Owned and operated by the Pablo Palacios Family from Argentina The beef is here and more.
The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all.	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the Wednesday Beach BBQ.

SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



AIRLINES

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

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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

BANKS

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

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

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

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. Full service dive shop and photo shop too.

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:

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

A Super Close Meeting of the Goddess of Love and the Lord of the Rings this Weekend!

Have we ever got a super cosmic goodie happening this weekend because the planet named for the goddess of love will have an incredibly close meeting with the planet often called the **Lord of the Rings**.

Did you Sky Park visitors notice earlier this week high in the west just after sunset the brightest of all the planets, 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**? Now and for the next month it's about as bright as it ever gets and is the third brightest object in the sky after the **Sun** and our **Moon**. Now the reason it's so bright is because it is shrouded in a bright cloud cover

which acts like a mirror because Venus, like all planets, does not make its own light but shines by the reflected light of the Sun. And Venus is the most reflective planet in our solar system.

Now up to Venus' left a much bigger planet, 75,000-mile-wide **Saturn**, can be easily seen even though it will be less than 1% as bright as Venus because it is so incredibly far away. In fact, whereas Venus this week is only 50 million miles away from **Earth**, Saturn is a whopping 925 million miles away! Now last Monday Saturn and Venus were only 3 1/2 degrees apart from each other. And since a full Moon is half a degree wide this means that 7 Moons could have fit between Saturn and Venus.

But things are always changing in the night sky, and on Tuesday the 26th only 3 degrees separated them, on Wednesday 2 1/3 degrees, Thursday, 1 2/3 of a degree and on Friday the 29th only 1 degree separates them, which means that only 2 full Moons could fit between them. But this weekend, Saturday and Sunday night, they'll be at their absolute closest, less than one degree apart, which means that only 1 1/2 full Moons could fit between them. And while they'll look wonderful to the naked eye they'll be even more wonderful through a pair of binoculars. And if you have a small telescope use it because not only will you be able to see the rings of Saturn but you'll also be able to see that Venus will look like a tiny crescent Moon.

Don't miss this weekend please. But if you do they'll still be very close on Monday July 2nd only slightly more than one degree apart, on Tuesday July 3rd, 1 3/4 degrees apart and on Wednesday the 4th of July they'll still be pretty close, only 2 1/4 degrees apart. Once again. Monday the 25th, Tuesday the 26th, Wednesday, the 27th, Thursday the 28th, Friday the 29th, Saturday and Sunday June 30th and July 1st, Venus and Saturn can almost reach out and shake hands with each other! Don't miss this weekend please! □ *Jack Horkheimer*



Mariner 10 image of Venus Calvin Hamilton photo



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday June 24 to Saturday June 30, 2007

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes. Try not to be too lavish with your lover. Any contributions you make to organizations will enhance your reputation and bring you offers. Keep your thoughts and opinions to yourself and you won't get dragged into an unsavory debate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You like to stay busy and now is your chance to do just that. Don't share your dilemma with those you work with. Take precautions while traveling; you don't have to get anywhere that fast. Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. Problems with large corporations or institutions are apparent. Sudden romantic connections may be short lived. Opportunities will unfold; however, you must be willing to pay the price. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Be cautious who you deal with financially. Resist any idle chatter. Opportunities for new partnerships and lovers will develop through the organizations you encounter. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) If possible, rely on coworkers to back your objectives, and talk to superiors in order to get approval. You should be able to get involved in an interesting proposition this week. You will enjoy lavish forms of entertainment and should consider making arrangements early. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly this week. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Protect your interests legally if necessary. Health problems may prevail if you haven't been getting enough rest. If you join intellectual or cultural groups, you should meet individuals who stimulate you. Be careful not to divulge secret information this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You will have some problems with children, but if you are patient you will win their favor. Things at home may be somewhat rocky. Romance and social activity will be a promising combination. You will find that social activities will lead you into passionate meetings. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will want to take off and have some recreation. Be careful what you say. Someone left a real mess for you to sift through. You must avoid gossip and focus on what you have to do. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't give in too quickly. You will be depressed and irritable with family. You should be on the road. You won't have much time for your mate this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try to curb your bad habits. It is time to clear your decks. Romance could be exciting if you are spontaneous. You will get bored quickly, so make sure that you have scheduled enough activity to hold your interest. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Take care of your personal needs. You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully this week. You will easily charm members of the opposite sex. You will not be able to contain your emotions this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will have to face each issue separately and in person. You may have a problem with coworkers if you try to tell them what to do. Your lack of interest in your partner is a problem. Try to mix business with pleasure while traveling. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday. □

Olympic Day Run

Thanks to Aubrey Sealy for text and photo.



This year's Olympic Day Run was, as usual, sponsored by the Netherlands Antilles Olympic Committee in cooperation with local sports groups. Starting and ending at the Sporthall on Kaya Amsterdam, it was divided into three classes for youngsters, adults as well as fast walkers and attracted the largest turnout ever.

Picture Yourself with *The Bonaire Reporter* At CHA, Miami, Florida

Bonaire's Bartender/Culinary Team poses and shows off *The Bonaire Reporter* at this year's "Taste of the Caribbean" in Miami, with BONHATA's Marion Wilson, Team Coordinator Sara Matera, Rum Runners' Nannie Gouwens and *Bonaire Reporter* Editor, Laura DeSalvo.

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



SARA A2/Defi Wind photo

Windsurfing(Continued from page 7) morning. Everybody had fewer problems and were kind of on time. The wind also dropped even more, blowing between 18 and 25 knots. Shortly after the start a huge windless spot appeared. Some of us got stuck for at least 30 seconds with no one planning. Then the wind kicked in again and everybody cruised at full speed. I had lots of fun this time passing people one by one even struggling to pass Exocet chief and shaper Patrice Bellbouch on his Long Board. Anders and Albeau were again way up front at full speed while Peter Bijl, sailmaker Neil Pryde's head tester, was getting closer and closer to even pass Anders on the last run. Phil McGain was still fast and holding a solid 5th position.

Muscles already aching, the riders were up for it anyway when the organizers suggested a third race of the day. A shorter race, same course, but just one lap... with the wind still solid at 18-25 knots. Albeau got off to a flying start, this time with Phil McGain hot on his heels, but to no avail, the French maestro taking his third first place of the day. Mr. Consistency, Pieter Bijl, was second and Israeli rider Arnon Dagan, third. McGain eventually finished fourth, followed by Micah Buzianis and Dan Ellis. I didn't take part in the third race.

Exocet arranged a helicopter shoot in

the afternoon for their new line of boards- the new line of the KONAS, EXO WAVE Boards and the WARP S series. (For further info surf to www.exocet-orginal.com)

We all had lots of fun on the water and really enjoyed the shoot.

At 6:10 pm, at the end of the day, at a huge happy hour in Gruissan there were big smiles on everyone's faces - pros and amateurs. Antoine Albeau confirmed his good early season form, but on that day windsurfing itself was the real winner, a page of the sport's history written and superb conditions to celebrate the occasion.

Next day it was time to pack and head back to Turkey. I skipped the EFPT event on the Greek island of Lefkas because I had just one day to make it there and it was not a really important event that would play a role in the overall rankings.

Back in Turkey I'm helping to organize one of the best freestyle events on the EFPT tour, the Alacati King of the Bay, that will be held from June 19-24. I began training hard for the next EFPT event on the Greek island of Rhodos on June 14-17. See the next *Reporter* windsurf reports for the exclusive stories.

Thanks for reading. □ *Ruben Petrsie*

Born On Bonaire

Ryan Engelhart

“I always wanted to work at an office. Sitting inside in the airco: that seemed really attractive to me! I went to SGB high school to study ETAO, where they prepare you to work in hotels and restaurants. After that I did MAVO. My first job was at Harbour Village. I worked at the front desk for only a month to replace someone. After that they asked me if I wanted to work behind the bar. From that moment on I worked in the restaurant business and I’ve been doing it for 18 years now. I like it a lot; I like to prepare the drinks, talk to people; there’s always time to chat and I speak four languages so I can talk to everyone. You get to know many people from all different cultures and you learn about the way they live in other countries and I tell them about how we live here, about our beaches and the dive sites.

I used to dive too. I got my certificate at Bon Bini Dive shop with Susan Davis 15 years ago, but I haven’t been diving for a long time because I don’t like it anymore and also my ear bothers me.

I was born here at the hospital. My father was Frank Engelhart from Playa Pabou; my mother was Maria Beacinta Boezem from Nort di Salinja. I have a sister, Justra, who’s living in Holland working at a school where she does the administration. She has a 15-year-old daughter, Maria. My brother Steven died here on Bonaire three years ago of a heart attack at the age of 33. He’d been living in Holland for 10 years.

I had a very good childhood; my parents weren’t very strict, they were quiet people. My dad was a fisherman and he took me out to sea many times. My mother worked in the kitchen of Divi Flamingo doing the dishes. My father passed away 10 years ago; my mother died five years ago, and ever since my sister has been asking me to come to live with her in Holland, but I don’t want to. I like it here.

After Harbour Village I worked at Coral Regency, then at Habitat. For the last three years I’ve been working at City Café, the last year only in the daytime. I don’t like to work at night anymore; I prefer to have the evenings off.

I like Bonaire because it’s quiet. I don’t need anymore than this. I’ve been on vacations to Venezuela, Curaçao, Santo Domingo and Aruba and it’s great to be there for a while, but to live I like a tranquil place. Many of my

friends left for Holland years ago, but lately quite a few have come back because life with the euro has become too expensive. They like to be back but they get bored too as they say, ‘There’s nothing to do on the island.’

When I’m free I go to visit my aunts, my mother’s sisters, who are living close to me in Nort di Salinja. It’s a very quiet and cozy area, different from Playa because if I need anything or I have a problem, people will always help me and they also look after my house when I am not there. In Playa they don’t do that. Here it’s more like family.

My grandmother, “Chepa” Boezem, lived here too. She was of Indian descent and had very long black hair. She passed away at 96, three years ago. It was a big blow because I loved her a

“I never think someone’s a bore or a nuisance. I talk to the people and somehow they change during the conversation and by the time they leave they’re in a good mood, making jokes”

lot. She liked the kitchen very much and knew how to prepare different *krioyo* dishes, like *kadushi* - a soup made from cactus - *yambo*, *kabes ku igra* - made from the head and liver of a goat - and iguana soup and stew. I always cook for myself too, easy food, like chicken in red wine, shrimp in garlic sauce and I can make a very good rice dish like nasi goreng” *he smiles*. “Maybe I’ll open my own restaurant some day - but - not yet!”

Ryan Engelhardt (33) is a sweet person. He’s gracious, elegant and patient.



He has a very attractive personality. He’s just real cute. “Americans are my best customers, but lately we’re getting good Dutch people too. I always get good tips. I’m friendly with people and I’ve got tons of patience - maybe too much I think sometimes - but I never think someone’s a bore or a nuisance. I talk to the people and somehow they change during the conversation and by the time they leave they’re in a good mood, making jokes. That’s the good thing about my job - I can make people happy! Many times I get invited by tourists to go out for dinner and I accept the invitation. They often bring me presents when they return. At restaurants’ opening nights I’m often asked by the owners to help them out. I helped Miriam and Martin at KonTiki when there was jazz every first Sunday of the month, and it was fun. Sometimes I help at Buddy Dive. I helped Joyce at La Guernica’s opening and Orlando and Ana at the opening of Zatará, the Red café.

Some years ago when Queen Beatrix was visiting Bonaire I served her a private lunch at Karpata. At the time I was working at Harbour Village and they’d asked me because I was one of the best waiters on the island. There were six of us waiters, eight people in the kitchen and three bartenders. We were all dressed for the occasion in black and white with white gloves and a black cummerbund. It was in the afternoon and it was very hot at Karpata, but the Queen was very nice, quiet.

I myself like to go out for dinner and I try all the restaurants. I love to eat and I don’t get fat! Before I used to party a lot, but those were the days... I’ve become very quiet. I don’t have a car. When I go somewhere I walk. I like to walk, but when I need it there’s always a friend to give me a ride.

To me Bonaire is still the same as it was when I was a kid, but there are a few things I would like to change. There should be more things for children to do. I see many children roaming the streets after school, and also I see many children not going to school at all. Another thing is that the old people are going through hard times because their pension is too little and everything has gone up, especially the utility bills. And if they have no family here it gets really difficult for them to make ends meet.

For me the most important thing in life is family. And I am always trying to help people and people help me too. You see, to me that’s the real beauty of Bonaire: Its people...” □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

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