

BONAIRE The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



**Wounded
Warriors
Dive Bonaire**
Story on pg. 7

Warrior Latseen Benson and his wife Jessica underwater in Bonaire

Photo by Tom Ingram, DEMA

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Pollution**

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Windup**

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For The Reefs**

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The Bonaire government announced that Delta Airlines plans non-stop Atlanta - Bonaire flights beginning in February 2008.

No guarantee payments were required but there will be joint marketing. Bonaire worked for several years to win this commitment, said political leader Ramonsito Booi. Delta recently emerged from bankruptcy protection. Tourism statistics show that there is a direct correlation between non-stop flights from the US to an increase in tourism numbers. There was not yet information on the delta website at press time.

The right of Antilles Governor Frits Goedgedrag to override the Bonaire Island Council's decision to allow Mangrove Village Project to begin was upheld by the Dutch Council of State.



The Project was a small resort adjacent to mangroves in the protected area of Lac Bay. The area was designated a protected wetland by Bonaire and incorporated in the international Treaty of Ramsar. The Ramsar Treaty is a pact among 93 countries that agreed in Ramsar, Iran, to target hundreds of prized wetlands around the world for protection. The 1971 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance was the first global conservation treaty and the only one aimed at a specific type of ecosystem.

Resort construction was authorized to begin without an Environmental Impact Study which is required for any development in a protected area. The Governor withdrew the permission when Bonaire authorities did not act after environmentalists raised the issue. Currently the unfinished project is an eyesore and will probably remain so until the responsibility for demolishing it is argued in court. The developer, Crown Court Estate, NV, is asking NAf 23.6 million in damages.

A gay couple, married in Holland, were the first to register their same-sex marriage in Bonaire. On August 22, during office hours, they were enrolled at the Civil Registry as a married couple. Recognition of same-sex marriages, recognized in The Netherlands, was not accepted by the Bonaire government. That stand was challenged in court. Last week Bonaire decided to accept same-sex marriages without additional litigation following the loss of a similar case by the Government of Aruba at the High Court in The Hague.

The gay couple moved to Bonaire after their marriage. Up the registration their marriage could not be registered, which meant, among other things, that they could not qualify for the tax advantages offered retirees under certain conditions.

Lawyer Carlene Peterson handled the case but was advised that according to

the civil code of Bonaire, same-sex marriage was not acknowledged. The civil code states that a marriage is between a man and a woman, but nowhere does it state that gay couples already married in the Netherlands cannot be registered as married. The ruling does not mean that same-sex marriages can be performed in



Bonaire.

More than one Bonaire realtor uses the word "Paradise" in their slogan. The NuWire Investor apparently agrees with them. Last week NuWire said that everybody would like a piece of paradise in the Caribbean, but some are better than others. In the top five are ABC Islands with Bonaire being singled out because of its planned closer relationship with The Netherlands.

NuWire listed the top five places as Trinidad & Tobago, Aruba, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands Antilles, Roatán (Honduras) and Corn Islands of Nicaragua.

The Caribbean Credit Bureau (CCB) has been set up in Bonaire to expedite credit checks for banks and other lenders and should help expedite credit requests from borrowers.

CCB will maintain payment history of private individuals if they are customers of participating lending institutions. The data base will be well secured and will contain five years of borrowers credit history. Only subscribed credit institutions can search this databank.

CCB's database is built from data from official sources, like publications of the *Curaçaosche Courant* (for official notices), the Central Bureau for Statistics, banks and consumers.

CCB is not allowed to use these data for anything else than for consumers' credit applications. In order to guarantee security of the databases CCB will adhere to the Dutch Law's protection of personal data and the guidelines of the European Union and the United Nations to process computer data.

CCB will not maintain a black list of dubious debtors. Individuals can also check their own credit report.

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) report, that based on a recent survey, Bonaire's labor needs more than doubled as compared to a 1998 study. The construction sector accounts for most of the vacancies. A complete report can be found at (in Dutch) www.cbs.an.

Pensioners from Holland who live in the Netherlands Antilles will soon be able to get **medical insurance at relatively low cost from the BZV** health

bureau. Under recent changes in Dutch law it was no longer possible for pensioners to continue in the health care insurance system there. That would mean they have to buy new health insurance on the islands, while they have always paid their premiums in the Netherlands.

There is now a protocol between the Dutch Government and the Antillean Government that allows the *pensionados* to be insured via the BZV. A Kingdom Decree to that effect was handled in the Kingdom Council of Ministers last Friday. About 3,000 people can benefit from this arrangement.



TCB Staff

TCB Photo

The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), celebrated its 16th anniversary last Friday at the Papaya Moon restaurant with their personnel and their partners. The staff consists of Helen Thode, Robert Evertsz, Roosje van der Hoek, Rolando Marin, Evelain Marchena, Director Ronella Croes, Ivonne Craane, Joanny Sint Jago and Glenda Sint Jago.

Damjen Garcia of the Peruvian community in Bonaire thanked the Bonairean population for their sympathy in connection with the recent earthquake in Peru. Peruvians in Bonaire organized collections to help their fellow countrymen and women. People that want to contribute can do offer with money, clothing, or medicine. Call 717-5558, 785-1921 or 700-2807. "In these moments, we have to unite and give our help," says Garcia.

Correction: In an article (A Better Fire) in the July 20-August 3 edition we added an editorial comment to a STINAPA press release stating there were no signs in some places prohibiting fires. **We neglected to identify the comment as an editorial addition,** as is our usual policy. Additionally, C.E.F. Beukenboom, Director of Stinapa, pointed out that there is a sign on Playa Pal'i Mangel.

What will be the tax burden for Bonaire residents after the island ties closely with Holland? Last week representatives of Bonaire, Statia and Saba met in Curaçao to discuss the situation with their financial consultants KPMG. According to Finance-commissioner Burney El Hage, it is important for all three islands, because the tax structure will have influence on other matters that still need to be dealt with, like the future social benefits. The tax structure will also determine which income the islands can generate themselves, and how much

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The Bonaire Reporter is published every two weeks. Look for the next issue on September 12. And it's still *Free*

they will still need. **No drastic changes in the tax system are expected in the first years after the transition to the new structure.** The agreement is that, in the beginning, there will be no radical modifications to avoid economic and social uncertainties. Another ground rule is that the tax structure may not impact the net-income and the buying power of the people.

The Netherlands presented specific conditions like the tax structure must be **compatible with international laws;** it must not create a situation that cause a kind of **tax competition** between the Netherlands and the islands; it must also **not have negative impact on economic and social developments** of the islands.

The target date for the introduction of the new tax structure is coincident with the new status of Bonaire, December 15th, 2008. Commissioner El Hage expects to present the results in the last quarter of this year.

Australian scientists want to string a vast array of probes across the oceans of the southern hemisphere to warn of changes in ocean circulation that may affect the global climate. The senior science adviser to the U.N.-backed World Climate Research Program on Friday called for the establishment of a network of deep ocean moorings to extend a system already in operation in the northern hemisphere. That system provides measurements of the northern "overturning circulation" con-

(Continued on page 4)

Probing For Pollution

Taking a chapter from the book on deep ocean research (see item on page 4), Bonaire continues to stay ahead of the curve in reef conservation. The first two sites in a series of sensor arrays designed to probe water quality off the leeward coast of Bonaire over a 10-year period were deployed last week.

The sensors will monitor seawater qualities to identify nutrients leading to excessive algae growth that can choke the reef and measure dissolved organic matter—byproducts of human waste that have a similar effect.

What It's All About

The idea first popped up four years ago but the costs, logistics, support and permissions to deploy sensors were formidable. A breakthrough in the design and production of an array utilizing a \$50 sensor (commercial units cost between \$8,000 to 220,000) by Dr. Burton Jones of the University of Southern California (USC) was key. From May through August of this year Albert Bianculli, a local diver and frequent *Bonaire Reporter* contributor, volunteered to conduct a trial of the sensors. The sensors, after minor modifications, passed the test.

Concurrently, popular American artist and diver, Blue McRight, through a worldwide effort, raised money to purchase the necessary equipment. Now volunteers have stepped forward to collect data and clean the sensors weekly. Caren Eckrich, biologist and CIEE Instructor, will manage the process of forwarding the data to the USC scientists

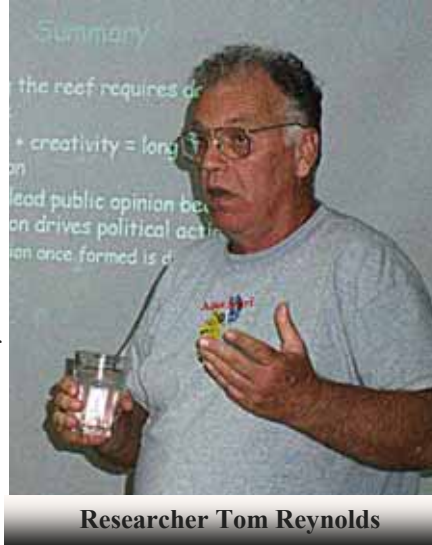
who will process the data and return it to Bonaire for posting on the STINAPA web site. Expect to see water quality information, as fresh as a week old

Why?

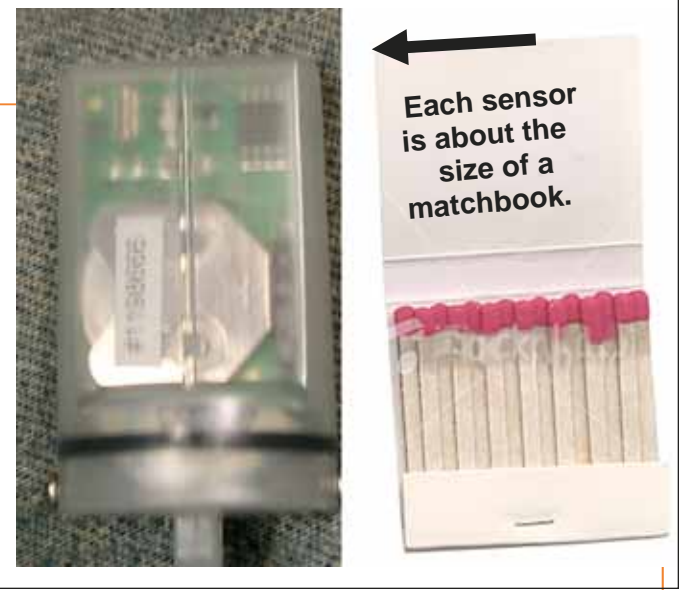
The posted information will allow anyone with Internet access to know of the precise quality of Bonaire's surrounding water, which is already among the best on the planet. It will raise awareness of the island's efforts to ensure the health of its reefs in an environment of ever more coral-threatening planet-wide conditions. Bonaire's coastal waste-water treatment plant will be operational in five years and the 10-year-long monitoring will measure its effectiveness.

As explained by Professor Jones, who has donated his time and expertise, "Water quality is the chief variable in maintaining a healthy reef. If water quality goes bad, reef degradation is certain to follow. Unfortunately, by the time the changes are apparent to the naked eye, the damage has already been done, and reversal of the degradation is difficult or impossible."

Jones explained that scientific data is a necessary prelude to political action. Bonaire has had septic tanks and cesspits for years and the reef is still fine, many



Researcher Tom Reynolds



Each sensor is about the size of a matchbook.



Professor Burton Jones

would argue. As evidenced by the 18 year-long fight for a waste water treatment plant, lack of hard scientific data means meetings, not action. Fortunately, Brian LaPointe's recent Nutrient Study (see previous editions of *The Reporter* and *What's Next For Bonaire's Reef* on page 10) provided appropriate scientific data and, according to Bonaire National Marine Park Manager Ramon DeLeon, the data was instrumental in his insisting on lower nutrient levels in the treated waste water than was previously envisioned.

However, unlike the Nutrient Study, a quarterly collection of data over a period of a year and a half, this project, called "Light and Motion" by the professor, is designed to provide continuous, decade-long measurements along the developed Bonaire coast and will allow scientists to

(Continued on page 9)

Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 2) veyor belt of ocean currents, which forms a giant loop from the Gulf of Mexico to Iceland and back.

As far as we know, Bonaire is the first island to install its own monitoring system. See story on page 3.

► **The thaw of Antarctic ice is outpacing predictions by the U.N. climate panel** and could, in the worst case, **drive up world sea levels by 2 meters (6 ft) by 2100**, a leading expert said last Wednesday. A sea level rise of this magnitude would inundate most of the southern half of Bonaire as well as millions of people, from Bangladesh to Florida several Pacific island states and the southern half of Bonaire.

Chris Rapley, the outgoing head of the British Antarctic Survey, said there were worrying signs of accelerating flows of ice towards the ocean from both Antarctica and Greenland with little sign of more snow falling inland to compensate.

The U.N. panel said that rising temperatures due to more and more greenhouse gases from human activities led by use of fossil fuels were melting ice. Antarctica stores enough ice to raise ocean levels by about 57 meters (188') if it ever all melted. Greenland has about 7 meters (23'), according to U.N. data.

► There is a new wrinkle in **Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez's reforms.** He has already changed his country's name, redesigned its flag and modified its coat of arms in his drive for a socialist state. Now the leftist reformer plans to **adjust the country's time zone to offer a more equitable distribution of sunlight.**



Specifically, Chávez said the Law of Meteorology will be changed to reflect Venezuela's new time grid on the map showing it to be **three-and-a-half hours behind GMT** instead of the current four hours. Minister Navarro said the longer day would benefit "all Venezuelans in their jobs and studies."

Venezuelan clocks will be set at Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) minus 3-1/2 hours, compared to the previous GMT minus four hours (same as Bonaire), Science and Technology Minister Hector Navarro said.

► **In another recent speech Chávez said that everything up to 200 sea miles from its coast belongs to Venezuela.** This caused consternation in the Antilles and Holland since the ABC islands are within that zone. Dutch parliamentarians asked the Foreign Minister, Maxime Verhagen, to make it clear to Chávez that he cannot unilaterally change sea borders and annex territory of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. "He needs to keep his hands off our Falklands," said Second Chamber of Parliament Hans van Baalen.

Curaçao newspapers asked, "Is it conceivable that there will be an invasion of Curaçao, Aruba and Bonaire by Venezuela?" The Dutch Military Information and Security Service (MIVD) labels

Chávez as a "source of tension, which will try to increase its influence in the region." Diplomats in The Hague are working to obtain clarification from Chávez. Some have labeled the situation as a tempest in a teacup.

► **Chávez has also proposed the creation of "artificial islands" in the Caribbean to protect its sovereignty and stimulate economic development.**

Chávez said his plan to rewrite the country's constitution, unveiled August 15, would create new federal maritime territories to support fishing, marine research and oil production. The government may build platforms in the country's 760,000-square-kilometer (about 472,000-square-mile) territory in the Caribbean Sea.

"All of the economic resources that exist there are exclusively available for Venezuela," Chávez said today on state television. "We could build artificial islands in the sea."

► In reference to his proposal to eliminate presidential term limits, **Chávez criticized international press reports** that said his proposal to eliminate the term limits in the new constitution was a threat to democracy in the South American country. He likened his proposed system to those in European countries like France and England, where leaders also are allowed to seek indefinite re-election. "On what moral grounds can they criticize us?" Chávez said. "Margaret Thatcher governed until she got tired. They think they are superior to us."

► **Lee's Bar was packed with patrons honoring and commemorating the 30th anniversary of Elvis Presley's passing.** The Flamingo Rockers, a popular local band paid homage to the departed "King" playing two sets. The crowd thought that the Rockers had summoned Elvis back for a final performance, but it was just Lee and patrons dancing on the bar. You can enjoy your favorite tunes and dance to the Flamingo Rockers at Lee's Bar, Friday, August 31 at 10 pm and on Saturday, September 8, at the Divi BBQ, 6 - 9pm.

► **If you have a SeaQuest or Aqualung BCD, you can upgrade to a SeaQuest Air Source for only \$139.** This special has a limited number of units. Regular price on the Air Source is \$189. Visit the Carib Inn or call 717-8819.

► Our feature editor, **Greta Kooistra**, wrote the current **Pet of the Week** column (page 12) to substitute for regular writer, Laura DeSalvo. This week she featured a Bonairean Border Collie.

New at the shelter are two white kittens found abandoned near Dive and Adventure, adjacent to Sand Dollar. Animal lover Suzie Swegert found them under a shipping container and brought them in.

► One of the nice things about Bonaire is that it has lots of holidays that are celebrated with great enthusiasm, except for one. It is hardly acknowledged except that government offices and banks are closed. That's Antillean Day, celebrated on October 21.

Now a replacement holiday, King-



► Last weekend, **Rotary Club Bonaire awarded Jan Gielen a Paul Harris Award.** The highest award in Rotary for his outstanding community efforts and dedication to Rotary. Past treasure twice and VP in 94-95, Jan has donated himself to humanitarian and educational projects. Jan joins Rotary Club Bonaire members with this honor. In photo: Yke Faber, Jan Gielen, Henk Schrijver and Evert Piar. Not present was past award winner Richard Dove. *Release by Sara Matera*

dom Day, is on the agenda of the Antillean Parliament for this week.

The intention is to make it a public holiday on December 15, which used to be Kingdom Charter Day, and also the day in 2008 when St. Maarten and Curaçao are supposed to become autonomous countries in the Dutch Kingdom, while Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba become overseas "public entities" of the Netherlands.

The holiday will replace Antillean Day since the Netherlands Antilles will no longer exist as a country.

► In June biologist Sabine Engel started with **the Lac Bay Underwater Survey**, which is currently half done. It is recording sea grass cover and macroalgae and gathering other data along three 200m.-long transect lines at 17 different locations in Lac. Some of the people that helped in the beginning are off island, others are not available anymore. **Sabine needs some more people to volunteer to help.** The work is not too complicated, and might be a bit monotonous. But there are a lot of nice things you see in Lac that you won't see on the reef. So if you have time and want to help, or need more information, please contact her at **sabine_bonaire@yahoo.com.**

► **MIO, the "other" cell phone company** that has the best deals, clearest reception and extensive coverage on **Bonaire is moving on September 3 from downtown to Kaya Andres A Emerenciana**, near the China Nobo restaurant. They promise some new specials too. For info call them at **790-9098 or 717-3414.**

► The global airlines organization, IATA, said on Monday it had placed its **last order for paper tickets**, clearing the way for air travel to be based entirely on electronic ticketing from June 1 next



year.

"In just 278 more days, the paper airline ticket will become a collector's item," said Giovanni Bisignani, director general of the International Air Transport Association.

The changeover from paper would not only cut airlines' costs by \$9 for every traveler but would also mean the industry--criticized by environmentalists for its part in global warming--would save 50,000 mature trees a year, he added. Bisignani did not say whether the \$9 in cost savings would or should be passed on to passengers.

► Reaction to the twice-monthly publication of *The Reporter* has been mixed. While readers are happy there is a better chance of finding a copy, they bemoan the loss of weekly updates. *The Bonaire Reporter* continues to be sponsored by our loyal advertisers. **When you visit their shop or restaurant please remember to tell the that *The Reporter* sent you. Thanks. □ G.D.**





► **This cat has been missing since the 13th of August.** Last seen in Hato. She's a 7-month old female, named Miesje. Ronald Schlepers's daughter loves this cat. If found email schlepperrm@hotmail.com or call 717-7893.

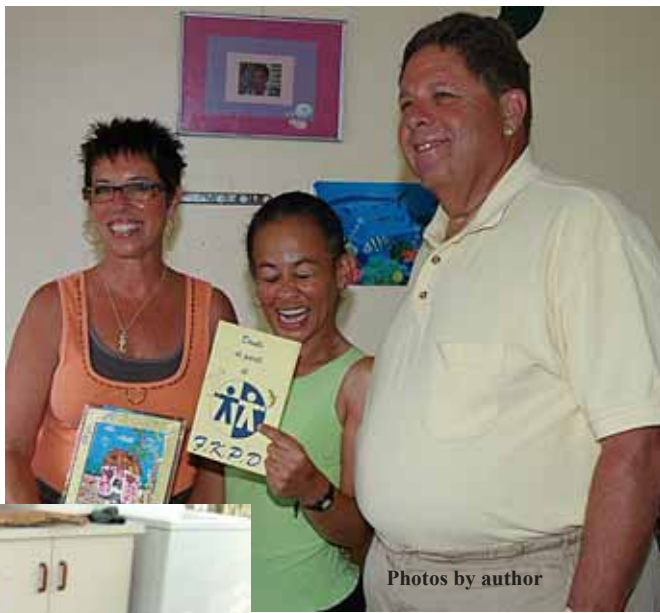


► **There's another "Taste of Bonaire" coming up on the evening of Sunday, September 9.** everyone is invited to visit Wilhelmina Park that evening and sample foods from several of Bonaire's best restaurants for only NAf 7.50 a serving. There will also be arts and crafts stands set up and music to enjoy. It's an opportunity for tourists and locals and vice versa in a relaxed informal setting. **Be there, it's fun and a great value.**

Olivia's Dream

Bubbles from the Biologist

In August, 2006, Olivia Janga was featured in *The Bonaire Reporter* column "Born on Bonaire" written by Features Editor Greta Kooistra. At that time Olivia stated that she would like to continue her art by learning more; to go an art school. Janice Huckaby of the JanArt Gallery invited Olivia to



Photos by author

Olivia gives Nadine and Murray Rubin a painting and handmade thank you card for her new art supplies



Olivia's newest seahorse painting

attend a class at her atelier. The session went very well so the private classes were continued. Olivia now paints with Janice every Tuesday, joining a regular art class with other students. She has completed approximately one new painting every month.

The FKPD, the Foundation that helps disabled persons, wanted to get art supplies to help Olivia achieve her

Suspension Feeding Did You Know...

For many animals in the coral reef, food is a drifting buffet? While land animals have to work hard for their food, sea animals can just sit in one place and wait for food to come to them. Suspension feeding (or filter feeding) is popular with coral reef organisms. They collect suspended particles of organic matter (animal and plant plankton, bits of dead skin, poop, etc. - yum) using a variety of innovative body parts. Coral polyps and anemones have sticky tentacles with stinging cells, sponges create a current running through their bodies, basket stars extend their sticky and finely divided arms into the current, whales use baleen, blennies, gobies, jawfish, and seahorses simply use their mouths, crabs and barnacles wave fine hair-like projections to continuously filter the water, and the list goes on. It's fun to imagine what type of adaptations humans would have if we had drifting bits of food in our terrestrial world. □ C.K.



Coral polyps

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



goals of painting at home and at the FKPD Center. A generous contribution from The Murray and Nadine Rubin Charitable Foundation, Inc. supplied Olivia with two complete sets of art supplies. One set is at the center where she is

located every day, and one set of supplies are at her home so she can paint in the evenings and on the weekends. We should be seeing a lot of local art coming from the canvases of Olivia soon! □

Janice Huckaby

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)

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

Complete solution on page 12.

Wounded Warriors On Bonaire



The Warriors and their sons meet island Governor Domacassé and the press

Bonaire hospitality was at its best for the annual visit of six Wounded Warriors- servicemen severely injured in the course of duty for their country. They were wined and dined by Bonaire's best restaurants, given a \$200 shopping spree, slept at a great hotel and, with their families, certified for PADI Open Water Diving. It was Bonaire's small businesses and individuals who gave from their heart to honor these young men.

From August 11-18 Bonaire hosted the Warriors and this year, two of the warriors brought their children to complete their certifications. Five of the spouses/partners also got certified.

Much has been written about the impact on the family of soldiers returning from combat as an amputee. By certifying their spouses and children Bonaire is providing a healing for the family in giving them a sport in which they can all participate together for the rest of their lives.

"These service men and women have worked diligently to make their goal dream of completing their dive certification come true are an inspiration to all of us," said Tom Ingram, Executive Director of DEMA who was on hand for the

event. He related a scene he witnessed underwater at the end of one of the dives: He had been escorting Justin, the 11-year old son of Army Sergeant Michael Buyas, at a shallow depth suitable for his age and shadowing his father who was swimming below. Sergeant Buyas was swimming using hand flippers having lost both his legs in action in Iraq (He woke up New Year's Eve 2004 at Walter Reed Hospital a week after being injured not remembering what happened, but without both of his legs.)

As he ascended to the depth of his son, Justin removed his foot flippers, placed them on his hands, and swam along with his dad. "I was moved," said Tom.

The nationwide Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project is a collaboration between Disabled Sports USA, and the Wounded Warrior Project. It provides the opportunity for injured servicemen and women, many of whom have lost limbs, to experience a number of different water sports.

The warriors participating included: **Army Sergeant Michael Buyas** who participated with his son, Justin Orondo, from Spokane, WA

Navy Officer Derrick Wallace who



Newly certified diver, Lasteen Benson, dives with one (artificial) leg with a flipper

Participated with his wife, Shaunyce, from Washington, DC

Army Sergeant Anthony Larsen who participated with his partner, Nicole Kline, from Minnesota

Army Sergeant Orlando Gill who participated with his wife, Maria and son Darius, born in The Bronx, NY, now living in Suitland, MD (a DC suburb)

Army Specialist Matthew Ceccato from Sacramento, CA. -He retired in February and is studying to become a lawyer.

Army Specialist Latseen Benson who participated with wife, Jessica (on the cover) - born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. Now living in Washington State.

Some of the businesses and individuals who made this happen include:

PADI
DEMA (Diving Equipment & Marketing Association)
Oceanic/Aeris
Henderson
Princeton Tec
XS Scuba
Scuba Do Rag
Scott & Sharon Barlass
Chip Earle from Sea Devil Divers
Tourism Corporation Bonaire
Captain Don's Habitat
Adams Unlimited
Disabled Sports USA
HSA International
A-1 Scuba

RE/MAX Realty
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Bonaire Tours And Vacations
Bikers Bonaire
Papaya Moon Cantina
Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant
Bonaire Talk
Jewel Of Bonaire
Bencho Car Rental
Stinapa
Mr. and Mrs. Petersen
And more...

The Reporter is privileged to be able to feature this story. □ G.D.

Parrot Watch

The Lora breeding season has come to an end. All the nests that the parrot team were following are now empty of loras. Parrot parents across the island are now busy with the difficult task of trying to keep track of their offspring. It is a time of much danger for the clueless little parrots. They do not yet understand that a feisty feral cat is a bad thing, nor that the crafty Caracara might, but probably won't, be. Just keep an eye on him though in case today is the day he fancies his chances with a fresh new parrot.

Our friends, the ruddy turnstones, have been back on Bonaire's shores for some time now. The last week has seen an influx of swallows and even a few ospreys have completed their southern migration back to the island. It will not be long before the Peregrine falcons return from their summer breeding grounds too, but worry not dear reader because by then our clever little parrot juveniles will be savvy as to who is friend and who is foe.

Oliva's three surviving chicks are amongst those fortunate enough to have left their home using their wings to carry them over the tree tops, rather than in a poachers brown paper bag. We are a little late with the naming



Sam Williams photo

ceremony but we have come up with six names for Olivia and Oswald's three chicks and we'd like you to visit: www.parrotwatch.org and vote on which names we should give them.

Since the last chick left the nest we have seen the Overhang family flying together. Two adults flying as half-heartedly as loras do with three hopelessly out of control youngsters flapping around behind them. We knew them when they were just eggs, and experiencing such beautiful moments is just the kind of reward the parrot team need after such an intense season.

And so it will soon be time for Rowan, Tom and I, Bonaire's "parrot guys", to leave the island and return to Britain. Tom is off to face the real world and get a job, being a parrot research assistant won't exactly make you rich! Rowan and I will return to life of office work and data analysis. There will, however, be a few more parrot instalments in *The Reporter* so watch this space! □ Sam Williams

Ask Olivia

Empty Nest

Dear Olivia

It has been really wonderful watching the development of your chicks over the past weeks. The laying of your eggs, hatching of the chicks and the change from naked hatchlings into fully feathered parrots has been unique and exciting. What I am left wondering is what happens to these chicks now that they have left the nest and the view of the Parrot Watch camera. Do you stay together or are they left to fend for themselves.

Sincerely,
Giovanni

Dear Ramon:

Watching my chicks grow into strong young parrots makes me very proud indeed. The moment of fledging when they leave the nest is a particular highlight. It is great for us to leave the nest to air out for next year; a confined space full of adolescents can get awfully smelly after a while. To begin with they will depend on Oswald and myself for food whilst they explore the world they have entered. It is quite bewildering for them when they first find out how much more island there is than the view from the nest hole. They also have to let their flight feathers finish developing and build up their strength so they don't fly very far to begin with. There is much for them to learn such as which trees produce the tastiest food and where they can be found. It takes the fledglings about two months to become fully independent. Eventually we have to wean them as they continue to beg for food when they really should be foraging for themselves. At this time we must be rather cold hearted and ignore their pleas for food until they get the idea. Two months is really not such a long time though; some of our relatives from the mainland, the macaws, pander to the demands of their children for an entire year before managing to wean them! Once they become independent we all join up with the large flocks again and they start to mix with other parrots at the roosts and feeding sites where eventually they will find a partner and have chicks of their own.

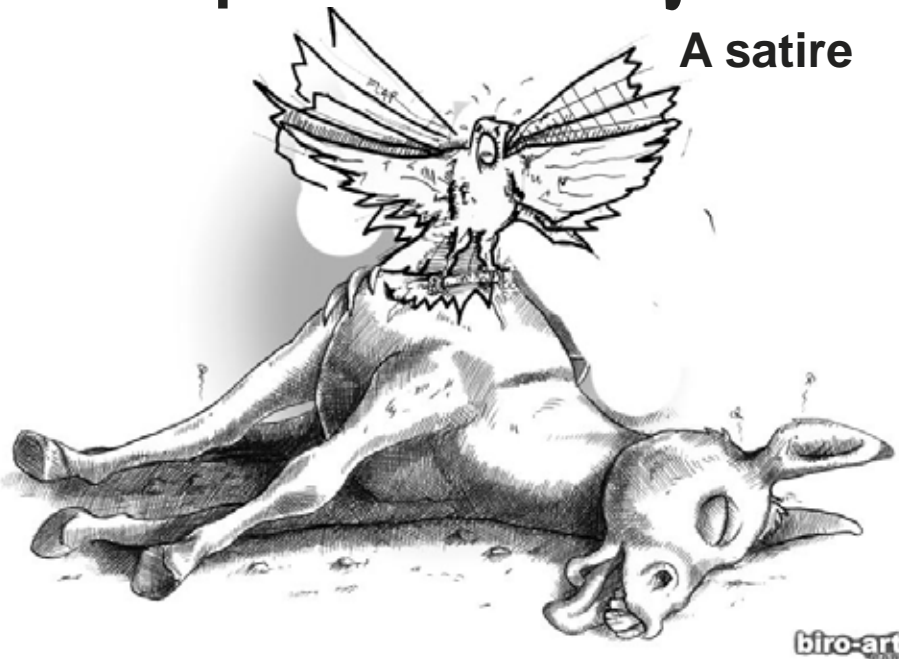
Thank you all for your questions this season. I have enjoyed answering them, till next time good bye.

Olivia Parrot (Tom Little)



Loras Implicated in Donkey Deaths

A satire



For months, tourists have been puzzled by an ever-growing number of donkey corpses near Boca Onima. Rumors of gang initiations, satanic rituals, thrill killings, or hooliganism have now been laid to rest. Visiting ornithologist, Dr. Pierce N. Birdwhistle, has solved this bizarre mystery.

Drawing on their noted abilities to mimic, he reports, some Loras have learned to imitate the “love bray” of the Bonairean *buriuku* (donkey). The Loras perch on the craggy ledges near the Indian inscriptions at Boca Onima, and sounding the passionate bray of the female donkey in heat, have lured amorous males over the cliff to donkey doom.

The feathered freedom-fighters, venting their rage against imported interlopers and facing their increasingly endangered status, have waged guerilla warfare in a bold attempt to rid their habitat of the slow-witted, non-native, donkeys. As word traveled, brawls have broken out between Lora Lovers and Donkey Huggers. The Loras are sending the island population a message. Pet owners report hearing their Loras calling to others that “Loras rule, donkeys drool.” □

Mary E. “Mel” McCombie

Economic Growth Continues

Business Licenses Requested and Processed in 2006 Increased

	2003	2004	2005	2006*	Change 2003/2004	Change 2004/2005	Change 2005/2006
New requests	200	234	213	242	34	-21	29
Processed	101	148	236	173	47	88	-63
In process	86	123	154	214	37	31	60
Shelved	6	10	10	11	4	0	1
Denied	1	12	13	4	11	1	-9
Withdrawn	0	0	1	1	0	1	0

2006*: the requests processed, in process, and denied, include requests of previous years.

DEZA, The Department Of Economic And Labor Affairs of the Island Territory Of Bonaire has issued The Bonaire Economic Note 2006 which offers details of specific areas of the island’s economic condition. In this and upcoming issues, *The Reporter* will be providing excerpts of the report. Overall, there was strong growth in almost all areas. One obvious indication of this growth is an increase in requests for new businesses

“In 2006 there were **14% more license requests** than in 2005. This is a positive sign, indicating that more businesses have been created. There were more licenses processed as extra effort was implemented to handle the backlog of previous years. **Of the 242 business licenses requested in 2006, 132 (55%) are for new businesses**, 13% concerned change of objec-

tive, 15% change of address, name or legal form and the rest (17%) of the requests had other reasons.

The majority of business licenses (59%, that is 143) were granted in the sector of “business services” representing maintenance service companies, plumbing, cleaning, electricity, handyman services and other. The HORECA sector, one of the tourism-pillars, is historically an important sector in which many business licenses are granted: 12%, that is 29 in 2006. **However, in 2006 there has been a decrease of 12 requests in this category compared to 2005.** The wholesale and retail trade is also leveling off after the booming in 2005. This sector represents supermarkets and any type of retail business. Regarding the sector of social and personal services, the amount of licenses requested stayed almost the same.” □

Jeffrey Levenstone (DEZA)

Probing For Pollution (Continued from page 3) see the results of changes, both good and bad, that affect the water, the reef and ultimately Bonaire’s economy.

The Hardware

What is a sensor set? How does it work? Each set is a string of three temperature/optical sensors deployed on a deep mooring. Each set of three sensors is at depths of five, 12 and 20 meters, monitoring light absorption (see chart at right) and temperature. At five meters, the sensor measures near-surface light, i.e. sun and cloud cover. The deeper sensors measure differences in light levels between five and twenty meters. Additionally, each sensor measures the water temperature, which can indicate a variety of processes including upwelling and transport of water from other regions. The data is sampled and recorded by the sensor every eight minutes.

Any difference means the visibility has changed – the question then becomes why? Was it due to outfall seepage? The optical sensors can indicate decreases in water clarity that could be caused by a number of processes, including the seepage of dumped wastewater.

Volunteers will download the data underwater and clean and check the sensors at least once a week. The download takes seconds using a recording reader the diver carries. The data is then transmitted via Internet to USC where, after decoding and analysis, the results are sent back to Bonaire

Progress Already

Phase I began last week with the instal-

lation of the first two nine-sensor arrays in front of The Yellow Submarine Dive Shop and the Front Porch dive site near Sunset Beach. Each array will carry the name of its sponsors: the Yellow Submarine arrays are named “Piska” donated by Blue McRight, “Reality Check,” donated by Candace Grove, who also volunteered to maintain and service the complete array as well, and “The Iowa Steep & Deep Dive Sensor,” donated by Marcus Barnes and friends.

Resident yachtsman Chile Ridley donated the Front Porch array and named it Sugar and Spice. He has also volunteered to service the set.

Another array, already put in place by Albert Bianculli for the recently completed feasibility study at Klein Bonaire’s Jerry’s Reef dive site, will be upgraded and serve as a control.

The sensor team would like to add up to 18 additional sensor sets from Karpata southward along the leeward coast.

SCUBA divers are asked to not disturb the underwater arrays.

Needs

You can help even if you do not live on Bonaire. Please consider donating to the Sensor Program. For US\$150, you can fund a sensor set. Fund as many as you wish! All donors’ names will appear on the website’s home page. And ... you will be able to name your array.

Park Manager DeLeon has requested that donations be made directly to Burt through his company, Applied Ocean Science, so Burt and researcher Tom Reynolds can purchase additional sensor sets and bring them to Bonaire. 100 % of all

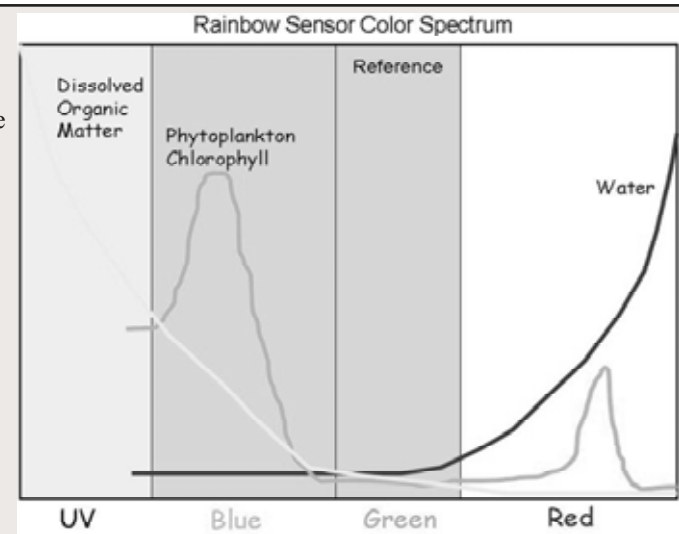
donations will go toward purchasing the sensor sets and supplies; Burt and Tom are coordinating all of this with BNMP for no compensation whatsoever. Not only that, but they have offered to assist with data collection and to provide technology transfer.

Mail Donations to:
Applied Ocean Science
3579 Foothill Blvd.,
PMB 227
Pasadena, CA 91107
USA

Be sure to write “Light and Motion Sensor Program” on your check. If you would like to name your sensor(s), please write a brief note indicating the name(s) you have chosen, and include that with your check and contact information.

A relatively expensive, but worthwhile, addition to the sensor array, although tiny compared to the cost of traditional methods, is an instrument that can measure the salinity, and thereby detect the presence of fresh water. Fresh water directly indicates land runoff and seepage. The presence of contaminants, together with fresh water, points directly to the land as the source of reef damage. Park Manager DeLeon would like 10 freshwater sensors at a costs of \$1,000 each (\$10,000 total). STINAPA has pledged matching funds for donations for freshwater sensors.

The Bonaire Reporter donated \$1000 last week to sponsor the first two fresh-



water sensors which may be on Bonaire as early as mid-October.

This project will only be successful if Bonaire’s resident divers volunteer to clean the sensors and collect the data. The task can easily be accomplished by experienced recreational divers. In most cases the sensor arrays are accessible from the shore. It is envisioned that a volunteer can make two dives in a morning, servicing two sensors arrays. Yellow Submarine will supply free air for volunteers. Without volunteers, very expensive self-cleaning, self-reporting sensors costing upward of \$50,000 per unit (\$1 million for 20 units) would be required to collect similar data.

Please contact Ramon DeLeon, Bonaire National Marine Park Manager for information on becoming a Sensor Program volunteer. Phone: 599-717-8444 Email: marinepark@stinapa.org. □

G.D./Tom Reynolds/Blue McRight

What's Next for Bonaire's Reefs?

Part 4- How Everyone Can Take Action to Cut Pollution



Often when there is a problem threatening a community, it expects the government to take action. Very seldom do we examine our role as individuals to solve the problem. In the case of sewage and garbage pollution degrading Bonaire's reefs, there are actions that each resident, local, or tourist can take to reduce his or hers personal contribution to the pollution. Here are some suggestions for thought and change.



Pauline Kayes' suitcase is full of recyclables being taken off Bonaire .

the trash bin. And, of course, the fewer material objects we buy and consume, the fewer objects we will need to dispose of.

Another way to decrease the trash stream is by recycling all glass, aluminum cans, paper, cardboard, plastic containers/bags, etc. Fortunately, Bonaire now has a program to recycle glass, but how many residents and tourists actually deposit their glass in those yellow bins? Since there is not yet island-wide recycling of cans, paper, plastic, etc., tourists (especially divers and snorkelers who love the reefs) can do Bonaire a big favor by bringing back their recycling to process elsewhere. Just consider the impact if every diver and snorkeler packed just 25 pounds of recyclables to take home? How many soda cans, plastic bottles, cardboard containers, etc. could be eliminated from Selibon's landfill? With 50,000 divers and snorkelers visiting Bonaire annually, 62.5 tons of "garbage" would be taken off the island if each diver and snorkeler carried 25 pounds away. That would make a dent in the landfill! And from the perspective of the "big picture" of climate change, reduction in garbage equals a reduction in CO₂ since 1,000 pounds of CO₂ equivalent a year comes from 4.5 pounds a trash a day!

There has been a great response to the Carib Inn's project of collecting batteries, highly toxic to the reef, and then asking divers to dispose of them off the island. Isn't it time to go a step further? After

all, plastic bottles and bags being burned at Lagoen can't be good for the environment either.

(Note: In case you are wondering about the reaction of U.S. Customs and the TSA: I have been taking back recyclables from Bonaire to my home in Illinois for four years now, and never have a problem. In fact they seem to be impressed that someone would make such an effort!)

II. Compost and Decompose!

Think how much vegetable and plant matter is thrown away when it could be composted. All residents and locals who love their gardens could very easily create a compost pile where their vegetable scraps, egg shells, etc. could decompose and then be mixed with the soil to improve its structure, texture, and aeration. According to www.compostguide.com compost is a free alternative to commercial fertilizer, adding organic matter that helps plants flourish but with a very minute amount of nutrients that can run off and damage reefs. So, instead of filling your garbage bin with leftover potatoes, onions, carrots, spinach, peas, mangos, etc., you could be cultivating your garden with "nature's mulch." Even better, this practice can be employed by either individuals with small gardens or hotels with huge landscaping tracts.

To assist residents in getting started with their compost projects, the



Siomara Albertus turns some compost.

local nurseries and LVV could hold workshops on exactly how to compost on Bonaire, and even sell containers to hold all that precious food for the garden. There is even a special guide on how to compost in the tropics, available through HDRA-The Organic Organization.

III. Collect, Collect, Collect!

Instead of irrigating and fertilizing gardens with septic wastewater, which is a

(Continued on next page)

major source of pollution on the reef, garden lovers on Bonaire can easily start collecting rainwater by installing gutters to divert rain into a container or cistern for later use. Just think how much rain

(Continued on page 11)

What's Next for the Reef (Continued from pg. 10)

could have been captured from the "tail" of Hurricane Dean last week to nurture the garden in September or October when there are no rains! And compare how plants flourish after a rain to how they barely seem to survive on just irrigation from WEB water.

This strategy is especially pertinent given the shifting patterns of wind and rain expected from climate change. Indeed, according to the *Live Earth Global Warming Survival Handbook*, if one million people used rain barrels, they could collect enough water for the daily usage of about one million others. Just consider the benefits of all new construction on Bonaire being **required** to include cisterns: water conserved and money saved. Such conservation is a savvy use of a natural resource becoming scarcer each day, whether the collected water is reused in toilets, washing machines, or gardens. On Bonaire, there is even another incentive: the high cost of WEB water makes it imprudent to waste on watering the garden.

So, besides beginning a comprehensive sewage plan, the government might also want to encourage cisterns, especially in Sensitive seaside Zones 1 and 2, in order to replace septic wastewater irrigation.

IV. Cesspools, Septic Tanks,



Gutters can catch rain from the roof to store in a cistern or barrels

Responsibility!

Residents of Bonaire must be conscientiously responsible for the disposition of their own sewage. When Bonaire's population was low and not concentrated near the coastline, a cesspool, or *beerput*,



Well designed, multi-chamber septic tanks capture effluent.

was an acceptable way to dispose of human waste: the effluent seeped into the porous limestone while the solids accumulated in the tank and required a "pump-out" perhaps once in a decade. With Bonaire's population currently over 13,000 people and growing, and with numerous large homes and apartment houses concentrated on the waterfront hosting thousands of tourists, this method is no longer acceptable because excessive seeping sewage is overwhelming Bonaire's prized coral reefs.

For the last ten years, responsible builders have been installing multi-chamber septic tanks instead of cesspools. In fact, the Public Works Department (DROB) now requires them for most new construction, but the problem remains of what to do with the septic wastewater that eventually had to be removed from the tank. The municipal sewer project discussed in previous five years away at least. So in the meantime, what can residents do to keep that waste from becoming a health hazard and a reef pollutant?

First, have the wastewater pumped out instead of dribbled out into the garden, or worse, expelled directly into the sea. This is especially important on the coast and downtown. Indeed it is the only way large volumes of waste get disposed of in the Kralendijk business area: the sewage is trucked inland and disposed of in ponds at LVV. Homeowners can also opt for pump-out and also make sure that their septic systems are not leaking and have healthy bacteria to keep solids in suspension. Eventually all cesspools should be replaced by septic tanks with the future provision for future hook-up to

a sewage line.

V. Conclusion

All of these initiatives and actions require effort and investment on the part of individuals and groups. However, the

"pay-off" will be reefs that continue to be the most pristine and impressive in the Caribbean as well as an environmentally-sustainable tourist

community that prospers. If we all practiced the "tread lightly on the Earth" philosophy of so many indigenous, native cultures, we would be rewarded by the preservation of the Bonaire we love so much. □

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

Write in !

This is the last in The Reporter's series of four articles addressing the nutrient pollution crisis for Bonaire's reefs. Readers are invited to send us their ideas. We will make it a regular Reporter feature. See page 14 for contact information,

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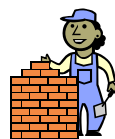
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Pet of The Week



Wendy is a short-legged, black and white Bonairean Border Collie, who was delivered at the gate of the animal shelter when she was about two and a half months old. The people who brought her didn't make any comments, but maybe they found a puppy was too much work. Now she's three and a half months old; a real cool dog, alert and playful, ready to bark when a stranger shows up, she's good with other dogs, and oh boy, she's pretty! Wendy has been sterilized, she's got her shots and she's ready to go to join a lovely family or a lonely soul. The one who's going to pick her up doesn't have to be good-looking or rich and career is not an issue either - that special person only needs to have a warm heart that cares for this puppy and in return he or she will receive unconditional love and companionship. That's how simple life can be sometimes!

And... if you don't fall for Wendy, there are many others, big and small, all with their own personality, but all beautiful in their own way, and they're waiting at the shelter to become a member of someone's family, some day...

The shelter's opening hours are from 8.00 am till 13.00 pm, but as from October 1st the shelter will also be open in the afternoon from 15.00 till 17.00 pm. □

Greta Kooistra

SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 6

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



BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The eighteenth of a new series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels".

A bright yellow smiling Citroen Mehari in the Bonairean desert.

Bonaire/Sabadeco – And suddenly, out of the complete blue, she appeared: the sun-smiling, bright yellow, completely restored Citroen Mehari. A French girl from the desert, strolling on the paved and dirt roads of the tropical island of Bonaire.

Just some weeks ago she was spotted for the first time on the island: the better-than-new, completely restored Citroen Mehari, owned by Monsigneur Hermans from Belgium. Monsigneur Hermans imported the French-made car from Belgium. The car has been rebuilt by CQS: Citroen Quality Service "The complete service for your Citroen" in Lubbeek, Belgium.

In 1935 Pierre Jules Boulanger developed the first ideas of building a very basic Citroen: the 2CV, known in English as the "tin snail". The French Citroen 2CV has been built from 1948 until 1990.

The Citroen Mehari is based on the chassis of a Citroen 2CV and some 145.000 vehicles were produced between 1968 and 1988. Most of them were two wheel drive cars. Fewer than 1,500 were equipped with a four wheel drive train.

The Mehari (a Mehariste is a French colonial soldier, riding a camel/*jb*) owned by Mister Hermans is fitted with a 600 cc air cooled two cylinder four stroke boxer engine. The car is fitted with disc brakes in the front, situated close to the gearbox. All Meharis are equipped with an ABS-plastic body. ABS-plastic is better and stronger than polyester. This car is fitted with front wheel drive only. But because of the huge fifteen inch rims it is capable of running in very rough terrain.

The Meharis are always very basic. No power brakes, no power windows, no power steering, no radio, no safety belts, just one exterior mirror, just three nuts to



A picture of the perfectly restored Citroen Mehari, owned by Monsigneur Hermans from Belgium. The bright yellow 600 cc vehicle is fitted with a vinyl top. The car is definitely a collector's item. (Photograph: J@n Brouwer)

hold a wheel, no nonsense. All Meharis are fitted with a soft top which is very easy to take of.

It is really fun to drive the Citroen Mehari. It starts very easily and can even be cranked by hand. The air cooled push rod engine runs smoothly and the car is, due to its lack of weight, surprisingly fast. Cornering is all right. The brakes do their work properly. On the road or parked along the beach, the car is a positive contribution to the smiling society of Bonaire. □

J@n Brouwer

**Its beauty
is in the wild!**



Our Lora is our pride.
That's why we have to protect it.
Leave our Lora in nature;
don't catch it, don't buy it, don't kill it.
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717 - 3741
717 - 8000

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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
8-30	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
9-03	3:28	0.8FT.	18:25	1.9FT.					72
9-04	4:17	0.7FT.	19:24	2.0FT.					62
9-05	5:03	0.7FT.	20:13	2.0FT.					55
9-06	5:47	0.7FT.	21:04	2.0FT.					54
9-07	6:21	0.8FT.	21:53	2.0FT.					59
9-08	6:54	0.9FT.	22:35	1.9FT.					67
9-09	7:25	0.9FT.	12:33	1.2FT.	15:06	1.1FT.	23:18	1.8FT.	74
9-10	7:41	1.0FT.	12:40	1.3FT.	16:31	1.2FT.			80
9-11	0:39	1.5FT.	7:43	1.1FT.	13:10	1.4FT.	18:04	1.2FT.	83
9-12	1:23	1.4FT.	7:18	1.2FT.	13:44	1.5FT.	19:58	1.2FT.	83
9-13	2:19	1.3FT.	6:11	1.2FT.	14:19	1.5FT.	22:34	1.2FT.	81
9-14	0:33	1.1FT.	15:08	1.6FT.					77

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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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

September 4 - Dutch comedian Peter Faber performs a benefit show, *Cave-man*, at Jong Bonaire at 8 pm, tickets at NAf 25 available at JB and City Cafe

September 6 - Bonaire Day in Kralendijk

Sep 7 - Taste of Bonaire, Wilhelmina Park (see page 4)

September 3 - Bonaire Fishing Tournament

Sep 15 Fourth Quarterly Underwater Cleanup Dive--Meet at 1:00 PM at Yellow Submarine

Sep 15-22 - Love Our Planet Week

COMING

October - Bonaire Regatta, Oct 7-13, 40th Year

October 06 - 6th BWC Mountain Bike Tour.

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 ambience at the Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo. Open daily 5-10 pm

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

- Margarita & Taco Tuesdays! With \$ 2.50 Margarita's and a Taco bar! Plus Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 6-8pm 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, glasswork, Bonaire pictures, driftwood art, paintings and all kinds of Bonaire souvenirs, 9 am to 2 pm..
 - Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers" Divi Flamingo, Free rum punch and snacks 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
BBQ 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. with live music. Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar

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 Zezicht 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 Antriol, in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

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

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

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	On the beach Extensive snack/salad/burger menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm	Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights: Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10.-); Wed. - Caribbean Night a la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7- 10 pm)
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am—3 pm Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 pm	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm Great value anytime.
Hilltop Restaurant At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
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
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 Cafe and at Eden Beach.

FITNESS

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

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

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

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. 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 Galeries Shopping Center downtown offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . **Full digital services.**

PHOTO SERVICES

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

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's most experienced real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.

Re/Max Paradise Homes: Lots of Choices—

International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them to sell fast.

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration. Full service dive shop and photo shop too.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.

The Touch Skin & Body—Birkenstock shoes for men and women.

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

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

SHIPPING

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

SKIN CARE

Curaçao Aloe... Fantastic products for your skin and body. Hand picked and manufactured in Curaçao. Available at many shops on Bonaire.

SUPERMARKETS

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

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein

WINDSURFING

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

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Monday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:

Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.

Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125

Email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for every-issue advertisers?



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Start A September Tradition With A Giant Cosmic Triangle Overhead

Do you know that on the first weekend of September three very bright stars make a wonderful triangle shining overhead?

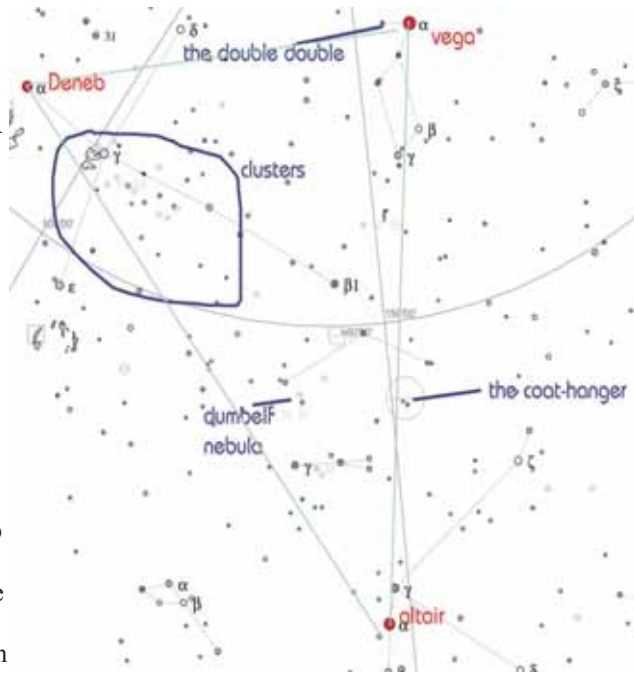
Look almost straight up around 9 p.m. Sky Park Time and you'll see three extremely bright stars which if you connect with imaginary lines make a

huge cosmic triangle which stargazers have traditionally called the **Summer Triangle**, because every year these three stars can be seen rising over the eastern horizon in early evening announcing the beginning of summer. But since the stars change dramatically with the season by the time September rolls around this great cosmic triangle has shifted its position so that in early evening it is now almost directly overhead which makes it a must-see attraction.

Now each star belongs to a separate constellation. So not only do we have three stars we also have three constellations. The brightest star of the three is called **Vega** and it will be almost directly overhead. But even though it is the brightest it belongs to the smallest of the three constellations, **Lyra the Harp**. Vega is the fifth brightest star visible to the naked eye and is the star toward which our b and all its planets including our Earth are moving. It is however, a bit different than our Sun. Indeed it is 2 1/2 times the diameter of our almost million mile wide Sun. And its blue-white color tells us that it is much hotter than our yellow-orange Sun. In fact Vega is 58 times brighter. And we see it not as it exists this weekend but as it existed 25 years ago because Vega is 25 light years away which means that it has taken 25 years for Vega's light to reach us.

The second brightest star is **Altair** in a much larger constellation called **Aquila the Eagle**. But Altair is almost twice as close to us as Vega only 17 light years away. So why isn't it as bright as Vega? Simple answer, it's much smaller, only 1 1/2 times the diameter of our Sun and only nine times brighter. Finally the dimmest of the three, is **Deneb** which marks the tail of a huge constellation called **Cygnus the Swan**. But don't let its lack of brightness fool you. The reason it appears dimmest is because it is 60 times farther away than Vega and 88 times farther away than Altair, 1500 light years away which means that for Deneb to appear as bright as it does it must be humongously large and fiercely bright. Indeed Deneb is 116 times as wide our Sun but 60,000 times brighter.

So there you have it three bright stars forming a giant triangle almost overhead in early evening every September. So why not make this brilliant triangle of stars a September tradition? It's something you and your children and grandchildren will see every early September weekend from now on. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the Month of September 2007

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't be too quick to judge those you live with. It's time to let loose. You can purchase items that will enhance your appearance. Limitations will set in if you haven't followed the rules. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) If you can work at home, do so. You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims. Be prepared to have relatives or close friends introduce you to new and exciting individuals. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You will do your best work on your own. Plan to do things with your faithful pet or with youngsters who have interesting hobbies. If they're too demanding, reconsider this union. Problems with financial investments could make you nervous. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't bang your head against a wall. If they want help that's great, but if they try to take credit for your work, you will have to set them straight. Invite friends in for a visit. Your luckiest events occur on a Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Do not get upset about situations you cannot change. You must consider yourself for a change. Overindulgence may be a problem. You will have an interest in foreigners and their cultures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Insincere gestures of friendliness may be misleading. Attend seminars that will bring you in contact with the right people. Visit friends or relatives who have been confirmed. Empty promises are evident and deception probable. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You will have good ideas for home improvement projects. Relationships will form if you get out and do things that you enjoy. You may be ill-treated if you have to deal with institutional environments. Your ability to take hold of a situation will surely bring you popularity and leadership. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Do not lend money to friends, or contribute more than necessary to groups unworthy of your cash. Your emotions may be hard to control if your mate is forcing you to undergo drastic alterations in your relationship. Get help setting up a reasonable budget. Look into ways of making extra cash. Try to do your job and then leave. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can make sound financial investments if you act fast. Time spent with family, children, or good friends will be regenerating and positive. Trips, educational pursuits, or projects that could lead to new outlooks should be on your agenda. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't blow situations out of proportion or you could find that others will misinterpret what really happened. Expressing yourself in novel ways should lead you down new avenues. Spending too much time talking to friends or relatives could easily turn into a debate that could lead to estrangement. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Make money using your ingenuity and creative talent. Plan events like camping or white water rafting. You may want to make changes that will turn your entertainment room into a real family affair. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Travel is evident, but be cautious while in transit. If you go shopping, only take what you can afford to part with. Your mate may not have been honest with you. Try making some changes to your appearance and your attitude that will reinforce just that. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. □

Picture Yourself With The Reporter

Sydney, Australia

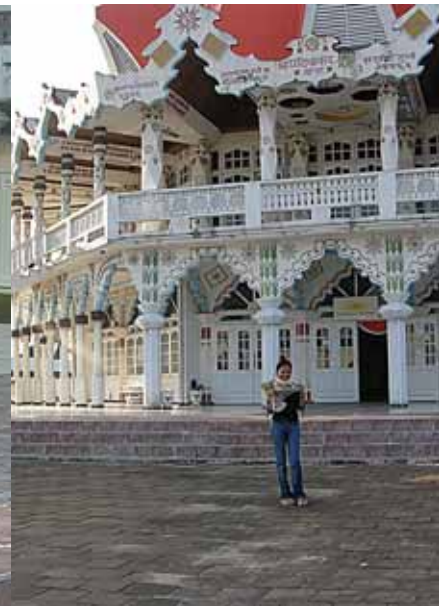


While visiting family in Australia, Marion and Eddy deWit-Korschilgen posed holding *The Bonaire Reporter*, with the famous Opera House in Sydney as a backdrop.

They also sent us a "Picture Yourself" photo at the highest township in Australia, Cabramurra in the Snowy Mountains at 1488m (4881 feet) - at right



Ariadewaker Temple, Surinam



Elys Santaris sent us these photos of herself in Surinam. While on vacation she visited the country's biggest Hindi Temple called *Ariadewaker* and remembered to bring her copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

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** (a Pasa Bon Pizza and tickets to Movieland).

This feature is brought to you each week by



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On The Island Since... 2006

Danilo Christiaan

My father is from Curaçao and my mom is Bonairean, from Rincon. I'm the eldest of three boys and I was born on Curaçao in 1972. When I was 15, we, the children, left with our mom for Holland. The transition was difficult, I had to leave all my friends behind and frankly, at that age, it's quite a shock. I went VWO high school and I graduated in 1991 and as I didn't know exactly what to do, I decided to go to the south of France joining this Christian based work-experience project on voluntary basis.

We lived in a small town located in the mountains between Narbonne and Carcassonne; a very beautiful spot. There was a river with a trout nursery, where I worked, but I also worked in the vegetable gardens and it was there that I developed my love for nature and for small business opportunities. It was just a great experience. I stayed there for four years, I learned to speak French fluently, and I met wonderful French families and ate delicious food. When I arrived the first thing I noticed, was that the scenery was quite similar to the Antillean landscape and the climate was dry, just like here and when I saw the vegetable gardens it reminded me immediately of Dos Pos on Bonaire, it was a very special moment.

Dos Pos belonged to my grandfather and as a child I'd been there frequently; it's a kunuku that meant a lot for Rincon in the recent past, the area is very green because there are wells and in times of drought it was the only place where people could get food.

My grandfather was always helping people and tried to give them work as well. He was an entrepreneur; he also had a supermarket. Well, over the years I became very good in growing vegetables and I was interested to learn more about it and although my plan was to stay in France forever, because I was living like "God in France" – as we say, I couldn't afford to study in France and in Holland

I still had a right to a scholarship, so I decided to go back to Holland to study. September 1996 I began studying tropical agriculture and rural development at Larenstein International School in Deventer, Holland.

At Larenstein I met Heleen – my wife – and because both of us wanted to do rural development work, we thought it would be a good idea to go abroad to work as trainees to see how it would feel. We lived in Tenerife, on the Canary Islands, and in Morocco. It was a very diverse study; we learned about cattle-breeding, tropical agriculture, but also about development work and how to associate with people from other cultures. In Morocco I learned a bit of Arabic and also a Berber dialect as we were working in rural areas with an international development aid team. Our idea was to go into development work and in the end we thought about staying in Morocco. It's such

a beautiful country, so diverse – especially in landscapes - and the food is absolutely fabulous!

When I was there I read a book about development work in all the countries of the world; the specific problems and the economic situations and also what the needs of those countries were. I got curious, very curious – what about the Dutch Antilles? It really touched me when I read about the situation on the Dutch Antilles – they also needed development aid and there was poverty too..."

Danilo Christiaan is a determined and serious young man with a lot of knowledge and great involvement. He's also a nice and patient person.

"What I discovered in Morocco is that it is very hard to make development aid really effective. Big money came from donations from Britain, but there were many aid workers who didn't want to be checked on their work and the way it was carried out and they also didn't want to cooperate when we had to test the results of their work. We were working for school and wanted to get the best out of the experience and when we discovered that the farmers didn't accept the methods the aid workers were teaching them and that they were just going on with their old methods once the workers had left. The aid organization wasn't interested when we told them the facts. We were shocked, because when so much money and effort are involved, there should be some sort of validation of the results.

" I became very enthusiastic about Dos Pos and the potential of Rincon – a lot had to be done, but there were so many possibilities... "

I was very disappointed and with a good Moroccan friend I started brain storming: What if the aid organizations would lend money to the farmers and train them to start up their own little businesses? Back in Holland I was very enthusiastic about the idea and my friends said "Hey, what happened to you? First you were thrilled by the idea of development work and now you're so business-minded!" Well, I think people should learn to fish themselves instead of other people giving them the fish.

At school I entered a mini enterprise competition and in one year we learned how to start a company from scratch – we had to figure it out all by ourselves. In 2000 we became the best mini enterprise in Holland and that was something really big!



Danilo Christiaan

In the same year I was graduating and my wife came with this great idea that I should do my thesis about Dos Pos. I thought it would be fun, but just for the time being, because I had no desire to come and live on Bonaire.

So, in 2000 I came here to do my thesis and I learned a lot about my family's background and the history of Dos Pos. Twenty years ago a Dutch TV channel had made a documentary about my grandfather which was called "An Old Man's Dream" and when I looked at the recording I saw my grandfather had seen all the possibilities I'd encountered now and I felt very proud of him and his dream. I became very enthusiastic about Dos Pos and the potential of Rincon – a lot had to be done, but there were so many possibilities...

When Heleen arrived on Bonaire she was very impressed and became as enthusiastic as I was. We went back to Holland with the idea that one day we would return to Rincon to work there and do something with Dos Pos.

In November 2006 Heleen and I and our little daughter Felisa arrived on Bonaire, and I got the job as a project manager of Mangazina di Rei, an open air museum founded 10 years ago by Edith Strauss with to cherish and to preserve the Bonairean cultural heritage and to make the past live.

Heleen is also working here, she's the supervisor of a project in which young people, who don't have an education or work, are being trained in the basics of how to grow vegetables; they also get a training in social skills and we're helping them to find out what it is they want to do with their lives – work or study.

We've chosen specifically for Rincon. My work is to show the uniqueness of Mangazina di Rei; it's an historical building built in 1824, in a beautiful setting and in combination with the history and culture of Rincon, there's a lot of uniqueness to

Mangazina. My job is to develop Mangazina in such a way that tourists and youngsters can learn as much as possible about the history of Rincon.

I started to clean everything up, the greenhouse had to be restored for Heleen's project and the infrastructure of the water supplies had to be built and installed and we had to talk to FORMA about Heleen's project. I'm also writing projects to improve the structure of the museum and therefore I'm going to Vienna, August 21st till August 24th, to participate in a yearly congress of the International Council of Museums. Also I'm giving daily tours Monday through Friday, starting at 9.00 am, when the museum is open for the public.

I am the supervisor of the co-workers, amongst others janitor Hubert Mercera and Dennis and Johnny from the FKPD, I'm doing all the administrative work and we're also involved in buying the Onima estate, to preserve its nature and culture, together with the Plataforma Rincon and STINAPA.

Mangazina di Rei is also a member of the Landscape Park which has the purpose to preserve nature and culture in the area around Rincon and to open it up to tourists and for recreation. That's enough for the time being! It's a lot, but it's a challenge! This is a dream job, a great opportunity.

And Dos Pos? We're planning on cleaning it up, together with the other family members and then we'll see. Everybody is still too busy right now, so for the time being the dream of Dos Pos has been transferred to Mangazina di Rei." □

Greta Kooistra

