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BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Communication Without Dialogue

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Photos by Albert Bianculli

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Bonaire News

“By accepting financial supervision, Bonaire has completed one of the actions required to have direct relations with the Netherlands,” said Finance Commissioner Burney El Hage. “Because of this the island’s financial position should improve and the debt problem tackled. Simply said, supervision has shifted from the Antillean Government to the Dutch.” According to El Hage Bonaire always was under the supervision of the Antillean Central Government. However, it was never implemented as required by law. The financial supervision becomes effective at the end of July. The supervision remains in effect until Bonaire becomes an integral part of Holland set for December 15, 2008.



► Bonaire banks have taken all necessary actions to counter “skimming.” **“Skimming” is a process which allows criminals to copy the information from a person’s credit card or debit card while they are using an ATM** (Automated Teller Machine). With the information copied off of the card’s magnetic stripe, criminals can produce illegal cards to use to withdraw funds or charge the legitimate owners’ accounts. Some banks have installed anti-skimming devices on all their ATMs. Additionally card users should suspect anything that looks peculiar about an ATM and be suspicious of “help” from strangers if their card doesn’t work. Security teams in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba have been highly effective in discovering skimming attempts, leading to the arrest and conviction of the criminals involved. **So far there have been no cases of skimming on Bonaire.** It is important that our visitors and local community be aware of this risk to protect themselves here and while traveling abroad as well. For additional information to feel free to contact your bank. (Issued by the Bonaire Banker’s Association)

► In September the University of the Netherlands Antilles will offer a six-year-long Law Study course on Bonaire leading to the degree of Bachelor or Master of Law. The course of study is aimed at educating professionals for a career under Bonaire’s planned new status as an integral part of The Netherlands. The education program joins UNA courses in Teaching and Papiamentu. To fine out about enrollment contact Evelyn Randt, Kaya Grandi # 52, (telephone 717 6095 or e-mail: lofo@una.an. UNA will need a minimum enrollment of 17 students



► Bonaire artist Henk Roozendaal will participate in a group art exhibition in the Broadway Gallery, 473 Broadway, in New York City’s artsy SoHo section this November. He is the first artist from Bonaire to be so honored.

Henk has lived and painted on Bonaire since 1999, where he discovered his ‘stylized realism.’ His works can be seen around the island, most notably at the Cultimara Supermarket and in many private collections. Here he is at Dia di Arte in Wilhelmina Park earlier this month.

before it will teach the course here.

The cost for the course is NAf. 3010,50 and payments can be arranged through local banks

More details are available on the UNA website, www.una.an

► The Bonaire government provides 22 sports facilities, including the stadium in Kralendijk, the field in Nòrt di Saliña, sport complex Tra’i Montaña, Johan Crujff Court in Tera Kòrà, La Sonrisa field in Tera Kòrà, the Little League Ball Park in Amboina, the Little League Ball Park in Rincon, and sports complex in Nòrt di Saliña. New Sports Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas says that former commissioner James Kroon did a good job in maintaining the sport complexes. The commissioner says that it is very important that the sports fields be well maintained. Nicolaas and acting director of Sedrebo, the Bonaire’s Sports Foundation, Francis Wanga, visited all the public sports fields recently.

► The FKPD (the center for the handicapped) is looking for volunteers – not because they’re short of staff – but with the purpose of integrating their people more into the island’s community. Everyone is welcome - locals and foreigners, occasionally, or on a regular basis - to mingle with the people, to chat, or to do something together with them like handicrafts, sewing or needlework, cooking or sports. During the daytime you may visit the center in Rincon to get an idea about the organization and its beautiful people. After 4pm and during the weekends you may visit the homes where people live under guidance, located close to the More for Less Supermarket in Nikiboko North. There will always be professionals to assist you and the language is no problem. Some of the people understand English and Dutch, but all of them understand the language that comes from the heart. If you have patience and love to give and if you feel like doing something that’s really appreciated and fulfilling you should give them a call. During working hours: 717-3936 or 717-6210 and ask for Shunilla Kroon.

► The Vision and Hearing Care Foundation of Bonaire has a new office in Tera Kòrà. The Foundation was founded 32 years ago and was called *Sociëteit voor Blinden* (Society for the Blind) in the beginning. The bylaws were modified recently and the foundation got a new name. It is currently focusing on vision with hearing to follow. The Foundation wants to provide information so people can recognize sight problems as early as possible because it often happens that eyesight fails because of neglect. Spokesperson Elka Coffie said the Foundation meets every Wednesday.

► Bonaire’s popular luncheon and dinner spot, **Bistro de Paris, has reopened after vacation and refurbishing and it’s better than ever.** Patrice and Fred have introduced a new “mochachino” and the daily specials are superb. The other day at lunch they served a lamb sandwich, lamb made only as the French can do it. If you’re looking for excellent French food served with the traditional French flair, stop by for lunch or dinner. Bistro de Paris is on Kaya Gob. Debrot, just south of the marina.

Antilles News

► The Curaçao Island Council finally agreed with the “final statement for the reorganization of the Antilles (Slotverklaring),” clearing the way for Curaçao to be part of the ongoing process along with the other islands. It was approved with 12 votes in favor and five votes against. Dutch State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten said, via her spokesperson, that the Netherlands is very pleased that Curaçao has agreed with the final statement. They are satisfied, especially because the approval of the final statement is in the interest of the people of Curaçao.

► St. Elisabeth Hospital, Sehos, in Curaçao is not able to offer vital medical care to all seriously ill patients, the Dutch newspaper, *Volkscrant*, reported last Saturday. Ac-

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According to the newspaper, Medical Director Douglas Pinedo asked the Dutch Minister of Health, Ab Klink, for 15 million euros to help solve the problems. During the last few weeks, 16 intensive care unit (ICU) patients were sent to Colombia, Venezuela or the US because all ICU beds in Curaçao were occupied. According to *Volkscrant*, the hospital lacks personnel and medical equipment. Sehos offers care to all ICU patients of the Dutch Antilles, including Bonaire, as well as neonatal care for Aruba. Dutch parliamentarians have been advised of the situation and will take action.

► Last week the Netherlands Antilles Olympic Committee, NAOC, announced that the International Olympic Committee had agreed to allow NAOC to continue even though the Antilles are committed to break apart politically. The NAOC, having served athletes of Curaçao, St. Maarten, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius for 75 years, is attempting to maintain its Olympic status. Representative of the local Olympic committee have met with sports leaders of the various islands to find a way to represent the interests of all the athletes despite the governmental and country status changes.

► The Social Security Bank, SVB, announced in its annual report that it had an NAf 23 million surplus in 2006. The SVB manages the Sickness Insurance Fund, the Accident Insurance Fund,

(Continued on page 8)

Bonaire Windsurfer Reports

Reports from two world windsurfing events by Bonaire's rap windsurf star, Ruben Petrisie

EFPT Events in Rhodos, Greece and Alacati, Turkey...

After the Le Defi event in France I headed back to Turkey to train for the upcoming European Professional Freestyle Tournament (EFPT) event that was going to take place on Greek island of Rhodos (Rhodes). One of the Turkish rides and I set off from Alacati to a southern town in Turkey called Marmaris. From there it's just a one-hour trip by ferry to Rhodos.

When we arrived in the port of Rhodos we were picked up by the organization and headed straight for the beach. We had one day to practice and prepare the equipment for the competition day. Some of the riders had already been there a week having lots of fun on and off the water. The entry list was pretty filled with some of the best European riders, showing that Rhodos was not an event they wanted to miss.

The last two years the EFPT event was held in Prasonissi on the south point of the island. After last year's experience we all were happy to compete in the northern part of the island on the Ilysos beach in Trianda. Side-shore winds (winds blowing along the coastline) and its three easy-access windsurf centers were ready to get you going. Lefteris from the Fanatic station put this amazing event together by himself and we all looked forward to the best of it.

This is a very touristy spot with high rise hotels right on the beach, while the little streets in the towns are packed with shops and restaurants. It was a more crowded and exciting atmosphere which gave the Rhodos event this year a special touch.

Day 1

Skippers' meeting was held at 11 o'clock and everybody got ready for the action. Conditions were super sunny, 28° C, water around 23°C and the wind was moderate from 17 to 22 knots. I was in the third heat against a Polish rider.

The heat started pretty well for me, leading by three moves, while my Polish opponent, "Mr. Winkowski," had not even realized that the battle had started. In the last minutes of the heat the wind dropped and I managed to put down some solid moves. The Polish rider left the heat before the end because of not being able to catch up with the amount of moves I had put down. So I easily advanced to the next round.

After some heats it was time for me to face a strong sailor from France, Nicolas. The heat started and we both exploded, giving it the best we could. At the beginning of the heat we were pretty much on the same level. I took out my Loft Sail 360 Free 5.8 just to make sure that when the wind died I could still have enough power to perform my maneuvers with speed, but unfortunately the wind got a bit stronger and my



Close competition at the mark in Rhodos - Ruben ahead in points

sail felt a bit too big. Nicolas managed to do some impressive moves and took the victory.

The rest of the heats went on and the Finals were between the famous Dutch boy, Kevin, and German brainiac, Mr. Paskowski. Kevin pulled out lots of difficult tricks and performed with great energy while Paskowski played the game safely and performed more moves at ease and did not even fall off at all. The current tour leader

(Continued on page 6)

New Bonaire Ambassadors



Paul Vossen and Anja Dahmen live in Herkenboschin, the state of Limburg. Together they manage Financial Consulting Firm in Roermond.

They first came to the Antilles to visit a friend who was working in Curaçao. The second time that they visited him, he gave them a one-day trip to Bonaire for their wedding anniversary.

They toured the island by scooter and have loved it ever since, returning again and again.

They love the sunshine, the splendid nature, the untouched and lovely island,

the culture and the friendly Bonairean people.

After their friend returned to Holland, they kept returning to Bonaire and stay at an apartment owned by the Sander family who are from Roermond too.

“We come every year to Bonaire and we are glad that we own a house on the island. We have been coming since 1991, and we want to stay in Bonaire once and for all, that is our dream.”

Paul and Anja from Holland are two of Tourism Corporation Bonaire’s Ambassadors. Congratulations! □ TCB release

Guest Editorial Bonaire – On Reflection.



After nearly three years on Bonaire, the time has come for my wife and me to leave. Looking back, these things I have learned.

Bonaire has an inherent beauty that cannot be described. It is a combination of people, climate, location and nature that, as a whole, makes it more than a sum of its parts. Few people visit Bonaire without discovering that. One of the biggest challenges on the island at the moment is addressing the balance between profitability and conservation. Bonaire's strength is also sadly its weakness. The fragility of its nature which is becoming more threatened by the day is the very reason that most people live, visit and return here. I would suggest that those who do live on the island should move away for a year. It is true that you don't know what you have until you lose it.

As Bonaire moves towards closer ties with The Netherlands, many changes are imminent. It is up to the people who care about the island to stand up for Bonaire's future. Progress cannot be stopped, but, one can decide if that progress is positive or negative. There is a need for better infrastructure, water delivery, public transport, sewage treatment, waste management, etc. These come at a price so revenue has to be found. A steady increase in tourism is OK but should not be the only source of income. Industry and production need to be encouraged to take away the reliance on the tourist dollar.

The Government needs to be made accountable for how Bonaire progresses. For every person who moves to the island to live and work in paradise, another arrives to bleed it dry. Greedy, unsympathetic developers snapping up land are the biggest threat to Bonaire at the moment. When there is no more land or property to buy or sell, these people will be gone. They care nothing about the infrastructure, the indigenous community or the future of those they leave behind.

Fortunately for Bonaire, there are people here who truly care. Let us hope that the slingshots with which our local heroes are armed are a match for the money that is the weapon of the many Goliaths.

As I look down on my island from aboard the KLM flight that will take me to pastures new, I will feel privileged to have been a part of it all. There are not many people in life who are lucky enough to have a life changing experience. I am one of the lucky few.

Masha danki, Boneiru.

Tony Bond

Ed. Tony Bond has contributed stories to The Reporter: Snack Detectives (Well, now you know) and World Cup reporting among them. We will miss him.

TURTLE TRACKING BEGINS AGAIN



STCB's Funchi Egbreghts and Mabel Nava with Eloise

FIRST TURTLE TRACKED FROM BONAIRE THIS NESTING SEASON IS THE FEMALE HAWKSBILL, "ELOISE"

Working in teams, staff and volunteers from Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) intercepted a large female Hawksbill turtle as she came ashore at 10:30 pm on Thursday, 12 July 2007 at No Name Beach on Klein Bonaire. Working into the early morning hours, they released "Eloise" back into the sea at 2:30 am with a satellite transmitter attached to her carapace. This is the first turtle that will be tracked this nesting season.



Funchi with Queen Beatrix at Klein Bonaire during her November '06 visit

If you will remember this past November, Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands visited Bonaire and offered to sponsor the tracking of one of our sea turtles. At that time she requested that the turtle be named after one of her granddaughters, Eloise.

"Eloise" measured 86.2 cm (33.9 in.) straight carapace length, and her weight is estimated to be in excess of 100 kg (220 lbs.). Typically it takes anywhere from 15 to 30 years for a sea turtle to reach maturity and they can live to be 60 years old or more. STCB staff originally tagged "Eloise" in June 2004 in the waters off Klein Bonaire when she last came here to nest.

This was the third nest "Eloise" laid this season with her last nesting being on 2 July. It is anticipated that she will lay one or more nests before she leaves the area to return to her home foraging grounds.

The first nest of the 2007 nesting season, a Loggerhead nest, was confirmed on No Name beach on Klein Bonaire on April 25.

The Truus & Gerrit van Riemsdijk Foundation, a private foundation, has pledged a grant of 25,000 Swiss francs (approximately US\$20,000 or NAF 50,000) for 2007. This very generous grant goes a long way in helping the STCB meet its fund raising goal for the year. STCB is asking for donations to help continue its work this year and next. Contact Mabel Nava at STCB, PO Box 492, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles phone (+599) 717 2225 or (+599) 780 0433 for more information or to contribute.

STCB exists to ensure the protection and recovery of Bonaire's sea turtle populations throughout their range. Founded in 1992, the STCB is a Bonaire-based, non-governmental and non-profit organization, part of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network. □ *STCB Press release & photos*

Eloise to Earth: "Transmitting OK"

Andy Uhr, head of the STCB writes, "In the past, we have used transmitters manufactured by Te-lonics, Inc. but for this deployment, we used a unit from Wildlife Computers. Perhaps we did something wrong in configuring the transmitter or did not secure the transmitter properly to "Eloise's" carapace?



"Eloise" resting at Knife off Klein Bonaire

Photo courtesy of Irene da Cunda

These and other possible problems went through our minds as we waited. Well, we received an email last night and while it contained only one data point, we are glad to report that the transmitter is functioning correctly and that "Eloise" appears to be right off Klein Bonaire.

We are pretty confident we know exactly where she is hanging out thanks to a report and video from Irene da Cunda, a dive instructor and photo-pro at Toucan Diving. While accompanying a group of divers on Friday morning, 13 July, at the Knife dive site, Irene came across "Eloise" resting in 13 m (40 ft) of water and took some outstanding video. Our thanks to Irene." □ *Andy Uhr*

Windsurfing Report Continued from page 3) took the victory. I was stuck in position number 9.

On the same afternoon Lefteris and the race director Harry decided to run the double elimination right away, and of course for Damike, the Tour manager, it wasn't a problem at all.

So off we went. I was set in the second heat against another Polish rider, the Polish champion. I was really motivated and started the heat with a huge forward loop and pulled out some technical moves in between my routine. The Polish rider was not too stable and I took the victory. I advanced to face the Norminator, Mr. Gunzlein, another German talent who was actually on fire because of being kicked out by Kevin in the single elimination. I gave it the best I could give, but even that was not enough to stop Mr. Gunzlein. He advanced heat after heat, climbing up the ladder to meet with his final enemy, Mr. Paskowski. They both performed really well. But Andre had just more of a unique taste in his routine which gave him the victory over the double elimination...and winner of the 4th EFPT freestyle event held in Ialysos, Rhodos North.

Final results after double elimination:

1. Andre Paskowski Germany
2. Norman Gunzlein Germany
3. Kevin Mevissen Holland
9. Ruben Petrisie Bonaire

Day 2

The next day of the event we held a skippers' meeting at noon and Mr. Lefteris, event organizer, decided to run a super session in front of the crowded beach.

We all had lots of fun pulling some of our best moves and at the same time making use of the opportunity to train a bit for the upcoming event which will be in Turkey.

At night we had a nice barbecue organized by one of the surf stations in cooperation with the Blue Horizon Hotel. It was a nice relaxing atmosphere. Afterwards we held the awards ceremony and even with some difficult circumstances the event organizer and the surf station did their very best to give us all a sweet time in Rhodos. Some riders had to catch their flights while a bigger group arranged for the equipment to go to the port where we would have to catch our ferry to Turkey. Arkin from ASPC surf center in Turkey was in Rhodos to help us along the way to Turkey.

Bye Bye to Rhodos, Greece, and Hello to Alacati, Turkey

The EFPT riders and crew jumped on the ferry the next morning. We all had a relaxing morning and the ferry took about one hour to reach Marmaris, a southern town in Turkey where we had, like last year, a truck waiting to carry over 25 board bags. This time we had a bigger, fully air conditioned bus. Everything went a lot different from last year except that our driver was driving like we were on some kind of school trip. Even other buses were faster than we were, just for you to imagine how slow we were going.

Anyway, after about five hours with some stops of course, we made it from

Marmaris through Izmir to Alacati where the wind was still blowing a bit. We even had some kids waiting to at last meet with their European windsurf stars. We all quickly unloaded the truck full of board bags and yes, there was still time for a late afternoon session. Some of the riders went out and gave it a try.

The next day was another training day and every body took it easy. At night we had an amazing dinner at a fancy restaurant, Club Baba, followed by a meet and greet party at Shaka Bar.

The next day we all registered and headed down to the beach for the official skippers' meeting at 11 o'clock. Conditions were sunny, 29° C, water 25° C. The wind normally is more stable after 1pm; it was between 17-22 knots.

I was set in the first heat to open the event against a Turkish rider. Since I train with all of them I know their exact abilities so I just took it easy and advanced to the next round, again facing the Frenchman, Nicolas. The wind seemed to get more gusty than it was before and some heats were even canceled. Some of the other Turkish riders had gotten a lot better than last year and even kicked out some interesting big names of the EFPT.

Besides that we had a special newcomer from Bonaire, Mr. Bjorn Saragoza himself, showing us his amazing quick performance to overcome the Austrian champ Rossi. Afterwards he met with the 2004 EFPT champ and really gave him a hard time, until the heat was canceled because of too light winds, but Bjorn was still able to do all sort of switch stance combinations. After another try the Italian was aware of Bjorn's level and pushed harder. In the end Bjorn just missed one move which he pulled off too late and the Italian took the victory.

The next day the wind did not show up at all. During the day there was also a fun light wind event where the riders could impress the crowd with some crazy sail flips and combinations. Our Bjorn made his way to the podium to win a special prize sponsored by Oakley. That was it, no results, and the Crown for the King of the Bay stayed in Turkey.

In the late afternoon the awards ceremony was held at the ASPC surf station followed by a happy hour and BBQ with the Power FM radio station. We all had a good time again this year in Turkey thanks to the support of the ASPC surf center and corporate sponsors.

Next up is a small event in Perna, Croatia, followed by the European Freestyle Championships of Production Boards in combination with the EFPT tour that will be in Belgium next Month.

Thanks for reading and look out for the next windsurf reports. □ *Ruben Petrisie*



Bonairean Windsurfers in Turkey: Windsurfer Mom, Lethica Saragoza, son Jurgen, Ruben Petrisie in the back, Bonaire's Olympic windsurf champion, Patun Saragoza, and other son Bjorn.

Bonaire's Youngest World Champion



Amado waves the flag as Jurgen looks on

AMADO VRESWIJK named World Champion Under 13 Windsurfer-Alacati, Turkey

Results received in Bonaire on Saturday from the Slalom ProKids competition showed that Bonaire continues to be a "name" in the world of windsurfing.

Amado Vrieswijk, 11, from Bonaire, was able to beat a lot of older boys and girls and took 3rd place in the Under 15 Slalom ProKids class. This also put him in first place in the Under 13 group. The windsurfing press calls him "promising." You bet!

In Freestyle young Bjorn Saragoza was never in trouble and secured his third place. □ *BVO release*

BONAI Students at World War II site



Jacky Bernabella, Dr. Jay Havisser and BONAI member Daniella Bissessar discuss the site map.

World War II changed Bonaire forever. It was the foundation for the modern Bonaire culture introducing 20th century technology, and, as a result of the contact with the about 100 American soldiers stationed on the island, modified the up until then mostly Dutch, African and Indian inspired customs. To learn more about this pivotal era in Bonaire's history Antilles' Archeologist Dr. Jay Havisser with Jackie Bernabela and Hubert Vis of SKAL (Cultural Preservation Department) supervised a group of high school students, aged 14-18, in a study of the site where the troops were stationed.

The students are part of the educational enrichment program called BONAI (Bonaire Archaeological Institute) which has over the years done archeological work at Fort Oranje, put together the whale display at Washington Park

off the Rincon road, just north of the ball field at Subi Blanku. From 1942-1947 the site was used for radar control, communications and as part of the operations of Bonaire's first airfield at Subi Blanku.

The daily fieldwork at the Tanki Maraka site was done by the BONAI students, six to 16 of them, working each day in the hot sun and dust of the *mondi*. The primary objectives of the project are to record the camp structures to be able to reconstruct the plan of the camp and to conduct excavations to recover artifacts from the site. During the first week of fieldwork the BONAI team dug two, one by two meter excavations, made surface collections over the site area, and began mapping of the structures' ruins at the site. The second week continued with the site mapping, additional excavations and hosting a visit by older Bon-



Dr. Jay Havisser explains the site to some of the BONAI members

and numerous other projects that have benefited Bonaire's residents and visitors.

Their current research is an archaeological investigation of the remains of the US military camp at Tanki Maraka,

aire citizens, some of who actually worked at this military camp in the war years, and who explained some of the site features, as well as details of life at the camp.

Numerous artifacts from the WW-II



Dr. Havisser explains some techniques to Culture Commissioner Maritza Silberie

period have been uncovered: tin cans, glass bottles and construction materials used for the camp barracks. The final map of the entire site area is expected to be one of the most important results of this BONAI study.

An additional benefit of this research is to highlight the positive relationship between Bonaire and the US during the war years, as a compliment for tourism. It may even be possible that someday the Tanki Maraka WW-II military camp could be made into an open-air park for visitors and locals to better understand the effects of times gone by, according to Havisser. A crew from the NBC affiliate, *Dive Travel TV Channel*, filmed at the site.

The BONAI students will be continuing the project by conducting more oral history interviews about the World War II period with Bonaireans who remember the period first-hand.

Archaeology is not always about the very distant past. BONAI's work is proving this to be true. □ Jay Havisser/G.D.

Report: Open House at Tanki Maraka

Tanki Maraka, somewhere off the Rincon Road, Saturday, July 14, 2007

It was more than 60 years ago that about 100 soldiers lived in these barracks at Tanki Maraka, but today the clues are there as to what life might have been like. Soldiers from the American Army were here from 1942 to 1945. Then after the war, from 1945 to 1947 the base was occupied by soldiers from Puerto Rico, which at the time was the

US command base for the Caribbean.

At the open house last weekend the public was able to get a look and feel for what the BONAI group of students discovered on the site. Many of the finds were right on the surface. There were lots of beer bottles – from everywhere – the US, Puerto Rico, Venezuela. Those bottles that had non-screw caps had their tops sheared off. Was this a macho thing – to drink from a ragged glass bottle top? The students found Clorox bottles, the bottom of which have a code that tells the date it was manufactured. Other bottles once contained witch hazel or cologne. There were parts of kerosene lamps, parts of tin cans that showed how they were opened – with a knife or a can opener. There was even a sole of a shoe. Toothpaste containers, most likely military issue, and combs turned up. (The Army must have been concerned with good health and hygiene.) They found building materials – barbed wire, roofing shingles and a rotted out frame for a screen door. Even in those days the mosquitoes and *limbi limbis* must have been nasty. The students found parts from a 1939 Ford military truck. Roads built of local coral rock over the clay-like soil still exist. The footings of the tall radio mast are still there. The tower was an impressive site, according to someone who remembered seeing it. In the area, comprising about 200 by 200 meters, the group found 15 structures, the most important and top secret being the radio and refrigeration buildings: one because it was the communication link to the east for the Curaçao air base, monitoring air and U-boat traffic, and the other for the equally important perishable foods it housed. □ L.D.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
the Old Age Pension Fund and the Widows and Orphans Fund.

► **United Telecommunications Services (UTS) reports a profit of NAf 25 million**, confirmed Transport and Communication Minister Maurice Adriaens and UTS director Paul de Geus. The profit is in stark contrast to the figures of 2003, 2004 and 2005. During those years, the combined losses amounted to close to NAf 100 million. UTS is owned by the Central Government and is one of the assets that must be divided when the Antilles is dissolved. The company employs 500 people and promotes the "Chippie" cell phone system on all Antillean islands, The Netherlands and St. Kitts & Nevis in addition to wireless "cable TV" on Bonaire and Curaçao.

► **The Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles made a profit of NAf 74.9 million in 2006**, NAf 20 million more than the year before. The profit was paid out to the Central Government as a dividend. The Central Bank says the profit depends largely on the turnover on the income it generates.

Of the profit, 59.5 million came from so-called license fees, including the 1% Bonaire residents pay when withdrawing dollars from the bank.

If after December 15, 2008, the Central Bank will operate only for the new countries, St. Maarten and Curaçao, the picture won't change much, said the bank's President Emsley Tromp. Bonaire, Statia and Saba, which are to become overseas parts of the Netherlands, only account for 3 to 5% of the activities.

► **Inflation in the country dropped to 2.9% in 2006 after reaching a peak of 3.8% in 2005**, said Central Bank Director Emsley Tromp. He expects inflation to drop to 2.5% this year. The unemployment rate dropped from 16.2% in 2005 to 13.2% in 2006. This played a part in the improvement especially in Curaçao. Right now Bonaire has a labor shortage.

Despite the robust increase of spending in the private sector, the economy of the Netherlands Antilles grew in 2006, at the same pace as in 2005. The real gross domestic product (BBP) was 1.5% in both years. Tromp still assumes a higher economic growth of 1.7% in 2007.

► **The first pay-out for the cancelling of the Antillean debt by the Netherlands will take place at the end of 2007**, Dutch Finance Minister Wouter Bos wrote in a letter to the Dutch Second Chamber. The initial intention was to start with the debt cancellation this July. In the spring financial report of the Dutch Cabinet, the debt cancellation was to begin in July and proceed at a relatively quick pace. But some delay has occurred within the process, Bos wrote.

► **Elvis Tjin A Sjoie, the UPB party member known for his Internet and computer business on Bonaire was sworn in at the Governor's House** in Curaçao as the new Antillean Minister of Economic Affairs, the Government Information Service reported to the



Elvis Tjin A Sjoie is sworn in.

press. Tjin A Sjoie replaces Burney Elhage who resigned as a minister to return to Bonaire to resume the position of Commissioner in the Bonaire Island Council.

► The Antillean Government has nominated former Minister and ex-leader of Bonaire's UPB party, **Rudy Ellis, to become its new member on the Dutch Council of State**, the Curaçao newspaper, *Antilliaans Dagblad*, reported. The nomination will be discussed in the Kingdom Council of Ministers on August 24, after which Queen Beatrix is expected to approve. Ellis will replace Gilbert Wawoe, who is retiring at 70, the maximum age for the job.



► **The Hr.Ms. Van Nes (F833), a fighting frigate, is the new Dutch navy ship on station in the Caribbean.** Besides establishing a maritime presence for The Netherlands in the area she will be used in countering drug smuggling. On board is a "Law Enforcement Detachment" (LEDET) of the US Coast Guard. In addition to its guns and missiles the ship is equipped with a Lynx helicopter. The ship is 122 meters long, with a beam of 14.4 meters and draws 6.2 meters. Power is provided by twin Stork Werkspoor diesels and two Rolls Royce gas turbines for a speed of at least 29 knots. She has a crew of 144 commanded by Sea Captain-Lieutenant Wolter Sillevius Smitt.

► **New in the Port of Curaçao is a high tech container scanner.** It will be used for security purposes and to check for improper customs declarations.

(Continued on page 16)

DO YOU SUDOKU?

Sudoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site www.Sudoku.shack.com. Answer on page 12.

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

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

Special Olympics Team Ready For China

The Bonaire Special Olympics team will leave for Shanghai for the World Games in a little more than two months.

This Saturday, July 21, Digicel will celebrate its first anniversary on Bonaire and the proceeds of the bar will go to Special Olympics Bonaire.

The games will bring athletes from around the world to demonstrate their strength, dedication and skill. The athletic abilities of these individuals are tremendous and it demonstrates what obstacles these persons are willing to overcome despite their disabilities. It's a demonstration of the ability of the human spirit to soar.

The Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. Bonaire teams have brought home medals from Special Olympics World games in 2003 and 1999.

Special Olympics was founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver. It provides year-round sports training and athletic competition to more than 2.5 million people with intellectual disabilities in more than 165 countries.

The games will be held from October 2-11 in Shanghai, China, bringing together close to 7,500 disabled athletes from more than 160 countries. □G.D.



Special Olympics Bonaire Board and coaches



Athletes, coaches, volunteers and family members in Playa on Monday meet the public in front of Digicel on Kaya Grandi

Bonaire Special Olympics Team Members going to Shanghai:

Athletics:

Marion Melaan
Patrick Bernabela

Aquatics:

Jean Pierre Winklaar
Urnix Martijn

Tennis:

Winella St Hillare
Jurney Martis

Bowling:

Natiana Nicolina
Revelino Engelhart
Joanne Albertsz
Omar Leonicia

Bocce:

Rodilio Weef
Silvine Offerman
Lucille Soleana
Johnny Helmund

Announcements

Magic Ed Graduates



Edgar J.R. Janga (Magic Ed) graduated with an Associate Degree in Architecture in Aruba, and that's why he was invisible on the island for a while. In his younger days he did website work for *The Reporter*.

In his four Aruba years he was very active presenting magic shows on that island. He even attended a magicians' seminar in Las Vegas! (See Picture Yourself on page 22) Now he is back and working at a local architectural firm.

However, now he is preparing whole new concept of entertainment, unique for Bonaire. Follow *The Reporter* for more information. □ G.D.

Rotary Turnover



Ruud Vermeulen accepting the presidency from outgoing leader, Marisela Croes

The Bonaire Rotary Club held its Turn Over Event on June 30 following the election of a New Board of Directors. They were joined by members from Curaçao Rotary, Bonaire's Lt Governor Herbert Domacassé, and Dick Westendorp from the Zoetermeer-Geuzen Club.

This year's motto is "Rotary Shares." As an ongoing commitment to the community of Bonaire for the project, "Breakfast in Schools," this year's motto really touches our Club. Share to help others

The new Board for 2007-2008:

Ruud Vermeulen - President
Huub Groot - Secretary
Corine van der Hout - Treasurer
Marisela Croes - Sergeant at Arms
Incoming President - Sara Matera.
□ Rotary release



The parrotwatch chicks are doing well. Both Olivia and Wilhelmina at this time have four chicks. If you haven't seen it already you can even watch a movie of Olivia's second chick as it hatches from an egg. We didn't manage to film any of the Watakeli chicks hatching, but there is now a movie of mum climbing down into the nest and feeding the chicks.

We're not sure just how well Olivia's fourth chick is doing. He doesn't seem to be gaining weight as we'd hoped. The older chicks are much larger and the fourth chicks generally have a hard time to keep up. We'll have to see....

In general it's been another mixed week. Sadly we've lost a few more chicks, but the good news is that there are other chicks that are doing well. Some even have so many feathers bursting open that they look like real Loras now.

It's yet another week of sad news for Bonaire's Loras and in particular from the ParrotWatch pairs. All four chicks in the Watakeli nest have died. The nest was overrun with ants and they are almost certainly what killed the poor

little chicks. The overhang nest has also suffered a loss. It was mentioned last week that the smallest chick was not doing so well and he unfortunately didn't make it.

It really has been a tough year for the Loras so far. At the beginning of the breeding season we knew of 31 nests that had eggs. There are now only 15 of those nests that are active, so we've lost just over half. These losses are mostly due to natural process, of course, and to some extent these are important factors that keep the population strong. If the natural losses are high, as we observe, then the impact of poaching is much worse, and it leaves very few chicks to join the wild population.

It is not all doom and gloom, however. The good news is that the three chicks that remain in the overhang nest are doing well. We have video of them and this can of course be seen on the ParrotWatch website! Please help support our work by visiting www.parrotwatch.org. Sponsorship is only \$8 and for that you get to see loads of incredible parrot movies. ☐



STEALING BABIES

Dear Olivia,

I was extremely shocked last week to read of the chicks poached from one of the nests that the parrot-watch team have been monitoring. For a human family this would be an absolute tragedy to lose four babies in one fell swoop. I was wanting to know how easy you Loras find it to pick up the pieces after such an event. It must be terrible for the parents of those chicks who have invested so much in raising them.

Carlos

Dear Carlos,

Thank you for your sympathy. I will pass on your condolences to the family concerned. Although these atrocities still occur every year here on Bonaire it still comes as a distressing shock that people still take chicks from the wild, especially at such a young age when they are difficult to take care of.

Studies you humans have done on adult parrots have concluded that we are at least as intelligent as a five year old child (the child in question must have been an absolute genius in my opinion!). The parrots in those tests could identify colours, shapes and sizes. They could also count and even conjugate verbs.

How do you think a five year old child would feel if you took away their family? Loras are extremely social birds too. You need only visit Dos Pos late in the year when we form flocks of over 100 birds. We notice when individuals disappear, so losing all our chicks in one year is very traumatic. It is not as if we can simply re-nest either. The number of breeding efforts we can make are limited by our biology and we also time it so our chicks hatch when there is the most food. Starting again now simply isn't an option. These are sad times for Loras.

Thanks again for your concern,
Olivia Parrot

WHAT'S THE CAUSE

Dear Olivia,

I have been distressed to read about the loss of chicks that some of your contemporaries have suffered this season. Is this unusual or are chicks and nests lost during every breeding season? What is the cause of such losses?

Maritza

Dear Maritza,

It is terrible when these things happen, but alas they do. Every breeding season Loras unfortunately lose chicks or nests. Some years are much worse than others. In a particularly dry year food shortages may lead to the starvation of the youngest chicks. We rely on good years to boost our population.

The reasons for failures are varied and happen at different times. Chicks are most prone to starvation during the early days before they have any reserves to draw on. In the later stages the chicks are more likely to be taken by poachers as they are less work for the poachers to look after and more likely to survive poaching. Those poor individuals in captivity, however, cannot help to increase our numbers after a bad year.

Yours,
Olivia Parrot

PS: On the left is a screen grab of a movie on www.pattotwatch.org that shows my babies.



A Better Fire



During full moon nights especially STINAPA and STCB staff have been warning people who are building campfires on the beaches. Even though there are no signs posted in most places, making an open fire on the beach is not allowed.

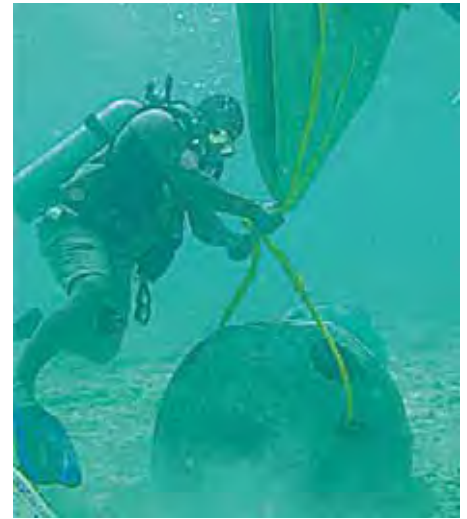
The other night they got a welcome surprise. A group of local people were enjoying an evening with friends on the beach and they had lit a variety of large candles to create the nice atmosphere that a campfire can bring. The person who came up with this idea must have such a great love for his island that he went as far as to be creative in order to create the nice atmosphere of a campfire while still protecting the environment by not polluting the beach with charcoal and possibly destroying a turtle nest. This person is Franki Winklaar, the son of Rosmarie Winklaar. After 22 years of living in Holland, he came to Bonaire to spend a holiday with his mother. Franki has the right attitude. STINAPA offers words of admiration to him. Franki also knows that here on Bonaire, "Nature is our livelihood." □ *STINAPA release*

A Good Idea Gone Bad

When people began dumping used tires in the ocean 40 years ago to create artificial reefs they gave little thought to the eventual environmental cost, or to the difficulty in removing them. "It was one of those ideas that seemed good at the time," said Jack Sobel, a senior scientist at The Ocean Conservancy, a Washington-based environmental group. "Now I think it's pretty clear it was a bad idea."

Now, local authorities are going after some 700,000 tires dumped off the coast of Fort Lauderdale. The idea was to provide a habitat for fish while disposing of trash from the land, but the straps and cables holding them together wore out and now thousands have been tossed up on shorelines.

The tires dumped off Fort Lauderdale posed a particular nasty threat when they broke free and ran into a living reef, climbing up its slope and killing everything in their path. US states no longer permit tire reefs. But Sobel said the entire concept of artificial reefs needs to be reexamined. They have been created around the globe using all manner of material, from tires and concrete sewer pipes to discarded airplanes and ships. They are promoted by local officials as tourist attractions and by fishing captains and scuba operators who say they create new habitats and nurseries for fish and other sea creatures.



Setting Reef Balls in Bonaire
Reporter file photo

But Sobel said there are big questions that need to be answered. Do they damage natural habitats, as the tires did off Fort Lauderdale? Do they concentrate marine creatures and make it easier for fishers and divers to catch them, exacerbating an overfishing problem and causing lasting damage to fisheries? Do they draw eggs and larvae that would otherwise settle in natural habitats? "There's little evidence that artificial reefs have a net benefit," Sobel said.

Bonaire has minimal artificial reefs. The most recent are the "reef balls" off the Sand Dollar resort. □ *G.D.*



Communication Without Dialogue

Time Travel – Energy Transfer

Let me start by saying that I am not a scientist. I observe, and then ask the question, “WHY,” when I see something happening in our underwater world. The great oceans are the major part of our planet; 90% of it is unknown to us, its human inhabitants. We are distracted by the trivia of the terrestrial world around us. What is important to our survival, as a species, lies below the surface of the oceans that fuel our livable environment.

My Experiments and Results Underwater

Frogfish are amazing creatures. Over eons, they have evolved as fisher-fish, just like fishermen have, more recently! Their “fishing poles” are equipped with lures and bait on the end. They are better than humans because they don’t need hooks and line to capture the prey. They simply swallow “their catch” instantly, when it gets within their kill zone. One day, I decided to help Max, a Frogfish that I had been visiting for a week or more, by “Communicating without Dialogue” only by thought and then action on my part. I approached Max as usual but without my camera. He greeted me and started to move forward toward some small fish under a brain coral. I thought (said) to Max, “You don’t have to use your fishing pole today, I will help you get your food.” As I hovered motionless, I slowly extended my arms and used my outstretched hands to herd and force the small fish closer to Max. He responded immediately by stopping his forward movement and adopted his catching posture, well known to biologists and observant, visiting divers. As the small fish got within the “capture zone,” Max simply gulped them down **without** using his pole and lure! We repeated this “dialogue” many times for many days sometimes with other divers watching. Max was always receptive and exhibited a cooperative manner at my approach and invitation. **No talking involved!**

French angelfish are a very common and beautiful sight on the reefs surrounding Bonaire, where I live. I have befriended a pair of these creatures at one of my favorite dive sites and introduced them to many of my dive buddies. They are very friendly, energetic, receptive and enthusiastic. Meet “Brigitte” and her twin sister “Genevieve.” After watching and studying their behavior patterns for years, one day, I decided to try an interaction. I thought (said) to them, “Are you hungry?” They looked straight into my eyes and gave me a very emphatic thought (answer), “Are you kidding, get real, Yes!” I grabbed a rock, really a piece of

(dead) coral rubble, and turned it over and held it out to them. The “French Twins” immediately looked down at it and started to munch on the algae and sponge growths, while I held it. Since that first magical encounter my French lady friends have greeted me every time I have returned to that dive site. We have even had intimate contact by stroking and touching each other, at their initiative, sometimes in the company of other curious dive buddies. **All this has been accomplished without verbal instruction.**

Tarpon can be scary at times. They hover around the reef during the day and watch diving behavior. Unseen, at night they follow divers and concentrate on the high intensity beams from our dive lights. When they spot a tasty morsel they dart past the unsuspecting diver and in a lightning like strike, with a great lunge forward, gulp down the prey and disappear in a blur of silver. The shocked diver tries to calm down, slow their rapid breathing and recover from an accelerated heartbeat. I decided to test my newfound power on these crafty beasts. At a place where many Tarpon assemble in close quarters, passing the daytime hours with lazy socializing, I swam into their midst and thought (said), “Lets have some fun together...OK?” The thought (response) was an overwhelming, “What did you have in mind?” I thought (said), “Blowing bubbles!” I took my alternate air source and pressed the purge button, releasing a short burst of bubbles, over and over again. I watched in amazement as several big Tarpon went to the surface, gulped in air and circled around me blowing bubbles out of their mouths! This stunt has been performed to many witnesses on repetitive dives at this same spot for years. **Never have I spoken a single syllable to my silver buddies.**

Is all this Possible?

Let me make this crystal clear. It is not only possible, it truly happened and is continuing to happen to this day. Get in the water and see for yourself. I want to suggest a possible explanation for these events for you to contemplate and consider.

Did you know that the entire universe around us is made from energy and that it (the energy) can be shaped and manipulated by **your** thoughts? **You have that power if you want it. Do you? Believe it, because this is the proposition of both modern Quantum Physics and ancient Metaphysics. If you are interested, keep reading!**

Chi is the term used by the Chinese mystics and martial artists for the underlying



Albert transmits to the French ladies

force the Universe is made of. Mystics in all cultures have talked about the physical universe being made of an underlying form of something. Modern physics research is now coming to understand that the universe is made of energy, which is subject to, or affected by, thought. Just as modern physics says this energy is affected by thought the mystics also say this underlying form is affected by thought, even going so far as to claim we create our own reality from our thinking **and the thoughts we share between each of us every day. That’s an interesting concept, I must say.**

Communication Without Hardware or Dialogue!

I call this phenomenon mentioned above “communication without dialogue.” Such communication includes thoughts, ideas, feelings, sensations and mental images. The success of this experience is closely connected to the emotional states of both the sender and receiver. Attitudinal factors like supportive and receptive subjects also influence the outcome of each transmission. Preserving your “ideal form” will make anything possible for you as a transmitter or receiver.

How Our “Ideal Form” is Shaped

In all humans, there is an *ideal form* each of us has. This ideal form is the highest and clearest expression of who we are.

The way we acquire deviations from our *ideal form* is to accept limitations into our life. Most of this comes from early childhood because that is the phase of life where we are the most open and inquisi-

tive about life. A limitation may be a parent yelling, “**BE QUIET!!!**” enough times that the child never learns to speak. Another limitation may be a limp that continues longer after the physical injury has healed, maybe with phantom pains. These limitations are behavior patterns, eating patterns, physical limitations, imagined physical limitations, psychological, mental, or emotional ways of being, living, expressing or loving that is not in exact alignment with our personal highest expression.

Our lives are a constant flow of patterns of activity, such as the pattern used to accomplish eating breakfast. It is our choice to keep these patterns stuck in narrow and limited expression, or to liberate the old patterns and try on new and shinier ones that clearly exhibit your “ideal form.”

Now think it over, it’s all up to you to decide. □

Story & photos © Albert Bianculli 2007



Author Albert Bianculli has been visiting Bonaire since 1970 and now lives on Bonaire full time. See his show every Monday night at the Casablanca Restaurant beginning at 6 pm. .

Coral Reproduction

Did You Know...

That corals have many different ways of reproducing? If you've ever taken one of my classes, then you know that I'm fascinated with the sex lives of reef inhabitants. I can't help it! It's just so intriguing. Corals, for example, have many different strategies of producing offspring. Some spawn every month (finger coral), while others only once a year (boulder star coral). Some are male, some are female, and many are hermaphroditic. Some broadcast their eggs and sperm and others accept sperm from other colonies and brood their fertilized eggs. Some larvae are planktonic for weeks and have to get their symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) from the environment. Others inherit their symbiotic algae from their mother and only swim a short distance before settling. Branching corals (photo) are rather asexual and rely mostly on fragmentation during storms for their reproduction! With all of these different strategies, it's hard to keep track. Much is still unknown. Scientists thought all corals brooded their larvae until the 1980s when mass spawning events were observed.

Here in Bonaire, many of our more abundant corals use lunar and water temperature cues to synchronize their spawning in September and October, six to eight nights after the full moon and you can bet I'll be out watching!

□ *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 □.



Cricket In Bonaire?



The cricket game underway in the St. James Medical School parking lot last Monday

Can it be? Cricket in Bonaire? We came across a game in the parking lot of the St. James Medical School on Monday evening and were pleasantly surprised. No white uniforms but the enthusiasm was there. Captain of the “Medcricks” cricket team at the St. James School of Medicine, Vijendra Singh, filled us in.

“There are eight students and professors on my team, including me, Dr. Rajesh, Dr. Ramkrishna, Dr. Sai Krishna, Syeed, Bittu, Savi, and Jothis Jose. The other St. James team, called “Medstrikers,” is headed by Dr. Praveen (professor); the other members of his team are Dr. Raj, Ajay, Singh, Dj Amandeep, Sashin, Shaheed Faruk and Ehsaan. Occasionally we have more people who join us for the game. There are also two girls who play with us (Misbba and Amelia) and they play really well. The game is usually played on weekends except during exam week. Most of the players/

students playing cricket are from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, but there are a few Americans who are interested in the game too.

We play in the school's parking lot. The ball used for bowling is a special Cosco tennis ball which is covered with insulating tape to prevent any injury to people watching the game or people on the streets.

We've been playing cricket for over one year. The game was started with just seven players, but it shot to popularity in five months. It's good exercise and relaxing for the students who are tired after a long week of studies to kick back and enjoy. The school is helping to get the proper cricket accessories like pads and new bats for us. The game is similar to baseball; but pitching is called bowling and there are no home runs. Next month the school plans to have an intra-school cricket tournament between the Medcricks and the Medstrikers.” *L.D.*



Batter up!

Over the Top Cleanup Dive

On Saturday, July 14, an enthusiastic group of 46 persons consisting of divers, snorkelers, and shore support met at the Dive Friends Bonaire Yellow Submarine location to clean the house reef.

Unexpectedly nearly half of the participants were visiting tourists, which is a much more than normal. The visitors melded with the “locals” into one great group, which then split into two groups to scour the underwater terrain and shoreline going either north or south of Yellow Submarine.

In a comprehensive briefing by Susan Davis of NetTech, the divers were informed of the requirements of the Bonaire National Marine Park in that no gloves are allowed during cleanups. Additionally, they were advised to act as their own police—not to get too caught up in bringing up every piece of trash from the bottom—if the trash had become colonized by corals, hydroids, or other organisms, the cleaners were expected to leave the trash in place. Only new trash without any sort of marine encrustation or animal inhabitation was to be fully checked, and only then brought to the surface.

Shore duty and Critter Control was ably handled by Bonaire’s own REEF expert, Linda Ridley, who demonstrated to others working shore support how to responsibly check the trash once it had been brought up: The trash had to be immediately checked to be sure no marine animals had been inadvertently included, and in which case when animals were found, they were immediately returned to the ocean.

Another important factor of shore duty is to sort the trash, count it, and then dispose of it all in a safe manner. Although it had been only six months since this area was last cleaned, it did yield a surprising amount of new trash which could be removed. Some of this trash included bags, bottles, rope, fishing net, strapping bands, cups, fast-food containers and other packaging pieces, over 70 pieces of glass, including some fiberglass, nearly 80 metal pieces, 16 pieces of rubber, and 33 pieces of paper and paper products.

Some of the more unusual trash included four batteries, a pair of sunglasses, 3 cans of paint, and 35 pieces of clothing!



After the dive, all participants and their families were welcomed back for a Pot Luck BBQ. Dive Friends Bonaire and NetTech, the sponsors of the quarterly Bonaire cleanups, provided drinks and main courses, while participants supplied side dishes.

The next cleanup dive organized by Dive Friends Bonaire and NetTech will take place on Saturday, September 15, and will be conducted in coordination with World Cleanup Day and Bonaire’s Love Our Planet Week. Members from CORAL and the North American office of the Tourist Board will be on hand to add their assistance. All those on Bonaire at that time are welcome to join in. □

Story & photo by Susan Davis

► In an American Independence Day speech in Curaçao, his last official act, the Consul-General of the US in the Netherlands Antilles, Robert Sorenson, **spoke of the relationship between his country and the Netherlands Antilles.** The Consul-General stated that he understands the complexity of the (upcoming) constitutional changes and said that everyone wants a strong economy in which culture, good values and good governance play an important role. Sorenson lauded the cooperation between the US and the Netherlands Antilles, mainly in the area of Justice. **The Antilles is the third biggest commercial partner of the US in the region.**

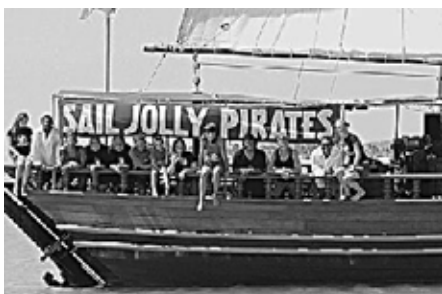
► **The year 2007 has started on a higher than expected note for global tourism.** From January through April, international tourist arrivals worldwide rose by over 6% to 252 million, representing an additional 15 million arrivals as against the same period in 2006, according to the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer.

► **The late Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie's birthday is July 23.** His birthday is a cause for celebration if you are a Rastafarian. The entire month of July is the Month of Judah on their calendar.

► **The Netherlands has fewer unemployed people than any other country in the European Union (EU),** according to the latest figures from Eurostat published last Tuesday.

According to May figures, the Netherlands has 3.2% unemployment compared to 7% (16 million people, down from 18.6 million last year at this time) in the EU as a whole.

Unemployment dropped in 22 member states and rose in four. Only Romania saw no change in its unemployment.



► **The popular Aruba day-charter boat, Jolly Pirates, an 85-foot-long teak schooner with 38 passengers and a crew of four, capsized and began to sink** following gusty winds up to 48 knots in Aruba last week. All people aboard were rescued. Several boats in the area responded quickly to pull everybody out of the water. The captain of another boat said he literally saw the wind gust coming with lots of dust and quickly turned his boat into the wind. When he looked back afterward, he saw the *Jolly Pirates* capsize. There was no time to put on life jackets.

Last Minute News

► **On Monday, July 23, the sixth and last round of the nutrient monitoring program will begin.** The idea is to dive: Monday morning- Red Slave,

Angel City, 18th Palm; on Tuesday morning -Playa Lechi, Front Porch, Cliff; Wednesday afternoon -Karpata; Thursday- South Bay, Ebo's Special; Friday- Playa Funchi. Contact Marine Park Manager Ramon de Leon at 717-8444 to let him know if you want to participate either in the dive part or in the lab part.

► **The follow-up Bonaire Reporter article** scheduled for this week about the effect of pollution on Bonaire reefs based on the five previous nutrient measurement exercises has been **post-poned** to next month. There are two reasons: Measurement of ammonia levels in the Salt Works must be redone because the results were inconsistent (eg: high levels inside but low levels in the outlet) and the results of next week's monitoring can be included. There has been a high level of reader interest in the articles by Professor Kayes and we intend to continue the commentary and monitor the sewage treatment plant progress scheduled to begin next week. □

L./G.D.

Preserving Bonaire's Monuments



Minguel Martis and Jonchi Dortalina with a copy of the Monument Plan

Bonaire may soon have a long-overdue law to protect its historic buildings. Bert Nijland (Judicial Affairs) and Alca Sint Jago (DROB, Spatial Development) are working on a Monument Act for Bonaire. This Island Ordinance draft is based on the Monument Plan and will probably be ready in October. Before he stepped down, Commissioner of Infrastructure, Jonchi Dortalina, received a report on the care of monuments from DROB. DROB's head, Miguel Martis, had set up a study group to draw up a monument plan. The study group included Alca Sint Jago (DROB), Hubert Vis (SKAL), and Hans Rietveld (Historic Building Society).

According to the report, historic buildings and structures don't have laws to protect them and a defined policy for monuments does not exist. Because there is no island ordinance, important buildings are demolished and are lost forever. Some are already gone. Defining a policy for structural maintenance and restoration of buildings that are culturally and historically important is crucial.

According to a 1986 report (Plan D'2) there are 71 buildings and other structures in Bonaire that qualify for the monument status; 23 of these are buildings that need maintenance badly. Some of the buildings on that list have already been demolished.

A proposal in the Monument Plan is monuments on an island ordinance that changed or demolished.

A financial system must be defined, a structure put in place for efficient implementation can go into effect. Community input

to base the government's policy towards decides whether historic buildings may be

budget for subsidies established and a plementation of the policy before the law will be necessary. □ G.D.

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

IS YOUR HOUSE NEW TO YOU?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

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

BONAIRENET

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

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don & Janet). 786-0956

Bonaire Images

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

Searching For GOOD Maid Service?

For Quality House Cleaning
CALL JRA

Serving Bonaire for more than 14 years
Honest, Reliable, Efficient, Thorough,
Low rates, References. One time or many
Phone 785-9041 ... and relax.

LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call
CHINA NOBO 717-8981

OUTDOOR SPORTS



Rock climbing/Rapelling/
Abseilen Every Saturday.
Call Outdoor Bonaire 791-
6272 / 785-6272

JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension
Day and night care. Phone 786-4651

Rental

Cozy guest cottage available

Studio with kitchen, airco, cable TV, two single beds (or king) pull-out sofa, porch, yard and private entrance. Five minute walk to sea-side promenade; 10 minute walk to town. \$50/night.



Contact: bonairecottage@aol.com

SUPPORT BONAIRE

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

Cars & Scooters

2002 PT Cruiser 4 cyj. 2.0L DOHC. Aut. Trans. A/C. Pwr. Windows, Radio AM/FM CD Low miles. Very fuel efficient. Very good condition, (owned by fanatic car technician). Clean Title. Naf. 18,000.00 o.b.o. Call: 786-2953 or 717-2953

1988 Toyota Supra Turbo (unique on Bonaire). 6 cyl. inline, 3.0L DOHC. 5 spd. Manual Trans., with Turbo. Intercooler very low miles. AM/FM CD very good sound. Kept clean, all original. (owned by fanatic car technician). Naf. 12,500.00 o.b.o. Cool car for fast drivers. Call: 527-7520

One - owner 1997 Ford Explorer \$10,000. For Sale: Tel: 786 2692

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.

JOBS

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

MAKE EXTRA MONEY
Reporters and feature writers wanted for The Reporter. Get paid by the word and for your photos. **Stories waiting to be written.** Send a sample of your writing to: info@bonairereporter.com or Call George 786-6125

For Sale

Tae kwondo jr. uniforms belts, various colors, helmet, protective arm, leg and chest gear- NAfl 300,00; Two custom built windsurf boards, sails, booms, accessories :NAfl 1000,00
2nd hand small frig- Naf1 150,00 ;
2nd hand single bed- Naf1 150,00; National Geographics, make me an offer! Black Argentinean leather pants, make me an offer. Call after 6pm 795- 3456.

SALE: Sea & Sea DX750G Digital Camera In Underwater Housing \$400; 5 in 1 Battery Charger \$25; At Capture Photo in the Dive Resort. Call 717-6151 www.capturecaribbean.com

For Sale Professional moving/ packing/wrapping materials, like bubble plastic and special cardboard and moving boxes . Good for about 12 cubic feet. Call 785 - 0267 for more info.



Kaya Mandolin 2 on Sunday, July 22nd from 8:30-4:30, Just off the Nikiboko road to Sorobon **EVERYTHING MUST GO— YOU SET YOUR OWN PRICE!!!**

DO YOU SUDOKU? SOLUTION BELOW

Puzzle on page 9

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

Pet of The Week



"Marie"

Edith Foks Photo

There are still plenty of puppies up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Our featured pet, "Marie," came in recently with her sister, "Marcella." Both girls are nearly identical with their very interesting brindle coloring. They are happy, healthy and fun loving dogs who have a great time frolicking with the other puppies in their puppy "dormitory." The sisters are about two months old and should be small to medium sized when they grow up. And with kind but firm training they will become canine treasures to their owner. As are the other adoptees at the Shelter, Marie and Marcella have been checked out by the vet, had their testing, worming and shots. And the adoption fee even includes sterilization when they're old enough. See them at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Telephone 717-4989. □ L.D.

Important Notice for Pet Owners Returning to Europe.

KLM is now charging only 75 Euros to transport your pet between Bonaire and Holland. Previously they charged exorbitant fees by the kilo. The pet just needs a health certificate from a veterinarian. In the past, sad to say, many pets have been left on the island because their owners found the KLM high pet transport prices out of their financial range. Now that it's no longer the case, pets need not be left behind.

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
7-20	11:49	1.1FT.	20:01	1.6FT.					55
7-21	10:56	1.1FT.	20:10	1.7FT.					44
7-22	6:21	1.0FT.	8:14	1.0FT.	9:28	1.0FT.	20:27	1.8FT.	35
7-23	6:35	0.9FT.	20:50	1.9FT.					30
7-24	7:02	0.9FT.	21:20	2.0FT.					32
7-25	7:40	0.8FT.	21:49	2.0FT.					39
7-26	8:11	0.8FT.	22:18	2.1FT.					49
7-27	8:40	0.8FT.	22:50	2.1FT.					60
7-28	9:16	0.8FT.	23:29	2.1FT.					71
7-29	0:05	2.0FT.	9:49	0.8FT.					81
7-30	0:47	2.0FT.	10:13	0.9FT.					89
7-31	1:31	1.9FT.	10:34	0.9FT.					94
8-01	2:19	1.7FT.	10:49	1.0FT.					95
8-02	3:19	1.5FT.	10:51	1.1FT.	17:13	1.4FT.	20:16	1.3FT.	93
8-03	0:23	1.3FT.	4:24	1.4FT.	10:39	1.1FT.	17:47	1.5FT.	86
8-04	2:36	1.1FT.	6:08	1.2FT.	10:11	1.1FT.	18:22	1.7FT.	78
8-05	3:54	1.0FT.	19:09	1.8FT.					68
8-06	4:48	0.9FT.	19:54	2.0FT.					59

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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The Bonaire Reporter, phone (599) 786-6518, 786-6125, E-mail:
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show (Usually 9 pm)
Call 717-2400

To Be Announced

Call 717-2400

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

Friday, Saturday, July 20, 21 –
Boogieman Latino, City Café, 8:30
pm, 717-8286

Saturday, July 21—Digicel cele-
brates One Year in Bonaire—
Fundraising bar for Special Olym-
pics Bonaire. Featuring Foyan Boyz,
Glen & Su Geng, Chipa Band from
Curaçao. Free entry, Telbo Festival
Center (site of old gas station next to
Telbo), 8 pm to 1 am

Sunday, July 22—Comcabon 5 Km
Race. Start at the Stadium. Tel.717-
3221

Sunday, July 22—Politiek Forum,
City Café, 7178286

July 23-30- ABK Jibe City Sum-
mer Camp of Fun

COMING

August 2-5—Pro Kids Windsurfing
Event

Sunday, August 5—Taste of Bon-
naire—Sponsored by TCB: stands
selling food from local restaurants,
handicrafts, gifts, music, fun 6-9 pm,
Wilhelmina Park

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm,
Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar
- HH—50% off- Buddy Dive Re-
sort, 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 Fla-
mingo with live music, 6 to 9 pm,
NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285
ext. 444.

- Wine Tasting at AWC's ware-
house, 2nd Saturday of the month, 7 to 9
pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Ware-
house 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 Pub-
lico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell.
NAf5 per selling table. For more informa-
tion 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 Rock-
ers, 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; sum-
mer fashions, jewelry, glasswork, Bonaire
pictures, driftwood art, paintings and all
kinds of Bonaire souvenirs, 9 am to 2 pm..
- Live music by the "Flamingo Rock-
ers" 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

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 re-
stored 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 holi-
days. 717-8444/785-0017

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday; Phone :
560-7267 or 717- 3902.

Al-Anon meetings - every Monday eve-
ning at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

Cancer Survivor Support Group Ma-
jestic 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: Re-
nata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza,
Kaya International, every other Tues-
day, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette
Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thurs-
day 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

Toastmasters Club meets every two
weeks. For more information call Cru-
sita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Mar-
tinez Beck, at 786-2953.

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 Papiam-
mentu, 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 Kral-
endijk.

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. Ser-
vices in Dutch. 717-7116.

International Bible Church of Bonaire –
Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle)
Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meet-
ing 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.

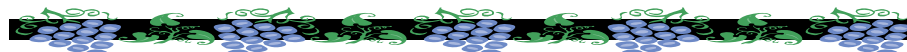
Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios),
Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English,
Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.
717-2194

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 (7-10 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 Great value anytime.
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. Bonaire's original Argentine steakhouse,
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 bikes, scooters and quads. Professional repairs on 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

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The King of the Planets Visits my Favorite Summer Star and Constellation

Every summer in late July my favorite summer star and constellation reach their highest points above the horizon just after dark. And this year they are joined by the king of the planets, **Jupiter**.

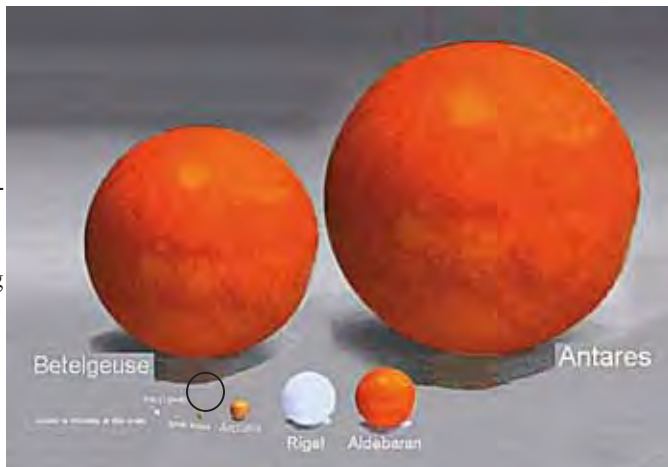
On any night in late July just after dark which is about 8 pm in the Sky Park, face due south and you'll see a pattern of bright stars shaped like a

giant fish hook or the capital letter J. It's my favorite summer constellation, **Scorpius** the scorpion, and it contains my favorite summer star, **Antares**, which marks his heart if you imagine the scorpion looking something like this. And not only is Antares in the right place for a scorpion's heart but it's also the right color, red. And the reason it's my favorite summer star is because it's the biggest star we can see in summer's skies. In fact it is 700 times wider than our own almost-one-million-mile-wide **Sun**. It's so huge we could fit 350 million Suns inside it. Or if you like to think of it this way, it is so gigantic that if we placed one edge of it where our Sun is it would reach out past the orbits of **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars**, even beyond the orbit of Jupiter.

And speaking of Jupiter, this summer the king of the planets of our solar system is paying a visit to Antares although its 88,000-mile-wide diameter makes it absolutely puny by comparison. Indeed Antares is so huge we could fit over 317 trillion Jupiters inside it. And keep in mind that even though Jupiter and Antares look close to each other it's just an illusion because while Jupiter is only 425 million miles away from us this week, Antares is a whopping 8.3 million times farther away, 600 light years beyond. Or if you like to think of it this way, while it takes only 38 minutes for the light from Jupiter to reach us this week, it takes 600 years for the light from Antares to reach us! Which means that when we look at Antares we see it not as it exists now but as it existed 600 years ago, just before the invention of the printing press.

Now if you look at Scorpius on a night when there's no **Moon** out and you're far from bright lights you will notice that the bottom half of Scorpius, including all of its stinger, is located in that faint ribbon of light we call the **Milky Way**. And if you have really good eyesight or a pair of binoculars you will see two fuzzy clouds just above the stinger. They're called **M-6 and M-7** and they're wonderful. Indeed M-7 is a cluster of 80 stars about 800 light years away which means that the light we see right now is the light that left it in 1200 A.D. M-6 likewise has 80 stars in it but it is 1,600 light years away which means that the light we see now left it in 400 A.D. Wow! Again. So there you have it, Scorpio the scorpion, and his emperor of a star visited by our king of the planets just begging to be seen. So go out and see them. □

Jack Horkheimer



The star Antares compared with other stars. Our Sun is just the size of a dot at the lower left.



THE STARS HAVE IT

For July 2007

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Put your time and energy into travel, philosophy, and soul-searching. You can make changes to your domestic scene that will benefit all who reside there. Your emotions may get the better of you. If you haven't already, consider starting your own business. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Sudden good fortune will help you cover your debts. Your ideas may be good, but they aren't necessarily right for everyone. This is a great time to mingle with people you would like to impress. Your ability to organize and get everyone together will enhance your popularity and bring interest from potential mates. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Visit friends or relatives you rarely see. Don't let your friends talk you into taking time off. Arguing won't help. You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Sudden trips may take you by surprise; try to include your mate, mixing business with pleasure. You will be in the mood for competition, and your ability to lead a group will bring you popularity. Use your creative talent in order to accomplish your goals. Financial limitations are likely if you take risks. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will be able to make changes regarding your living arrangements. Go out with friends and avoid the situation on the home front. Do not allow colleagues to hinder your ambitions. Use your quick wit to win points with friends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't let children hold you back from doing things you enjoy. Money may slip through your fingers. Insincere gestures of friendliness may be misleading. You can make a huge difference to children if you are able to put yourself in their shoes. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You will be looking for creative ways to make a little extra cash. Comfort is a necessity. Check your motives. Take your time. Throw yourself into your work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Pleasure trips will be emotionally favorable. New hair, new outfit, new you. Financial gains can be made. Physical limitations are possible if you aren't careful. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You won't be well received by superiors or by your spouse. Be aware that you don't get anything for nothing. Your involvement in organizational events could open doors to new and exciting opportunities. Brunch, a long walk, or a quiet dinner will secure your position in the relationship. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will be emotional when dealing with coworkers or employers. Try not to let relatives or friends cause any friction with your mate. You can help a close friend find solutions to personal problems. Get busy on those home improvement projects that you've been procrastinating about. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't be too eager to cut those who have disappointed you from your life. Enlist the aid of family members and consider the feelings of your mate. Broaden your horizons and look into programs that will teach you awareness and relaxation. Your emotions may get the better of you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your self confidence will attract members of the opposite sex. You're intuitive this month; however, this attribute could get you in trouble if you tactlessly say what you think. You will be full of energy and you need to find something constructive to do. Don't be too pushy or demanding, or you may find yourself all alone. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. □

Godparents To Washington Park Whale Exhibit Honored



Jeff and Linda next to the terrace donor sign

Linda and Jeff Goldman came to Bonaire to celebrate Linda's 50th birthday this month. They come to Bonaire a lot; got married here a few years ago, in fact. Bonaire is their second home and someday may be their first.

One of Washington Park's most spectacular exhibits is a whale skeleton. It's right alongside the large covered terrace at the entrance to the Park. It's where Park and private parties are held in breezy, shady comfort. The terrace's materials were a gift from the Goldmans. And last year, when the whale needed covering, after having seasoned for a couple of years, they donated that too and were labeled the "Whale's Godparents."

Last week Linda and Jeff Goldman became the first to be honored by being enrolled on "donor list" which will be posted in the Washington Park Visitor Center. Thanks from all Bonaire. □ L./G.D.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

Bonaire's "Magic Ed" Janga is a card carrying magician and, as a member of that select group, he made himself appear in Las Vegas, Nevada, for a magician's convention and, wouldn't you know, had a *Bonaire Reporter* up his sleeve. Here he shows it to us. Isn't it amazing!

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 a *Reporter* night on the town.



Undercover whale in the park

On The Island Since... November 19, 2002 and Born on Bonaire

Leon Eijkelkamp and Nuria Sint Jago

“I came to live here; my brother was already living here, and I’d been planning to come since 1997. At the departure hall of Amsterdam Airport Schiphol I met Nuria and... everything is for a reason I believe. She was working for TCB Holland and also working voluntarily with 50+ people. She was on her way to Bonaire with this old Bonairean lady to fulfill this lady’s dream to spend her last years on Bonaire after having lived in Holland for so many years. Nuria was only going to stay on Bonaire for five days. So, at Schiphol airport we wished each other a nice flight and that was it.

The following weekend we met at Karel’s, then at City Café and that was the beginning. We fell in love. Nuria went back to Holland and in February 2003 she came back for four days to spend carnival here with a group of KLM people whom she was going to tour the island with.

For me, it was a different story. Five years ago there was hardly any work in construction on the island and my brother, who’s a carpenter, went back to Holland. I got a part-time job with a pool company; gradually it became a full-time job. After carnival Nuria flew back to Holland to quit her job and wait for her daughter Nurca’s school year to end.”

Nuria says, “I’d told Leon immediately I wasn’t a housewife and he didn’t mind at the time.” She bursts out laughing. “Now he does! Anyway, my daughter Nurca (13) and I arrived June 2003. Leon was working in the pool business. I arrived at 6 am and at 8 am I was working for the same company as Leon. I was also arranging marriages for locals and tourists and I was working as a hostess, picking people up at night at the airport. Leon and I were living separately, but when I threw him a surprise party for his birthday he stayed with me and that was my surprise!

I was born on Bonaire; my father is Nicolaas ‘Cola’ Sint Jago, and my mom was Anna Rita Craane. She passed away in Holland, December 31st 1990. My mom was a hard working, independent woman. My parents were two of the first people to open a brick factory on Bonaire and also two of the first to open a carpenter shop and a construction company, and my dad built the first dive boat with Captain Don.

In 1983 we all left for Holland with my mom, while my dad stayed here as he was working for Radio Netherlands. I am from a family of women – we’re five girls, one brother - who all ended up in a man’s world. One sister is in construction on Bonaire. Another is one of the first female police detectives on Curaçao and another sister is also working in construction in Holland. I worked 20 years in tourism,

but I also have my diplomas as a fitter and a welder. So, I guess, that’s why I’m not much of a homemaker. I love to do business and that’s what I do best – I can sell anything.”

Leon and Nuria are the perfect match. In spite of their chaotic life with all the hard work and the lack of free time they’re easy going and relaxed with good senses of humor, and their goals are all about what’s really important in life.

“Our son Neo was born in 2004 and just before he was born I stopped working for the pool company,” Nuria says. “In January 2005 Leon also quit his job; then we started our own project: Sunshine Pool care – renovation, maintenance, construction and supplies - and La Hacienda Bonaire on Kaya Nikiboko North. It’s 5,000 square meters where we’re renting out business locations, like restaurant Mi Banana, General Security Services, the Mercado Latino, All in One DVD store and Internet Center, Top Health Bonaire, a fitness and health center, the lottery Nos Strea, the beauty parlor Beauty Circle and Ma Jochie, a new-age shop. We’re also renting out rooms and we’re working on our dream: a cabana resort in this oasis of silence, palm trees and birds, right in the

“We have a rich life because we’re living outside in this beautiful light, in this wonderful climate and the children run around like Tarzan and Jane.”

center of town.

I was born here, it was my mom’s land, and piece by piece, I’ve bought it back from the family.”

Leon continues. “We’re doing well – we’re satisfied, but it is busy. We’re working very hard and we have to because now we have three children. Our daughter Naila was born June 1st, 2006. Nuria got up that morning and told me very quietly, ‘I have to go to the hospital for a while and... half an hour later Naila was born! The year before, when our son Neo was born, Dick van der Vaart told Nuria, ‘the next one will come out walk-



Nuria, Naila, Nurca, Leon and Neo

ing,’ and he was absolutely right, because that’s pretty much how it went!

Well, on Bonaire you won’t get rich, but you live rich. I am not a material guy, I don’t care for it at all. I like to live as simple as possible – a small wooden house is good enough for me, and when we build our new wooden house on this land we’ll build the kitchen outside because that’s the kind of housewife Nuria is! The only thing I find a pity is that there is a lot of jealousy and envy going on here and that’s something I’d never expected. There’s a world of difference between living and working on Bonaire or visiting the island as a tourist. It’s a shame, because it’s such a beautiful island. Another thing is the lack of rain. I’m growing palm trees, sugar cane and banana trees as a hobby and now I feel it’s been too dry for too long.”

Nuria adds, “Through the years I moved four times between Holland and Bonaire and I don’t know where I belong – everywhere, I guess – as long as I can work. We have a rich life because we’re living outside in this beautiful light, in this wonderful climate and the children run around like Tarzan and Jane. I agree with Leon that it’s not easy to do business on Bonaire but I wouldn’t want to do anything else; I guess I got it from my mom, Jewish blood. The way I see it, if we can leave behind a nice place for our children to enjoy, we’re satisfied. When I came here with my daughter Nurca, she was only nine and shortly after our arrival she told me, ‘I’d rather live on Bonaire, but I would like to go to school in Holland.’ She’s an independent and very verbal child. All three of them are very independent and I think Bonaire is a paradise for children to grow up in.

Leon’s mom and dad – his dad is a carpenter just like my dad and so the two of them get along beautifully – come to visit us regularly and his mom is like a mother to me. They are super grandparents and they help us with everything. Leon’s brothers also come here frequently and they can’t sit still either.”

“Whatever I do,” Leon says, “Nuria always stands by me and I’m proud of her. There are enough women who are not like that. But, I’m supporting her too in everything she’s doing. We do everything together and we always consult teach other. We did a lot these last four years: we bought a house, fixed it and sold it again; we brought two children into this world; and we started two companies – so, there hasn’t been much extra time. Just recently we went on a five-day vacation together, the first one in four years. My parents took care of the children and everything else here – and we went to Ecuador and that was beautiful – a wonderful country with luxuriant vegetation. Maybe some day, some time, we’re going to live in a place like that, where you can grow everything you need, but... on the other hand, Bonaire has a boomerang-effect on people – you always come back. It’s nothing and at the same time it’s everything. When you think about other countries you also have to consider the political situation, crime, religion and extreme weather... I don’t think it’s perfect anywhere, but in the end Bonaire comes close, very close.”

□ Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

