

More Color!
More Photos!

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

MEET THREE OF THE NEIGHBORS...



Pinky



Buster



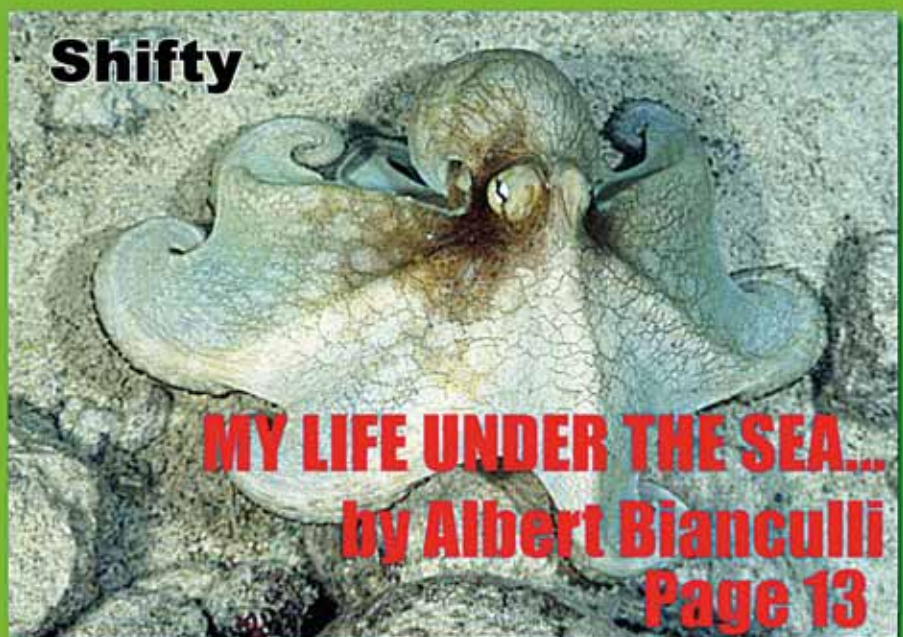
Spike

AND THE TWO VILLAINS...



Viper

Photos by Albert Bianculli



Shifty

MY LIFE UNDER THE SEA...
by Albert Bianculli
Page 13

**Windsurf Pro Kids
Championship**

Page 4

**Protecting
Bonaire's Reefs**

Page 7

**Wounded
Warriors Visit**

Page 12

**Soccer
Finals**

Page 14

Bonaire's Tourism Awareness Program moved forward

as its community ambassadors were the first to be introduced to the workshops which will be offered to everyone on Bonaire. The ambassadors of TAP are role models for the Bonaire community and the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has chosen them to perform honorary functions at various activities and events. TAP's goal is to make the Bonaire community more aware of the dynamics and importance of tourism now and in the future.

A few trainers have followed a course and are ready to start giving the free workshops. They are: Jeaninne Wong Loi Sing, Denise de Jongh, Marcel Lerus, Diana Sint Jago, Gilberto Lira, Merel Zanen, Jeanne Emers, Mary Tjin Asjoe, Juliette de Grijze and Imke Reinoud.



Commissioner of Education **Maritsa Silberie (center)** honored **Yet Provence (right)** and **Elsa Boezem-Martinus**

► **Commissioner of Education Maritsa Silberie honored Yet Provence and Elsa Boezem-Martinus** yesterday for their good work in Bonaire's schools during the motivation day organized by the *Servisio di Edukashon I Kultura* (SEK) for teachers of education, primary and special education before the start off the new school year.

Commissioner Silberie also announced that the government is working on a new salary structure for the educators. The Bonaire Executive Council will model it after the structure used on Curaçao and to implement it as soon as possible.

► **The operating room at San Francisco Hospital in Bonaire was closed temporarily** while "the surgeon was on vacation and the hospital installs new anesthesia equipment," said Dr. Giovanni Frans, Director of Mariadal Foundation that manages the hospital. The same equipment used by the Academic Medical Centre (AMC) in Amsterdam,

will employed. Most of the anesthetists in Bonaire come from AMC. "The hospital wants to raise the level of care in the operating room," Frans said, explaining the choice of the new equipment. The operating room remained available for emergency cases.

► **The Government of the Netherlands Antilles is looking for a new Police Chief for Bonaire.** Recently newspaper ads advertised for the position. Present chief, Jan van der Straten was appointed as Chief of Police on February 1, 2006, especially tasked with the reorganization of the police force. However, Van der Straten will retire in six months.

During his tenure the Bonaire police force became more automated, the police station was remodeled and crime seemed to decline but no precise figures are available.

► **Air France-KLM, Europe's largest airline, Thursday posted a 70% increase in fiscal first-quarter profit,** helped by gains from asset sales and strong demand for transatlantic passenger flights. Net income in the three months to June 30 improved to 415 million euros (\$572 million). Passenger traffic was particularly strong on North



and South American transatlantic routes, up 6.5%. Cargo activity was weak, with revenue down 5.5%. The airline said its fuel bill climbed 8% to 1.09 billion euros in the quarter. KLM also raised its fuel surcharge on short and long-haul flights.

► In the first six months of this year the passenger traffic in and out of Bonaire's Flamingo Airport, with the exception of transit passengers, increased significantly in comparison to last year. **International arrivals grew 13.2 percent, while the local traffic grew by 9.2 percent.** Transit passengers dropped 14.8 percent because KLM stopped making transit stops on Bonaire for flights to and from Lima, Peru. The number of commercial flights declined in the first half of this year by 1.3 percent from 6626 to 6539.

► **Bonaire again made a good showing among the 38,000 people in the Four-Day Walk, the Vierdaagse,** in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. As usual,

the Bonaire Roadrunner, Nazario Alberto, was in the front of the pack. According to Nazario, everything went well. Due the fact that he is over 50, he had to compete in the 40 kilometer (less distance) group. Besides Nazario, the brothers Boi Antoin, the Chief Editor of the Papiamentu newspaper, Extra, the brothers Roy and Rolly Martinus and brothers Henky and Nolly Wilsoe also participated (not in the picture).

Paradise Photo sponsored the polo shirts which were used as uniforms. Nazario wishes to thank everybody who



made his trip and participation possible. *Natalie Wanga report*

► Americans may want to make note of **the contact information for the American Consulate in Curaçao.** A recent ruling from the US Social Security Administration is encouraging its beneficiaries residing overseas to sign up for Direct Deposit as soon as possible to prevent fraud and lost of checks. The consulate can provide needed forms and advice on this and other matters. Info:

American Consulate General, G. Gorsiraweg #1, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles Tel: 09-461-3066

► A few weeks ago a group of young tennis players and coach Elisabeth Vos were invited by Kees van der Bijl and Farid Ajubi to join them on the land of Farid Ajubi near Lagoen for a **golf clinic.** Otto Bartels joined the group and together they drove the kids out to the "castle", where Farid lives and where he works hard to create a golf course. The group got ample explanation from both Kees van der Bijl and Otto Bartels and then it was up to them to practice their golf swings. The land is perfectly suitable for a course, it has nice slopes, vegetation and the kids were doing great. It's Farid's idea to expand and build enough holes for golf players to enjoy their sport, and create a terrace on top of the castle for drinks and snacks. A golf club can be organized so junior golf players can come out and get the training to improve their level. It will expand the sport of golf on the island and it will give the Bonairean kids a chance to master a sport that's well known in the business world. Looking at the improvements the kids had from just one single

Table of Contents

This Week's Stories

Snorkeler's Notebook- <i>Ode To A Sea Turtle</i>	3
Windsurf Pro Kids Freestyle Championship	4
Protecting Bonaire's Reefs, part 3	7
Turtle Traffic	8
Rescue at Sea	
Another Turtle Tracked -Darwina	
Bonaire On Wheels - Harley-Davidsons	9
Caribbean Homes Soul Night for Regatta	10
Wounded Warriors 2007	12
My Life Under the Sea	13
2007 Bonaire Soccer Finals	14
DJ Contest— Mix and Scratch	15
Stichting Project at Buddy Dive	18

WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Sudoku	6
Parrot Watch	11
Ask Olivia (feeding young)	11
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
Classifieds	17
Sudoku solution	17
Pet of the Week mix	17
Tide Table	19
Reporter Masthead	19
What's Happening	20
Movieland Film Schedule	20
Sky Park (<i>Moon Eclipse</i>)	21
The Astrology Zone- August	21
Picture Yourself With <i>The Reporter</i>	22
(<i>Holland Summerfest and Aspen, Co, USA</i>)	
On The Island Since (<i>Bert and Edith Foks</i>)	23



clinic, Bonaire has hidden talents in this sport. A big "thank you" from the kids for Farid Ajubi and Kees van der Bijl who made this clinic possible. *Report by Elisabeth Vos*

► **The Bonaire Parks NGO, STINAPA, wants permission to carry guns,** but only to deal with animal problems in Washington Slagbaai National Park. Dog packs are threatening other animals and people in the Park, said Elsmarie Beukenboom, STINAPA Director. Her request for the use of firearms has been pending for over five years.

► **Ap van Eldik wants everyone to come and take a look at the new Green Label Garden Center,** behind TIS, on Kaya Industria. There's a huge metal shed and large field filled with plants and garden supplies. While there will be a grand opening later this month,

(Continued on page 6)

Snorkeler's Notebook:

Ode to the 151 Hawksbill Hatchlings at Sweet Dreams



On Wednesday evening, August 8, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire invited about 60 people to witness the hatching of 151 Hawksbill turtles near the Sweet Dreams dive site. Gilmon (Funchi) Egbreghts played "midwife," gently uncovering the nest and guiding the turtles to the sea. Reporter Pauline Keyes was there. This is her response in poetic form.

O, tiny Hawksbill turtle hatchlings, remember
 Your mother was also hatched on this beach many years ago,
 And before her, her mother, and on and on into perpetuity,
 So many years in the working of the universe,
 Before humans ever tread this Earth.

Circling the planet, swimming every ocean, every sea,
 Blessed with the secrets of the boundary of water and air
 And the dark depths of stamina beyond compare.

O, humans crowding the turtles' path, blocking out the sun, remember
 Your mother is the sea from which all came.
 Drawn to kindred spirits as they are drawn into the sea,
 Watch while flippers and shells follow the life-force beating in every heart.
 Will you dream of the hatchlings tonight, every last one,
 Drifting on currents random, floating through time and mind,
 Whispering messages of desperation and hope
 Counting down the minutes to extinction?

O, sweet angels leaving Sweet Dreams for sea mystery, remember
 Faces reflected in the sunset, searching your newborn eyes,
 To see more deeply, more brightly, the truth shimmering just out of reach.
 Hurry now, before gulls swoop down, before barracuda circle,
 Before humans set their drift nets and long-line hooks.
 Steel yourself for the journey with kisses, embraces, and good intentions.
 Survive all obstacles with the keen instincts nature has given,

Setting the record, with 151, not just one or two, flourishing into maturity.

O, humans brought together to witness this wondrous birth, remember
 Turtle eyes scanning the horizon for a watery exit from a sandy nest,
 Single-minded purpose of a species prehistorically destined and designed.
 Carry now the baby Tortugas always close in mind and heart,
 Connected forever to what transpired here as dolphins heralded their arrival.
 Embrace the 151 hatchlings as harbingers of a future empty of oceanic life,
 And change, change, change your ways, your thinking, your spirit.
 Keep the hatchlings at the center of life and there will be no betrayal. □



Poem and turtle photos by Pauline Kayes



Pro Kids Freestyle Windsurfing



Beach scene at Sorobon

many people on the island that embrace the windsurf culture that exists here? Is it Elvis? It's all that and much more. There is passion for windsurfing on this island. The entire community rallies around the riders. Kids like Kiri, Youp, Chal, Caesar and so many train hard and almost daily. The Frans Brothers put Bonaire on the map in the windsurf world. Not only is Bonaire recognized in the windsurf community but Curaçao and Aruba both have teams now training hard and each having local competitions. Team Dominican has a presence each year showing off their windsurf spirit. The riders from Europe come weeks

Continued on page 5

The beach at Sorobon is now quiet after hosting one of the island's largest international sporting events. 131 competitors representing 11 nations participated in the 3rd Annual Starboard Pro Kids Freestyle Worlds.

It included riders from ages 0-42. The island hosted some of the best freestyle windsurfers in the world. Brian Talma, the oldest competitor in the Class Freestyle Event showed the crowd that age does not deter one from having fun and pulling off some smooth moves. American Andy Brandt showed off his version of old school talent. The dual between old and new school was raging with locals Caesar Finies and Charlton "Chal" Soliano throwing some crazy maneuvers.

Local rock star Kiri Thode returned from the Professional Windsurfers Asso-

ciation Tour where he is currently ranked 1st in the world of freestyle. This kid's personal repertoire of tricks is staggering. He is Energizer Bunny fast and furious with a smile that does not quit.

The Baby Class of over 33 kids 0-7 charmed the crowds. The older kids wowed everyone with their talent and determinism. This year the female competitor categories grew in all age groups. It's wonderful to see so many more girls in the water showing off their freestyle skills.

Why is Bonaire the setting of the World Finals?? How does a small island of about 13,000 people turn out such windsurf talent? Is it the gin clear water or the shallow depths? Could it be the near perfect onshore trades that blow steady Dec. - July? Is it that there are



Windsurfing (Continued from page 4)

before the event to train knowing their time on the water will only enhance their performance at the event.

It was five days of competition, up and down wind conditions, local entertainment, a diverse representation of International Press and windsurf action are now over but what remains are the memories, the trophies, the newly forged friendships and plans for next year's event. Here is a highlight:

Sunday was the finals as the best freestylers in the world set to face off for the big win. The heats were very intense with a high level of competition. The winds started off blowing fresh. One of the best heats of the morning was the dual between Arthuro "Payo" Soleano and Kiri Thode. Their rapid succession of moves was almost too much for the announcers to track. Some of the moves with crazy names included a Double Matrix and a Sleepy Hollow (clew first heli tack into a duck in the boom), Hoss Tacks, and some switch stance moves including Kiri's signature, the Gecko Flaka.

In the 10-11 year old boys final Amada Vrieswijk (BON) and Nick Von den Eereben (AUA) went off against each other executing some slick moves. Nick threw an Ankle Biter while Amado returned with Seated Tack. Nick attempted a Boomerang. There was a dizzy array of combinations including a Fin First Board Jibe with some amazing combinations including Nick's Clew First Sail Spin, a Combo Pirouette Hoss Tack and a flawless Body Sail 360 for Amado.

For the 13-15 year olds Dieter van der Eyken set off against Bonaire's own Bjorn Saragoza in the finals. Both evenly matched with same gear and body size had succession of super moves including a Back To Sail No Hands for Bjorn with Dieter returning with a Sail Flip Gecko. Bjorn dazzled the crowd with a Rail Ride with No Hands.

The Baby Class was the highlight of the day. Sarginho Finies and Nathan Finies advanced after showing constant sail maneuvers including the ONLY jump thru the boom- accomplished by Sarginho. The only US competitor was Nicolas Sanchez from Florida. This 7-year old is preparing for his windsurf career by attending his first freestyle competition. What a place to learn how to compete! The energy of the baby class was completely contagious. The bay was chock full of wee ones and their parents and coaches creating a dynamic energy. The Baby Class Fleet grew to 33 sailors this year.

The Classic Freestyle Expression session featured some old school sailors showing off some old school moves, Brian Talma and Andy Brandt showed off their old school tricks whilst Bonaireans Caesar Finies and Charlton Soliano showed off their new school talent. There were lots of jumps, spins and laughs.

As the day progressed and the scoring was completed the crowd was treated to a concert by the popular Aruba Rap Band, Basic 1. Event Director Elvis Martinus introduced a new rap song

Homber di Laman written by Elvis and Taty and performed by Talento Skondi. The spectator crowd crew and the event site was jumping. A body building contest and fashion show provided further entertainment. The Award Ceremony featured the lead sponsors on hand to celebrate the win in all the categories. Handcrafted Starboard Tiki Plaques, Digicel goodies, Starboard Rash Guards, Dakine harnesses, Red Bull and other prizes were given to the winners. As the sun set with the Red Feather Drum Line playing, the spirits remained high and new found friends exchanged information to keep in touch promising to meet back for next year. The Bonaire Sailing Foundation organizers outdid themselves once again.

The Pro Kids Committee wishes to thank all the sponsors, parents, volunteers, riders and spectators for coming together to create a memorable event which celebrates the youth in sports. □
Ann Phelan



Sports Commissioner Nicolaas (foreground) was on hand to present the awards to Boys' Class winners Kiri Thode, Arthuro Soliano, and Archuendro Finies

Results

- Amateur Women**
1st Hilde Tuinbeek CUR
- Amateur Men**
1st. Caesar Finies BON
2nd Charlton Soliano BON
3rd Quincy Offringa AUA
- Classic Freestyle**
1st Caesar Finies
2nd Andy Brandt USA
3rd Brian Talma Barbados
- Baby Kids Girls 0-7**
1st. Blana Veeris BON
2nd Chloe Da Costa Gomez
CUR
3rd Alima Lageveen AUA
- Baby Kids Boys 0-7**
1st Nathan Finies BON
2nd Jules Van Der Horst
CUR
3rd Sarginho Finies BON
- Girls 8-9**
1st Anais Pauletta BON
2nd Esther Van Zadelhoff
CUR
3rd Noa Stomp CUR
- Boys 8-9**
1st Jurgen Saragoza BON
2nd Steven Lageveen AUA
3rd Mack Dylan Van Der Eerenbe AUA
- Girls 10-11**
1st Camile Van Zadelhoff
CUR
2nd Isabelle Van Zadelehoff
CUR
3rd Ana De Windt CUR
- Boys 10-11**
1st Amado Vrieswijk BON
2. Nick Van Der Eerenbe
AUA
3rd Jamil Jonis BON
- Girls 12-13**
1st Renee Kanaar CUR
- Boys 12-13**
1st Youp Schmidt BON
2nd Dylan Robles BON
3rd Mozart Sances BON
- Girls 14-15**
1st Mallory De Palm CUR
2nd Nadia Daboussi BON
3rd Monica Harmsen CUR
- Boys 14-15**
1st Bjorn Saragoza BON
2nd Dieter Van Der Eyken
Belgium
3rd Felix Kervel AUA
- Girls 16-17**
1st Sarah Quita Offringa
AUA
2nd Andrea Simal BON
3rd Andreina Figaroa BON
- Boys 16-17**
1st Kiri Thode BON
2nd Arthuro Soliano BON
3rd Archuendro Finies BON
- Queen of Pro Kids 2007** - Sara Quita Offringa AUA
- King of Pro Kids 2007** - Kiri Thode BON

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
why wait? Pass by now.

► **In July Neil and Carlos van Wilgen participating in The Nationale Nederlanden Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam, The Netherlands were sponsored by Remax Paradise Homes.**

This tournament was only for VIP entries and, of course, good guest players from Bonaire. Our guys played in the Open Mens' Doubles, and finished as the runner up! We think that is a great result. We look forward to having Neil van Wilgen, son of Carlos and Marlene, brother of Rael, back on the island when he has finished his studies at Erasmus Rotterdam.

► **This year, on it's 25th anniversary, Bonaire Day, September 6, will be celebrated in Kralendijk, better**



known to local people as Playa. Wilhelmina park will be the centerpoint for the day-long round of formalities, fun, food and music. The day is being organized by a commission (photo above) made up of Marianne Maldonado, Nataly Daveelaar, Hubert Vis, John Leoneta, Richenello Abrahamsz, Lucrecia Martis-Dortalina, and Lyanne Arrindell-Boekhoudt.

► **Preparations for the 7th Annual Bonaire Eco Swim** that will take place on Saturday, November 10th, 2007 are in full swing.



There will be four categories of races taking place a 10k, a 5k and two new distances, a 3K and a 1K swim

All the courses will start and finish at Capt. Don's Habitat and will be swum along the coast of Bonaire with the 10 K swimmers going all the way to the Plaza Resort and back. Swimmers will be allowed the use of mask, snorkel and fins. On November 5th registration will close.

For entry forms, drop by the BONHATA office between 2-5pm next to the lighthouse at the Harbour Village Marina and talk to Diana Sint Jago or email diana@bonhata.org.

► **Want to learn Spanish? Free?** Then attend the excellent classes taught by the Venezuelan consulate. Call 717-5275 for details. Some of the students are pictured above.

► **Peter Faber, the well known Dutch Comedian will be performing a benefit show at Jong Bonaire** on September 4, at 8 pm. Tickets at NAf 25 are available at Jong Bonaire and City Cafe. More info in the next Reporter

► **It's interesting to know that in April, 2007, 67,825 tourists visited Aruba, about the same as visit Bonaire in one year.** Discount airline JetBlue alone brought 4.347 passengers, almost



as many visitors as Bonaire gets in a month from all its airlines.

► **Curaçao's national carrier, Insel Air, began service to Trinidad** on August 12. Insel Air started operations on August 28, 2006, flying its inaugural flight from Curaçao to Aruba and shortly afterward to Bonaire. To celebrate the first year of operation Chief Commercial Officer Edward Heerenveen said Insel Air would be announcing various promotions on the Aruba and Bonaire route. Insel Air operates a 19-seat Embraer to Curaçao, Aruba and Bonaire – and a vintage MD-82 jet to Valencia, St. Maarten, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

► **Insel Air failed in its attempt to establish air service from Curaçao to Miami** in August so they will begin weekly flights to Manaus into Miami, perhaps next year after they acquire another MD-83 jet.

► **An inventory of the Central Government held land in Bonaire and the Dutch Windward islands is complete.** This necessary step in the dismantling of the Antilles set for December 2008 was finished last week. It took longer than expected because the St. Eustatius and Saba mortgage info was not readily information and Bonaire's appraisal of Washington Park and Slagbaai took longer than expected. Curaçao's inventory is still in process. All the Dutch Antilles islands, the Central Government and the Dutch Government are involved in the process.

The Antilles national debt is about 2 billion euros, or 4 billion guilders. The Dutch have agreed to start debt forgiveness once Financial Supervision is in place, a moving target, but now set for the end of this year.

► **According to published reports some Antilleans are concerned about details of the planned integration of Bonaire, Saba and Statia into Holland.** They see the islands having to comply with all the tax requirements and other laws of the Netherlands, but receive treatment as second-class Dutch citizens when it comes to demands for a balanced budget, and no access to social benefits that are enjoyed by continental Dutch citizens. The WIPM party in Saba is considering another referendum

(Continued on page 9)

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)

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

What's Next for Bonaire's Reefs?

Part 3- Solving Sewage and Garbage Problems

In Part I and II of the Reporter's series on Biologist Brian LaPointe's analysis of the results of the nutrient monitoring program, it was established that Bonaire's reefs are approaching the "point of no return" as many sites are now at the borderline between healthy and polluted. Part III examines what governmental organizations are doing to address the problem.

"If we have to choose between nice gardens and healthy reefs, we will be choosing the reefs," says Minguel Martis, the head of Bonaire's Public Works and Environment Department (DROBI)

Ramon de Leon, Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park says the first priority in addressing the threats of sewage and garbage to the reefs of Bonaire is to continue gathering and interpreting data. To fulfill that goal, de Leon is employing the "light and motion" system (out of the University of Southern California) that can detect suspended solids in the water as well as read different wavelengths of light to determine the content of the organic matter. The first results from the system are due in August, which can help establish the "big picture" of what is actually impacting the health of the reefs. In addition, de Leon will try to obtain funding to repeat the nutrient monitoring program every six months since "we will need a baseline to compare in five years when and if the sewage plant is working." A marine biologist, De Leon thinks that the reefs of Bonaire are "resilient enough to survive" until the sewage plant is operational (estimated to be in 2011).

According to Minguel Martis, Director of DROB, and Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas, the sewage project, which has been in the planning stages for 18 years, is now in final proposal form. The European Union will allocate the funds to build the sewage plant while Bonaire will provide land, laws, and money to facilitate both sewer connections and operation. Martis and Nicolaas anticipate construction beginning in March 2009 and taking two years to complete. In late 2008, bids will be solicited from



DROB head Minguel Martis and Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas review the sewage plant drawings

construction firms. It's necessary that they be environmentally-sensitive as they begin digging up the island from Hato to Punt Vierkant and Esmeralda to install sewer lines. Right now those getting building permits for new development are being required to design their septic systems in order to connect to the new sewer system. As Nicolaas commented, "my job is now to defend this project to the island council and to drive the politics to support the sewage project steering committee."

There are two "sensitive zones" designated between Hato and Punt Vierkant where nutrient run-off must be halted to preserve the reefs. In the first zone, within 500 meters from the sea, all structures, including hotels, will be required to pay not only the cost of their sewage being siphoned through pipes to the main plant but they in return will get the benefit of low-cost treated water returned from the plant to use for irrigation purposes. According to Martis, the treated water will have no nutrients that can damage the reefs and will be cheaper to use than water supplied by WED.

In the second zone, including many private homes close to the coast, residents will have to pay a monthly fee to be connected to the sewer, but will not have the option for irrigation. In both sensitive zones, property owners will

have to shoulder the cost of installing pipes from their septic system to the sewer lines. For those who can't afford this cost, Nicolaas said "Social Affairs will develop criteria to determine who gets financial assistance." In both sensitive zones, septic pits will no longer be allowed. Outside these two zones, there will be no direct connection to the sewer system but residents will pay an additional environmental fee each time their septic system is emptied and taken to the plant to be processed. And, most likely in the next ten years, septic pits will be outlawed across the entire island.

Besides addressing the sewage problem, both Martis and Nicolaas are considering how to eliminate the use of fertilizers in the sensitive zones and reduce fertilizer use on other parts of the island. The dilemma, from Martis' perspective, is to "do as much as possible to protect the reefs while at the same time giving local people and the hotels nice yards." However, he stressed that reefs have priority. DeLeon also considers restrictions on the use of fertilizers as essential to a comprehensive response to nutrient pollution.



Algal proof of pollution was demonstrated by Biologist Brian LaPointe

Finally, as President of the Board of Directors of Selibon, Nicolaas is committed to working with Selibon's new director, Reginald Dortalina, "to start the conversation about the operation of LVV and the Selibon landfill in order to prevent pollution of Lagoen." He promised that details would be forthcoming in the next year.

Both Martis and Nicolaas confirmed that there will be further communication on all of these projects as soon as the final proposal for the sewage plant is accepted and funds are officially received. Stick with *The Bonaire Reporter* for continuing coverage. □

Story & photos by University Professor Pauline Kayes, Bonaire and Champaign, Illinois

Part IV of our series, coming soon, will focus on what individuals, including tourists and residents, can do in their daily lives to prevent nutrient pollution and to guarantee the health of Bonaire's reefs.



Waste water will no longer be dumped into pits like this one at LVV

Turtle Traffic

Rescue At Sea



Crew from the Indusbank and BNMP Ranger Duvan Rios with longline gear: Left to Right: BNMP Ranger Duvan Rios and Indusbank Crew Members: Francis Verginie, Leopoldo Clarendo, Florenso Thode and Willy Meye.

On Wednesday, August 8, 2007, at approximately 5:00 pm, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) Manager, Mabel Nava received an emergency call from the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) that there was a sea turtle entangled in a home-made longline with floats and hooks up by the BOPEC oil terminal.

The tugboat *Indusbank* was on duty off the oil terminal when it spotted a leatherback turtle. Recognizing that it was in distress and needed immediate assistance, Captain Willy Meye and his crew were able to get a rope around the turtle. Working from a platform from the side of the tugboat, the crew cut off much of the line and a number of floats that encircled the turtle. Realizing that additional assistance was needed, oil terminal supervisor, Jan Emerenciana was contacted and he, in turn, called Din Domacasse, Chief Ranger of the BNMP.

With time being an issue and sunset not all that far off, Mabel working with Duvan Rios, BNMP Ranger, quickly responded to the call. With support from Ramon de Leon, the marine park's manager and Carlos Rodriguez, the operations manager at Harbor Village Marina, a marine park boat was rapidly fueled and equipped. Accompanied by Andy Uhr, acting STCB President, Mabel and Duvan were on the water and headed north at 5:45 pm.

When the team reached the *Indusbank*, the rope securing the turtle was quickly passed to the marine park boat. In spite of the *Indusbank's* work, the turtle still had significant amounts of twisted nylon line wrapped around her, with the line having cut deeply into and around each of her front flippers and the back of her neck.

Efforts to remove the remaining line while working from the marine park boat proved to be less than successful. Mabel, donning a mask and fins, went over the side to work in the water. With two sets of hands from the boat steadying the leatherback, Mabel removed the remainder of the line and floats. Sea turtles are tough and

resilient animals and attempting to bring them in for veterinary treatment presents a greater potential for harming the animal so the leatherback was released. While seriously injured she swam away into the deep blue using a steady and strong stroke, giving the team encouragement that she would survive her ordeal.

This rescue was made possible by the quick and positive actions of Captain Willy Meye and the crew of the *Indusbank*, Francis Verginie, Leopoldo Clarendo and Florenso Thode. STCB extends its thanks to them and everyone else involved in the effort.

The leatherback sea turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*, is the biggest of all living turtles, reaching a length of over 2.7 m (8.8 ft) and weight of 900 kg (2,000 lb) and is listed by international authorities as critically endangered. The leatherback is found worldwide in all oceans. Our leatherback was quite small, measuring an estimated 1 m (3 ft) across the carapace and weighting over 100 kg (220 lb). Leatherbacks are occasional visitors to Bonaire and are usually seen passing through on their way to destinations unknown.

Longline fishing is illegal on Bonaire and to our knowledge not practiced here. But the practice is common along the coast of South America and it is thought that is where the leatherback became entangled. This the second such incident this year. In April, the remains of a hawksbill turtle ensnared by a similar fishing rig were recovered from a dive site at the southern end of the island.

Another Turtle Tracked

A Green turtle (Turtuga Blanku), nesting on the Atlantis dive site on the southern coast of Bonaire, was fitted with a satellite transmitter Tuesday night by a team of staff and volunteers from Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). This is the second turtle to be tracked during the current nesting season and the second



Green Turtle 'Darwina' is the second turtle tracked from Bonaire this season. STCB's Mabel Nava and Funchi Egbrehts with 'Darwina'

Green turtle ever fitted with a transmitter on Bonaire.

Based on the pattern of turtle nesting activity observed during the last few weeks, it was predicted that the Green turtle would possibly return to the beach on Tuesday night. During a beach patrol on Tuesday morning, STCB's Funchi Egbrehts found crawl tracks from a turtle but observed that it was a false nesting attempt. So the team set out that night to monitor the area around the dive site.

Around 8:30 pm, a large Green turtle came ashore, but it took her three hours before she found a spot to lay her nest. When attempting to deploy a transmitter, it is important that the turtle be allowed to nest before starting the deployment process. If she decides to go back to the sea, we let her go and wait for her to come back and safely lay her nest. This is done in order to protect her clutch and avoid extra stress on the animal. At 11:30 pm, she began laying eggs. She was then measured (95.5 cm (37.6 in) straight carapace length) and tagged on her front flippers. An hour later and after she had thoroughly covered the nesting area with sand, the approximately 140 kg (309 lb) turtle was fitted with a satellite transmitter. At 2:30 am, the Green turtle was released and she quickly departed into the sea.

This was 'Darwina's' second nest of this season and it is anticipated that 'Darwina' may lay one or more nests before she leaves the area to return to her home foraging grounds.

Green turtle 'Darwina' will be the second turtle to be tracked from Bonaire during the 2007 nesting season. Tracking of this Green turtle is made possible by a full sponsorship provided by Karen and Ken Miller.

Earlier this month, the female Hawksbill 'Eloise' was fitted with a transmitter after nesting at No Name Beach on Klein Bonaire. 'Eloise' is still in the area and may be departing shortly.

The turtle tracking works through signals sent out by the transmitter, which is switched on whenever the turtle comes to the surface to breathe. These transmissions are then collected by Argos system receivers onboard weather satellites that circle the globe, yielding location data for each turtle that are e-mailed daily to Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire 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. □ Mabel Nava



BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The seventeenth of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's most interesting vehicles.

The Black Harley-Davidson motorcycles of Gijs and Monique; Blood group: H-D positive

On the fifth of January 2005, Gijs and his girlfriend of 26 years, Monique, arrived on the island of Bonaire, where he did a job for the Bonairean government for a while.

Since March 2007 he and his business partner, Jimmy, are running an automotive enterprise named "Tropical Car Care BV", located in the "windward" part of the Kaya Amsterdam Building. Gijs and Jimmy are maintaining and repairing cars of all years and all brands. (See ad on this page)

Maintaining an old family tradition Gijs (and Monique) really like wheels of all kinds.

Gijs: "During the last thirty years I have had over 30 different cars. Among them two real DAF 33's. Those Dutch-made cars are very rare now. I also have had loads and loads of Renault 4's that transported me through Europe for hundreds of thousands of kilometers, even way into the Soviet Union. There is still one Renault waiting for me in the Netherlands, a brand new 1980 GTL.

But we're settled on Bonaire now, we have bought a house here and Jimmy and I have our own enterprise. Monique and I are not even thinking of returning ever to the old world. The weather, the rush, you know. We love our life on the island of Bonaire!"

Those days, back in the seventies, Gijs was not even allowed by his parents to ride a moped. Too dangerous. When Gijs reached the age of eighteen however, his father suggested to obtain a drivers license for a motorcycle, in order to have at least some education in being a menace.

Gijs: "June the 18th, 1976 was a very important day in my life. I was, from that date, officially allowed to ride a motorcycle. My first motorcycle was a single cylinder, 125 cc, two stroke Yamaha. I rode the bike for more than four years. Those days, back in the seventies a motorcycle was a poor man's transportation. When I earned some more money, the bikes disappeared and small cars showed up.

Years later, during a summer holiday in Cyprus they rented a 250 cc single cylinder two stroke off-road bike, and, later, a four cylinder Honda 400. It was the sunny climate and the riding without a helmet that made an impression on them! The virus had attacked again!

In October 1992, Gijs bought his first Harley-Davidsonm a 1200 cc Electra Glide, built in 1975, which up until the arrival of the Ayatollah was used by the Persian Army. Gijs restored the bike and hit the road in the summer of 1993. For four years he drove the mighty, although slightly leaking V-twin, from England, to Italy, to Poland and Spain. .

In 1997 he traded in the Persian Lady for a brand new 1340 cc black Fat Boy. The bike was, after lots of kilometers and rather dented by the almost daily use, traded in for a 1450 cc twin cam two tone Heritage Springer in Y2K, in candy colors.

But the craving for another Fat Boy never left, and in 2004 he bought another one, in stylish black. The bike was almost new but, because of the move to Bonaire months later, it had to remain in Europe, with no more than 20.000 kms on the odo.

On Bonaire Gijs decided to order a brand new black Fat Boy at Orlando's bike shop, fitted with the traditional carburetor instead of the usual fuel injection, that needs a computer to be adjusted.



Gijs, fitted with Ray Ban sunglasses and MacLean's teeth, sitting on his beloved black Harley-Davidson Fat Boy, counting the revs of the V-twin engine. The other bike is Monique's 1996 Bad Boy.

Because of Gijs' special wishes he had to wait for seven very long months. Finally, in March 2006, his fifth Harley arrived on the island. (Helped by Ontvanger Cashier Larry, it received the registration MF30.) The bike is fitted with a nice little *Boneiru ta Dushi* flag on the rear end. This is the only *Boneiru ta Dushi*- flag on the island, powered by 1450 cc!

Monique, Gijs' partner in life, obtained the valuable pink paper in 1992. Her first bike was a red Honda 400F four cylinder. However, the first **real** bike she bought was a 1987 Harley-Davidson Sportster 883, in late 1993. Welcome to the family! In 1998 the tired and worn Sportster was replaced by a brand new Heritage Classic, displacing 1340 cc. In the fall of 2001 the bike was traded in for a 1996 Bad Boy with a springer fork on the front end. (License plate: MF999.) This is Monique's third real motorcycle.

The V-twin powered couple rode for years and years, in Europe and in the States, an average of 25.000 kilometers a year. All in all, riding together, they covered a distance of six times a trip around the globe. Gijs and Monique are fantasizing about a very long trip through North and Central America, but at this present moment their main point of interest is the very busy automotive garage on the Kaya Amsterdam. Good luck and happy trails! □ J@n Brouwer

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(Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 6)
on that island to consider backing-out of the integration arrangement.

► **The dusty air may protect the Caribbean from hurricanes.** Storm scientists are taking a closer look at whether giant dust clouds from the Sahara could join the El Nino phenomenon as a leading indicator of the ferocity of Atlantic hurricane seasons. El Nino, a warming of eastern Pacific waters, has become a dominant storm indicator because it can flatten an Atlantic hurricane season by increasing the wind shear that can rip apart cyclones.

Now scientists are intrigued by preliminary research showing a direct correlation between the sandy plumes and

tropical cyclones. "What we've seen is, more dust, fewer hurricanes," said William Lau, chief of the Laboratory for Atmospheres at NASA.

Studies so far indicate that dust clouds from Africa, which can grow as big as the continental United States and reach all the way to the Caribbean and Central America, tend to cool the Atlantic by reflecting sunlight. While Bonaire is out of the hurricane belt it can be affected by storms hundreds of miles away.

► Cooler water in the Pacific and more atmospheric dust from Africa prompted hurricane researcher **William Gray to lower his 2007 forecast slightly last Friday**, calling for 15 named storms and eight hurricanes off

the East and Gulf coasts of the US. According to an Associated Press (AP) report, Gray's forecast calls for four of the hurricanes to be intense.

The first Caribbean hurricane of the season may be on the way this week.

► **The minimum wage in the Netherlands is 1,301 euros (about NAf 2,700)** per month. This puts it among the highest six in the European Union (EU), according to figures the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics published last Monday. The minimum wage in the EU countries ranges from 92 euros in Bulgaria to 1,570 euros in Luxembourg. Depending on island and job, the minimum wage in the Antilles is about NAf 800 per month. □ G.D.



Now, results have a name!

A Regatta With Soul

CARIBBEAN HOMES SOULNIGHT

Bonaire's 40th Regatta will of course have sails, but this time it will add soul, the music that erupted into popularity about the time the Regatta tradition was begun in Bonaire

Although it's still about two months before the Regatta Week, the organizers of the Regatta and Jo Bux and Bert Poyck of the Bonaire Entertainment Foundation are already working hard to make the 40th anniversary of the Regatta a big success. It seems that they are doing a good job, as they have managed to attract a superstar to the island, namely the world famous King of Soul, George McCrae.

For those that haven't been on Bonaire long enough to learn, an explanation about one of the year's biggest event on the island is in order. The Regatta is an annual sailing event with numerous sailing races along the coast of Bonaire and around Klein Bonaire. This year it runs from Oc-

tober 7th until October 13th. All sorts of boats, coming from a number of countries participate.

Added to this are windsurfing and freestyle competitions. Races in various categories are scheduled during the day; the evenings are filled with a variety of cultural and folkloric shows and musical performances. The races are held close to the shore so spectators can easily follow them.

The Bonaire Regatta Festival takes place on the promenade and on the streets of Kralendijk. Stands with local 'Creole' food, souvenirs and handicrafts attract locals as well as visitors; they throng the normally so quiet streets during this time. International and local bands perform on stage every day of this festive week.

The non-profit *Fundashon Bonaire Entertainment*, that Bert Poyck and Jo Bux founded last year, conducted a very successful Rock 'n Roll night in November 2006. That's why the Regatta



George McCrae.

Organization approached them this year to organize a Soul Night on the evening of October 12.

(Continued on page 18)

Parrot Watch



A recent fledgling sits between its parents

With great joy and happiness I can report this week that Wee Ben has fledged! His clever parents picked a nest so cunning it was never sniffed out by rats. Mr Ben, an upstanding parrot if ever there was one, provided for dear Mrs Ben in those early days so she could concentrate on incubating her eggs all day long. And Mrs Ben a loving mother beyond compare, remained patient, forgiving and ever attentive.

Together they kept Wee Ben from danger and fulfilled his every demand. This, dear readers, is why he turned into the cantankerous spoilt brat the parrot team came to know so well. It is for this reason his fledging is a pure joy for us!

To date we know of a further four chicks that have evaded the dangers all parrot eggs must face. They have run the gauntlet that is parrot infancy, and they have been lucky enough to evade the scuzzbag poachers who want to steal them away from their families. Five lora chicks have fledged, hoorah! They had courage enough to leave their nests. They have used their wings. They have crash-landed into trees. They have flown over hilltops and a life of freedom awaits them. So long as a feral cat doesn't nab one in these first weeks of silly mistakes and not-so-streetwise-ness, they will be counted this January in the annual lora count. One day they themselves may even contribute to the population.

Olivia's three chicks remain in their nest but by the time you read this the eldest may have flown. You can see just how big and parrot like they have become when you go to parrotwatch.org. We are about to suggest some names and you can vote on what they should be called online too. Parrotwatch.org also gives you the chance to read the fieldwork diaries of the parrot team and see many other movies from the project, go check it out! □

Ask Olivia

Feeding Chicks

Dear Oliva,

I have very much enjoyed reading your articles and watching your videos on the Parrotwatch website. I am very impressed that you and Oswald do so well in bringing up all those chicks. I have been wondering though, how do you ensure that all the hungry chicks get a fair share of the food that you collect and make sure that the bigger ones don't just push the others out of the way and take it all?

Geraldine



Dear Geraldine,

I'm so glad that many people, such as yourself, are enjoying watching my chicks grow on the internet. When we arrive with the food we have gathered Oswald and I tend to take it in turns to go into the nest and give the children the food we have gathered from plants in the mondi. They hear us arrive and start begging for the food, making quite a racket I can tell you. Now they are older they can be quite boisterous as well running to the front of the nest, trying to be the first fed. We parrots tend to gauge who is the most in need by who is begging the loudest so they generally go first. We also try to share out the food as evenly as possible making sure that any smaller chicks pushed to the back also get a good feed.

Sadly there are times, however, when food is short and we have to arrange things differently in order to ensure some of our chicks survive. Here in Bonaire the seasonal weather is not always predictable and we parrots, as well as some other birds, hatch our chicks asynchronously to ensure that the chicks in the nest are a range of different ages. When times are hard and, sadly, we cannot collect enough food, this allows us to easily select the larger chicks to feed and means we haven't wasted too much effort on the chicks that won't make it.

Thankfully this year we are doing very well for food and we can feed everybody!

Olivia Parrot

Hosting the Wounded Warriors



David Radomisli photo

This week Bonaire is hosting the second annual Wounded Warrior dive certification trip. And it is all Bonaire that embraces these veterans. The support for this project a true grass roots effort that Bonaireans take personally. From their motorcycle club escorts, gifts from fine shops, to dinner with the governor it is there for all to see.

Again this year, soldiers and marines who were severely wounded in Iraq and /or Afghanistan, flew to Bonaire for their final open water dives. For the first time this year, two of the warriors are bringing their spouses and children who also complete their certifications. In all, six warriors and five spouses and two youngsters participated. Captain Don's Habitat is hosting the diving and accommodations for the Warriors. Numerous other Bonaire business are sponsoring meals, car rental, gifts and more. A full report will be in the next issue of *The Reporter*. □ G.D.



Habitat General Manager, Jack Chalk, sports sunburn, following his days of diving with the Warriors. He, and other Bonaire supporters, were awarded special plaques signed by all Warriors. To show their appreciation.



Governor Domacassé awards honorary medals to the popping of camera flashes before the official dinner began.

My Life Under the Sea A Flight of Fantasy!

My mind starts to wander as my partner floats around and gets accustomed to our weightless environment. Under the surface of the sea, we can practice our newfound freedom of movement without the restricting force of gravity. We now possess the agility and grace that eludes non-divers in their usual gravity-bound environment. As divers, you appreciate the beauty in this submerged stress free wonderland. Moving through it provides excellent exercise with none of the negative health risks to your bones, joints and muscles that other sports and activities may inflict as you progressively age. The density of the water offers the resistance required for effective exercise with every move of your legs, arms and torso.

Follow Me and Wonder...

Today, as we swim around my new underwater neighborhood, I am reminded of my early morning walks around my previous surroundings on Bonaire. Those mornings were filled with anticipation, excitement and eagerness to face the challenges that life on Earth presented each new day. The morning light, calm atmosphere and sounds of nature, renewing its familiar daily patterns, were a constant inspiration for me. Now, in my new underwater habitat, my days and nights are filled with joy by unique revelations. Ever since I began living in this pristine environment, the Sea, my natural curiosity has been fueled by continuous discoveries!

Meet My New Neighbors...

Lets visit with some of the locals as we swim (walk) around the neighborhood. Hey, there's "Spike" and "Buster" coming out for a walk. I wonder what they're doing out this morning, usually they are in they're houses during the day. Like all Spiny Lobsters and Batwing Coral Crabs, they are night creatures. Look how Spike slowly walks waving his long feelers from side to side to clear his path. Don't get to close he may puncture you with those sharp spines all over him. It looks like they are on a "mission" and don't want to talk to us. We better let them go on they're way! Wow, look over there, behind "Pinky", our resident Giant Anemone, she hasn't moved in years, sitting still, getting bigger everyday, waving her pink tipped arms at us. It's "Lance" peeking out from behind her and starting to walk in the same direction as his cousins Spike and Buster! I bet there is a family party or something going on today. Arrow Crabs like "Lance", usually stay hidden during the day, just like his cousins. I wonder what's up.

Now there's a sight. You remember "Gladys" the Red Reef Hermit crab, with her long, shapely red legs, very

sexy. Rumor has it she is having an affair with her boss "Harold", the media mogul, he's a Giant Reef Hermit crab. I wrote about them before in a past feature story in The Bonaire Reporter. It looks like she is also invited to the party. Well,



The Bride To Be

we have no choice now, but to follow and find out what is happening. Then crash the event. Let's keep going: Ok with you? My silent partner utters an emphatic, "Yep"!

The Special Occasion...

Fifteen minutes later, we finally reach the *Crustacean Family* compound after a good swim. This really is a special place. There are many Hard and Soft corals spaced around a gently sloping bottom at the edge of the reef drop-off at 8 meters deep (26 feet). There is plenty of space for the gathering of the clan. It has a lot of nooks and crannies for those members who need to feel secure during the daylight hours. Wow, this must be a big deal, everyone is here. Let's stay down low and hide behind these beautiful, yellow, Venus Sea Fans, uncommon for this area. We can watch everything and decide what to do next. Keep a close watch around the compound perimeter. With this many night creatures exposed in the daytime, all next to each other, there may be trouble from other natural predators.

Oh, oh, there's "Harold" and "Gladys" moving to the center of the group. Yikes! They are walking openly arm in arm. Harold is smiling to everyone and announces his engagement to Gladys. Wow, this IS a big deal! I see some movement off to my right, a disturbance on the sand bottom behind and under a

large Boulder Star Coral. I spy a flash of green and a strange, bumpy shape on the bottom, under the edge of the coral. Trouble is here! It's "Viper" a gigantic Green Moray Eel and his pal "Shifty" a Common Caribbean Octopus. Shifty

viding a sort of "smoke screen" covering the *Crustacean Family* withdrawal and escape. There is a lot of commotion. "Viper" and "Shifty" are confused and also retreat. We hover over the sand and watch for any further attempts at attack by the intruders. My partner looks at me with a satisfied grin and signals OK!

It's also time for my partner to depart and return to her terrestrial home. I say my good bye, gently embrace her and escort her safely back to the shore. I, also need a rest, and return to my new accommodations in Neptune City. You are welcome to join me on my next morning swim (walk?)! I'll see you later. Pasa un bon dia!

Read about the "Big Event" in an upcoming issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*.
□Photos and story © Albert Bianculli 2007



The Lucky Groom

seems very excited and ready to pounce with his arms spread in the classic "Umbrella Capture Posture". Viper, on the other hand, is slithering forward, mouth agape, and ready to snatch anything with his powerful jaws.

The Fateful Encounter, Predator vs. Prey...

It's time for action on our part. I seldom interfere with nature and believe in the "Natural Order of the Universe", but now I feel we must intervene in this instance. I signal to my partner to advance. Turning on my powerful underwater lamp, we swiftly move forward into the middle of the gathering. With good buoyancy control we take care not to touch any living creature and simply intimidate all the guests and intruders with our close presence and bright light. As we approach, all the family members instantly scatter and retreat into their hiding places. Their fast movements create a small cloud of light sand and other particles on the sandy bottom, pro-



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. .

Bonaire Soccer Championships

Hometown final for Rincon teams

After an intensive soccer season with some breathtaking play-offs between the four highest ranked teams on Bonaire, two teams from the village of Rincon played their way up to the finals. Last week, Real Rincon and VESPO competed in their final test to have the right to hold high the Bonaire Cup. Rincon can almost be called the 'Village of Bonaire soccer' as not only the seniors made it up to the final, also

newcomer on the island watching a soccer match in Bonaire, the first thing that catches the eye is the huge number of women in the crowd. That soccer is a real man's game doesn't hold up on this island. Better to say, almost more women watched the game than men did. Their shrieks and enthusiasm had the upper hand against the roars of the male supporters.

During the final Rincon was probably



Friends and family of Real at the blue carpet.

the juniors of the same teams played in the final as well on August 3rd.

Due to the always warm temperatures on the island, soccer is played a little differently than people are used to on seeing it on TV. Instead of fresh green-cut grassy soccer fields, the field at the Rincon Stadium is completely dried out consisting of sand and gravel. Players running after the ball always results in a big cloud of dust, and when one of the players falls, most of the time this results in bruises or even bigger injuries. That's why the soccer on the island is almost not a contact sport so much but mainly about technique and ball control. Charging up to a player of the other team almost always results in a free kick or a yellow card.

Also the crowd is quite different. For a

completely deserted as nearly all its residents were at the stadium. It was clear that the expansion plans and the new seats donated by Holland will be really necessary to accommodate all the supporters next year. Most of the crowd has to stand during the match to get a good glimpse of their soccer stars.

On one end of the field were the Real Rincon supporters in their "private" zone, called the Blue Carpet and the Blue Lounge, on the other side of the field were the VESPO supporters in the Red Zone. It seemed to be a final as well between the supporters for Who Was Making the Most Noise. With respect to the Blue crowd, the Red crowd won this competition easily, with their drums, singing and air horns powered with scuba tanks they drowned out the Blue



VESPO celebrating their cup. On the right Ruby Balentin (white shirt). The competition was dedicated to him for his contribution to Bonaire soccer.

crowd.

The first match played during the final night was between the junior teams. Coincidentally, the same teams as the seniors had made it to the finals, which indicates that both teams have great future potential. The match was equal and ended up with no score at the end and penalty kicks had to be taken to decide the winner. During the penalties both young teams were equally matched. Nobody missed until the score was 5-4 for VESPO and Real Rincon player and Captain Ilfred Piar was under pressure to make the kick and tie it up again. Because Piar was the top scorer of the competition it seemed there was little chance he would miss. Only he did miss and Young VESPO was unleashed to celebrate their Cup victory. The Real players were downhearted and disappointed but the VESPO players gathered them quickly to celebrate together.

The next game was between the senior teams of VESPO and Real Rincon which was not as exciting as expected. In the first half VESPO player Shahairo Oleano scored the a point and for the rest of the game VESPO created a defensive block against the few dangerous

attacks of Real, and only managed keep their lead by counterattacks. This was a good strategic decision by the VESPO coach Ray Finies as his team was a few times closer another score than Real. The Real coach, Goito Winklaar, might be faulted for some decisions during the final game. The midfield of Real didn't seem organized at all and all the hope that attacker Ruliane (Prem) Martijn would score, vanished when a player from the youth team, Robert Frans, took his place in the 75th minute of the game. When the final whistle was blown it was once again VESPO that could celebrate their newly won Bonaire Cup.

Last weekend both teams also played against the number one and two teams from Curaçao in the Rincon Stadium. The return match will be in Curaçao and they will be vying for the Antillean Cup. □

Story and photos by David Radomisli

YOU'VE GOT TO MIX AND SCRATCH TO PLEASE THE CROWD

The dream every novice DJ has is to become famous instantly, travel around the world, go to the best parties and somewhat importantly, get paid a bunch for just doing the thing they love most: mixing and scratching. Most of the time the reality is different. There's a long and bumpy road to becoming a successful deejay. Last month Bonaire's neophyte deejays got a real opportunity to take a big step to fulfill their DJ dream. The Heineken Green Synergy DJ Competition gave them that chance. Last Friday the eight finalists of July had a chance to demonstrate their skills during the final night of the competition at City Café.

First thing a starting DJ needs is the equipment do be able to practice at home. Second, a DJ has to distinguish himself by having a style of their own in mixing and scratching. Third, and the most important skill a DJ needs to possess, is that he is able to please the crowd. During the finals at City Café that wasn't very hard as City Café was packed with partying people, eager to have a good time. During the night each of the eight Deejays got 30 minutes to do their stuff.

A jury, consisting three experienced Bonairean deejays, Karel Domacassé, Andy Domacassé and Robert Sanches had the difficult task to decide which competitor was most skilled. Judge Robert Sanches knows exactly what the finalists were going through as he is a veteran of deejay competitions. He is



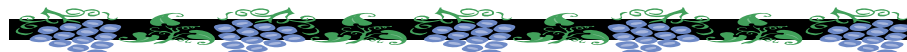
DJ Fe was the winner of the DJ contest and will represent Bonaire during the final in Curaçao

a four time DJ champion on Bonaire and has twice been over-all champion of the Dutch Antilles. "We look at various aspects for giving points during the competition. We judge them on their choice of music, their technique, the way they handle their equipment, the effect it has on the crowd, and their mixing style. Extra points are given for talking to the crowd and getting them in the right mood," says Sanchez.

The clear winner was Rudolf Godie, a.k.a. DJ Fe. Behind the turntables he seemed to know exactly what he was doing, and the fact that probably influenced the judges the most in naming DJ Fe the winner, was the reaction of the crowd. It didn't hurt that he had an enormous group of fans along with him. The prize DJ Fe received from Heineken was a complete turntable set-up. Next, he will represent Bonaire at the Antillean DJ competition in Curaçao. If he wins that battle as well he will go to the international DJ competition in Jamaica. □

Story and photos by David Radomisli

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

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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)
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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. 717-5091, 717-2288	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 Café and at Eden Beach.

FITNESS

Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

The Plantation Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

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, rapelling/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!

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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.

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Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEX agent.**

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The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.

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Contact: bonairecottage@aol.com

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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

SALE: Sea & Sea DX860G Digital Camera in Underwater Housing, \$500 plus tax; 5 in 1 Battery Charger \$25, At Capture Photo in the Dive Resort, www.Capturecaribbean.com Call 717-6151.

Cars & Scooters

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



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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

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Homes

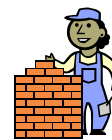
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Large House for Rent [4 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms] tel: 717-8603

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Pet of The Week

While the creator of "Pet of the Week" is taking some time off after more than 10 years of uninterrupted writing of this column we will fill in with photos of some of the past adoptees. The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Telephone 717-4989. □

G.D.



John



Poogy

DO YOU SUDOKU? SOLUTION BELOW

Puzzle on page 6

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

Regatta Soul Night (Continued from page 10)

Another factor for the Regatta organization to approach Bert and Jo is their enthusiasm and their love for music. As Bux is selling music on the Wilhelmina square every Friday morning and owned a CD-shop in Holland and Poyck is a musician still playing in a band himself. *Fundashon Bonaire Entertainment* doesn't aim to make money for themselves out of the music night. Their goal is to collect as much of it as possible to donate to Bonaire's *Skol di Musika*. "The money is not intended to be for buying new instruments, but for sponsoring new musical talents on the island. With the money we hope students will get the possibility to develop their skill and are able to form new bands. Our intention is to create a double effect: the young music students will get a better understanding of making music and playing together in a music band and for us it will provide publicity for the companies who sponsor the event. Caribbean Homes is the "name sponsor" of Soul Night. "

The Caribbean Homes Soul Night will have no entrance fee and the show will be free for all to attend. That's why they'll need a lot of sponsors to help with the finances. Many signed up like Caribbean Homes, Plaza Resort, Arke Fly, City Café, Krioyo Paint, RE/MAX, Flamingo TV, Mega FM, Digital FM, Tiara Air, and *The Reporter* itself. But new sponsors are still necessary and very welcome."

As a reward to the sponsors for their willingness to help with the project ,

they will receive a package which includes a trip on the traditional sailboat the *VD17* of Fred Ros (also a sponsor), a BBQ on the Plaza Resort Beach and a private performance of George McCrae.

McCrae will not be the only performer during Caribbean Homes Soul Night as the Dutch DJ, Rick the Soulman, will open the night with some funky tunes and the local band Dikazz will warm up the crowd before George McCrae hit the stage.

That the money is going to a good cause is also a reason why the *Fundashon Bonaire Entertainment* has managed to get the famous artist George McCrae to the island. McCrae has done many benefit concerts for his own projects in Africa and South-America and although he is very busy he found the time to perform in Bonaire.

For many people the name George McCrae probably won't ring a bell, but his song "Rock your Baby" probably will. This number one hit in 1974 sold over 52 million copies all over the world, making one of the biggest selling records in history. More about George McCrae can be found in upcoming issues of *The Reporter*. □

Story by
David
Radomisli



Giving Youngsters Opportunity



Buddy
Dive
Photo

The Stichting Project is a training center, founded on Bonaire in 2004 to educate and help youngsters from 12 -17 years of age who have problems at an intellectual, social, behavioral or emotional level. The children participate in group activities and training programs. One of their recent projects was to make new key chains for Buddy Dive Resort. In the picture the kids present the new chains to Paul Coolen and Michelle van der Valk, Buddy Dive's new General Managers. Buddy Dive Resort has seven buildings and the teens made a different shape for each building. "We were very happy to work together with Stichting Project, the key chains look wonderful. They have done an outstanding job" said Michelle van der Valk.

The Stichting Project has been, and continues to be, one of Bonaire's most successful programs that reach out to youngsters. It's run by its hard-working Director, Mick Schmit, who is personally involved in its daily operation.

If you want to help with a donation contact Mick at + 599-786-6816 , Address: Kaya Botote 2 - BONAIRE (Dutch Antilles). Email: mickschmit@telbonet.an
BANK# : 180.00.703 at RBTT Bonaire - N.A. □ Jan Willem 't Hoof

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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
8-17	2:35	1.2FT.	3:41	1.2FT.	8:53	1.2FT.	17:48	1.5FT.	68
8-18	3:58	1.1FT.	18:19	1.6FT.					59
8-19	4:27	1.0FT.	18:51	1.7FT.					50
8-20	4:56	0.9FT.	19:28	1.8FT.					41
8-21	5:34	0.9FT.	19:59	1.9FT.					34
8-22	6:04	0.8FT.	20:30	1.9FT.					32
8-23	6:30	0.8FT.	21:09	2.0FT.					37
8-24	7:00	0.8FT.	21:47	2.0FT.					46
8-25	7:30	0.9FT.	22:24	2.0FT.					58
8-26	7:52	0.9FT.	12:48	1.1FT.	13:19	1.1FT.	23:05	2.0FT.	70
8-27	8:09	1.0FT.	12:39	1.1FT.	15:24	1.1FT.	23:56	1.9FT.	82
8-28	0:36	1.8FT.	8:21	1.1FT.	13:11	1.3FT.	16:46	1.1FT.	91
8-29	1:29	1.6FT.	8:26	1.1FT.	13:47	1.4FT.	18:22	1.1FT.	97
8-30	2:32	1.5FT.	8:21	1.2FT.	14:29	1.5FT.	20:26	1.2FT.	99
8-31	4:02	1.3FT.	8:00	1.2FT.	15:31	1.6FT.	23:06	1.1FT.	97
9-01	1:06	1.0FT.	16:26	1.7FT.					92
9-02	2:27	0.9FT.	17:31	1.8FT.					83

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Start Aug. 2 (Usually 9 pm)
To be Announced

Start Aug. 9 (Usually 9 pm)
To be Announced

Call 717-2400 for details

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

HAPPENING SOON

Thursday, August 16 – Elvis' Retirement Party at Lee's Bar. 9 pm. Be there! Special appearance 9:30-11 by The Flamingo Rockers

Friday, August 31 at 10pm. Lees's bar, The Flamingo Rockers-10 pm.

COMING

September 4 - Peter Faber performs a benefit show at Jong Bonaire at 8 pm, tickets at NAF 25 available at JB and City Cafe

September 6 - Bonaire Day in Kralendijk

September 3 – Bonaire Fishing Tournament

October – Regatta, Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire

Upcoming Fitness events:

October 06 - 6th BWC Mountain Bike Tour. Eden Beach Resort Activity Center. Registrations start at 3:45 p.m. Participation fee is fls. 15.00 per person includes drink and fruits. Information email to info@bonairewellness.com or call Tel. +599 785 0767

October 07 - 7th Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire. Jong Bonaire fundraiser. Visit www.jongbonaire.org for more information or call 717 4303.

December 1 - Bodybuilding Competition. More information contact Judel at 786-0290.

December 2 - 2nd BWC International Mountain Bike Race.

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar
- HH—50% off- Buddy Dive Resort, 5:30-6:30
- Divi Flamingo Casino open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm– 4 am; Sun. 7 pm– 3 am.

• By appointment – Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

• Parke Publico children's playground open every day into the evening hours.

Saturdays

- Steak Night On the Beach (a la carte) - Buddy Dive Resort, 6—10 pm
- Rincon Marshé—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music.

www.infobonaire.com/rincon. Extra big Marshé 1st Saturday of the month, 6 am-2 pm.

• All You Can Eat BBQ at Divi Flamingo with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAF26.50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

• Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse, 2nd Saturday of the month, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAF20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.

• Flea Market every first Saturday of the month from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAF5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

Sundays

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

Mondays

• Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10. Buddy Dive Resort, 6 -9:30 pm

• Reporter writer Albert Bianculli presents his Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday" at 6:30pm, 7:30 pm & 8:30pm., Casablanca Argentinean Grill

• Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 5:30-7:30 Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar
- Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine, 5 -7, Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar

Wednesdays

- Beach BBQ and music at The Windsurf Place at Sorobon, 7—10 pm. Reserve ahead. Tel. 717-5091, 717-2288
- Live music by Flamingo Rockers, Unplugged, Buddy Dive bar 6-8 pm.
- Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort, 6—10 pm

Thursdays

- Flamingo Rockers, at "Admiral's Hour" for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7
- Buddy's Bingo Show - Buddy Dive Resort, 8- 9:30 pm

Fridays

- Mixed Level Yoga 8:30am, Buddy Dive 786-6416
- Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin 7 - 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225
- Friday Weekly Market at Wilhelmina Park with local art, music and food; summer fashions, jewelry, glass-

work, Bonaire pictures, driftwood art, paintings and all kinds of Bonaire souvenirs, 9 am to 2 pm..

• Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers" Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar, 5-7 pm

• Swim lessons for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sunrise Poolbar and Sportsclub, for children 0 – 18.

• Manager's Bash—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, Divi Flamingo, 5-7 pm

• Free Rum Punch Party (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm) & All-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, Buddy Dive Resort

Saturdays

Mountain Bike Training for riders of all levels every Saturday (also Tuesday) at 5pm. Meet at the Bonaire Wellness Connexions headquarters at Eden Beach Resort Activity Center. Contact BWC 785 0767 or email info@bonairewellness.com

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 -Caribbean Gas Training "Beyond Gravity – An Evening with DIR," 6 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure 786-5073

"Diving Facts and Fiction - An Evening with DIR" slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure, 786-5073

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Kriyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018

Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

Cancer Survivor Support Group Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.

Weekly Bonaire Talker 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 Sunrise Pool Bar. all levels, NAF2,50. Call Joop 717-5903, or be there in time (7.15 p.m.)

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

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

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

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

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez 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 Papiamentu, Dutch, English on Sundays 10 am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am.

Children's club Saturday 5 pm in Kralendijk.

Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.

New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30am. In Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services on Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu 717-8304 . Saturday at 6 pm at Our Lady of Coromoto in Antril,

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

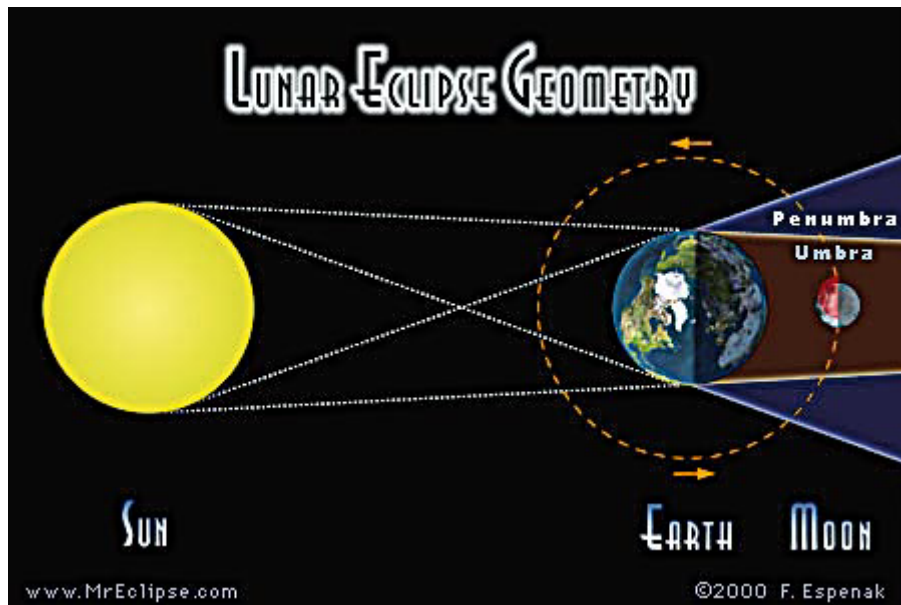
Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up



Don't Miss Next Week's Eclipse Of The Sturgeon Moon : The Last Of The Dual Eclipses Of 2007

Next Tuesday morning, August 28th, we will be treated to the last of the dual eclipses of 2007, the first of which occurred on Saturday, March 3rd. American Indian fishing tribes named the August full Moon the Sturgeon Moon since the fish was easily caught during that time. But what causes an eclipse of the Moon anyway? Let's imagine that we're out in space looking down on our Moon, Earth and Sun. Now Moonlight is really light from the Sun reflected off the Moon and back to our Earth. So one half of the Moon is lit up by the Sun at all times, although the only time we see the half of the Moon that is completely lit up is when we have a full Moon which occurs every month whenever the Moon is directly opposite the Sun as seen from Earth. Now usually when we have a full Moon the Moon is either above or below the plane of our Earth's orbit. But occasionally the full Moon will glide directly into our Earth's plane and will pass directly through our Earth's shadow which will block most of the Sun's light from reaching it. In other words our Earth's shadow will eclipse the light of the Sun which is why we call such an event an eclipse.

But during a total lunar eclipse the Moon never completely disappears but always turns some unpredictable shade of reddish orange and that's because the red rays of sunlight are always bent by our Earth's atmosphere into our Earth's shadow, filling it with a faint reddish orange light. So during a total lunar eclipse the reddish orange Moon color you see is actually light from all the sunrises and sunsets around the world being refracted, that is bent, into our Earth's shadow and onto the Moon and then reflected back again. And that's what you'll see Tuesday morning between midnight and dawn.

Now if we could look at our Earth's shadow cone more closely we would see that there are two distinct parts to it. A pale outer shadow called the penumbra and a smaller dark shadow called the umbra. The penumbral phase of the eclipse is never very noticeable so I'm suggesting that you start watching when the Moon begins to enter the umbra which is 4:51 a.m. Bonaire Sky Park Time. Then as minute after minute goes by you will actually see the umbra which is our Earth's curved shadow slowly creep across the Moon and gradually darken it and cause it to change color. The Moon will be completely within the umbra and totally eclipsed for about 91 minutes from 5:52 a.m. to 6:23 a.m. in the Sky Park, after which the whole process will slowly reverse. Bonaire will see only the first half of the eclipse before the sun rises. Because no one can predict what color the Moon will turn during totality that's what makes it so much fun. Will it be bright orange, or blood red? Only the shadow knows. See for yourself. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



Aries: March 20 - April 19 Mid-month gets better and is great fun, plus if you're single and looking for love, there's not a more promising time all year, so do make the most of it. Similarly, if you're committed and hoping for children, this is also a peak period. The last ten days of August are a balancing act, mainly between everything that's going on and the fact you could use a little space.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20 Your home is a refuge in times of trouble and against the vagaries of a changing world. Bricks and mortar are an asset, but the value of emotional security, is not something that's easily reckoned in purely financial terms. There is nothing that beats coming home and simply closing the door.

Gemini: May 21 - June 20 At times you've felt like you were going to explode and at least now you're able to, so that's something. Obviously you don't especially enjoy being so furious, but the old adage of better out than in holds true and anger is an energy after all.

Cancer: June 21 - July 22 You're known for being shrewd and thrifty and while you'd rather not think about money all the time, you're aware it's an important consideration where your safety and emotional wellbeing are concerned. Money matters have been an issue for longer than you'd like to remember and during August it all comes to a head, with the chance for a far more positive resolution than perhaps you'd dared to expect

Leo: July 23 - August 22 You have a big heart, you're optimistic, enthusiastic and pretty much irrepresible, so there isn't much that really gets you down. You've dreamt about those far-off days of happiness and glory like they would never return, then suddenly they're back now almost without warning.

Virgo: August 23 - September 22 During August you'll feel like hiding away. It's often like this before your birthday, but for some even once this comes along, it only just gets worse. There are so many difficulties now, so many issues for you to face and so much that you need to sort out, you wonder how you'll ever do it all without making changes on the sort of scale, you don't even want to think about.

Libra: September 23 - October 22 There's a certain amount of soul-searching for you during August. At the heart are your fondest ambitions and that it's become increasingly clear, some changes must be made. To you maybe it seems like a setback, but that's not really correct, because if you hadn't aimed for what you went for and tried out the things you did, you'd always have it.

Scorpio: October 23 - November 21 During August, the focus on your career affairs finally hits a critical mass. For many this means paid employment, while for others it has more of a vocational slant, relating to what you had hoped to achieve for yourself and to what you are doing with your life.

Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21 During August you catch it from all sides. Despite your famous tolerance and ability to dodge the bullets, by the end of the month you're feeling about as reasonable as a shark in a feeding frenzy. You're almost certainly best going away, on your own if possible and around mid-month if you can, or alternatively burying yourself in the exhaustive contemplation of a subject far removed from your everyday life.

Capricorn: December 22 - January 19 Capricorn is the business sign and if you're a businessman or woman, then August is a great month for you. You'll almost certainly have some business interests, whether these are official or not, so you'll be delighted when new opportunities to get richer present themselves around mid-month.

Aquarius: January 20 - February 18 For somebody who says they're not interested in relationships, you're going to have a hard time avoiding them during August. If you're already spoken for then great, you'll get to spend the month staring lovingly at your partner for hours on end. If you are single and already happy though, you could be in trouble.

Pisces: February 19 - March 19 Yours is a sign reputedly prone to addiction, but this month it's not nicotine, drugs or alcohol, it's most probably your work. This invokes a hectic picture with your work meaning everything that keeps your life running smoothly on a daily basis, and with your rewards not immediately obvious, but being stored up for the future. □ *Paul Wade, Astrologer*

Picture Yourself With The Reporter

Carnival Parade, The Netherlands



Former *Bonaire Reporter* master photographer, writer and SGB teacher, Wilna Groenenboom, writes that she is getting settled in Holland and as a result is very busy. She's got a new telephone number, 06 23181670 and a new car, a Peugeot 206. Email: wilnagroenenboom@live.nl

She writes, " I am sorry that I forgot to say goodbye to a few people and with this message I want to let everybody know that I like to say goodbye to them and that I miss Bonaire and my lovely friends a lovely people, and my lovely island....."

Near Aspen, Colorado, USA



Franks and Wilma Bohm went to Colorado for a holiday and took this picture with the Bonaire Reporter at the highest asphalt road (14.000 feet above sea level near Aspen, Colorado.

Frank runs the Freewieler Bike Shop in Kralendijk and, a rider himself, was impressed with all the bikers who reached the top. That must be heavier than the Tour de France.....

Wilma is one of the founders of the Pelikaan School and took this great photo

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then snap a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN a Reporter night on the town.**

On The Island Since... 2004

Bert and Edith Foks – Ferrageau de St. Amand

“2004 was a crazy year; we came in April and started renovating the house, but it was also the year of Hurricane Ivan - heavy tropical weather, power failures and Kralendijk under water. All of sudden Bonaire looked quite different! If you only come here when the weather is super beautiful, you have no clue. The first four months I lost five kilo's because I went on the same way I used to do in Holland, then I thought 'it's time to slow down Bert!' That's the charm of the island; everything here goes differently than you're used to and that's what you choose for.

Ten years ago we came here for a vacation; we'd just learned how to dive. Bonaire felt immediately right and we decided to come back the next year.

Edith: “We had a public relations bureau in Holland; I was doing the personnel administration and Bert was the director, we had 20 people working for us - it was quite a company and so we needed some relaxation. Bert has been working extremely hard ever since he was 18 and along the way I've helped him a bit. In Holland we had a good life, we had a boat and the children would always come with us, but once we'd learned how to dive, all our vacations became diving vacations.

When the children became adults and went their own way, we sold the boat and we did some diving in Holland, but it was cold and dark and there was nothing to see. Diving on Bonaire was easy, the island small and cozy and the people were good-natured. In 2000 we bought an apartment and from that time on we spent every vacation on Bonaire. The difference between our hectic life in Holland and the quiet atmosphere here made us look forward more and more to come to Bonaire. However, each time ten days was the maximum, because we couldn't stay away longer.

In 2002, someone offered to buy the company, and in 2003 we bought a house here. Bert stayed on for one more year and in 2004 we emigrated; we sold everything we had in Holland and our sons, Hans and Thomas, 29 and 27 at the time, stayed there. It was a big thing - it's something you don't do just like that - you have to get to know the island, the people and the circumstances really well before you come here.”

Bert: “I think many people come to live here ill-prepared and that's why they disappear soon after; in a couple of months the cracks are already showing. We prepared ourselves well and we really thought it over and also we had several people sort things out for us.”
Edith: “I'd just finished my four year training as a reflexology therapist (an alternative treatment where you manipu-

late certain pressure points on the foot and by doing so you treat the whole body) and I got my diploma 14 days before we left. Bert wanted to do something in the dive industry and I wanted to start a practice - not a very busy one - just a few clients per week.

When we arrived here I met my first client and one thing lead to another and now I have more or less two to four clients a week and that's fun; I wouldn't want it to be more, because... art is very important to me... I have to be able to express myself in wood, stone, painting and drawing. I've been drawing all my life but when I was in high school I felt strongly attracted to sculpturing. I really wanted to hack in stone, but I didn't know how and I wanted to go to the academy badly. It has been something I wanted to do for a long, long time and when I finally got the chance to do it, I didn't... I went to study reflexology. However, I did attend the free academy at night, an open workshop where you inscribe yourself for sculpturing or painting and there I learned the techniques of sculpturing in two years and at the same time I was working two days per week in a studio together with a group of people.

“Together we enjoy Bonaire's nature under and above water and the simple things you can buy here are just perfect.”

There I started to make sculptures; it was in 1999, eight years ago. I'd wanted it for 25 years and there was never time, or I didn't take the time or I didn't meet the right people. It was one of my reasons to come here - to have more time, more freedom and space to do those things, because in Holland you are preoccupied with everything. Here it's easier to work, you're outside in the open air, not in a dusty workshop and also there's plenty of material - limestone, wood from the trees and driftwood. I've just started with clay - but many times something goes wrong, especially when the object is in the process of drying it's very difficult, because it dries out too fast and it starts cracking - and so, I prefer sculpturing. In 2005 I started making Mandelas in pastel. You start with a central point within a circle and you're free to fill it in the way you want it, but you have to stay inside of the circle. The Buddhists made them on the floor with

sand in every thinkable pattern. I love to do it, it's very relaxing.

In 2005 I had my own exhibition in Cinnamon Art Gallery and in 2006 I had an exhibition together with Ronald Verhoeven in Kas di Arte. I also participated in the exhibition in Kas di Arte when Queen Beatrice came to Bonaire. As a result of the exhibitions many people asked me if I would be willing to give some workshops and in March this year I gave my first one - we worked with soapstone - and in April I gave my second workshop. There were a lot of enthusiastic people and reactions and I'm thinking of doing it again in September, but there's no hurry, it has to be fun.”

While we're talking, the family's dogs are splashing around in the pool and they never seem to get enough of it; two beautiful imported pedigree Rhodesian Ridgebacks - enormous by Bonairean standards - and another one from here, most likely a cross between a Dogo Argentino and a Dalmatian, also huge! They're running back and forth to draw Edith's attention and she gets all wet, but couldn't care less. Bert (59) and Edith (55) are people you instantly like; they're an easy going, friendly couple. A selection of Edith's art is exposed on the terrain around the house and there are some really good pieces to be found amongst the collection. Edith: “I'd made my mind up that when I came to live here I would go and work as a volunteer at the animal shelter and after two months I started doing so. Well, yeah... I really do love dogs a lot and now there's one at the shelter...”

She smiles at Bert and he tries to ignore her announcement and says, “Officially I've stopped working but I am still busy for the owner's association of Belmar. I've become a member of the Bonairoclub, the Bonairean aero club. Last year Edith gave me, as a present for my birthday, a flight to circle above the island and I was so taken by the experience that I wanted to take a course to get my pilot's certificate. I haven't finished



Bert and Edith Foks

yet, but when I'm ready I'll be a private pilot and I may fly as a hobby. The weather here is very good for flying, only the wind can be tricky when it comes to landing. We do have a unique strip here, one of the largest of the Caribbean, fit for the biggest planes.

Edith snorkels with the Queen Angels and although I'm a PADI instructor, I don't do much diving - I just can't find the time and my tempo is a bit low, but it doesn't matter, because that's what we're here for! I'm also setting up a new sterilization campaign together with the board of the Animal Shelter, and... we're looking for sponsors! Together we enjoy Bonaire's nature under and above water and the simple things you can buy here are just perfect. We also found good friends - something that's really important when you've left your familiar environment and you have to start all over again - it's also a challenge, but we did it. For the time being we don't have plans to move - Holland has changed a lot in those few years - and all that space you have here... You can't look into the future; you live by the day and here you live more intensely than you do in Holland.” □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

