

**It's Still
Bigger And
Free!**

BONAIRE September 14-28, 2007; Volume 14, Issue 31
The REPORTER

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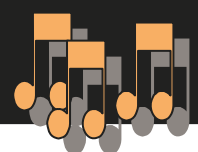
Andrew McDonald photo at Atlantis kite board beach

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Commissioner of Agriculture Boy Clarinda and head of LVV, Rocky Emers, look over a young plant at an LVV field.

► **It's time for kunukeros to attend to their kunukus.** Because of the recent rains the L.V.V. (Agricultural and Fisheries Department) recommends that the Bonairean farmers (*kunekeros*) dedicate their attention to their farms (*kunukus*). They should focus on pastures and fields, cleaning, plowing and repairing fencing.

L.V.V. says that even though there was a lot of rainfall in years past there were not enough crops planted and also a lot of scarcity of animal food. This year can be good, they say, when the farmer works more productively.

The Government of Bonaire and the L.V.V. are advising farmers to prepare for seasons of drought. Farmers should select those animals that are healthy and robust and slaughter unproductive animals. Also they should administer worm pills which are available at the veterinarian's on Kaminda Lagun.

This is also a good time to prepare the land to plant buffalo grass and *maishi* (sorghum). Buffalo grass doesn't have to be planted every year because the moment it rains the buffalo grass sprouts automatically, giving the animals extra food.

L.V.V. offers agricultural and fishery service to the community and in particular to the farmer. They sell several kinds of *maishi* for NAf5 per kilo. Buffalo grass seeds are NAf30 per kilo. Sales have already begun.

Information about prices of plowing and equipment is available during office hours. There's a possibility that the government will subsidize 50% of the work.

L.V.V. is open 7 am to noon, 1 to 4 pm Monday through Friday. Telephone 717-8836.



The Bonaire TCB announced on Monday that Delta Airlines will begin non-stop service to Bonaire every Saturday, beginning February 9, 2008. Flight #371 will depart at 10 am from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and arrive at Bonaire's Flamingo

International Airport at 3:20 pm. Flight #370 returns to Atlanta at 4:15 pm, arriving in Atlanta at 7:45 pm. Service will be provided by a Boeing 737-800 Boeing with 150 seats: 16 in Business Class and 134 in Economy Class. Fare is around \$700. Bonaire now has weekend non-stop service from three separate regions in the US and daily service from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

► During the celebration in Bonaire of Insel Air's first anniversary, Manuel de Gouveia, head of sales and marketing, announced that effective October 15th, **Insel Air will fly three times a day between Bonaire and Curaçao.** The date is tentative because a new airplane is needed for the route. Currently Insel Air only flies to Bonaire on the weekends. DAE and

Divi Divi Air currently dominate the Bonaire-Curaçao connection.

Insel Air just began flying weekly to Brazil in a joint venture with TAF (Transporte Aereo Fortaleza). Insel Air said it is still waiting for the necessary permits for flights to the US. According to Robert Page, head of flight services and instruction departments at Insel Air, the operational affairs of the company are fine.

However, the day after its birthday party,

the local press carried reports that Insel Air owes Curoil NAf200.000 for fuel. Curoil said they now will only fuel the planes on a cash basis.

► **Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius (BES islands) have agreed to introduce a compulsory health care insurance system** for all residents of the three islands. An agreement paving the way for the setting up of the system was signed on Wednesday, August 29, in St. Eustatius. Commissioner Julian Woodley of St. Eustatius said the health care system on the three islands needed to be similar to the Dutch health care structure as much as possible, so as to promote future integration within the Dutch system.

► It is possible that Bonaire, St. Eusta-

tius and Saba will get their new status as Dutch municipalities before St. Maarten and Curaçao get their "separate country" status, confirmed State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten. She gave her opinion in remarks at the end of a political consultation that took place in the Netherlands last week with representatives of the BES islands.

► Two weeks ago the **Island Council of Curaçao approved the Transition Accord for Curaçao to become an autonomous country** in the Kingdom and receive debt relief and financial aid with 13 votes in favor and none against. Three opposition parties left the meeting when the voting started, but the other opposition parties, DP and FK, voted along with coalition parties PAR, PNP and FOL. Curaçao is now almost up to speed with the other islands for the December 2008 change for it to become a separate "country" like Aruba. Curaçao now can become eligible for almost NAf4 billion in Dutch aid and debt relief. Taking over the debt services of the Curaçao Island Territory will only begin when all agreements made in the final declaration with regard to administration of justice, law enforcement and finances have been met.

► **If you want a Dutch passport and meet all the other requirements you must pass the naturalization test.** Foreigners living in the Netherlands Antilles who wants to obtain Dutch nationality must pass a new two-part exam. Although the new system takes effect October 1, the first tests in the Antilles would probably not happen before the first quarter of 2008. The first part of the naturalization test will assess the candidate's knowledge of the Netherlands Antilles and society. The second part will test the applicant's ability to read, speak and understand the local language. An applicant who fails the test can take it over again in six months. More information about the tests is set to be released by the government this month.

► **Preparations to have the Caribbean Little League championship in Bonaire in July 2008 are underway.** Little League District administrator Victor Elhage visited Sports Commissioner Anthony Nicolas, Little League Bonaire chairman Arthur Sealy, James Kroon and Francis Wanga of Sedrebo. A committee is also working on getting people who have knowledge of Little League baseball to help.

► **CIEE Research Station Bonaire gladly announces that it will host a free public lecture series.** A 45-minute lecture followed by a short discussion will be held monthly at CIEE (Kaya Gobernador De-brot 21 - next to Seaside Apartments). The first lecture is titled "Coral Spawning" and will be given by local marine biologist Caren Eckrich on Thursday September 27th at 7:30pm. Anyone interested is welcome to join. CIEE Research Station Bonaire offers for-credit programs for university students interested in tropical marine ecology and conservation. For more information, call 717-4140 or visit <http://cieebonaire.org>.

► Cargill Plant Manager Bret Schuttpelz writes that **Cargill recently organized a seminar at Plaza Hotel, "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People,"** offered by the Franklin Covey Company. There were 32 participants from

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companies on Bonaire: Cargill Salt, Telbo, BOPEC, WEB, SELIBON and BAS. Facilitator was Ilonka Sajak-Shie from Aruba. Poppy Rodriguez and Juana Sint Jago from Cargill were instrumental in making this training happen and their efforts are much appreciated.

► **Raja Yoga** is offering a free course, **Introduction to Meditation**, on Wednesday, September 13, at 7 pm, at Kaya Hulanda 25 (the home of Erna Chirino). The course will be given in Dutch by Jon Hilgers but those speaking other languages (English, Papiamentu or Spanish) will be accommodated as well. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a pen and paper.

Some of the benefits of meditation are mental tranquility, bodily relaxation, positive relationships, self value, better concentration and internal stability and happiness. For more information call 786-2201 (Jon Hilgers) or 717-8855 (Erna Chirino).

► **The Bonaire Barracuda Aquatics Club is active again.** At their annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 5 September at the Sentro di Bario Nikiboko the 2007 - 2008 swim season calendar and 2006 financial report were presented to the membership. A new Board of Directors, which will serve a term of one year, was elected.

New club officers are: President, Luisa Marciano; Secretary, Valarie Stimpson;



Treasurer, Maya Oleana and two Commissioners, Martin de Lanoy and Monica Platiau.

Swimmer Samson Evertsz represented the Netherlands Antilles at the 2007 Dutch
(Continued on page 6)

URGENT!

Financial Support for the SGB Hotel School Student Chefs Needed

In an unexpected move, AMFO withdrew its funds to help send six SGB young culinary students to Italy for a student exchange this year. The disappointment hit the students hard who are to leave for Italy within four weeks. This program, begun in 2002, has given our young students an amazing look at the world of food, Italian style, allowed them to meet and mingle with students from other lands and cultures, and in the process increased their self esteem and self worth. They've returned to the island, happy and proud, and in many cases, having had a life changing experience which they've shared with their fellow students.

*If you can help in any way please call. **Don't let a lack of money rob the youth of Bonaire.***

*Contact The Culinar Bonaire Foundation: Ruud Vermeulen (717-5939) or Sara Matera (786-9299). Or contribute directly to the **TCBF acct # 109.541-02 MCB Bonaire**. The following was submitted by Ruud Vermeulen and Sara Matera of the Culinar Bonaire Foundation.*

AMFO, our former financing partner in the annual Italian Hotel School Stage program, has been dressed up with a new suit, tie and chaperone, and obviously has become pickier when partners apply for support. In 2004, 2005 and 2006 AMFO was a great help in supporting the budget of the Stage for the SGB Students going to Italy by almost 100%.

The NEW AMFO of 2007 resides in Curaçao now, and has compulsory guidance from a mysterious, formal, and not-to-be-known, back-office advisory group that is strongly and directly related to the "Donor," the Dutch Government. Long response times, no contact or information requests, only a dry verdict 10 weeks after submitting their obligatory and rigid application forms. And that verdict came last Thursday to this project on the very last day they contractually could respond. Of the 26 applications for under NAf50.000 in the Netherlands Antilles this quarter, only two made it. That is NOT very stimulating and accompanied by an undertone of preventing NGOs from wasting money. We wonder who is really wasting money here .

...

The result is that ongoing projects like our Stage Program in Italy of six students now failed to pass the exam. Based on their new criteria the project must be a group and not individuals (definition of a group of students?), AMFO's priority is training and education of YOUTH (exactly what we are doing). Exchange programs are not educational and will not be funded by AMFO.

But we MUST go Forward! Plan B!

We are asking your support for six students and one teacher to go for three weeks



This year's chefs: Norison Conquet, Samantha Clarinda, Teacher Liz Rijna, Elvienne Sint Jago, Derrick Piar, Jobinella Winklaar and Robertico Bernabela.

to Italy to learn during 60 hours a week (including compulsory excursions during the weekends) about the food, kitchen and culture of Italy, especially around Bologna, the origin of Italian cuisine.

The students are due to leave on October 7 and will return on October 27. All the students are in the Hotel School of the SGB on Bonaire and are first time stage students for Italy.

Maybe we should remember **2002** when the Bonairean community privately supported eight students to go to Italy for the first stage ever. We did not need AMFO then. It all came together.

Can we get your promise to support at least one student for the total sum of NAf 3.500 which includes the airfare, cost of stay and educational tools or as much as you want to support?

TCBF will also ask support from the Government of Bonaire, the signer in 2007 of the three-year bi-lateral contract for the exchange of students with the Government of Emilia Romagna, Bologna.

NAf3.500 for one student to go to the Hotel School Stage in Italy.

Time is running out

You could be the proud supporter of a student. Thank you!☐

Ruud Vermeulen & Sara Matera , The Culinar Bonaire Foundation

Hurricane Felix Passes Bonaire By

Tropical storm Felix, the sixth named Atlantic storm of 2007, looked like it would make history by becoming the first hurricane to hit Bonaire in living memory. Bonaire was in

was falling and a brisk breeze was blowing. There were no major incidents.

The island had been secured well before the hurricane was scheduled to hit at 2 am Sunday morning. Fishing boats

items. Control centers in the barrios of Antriol and Rincon were set up and connected with the 911 hotline. Island Governor Herbert Domacassé said, "The public is asked to stay in their homes and off the streets after midnight, Saturday. Police and security officers will be on duty to enforce the ban if necessary."

The police, fire department, the Red Cross and the Public Works

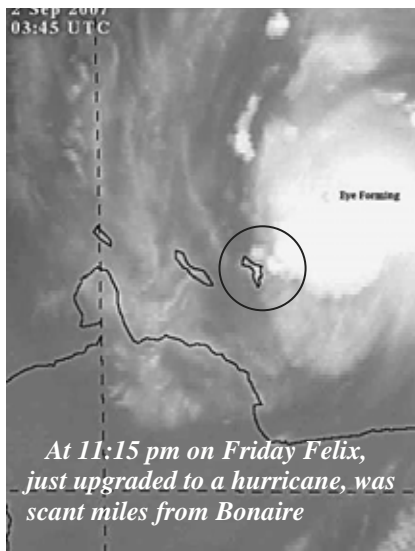
although a Continental Airlines jet from Newark turned back just before passing over Hispanola. It and the delayed American Eagle flight landed later Saturday.

Two yachts that did not seek shelter as required dragged ashore. Recovery attempts were successful.

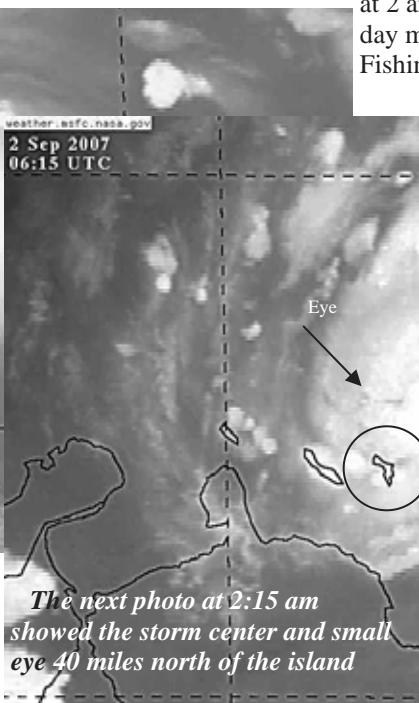
Flamingo Airport remained open throughout the night, with the KLM flight from Amsterdam landing at 12:50 am and taking off on schedule at

4:25am. The local population and visitors remained in their homes and hotels overnight. No calls were received on the emergency line set up in preparation for the storm.

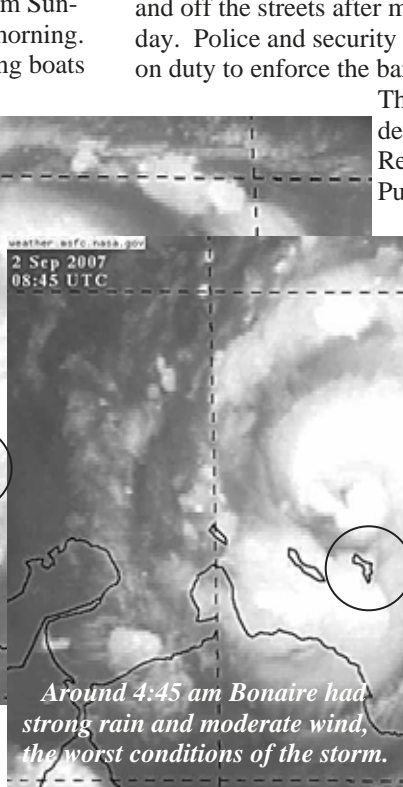
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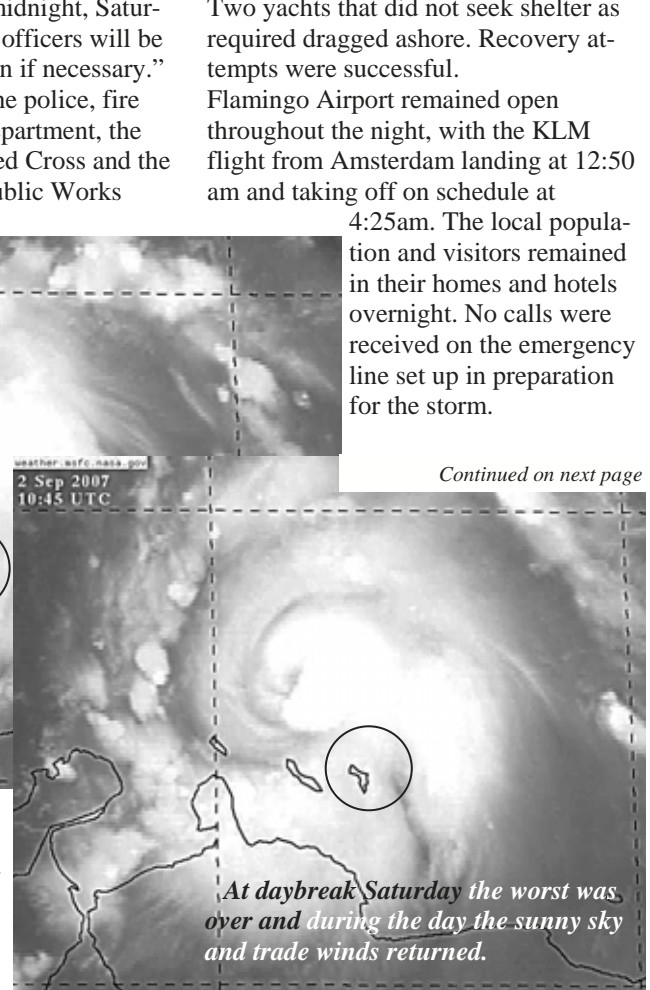
At 11:15 pm on Friday Felix, just upgraded to a hurricane, was scant miles from Bonaire



The next photo at 2:15 am showed the storm center and small eye 40 miles north of the island



Around 4:45 am Bonaire had strong rain and moderate wind, the worst conditions of the storm.



At daybreak Saturday the worst was over and during the day the sunny sky and trade winds returned.

its sights as it grew into a hurricane during the dark hours of September 1st and 2nd. But the island lived up to its "hurricane free" reputation as neither storm force winds nor the expected torrential rains materialized as the building hurricane passed north of the island. The NOAA satellite photos and the live Curaçao weather radar (http://www.weather.an/product_images/high/cappicolor.html) gave the impression that the island was being battered, while only moderate rain

and yachts were ordered out of the harbor and most were either removed from the water or motored into the shelter of the island's two marinas. Community centers and the town of Rincon church were designated as storm shelters and people who felt their houses were at risk moved in with bedding, flashlights and personal

Department were placed on alert by the Governor. The storm's effects were so mild that KLM maintained its flight schedule



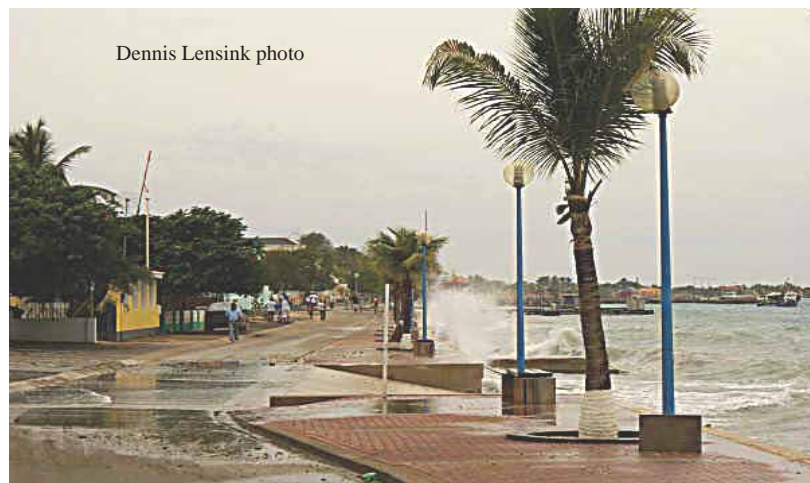
Sam Williams photo

The former charter yacht, Oscarina, dragged onto the shore. She was without power or steering. Here the BNMP boat attempts to free her.

Hurricane Felix (Continued from page 4)

The rough seas that raged along the south and west coasts started around 05:00, were impressive but returned to normal during the course of the day.

The Lt. Governor held a press conference after the storm to thank the population. He was satisfied that the people



Dennis Lensink photo

had considered his call to stay home after midnight. "Everybody must remain alert because this is just the beginning of September and we can expect more of these tropical systems," he added. □ G. D.

ATTENTION: BONAIRE NEEDS YOU!

- ☑ Do you or would you like to work with tourists?
- ☑ Want to learn more **FACTS** about Bonaire?
- ☑ Want to earn \$\$\$ this cruise ship season?
- ☑ Need to enhance public speaking & guiding skills?
- ☑ YES? Then, now is the time for action!

**Enrollment
Still Open
Sign up today**

BONAIRE IN-DEPTH & GUIDING SKILLS COURSE

WHEN: 10 September – 19 November 2007

TIME: Mon. & Thurs. Nights, 7:00pm - 9:30pm

WHERE: FESBO/Scout Building, Kaya Nikiboko Nord

Through 20 sessions, Sue's course aims to enhance confidence, public speaking, presentation & guiding skills. Course goal is to provide an accurate portrayal of Bonaire through presentation of quality, factual information. Topics include: history, culture, birds, plants, salt & much more. Text Book, walking tour and bus tours (Cargill, BOPEC, Island) included. Certificates will be awarded to participants at course end. Coordinator: Sue Felix of Achle Tours & Transport.



For more info or to register contact: Achle Tours & Transport NV • Kaya Nikiboko N. 33 • Call 717-8630 • Fax 717-4430 • sfelix@bonairelive.com



► In the photo above Prime Minister Emily deJongh-Elhage (right) deposits her contribution in the box as Foundation volunteers Luisa van der Linde, Norma Teeuwen and Ageeth Oosten look on. **During the month of September volunteers from the Princess Wilhelmina Fonds Foundation will be collecting donations.** The foundation, which receives no money from the government, distributes information about cancer and helps those already suffering from the disease.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) Kingdom Games in Den Haag, Holland, in July. The Netherlands Antilles dominated the swimming competition, finishing in first place overall. The team was coached by Nazario Martijn (Bulado Club, Curaçao) and Valarie Stimpson (Bonaire Barracudas). Delegation leader was former Olympic medalist Enith Brigitha.

The Bonaire Barracudas currently have 10 memberships open for the new season. Membership is open to children between the ages of 6 and 18 with minimal "A" level swim diploma and a desire to participate in the sport of swimming. For more information, visit a Barracuda training session at the Meralney Sports Complex Monday through Friday from 17.15 – 18.30 or call Valarie Stimpson at 796-3451. (Valarie Stimpson report)

► **Sign up for the Beach Volleyball Tournament** which will be held during Regatta, October 7 to 14. Sign up will continue until October 6 and 7. Call Rich-



enello Abrahams: 700-3600.

Sponsored by the softball team "Nrd Braves," the volleyball tournament will have two categories. The first category will consist of business and softball teams which may have four players and one reserve – a total of five for each team.

The second category is for volleyball players and beach volleyball players who play on a **regular basis**. They are allowed to have three players for each team.

Tournament commissioners are: Richenello Abrahams, Edsel Pieter, George Nicolaas and Mr. Ierald Wanga (Curaçao).

(Siomara Albertus report)

► **Salinja Vlijt, the open expanse of salt flats across from the Harbour Village Resort, is garnering attention from at least three developers.** Obstacles to their building include several small lots owned by local people right in the middle of the area and environmental concerns. An environmental impact study (MEP) is reportedly underway.

► **Congratulations to Molly (Outlet Mol) and Bob (RE/MAX) Bartikoski** who were married two weeks ago in Minnesota, two of the friendliest, most generous people on Bonaire. □ G./L.D.



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 18.

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

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

Bonaire Media Honored



Past US President John Kennedy said it well, "Even though we disapprove, there isn't any doubt that we could not do the job at all in a free society without a very, very active press. America's third president, Thomas Jefferson, presented it another way, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Press Day was celebrated Saturday, September 1. Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB) Bonaire honored the Bonaire press corps with a happy hour and buffet at the Brisas del Mar restaurant at the Eden Beach Resort on Friday, August 31. In the photo are some of the members of the press and their hosts, Orphaline Saleh, Rudy Gomez, and Leonard Domacassé officials of MCB. □ G.D.

Bright Vacation for Kai Mimina Members

During the summer vacation the leaders and volunteers of Kai Mimina (club for the elderly) arranged various excursions to entertain their members, like visits to the whale skeleton at the entrance to Washington Park and the slaughter house.

The elders were treated to a delicious *kuminda kriyo* lunch at City Café, thanks to the kind members of the Rotary Club Bonaire. □ L.D.



New Port Facilities

Work continued this week to install mooring dolphins at the South Pier to better accommodate the planned arrival of more large ships.

There is concern that visiting vessels, especially cruise ships, will have to anchor rather than tie to a pier. **TCB Director Ronella Croes says this is still under consideration.**

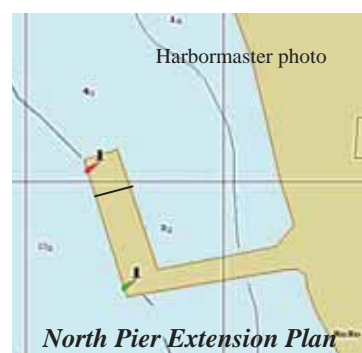
Island Harbormaster Robert Sint Jago, who is also President of the Marine Mileu (Environment) Commission, had these comments about anchoring in the harbor of Bonaire.

"Because the extension of the North Pier (aka Town Pier) will not be completed until the following cruise ship season, perhaps eight or 10 cruise ships may have to anchor to land their passengers during the period from the end of December through March."

According to Sint Jago, the island has a commitment made two years ago to serve these ships. **However, those ships will not be able to anchor just anywhere. They will be guided by the Harbormaster and the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP), working with the ship captains themselves. The Harbormaster's Office, working closely with the BNMP, has already been researching flat sandy areas in the North Pier area where cruise ships can anchor without damaging any of the reefs. Harbormaster Sint Jago says they are already taking underwater photos and videos of potential safe anchoring areas.**



Three huge construction cranes are being used to install the mooring dolphins inshore for the South Pier. The base for the dolphins is in the foreground



Those ships at anchor, measuring nearly 300 meters long, will have to provide tenders to transport between 100 and 150 passengers to and from the North Pier. Although it might be an inconvenience for the ships, they will not have to pay dockage if they are anchored, Sint Jago added.

The North Pier will be extended 30 meters (100') north, paralleling the shore. Mooring dolphins, such as those near the South Pier, will be placed inshore in the direction of Karel's Beach Bar, according to Harbormaster Sint Jago. □ L.D.

Love Our Planet Week



Stacy Colvard, visiting diver

Bonaire's next week will be filled with exciting activities, interesting seminars for Love Our Planet Week, part of Bonaire Dive Into Summer 2007 and Clean Up the World Weekend. Plus it coincides with the peak of the coral spawning season.

Each day of Love Our Planet Week offers visitors and residents the flexibility to enjoy the island and, as an added bonus, the option to take part in interactive dives and seminars, which practically guarantees fun and learning. As a highlight of the program, The Coral Reef Alliance's (CORAL) Program Director, Rick MacPherson will lead specialized dives and conservation-related seminars throughout the week at Captain Don's Habitat, the host hotel of Love Our Planet Week, and other Bonaire locations. All participants of Love Our Planet Week will receive an official certificate of participation from the Clean Up the World foundation, which is the partner organization of the United Nations Environment Program.

Love Our Planet Week will kick off on Saturday, September 15th with the FREE Yellow Submarine/NetTech, N.V. Clean Up The World Day clean-up dive and barbecue starting at 1 pm. In the evening, the weekly barbecue buffet dinner (cost is \$14.90 per person) at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino begins at 6 pm with live entertainment and a special presentation from CORAL's Rick MacPherson.

On Sunday, September 16th, participate in the STINAPA and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire annual clean-up Klein Bonaire dive, a Clean Up The World activity, which departs from the Harbour Village Marina promptly at 7:30 am (no limit on participants, event is free); or join MacPherson on the "CORAL C.S.I." interactive two-tank boat dive, where participants will learn the tools needed to select dive shops that ensure long-term reef protection, plus an easy way to assess reef health. The dive will depart the dock of Dive Friends Bonaire (Port Bonaire location) at 8:45 am. Pre-registration is recommended, as there is a limit of 10 divers. E-mail info@dive-friends-bonaire.com to reserve space; cost is \$36 per person.

Next, visitors are invited to join MacPherson at Captain Don's Habitat on Monday, September 17th for the weekly Meet the Captain Party at 6 pm where Captain Don Stewart himself will make a special appearance.

For those who miss the Sunday CORAL C.S.I. activity, there will be two more



Join The Coral Reef Alliance's (CORAL'S) Program Director, Rick MacPherson for interactive dives and seminars at Captain Don's Habitat and other Bonaire locations!

All visitors who participate in at least one Love Our Planet Week activity will be entered into a drawing to **win a one-week trip for two back to Bonaire for Dive Into Summer 2008!** Airfare provided by Air Jamaica, accommodations and diving provided by Captain Don's Habitat (entrants must be 18 or older and a legal resident of the United States).

PLUS, all entrants will be entered into the EarthEcho International Sweepstakes (one entry per person) and one lucky winner will be awarded a trip on a **2008 EarthEcho Expedition with Philippe Cousteau.** Drawing will be held on or about January 3, 2008. The winner and his/her guest must be available to join the expedition on the dates and location of the Sponsor's choosing. The grand prize shall include the reasonable cost of airfare, accommodations (often on shipboard) and meal expenses for the winner and one guest. For more information about the sweepstakes, visit www.earthecho.org/about-sweepstakes.html.

All participants of Love Our Planet Week will receive an official certificate of participation from the Clean Up the World foundation, which is the partner organization of the United Nations Environment Program.

A Few Love Our Planet Tips

1. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.
2. During the time it takes you to read this sentence, 50,000 12-ounce aluminum cans are made.
3. An aluminum can may be recycled ad infinitum (forever!).
4. We consume over 80 trillion aluminum cans every year.
5. The world's tallest tree is a coast redwood in California, measuring more than 360 feet or 110 meters.
6. The world's oldest trees are 4,600 year old Bristlecone pines in the USA.
7. On average, ONE supermarket goes through 60,500,000 paper bags per year!
8. An automatic dishwasher uses less hot water than doing dishes by hand—an average of six gallons less per cycle, or over 2,000 gallons per year.
9. Only 1% of the world's water supply is usable, 97% are the oceans and 2% is frozen (for now).
10. The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.

To read up on more ways to Love Our Planet, visit www.earthecho.org/blog/?p=113



chances to participate on September 18th and 19th. The single-tank boat dives will depart the dock of Captain Don's Habitat at 9 am. Sign-ups will take place the day before each dive on the chalk board at the Habitat dive shop, with a limit of 20 divers per boat. The boat dives are open to anyone wishing to participate for a cost of \$29 per person.

On the evening of September 18th, join MacPherson at 8 pm in the conference

room at Captain Don's Habitat for a FREE interactive presentation of "Marine Protected Areas, Our Best Defense." The session begins with a background in coral reef ecology and then continues by showing how marine protected areas are the best defense in protecting coral habitats and why the Bonaire Marine Park is such an exemplary model.

September 19th, MacPherson will host a FREE interactive presentation of "Saving

Reefs? Just Do It!" During this interactive seminar, CORAL will help participants take matters into their own hands by teaching simple things to do every day to save reefs and give participants a glimpse of the long-term effects on the reefs. The presentation will begin at 8 pm. in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat.

On September 20th, join Rick MacPherson at Deco Stop Bar located at Captain

(Continued on page 9)

Love Our Planet Week



Love Our Planet Week Schedule of Events

Saturday, September 15

1 p.m. - **Clean Up The World Day Underwater Clean Up & BBQ**, Meet at Yellow Submarine, FREE

6 p.m. - **BBQ Buffet Dinner** with CORAL's Rick MacPherson at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino, \$14.90 per person

Sunday, September 16

7:20 a.m. - **Annual Klein Bonaire Beach Clean-Up**, Join STINAPA & Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire for this Clean Up The World activity. Boat departs from Harbour Village Marina at 7:30 a.m., FREE

8:45 a.m. - **CORAL CSI 2-Tank Boat Dive***, Learn the tools needed to select dive shops that ensure long-term reef protection, plus an easy way to assess reef health! Meet at Dive Friends Bonaire, Port Bonaire, \$36 per person

Monday, September 17

6 p.m. - **Captain Don's Habitat "Meet the Captain" Party** with Special Guest Captain Don himself and CORAL's Rick MacPherson. Meet at Deco Stop Bar, CASH BAR

Tuesday, September 18

9 a.m. - **CORAL CSI 1-Tank Boat Dive****, Learn the tools needed to select dive shops that ensure long-term reef protection, plus an easy way to assess reef health! Meet at Captain Don's Habitat Dive Shop, \$29 per person

8 p.m. - **Marine Protected Areas, Our Best Defense**, Learn the background of coral reef ecology, why marine protected areas are the best defense in protecting coral habitats and why the Bonaire Marine Park is such an exemplary model. Meet at Captain Don's Habitat Conference Room, FREE

Wednesday, September 19

9 a.m. - **CORAL CSI 1-Tank Boat Dive****, Learn the tools needed to select dive shops that ensure long-term reef protection, plus an easy way to assess reef health! Meet at Captain Don's Habitat Dive Shop, \$29 per person

8 p.m. - **Saving Reefs? Just Do It!** CORAL will help you take matters into your own hands by teaching simple things to do everyday to save the reefs and give you a glimpse of the long-term effects on the reefs. Meet at Captain Don's Habitat Conference Room, FREE

Thursday, September 20

7 p.m. - **Captain Don's Habitat "Week in Review"** Watch the slideshow from the week's events and CORAL's Rick MacPherson will announce the Love Our Planet Week contest winner, who will receive a Bonaire Vacation for Two during Bonaire Dive Into Summer 2008. Meet at Deco Stop Bar, CASH BAR

AND DON'T FORGET to enter the **Bonaire Dive Into Summer 2007 Photo Contest** sponsored by *Scuba Diving* magazine until September 30 and compete against other Bonaire visitors for prizes by uploading your best Bonaire photos at www.BonaireDiveIntoSummer.com. Winners in three categories: wide angle, macro and topside will be announced in October.

*Space is limited to 10 people, email info@dive-friends-bonaire.com to reserve space in advance.

**Space is limited to 20 people, sign up at Captain Don's Habitat the day before each dive to reserve space.



Love Our Planet (Continued from page 8)

Don's Habitat for the Week in Review slideshow beginning at 7 pm. Plus, all visitors who participate in at least one Love Our Planet Week activity will be entered into a drawing to win a one-week trip for two back to Bonaire via Air Jamaica with accommodations and diving at Captain Don's Habitat during Bonaire Dive Into Summer 2008 (entrants must be 18 or older and a legal resident of the US). Rick MacPherson will announce the winner after the Week in Review slide show.

Additionally, all entrants will be entered into the EarthEcho International Sweepstakes (one entry per person) where one lucky winner will be awarded a trip on a 2008 EarthEcho Expedition with Philippe Cousteau. Drawing will be held on or about January 3, 2008. The winner and his/her guest must be available to join the expedition on the dates and location of the Sponsor's choosing. The grand prize shall include the reasonable cost of airfare, accommodations (often on shipboard) and meal expenses for the winner and one guest. For more information about the sweepstakes, visit www.earthecho.org/about-sweepstakes.html.

Further, participants can enter the Bonaire Dive Into Summer 2007 photo contest sponsored by *Scuba Diving* magazine until September 30th. This opportunity offers the chance to compete for prizes by uploading their best Bonaire photos to www.BonaireDiveIntoSummer.com.

Bonaire's newly established underwater sensor arrays are deployed near some of the participating resorts. Divers are encouraged to check out the expanding system that continuously monitors Bonaire's inshore sea conditions for evidence of possible pollution. If interested in helping Bonaireans Love Their Planet by pinpointing pollution sources that can harm the reef they can volunteer to maintain the sensors or donate money to provide supporting equipment.

Bonaire Dive Into Summer 2007 is sponsored by the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), *Scuba Diving* magazine and Air Jamaica. Although aimed at visitors to Bonaire, the event is open to residents as well. For more information, visit www.bonairediveintosummer.com. □

Sarah Biggerstaff /G.D.



Bonaire's healthy leeward side reef
BNMP photo



Now, results have a name!

CARIBBEAN HOMES *SOULNIGHT*

The countdown can begin. Next month soul star George McCrae will give a unique performance at the *Caribbean Homes Soul Night* during Regatta week. McCrae's songs are world famous. His most popular song, *Rock your Baby*, will bring back memories.

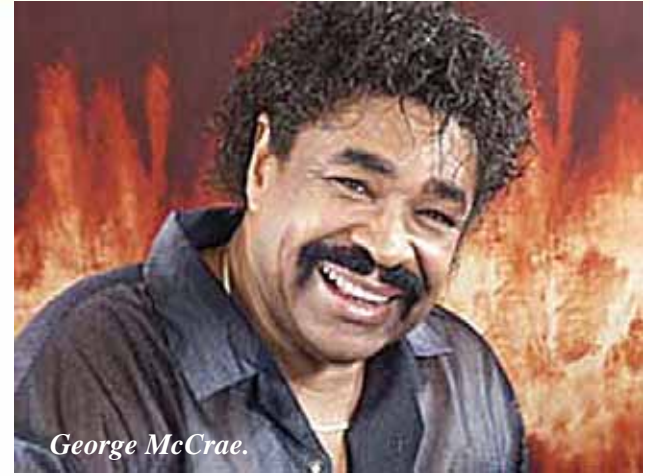
McCrae is an example of a performer whom you have to hear sing to recall who he is again, as his songs were big hits some time ago and began the "Soul Era" of music. But although the songs are old, they are timeless, as you can still hear them a lot in discotheques and nightclubs.

George McCrae is the acknowledged leader of the soul revolution. His talent goes much deeper than a flash-in-the-pan, one-time super star. His unique style, his universal appeal and his devotion to perfection have made him popular in more than 82 countries for nearly three decades.

George was born in West Palm Beach as the second oldest of nine children and had his first singing experiences in church at the age of six. As a teenager he

formed his own group, the Jivin' Jets, before joining the US Navy in 1963. At the time that George was about to return to college to study law enforcement, he was invited by Richard Finch and Harry Wayne Casey of KC and the Sunshine Band to sing the lyrics for a song that they had recorded for the band but could not reach the high notes that were required. When George sang the song and reached the notes, Finch and Casey knew it was going to be a big hit for him. *Rock Your Baby* rocketed him to fame in 1974, and George continued to set the music world on fire with hit after hit: two platinum singles, two platinum LPs and 14 gold records and top music awards all over the world. *Rock Your Baby* sold more than 52 million copies, making it one of the biggest selling records in history. It remained a number one hit on the charts for months. For more information go to www.georgemcrae.com.

His performance will be an impressive show that will bring back a little taste of the 70s to the island. On Friday evening October 12, during Regatta Week the King of Soul, George McCrae, will be the featured



George McCrae.

artist at the *Caribbean Homes Soul Night*, organized by the *Fundashon Bonaire Entertainment* in cooperation with the organization of the Regatta Week. For a list of sponsors see page 19. □ *David Radomisli*

Ask Olivia

Dear Olivia,

First of all I'd like to say how much I love the loras! There seem to be lots of loras around my house and normally I don't mind but they can seem so noisy especially in the morning when I am trying to sleep. So I was wondering if you could tell me **how it is possible for people to say the lora is endangered when there are so many on the island?**

Hope your chicks are doing well, best wishes.

Florence Depondt-Sachdev



Olivia Parrot

Dear Florence,

Well, this is a very important question that you have raised and I am delighted to answer it for my last piece this season. You see my chicks have fledged and now I am just too busy trying to keep track of them that I simply won't have time to write anymore this year.

We loras are very social birds and we tend to forage together in groups as this is a lot more fun and together we can keep an better look out for danger. You will seldom see a lone lora (except in a cage!). You can be forgiven for thinking that the lora is overly abundant when my friends visit your garden **but really our numbers are relatively small**. If you look at other lora species in mainland South America you will see that there are tens of thousands of them whereas there are probably less than 5,000 yellow-shouldered amazons (parrots like me!) in total.

The yellow-shouldered Amazon is found on mainland Venezuela and some other islands as well as Bonaire. Our population here is one of the most important though. On Isla Margarita they have more loras but they face more problems. Poaching continues to be a serious problem for those birds and the humans in Venezuela generally are not as well informed as Bonaireans! The people here are aware the loras are protected. The parrot boys are also doing a good job of finding out the problems we face and raising awareness globally of our endangered status.

It is true, the number of loras on Bonaire has increased in the last few years. I myself have managed to have nine chicks leave my nest in the last three years, but sadly not all of them survived. The good rains and reduced poaching have been great for us. It is important though that the lora population is allowed to increase as this is necessary to secure our future.

We know that during some years there is very little rain and in these times many loras will die. This is unpleasant but a natural process. For the population on Bonaire to survive and prosper in the future we need to have strong birds who can make it through these periods and this comes from a having a larger population. I'm sure you have heard the phrase, "survival of the fittest." It may not be just a drought though, it may be an outbreak of disease or a natural disaster such as a "major" hurricane.

So finally this leads me to my last point. I do hope you are still with me, dear Florence! You may now ask why do we protect endangered animals. It

would seem the lora is doing well so why must you continue to protect us? There are many reasons...

Lets start with aesthetic reasons. Many people appreciate our beauty and charisma. If you would only get out of bed early enough you would see that a group of loras can be a very entertaining spectacle. This leads me to my second justification: you humans also benefit from there being loras on the island. We are an attraction for people to come and see and some people are smart enough to make money from simply showing other humans where we are.

The loras also play a role in maintaining the whole ecosystem on Bonaire. For example we eat fruits and distribute seeds and this helps many plants species. The ecosystem is like a big spider's web and when you lose one species it affects the whole web. My final point is a moral justification for protecting species. Just because you humans can take over the world it doesn't give you the right to exterminate as many species as you have been doing. So have a little heart and watch out for us would you!

Best wishes,

Olivia



CLEAR BLUE WATER

News and Adventures of Sensor Volunteers

On May 28, 2007, a pilot program to establish a cost-effective, long-term, reef-water-quality monitoring system was begun. Sensors were placed in the water off Klein Bonaire to test the optical data collection sensors used to record and track the chemistry of seawater. It was a success and the sensors are still there. The data produced has led to the decision to place numerous arrays of these sensors along the leeward coast of Bonaire from Lighthouse Point to 1000 Steps.

Under the guidance of STINAPA, the LMSP (Light and Motion Sensor Project) was established to monitor Bonaire's leeward coast seawater for the next 10 years. Phase #1, started last month on August 23. Arrays with "Rainbow Sensors," a development of the original monochrome sensors, consisting of three sensors each at depths of five, 12 and 20 meters, are being placed at intervals along the coast, on independent underwater mooring lines. The sensors use advanced optics and temperature to monitor the seawater. Readings are continuously recorded every eight hours by each sensor.

Since the sensor optics must see clearly, a volunteer diver must visit each array every seven days for cleaning and data retrieval, using an underwater reader. This method keeps the plan cost effective

and manageable using resources available on Bonaire. The funding for the start of the program has been entirely provided by donations. The raw data is transmitted to the lab in the US, also donating their time, analyzed, returned and then posted on the STINAPA website as public information.

We Need Your Help

To continue the deployment of the sensor arrays, LMSP needs dedicated volunteers and donations. For specific information and to make a donation contact Ramon de Leon at the Bonaire National Marine Park (717-8444) or Albert Bianculli at: directab@gmail.com.

To better appreciate the type of work required we've listed the contents of the first reports from the volunteers:

Thursday, August 30, 2007: Site #1-



Candace and Grant

Candace Grove reports: "...after 2 weeks of sickness this is my first day

back into the sea...there is a ripping current, reported to be 3-4 knots from the South!!! It propels Grant, my husband carrying a video camera, and me to my sensor mooring. I grab the mooring line and I feel like a flag flying on a pole...not a good start for this job! At 20 meters one sensor is flooded, I cut it free, next at 12 meters another sensor will not give up its data and I cut it free. Up at 5 meters all is OK here. Now, fighting against the current we make our way back to our yacht *Reality*. I am exhausted and SLEEP the rest of the day!"

Sunday, September 02, 2007: Site

#2- Chile Ridley

reports: "...it's the afternoon on the day after Hurricane

"Felix" has passed very close to Bonaire... the sea is still "boiling" and very cloudy...I wonder if

the mooring is still there. During the night a sailboat has dragged its mooring ashore right in front of my assigned sensors! I jump in and go down to 10 meters swimming against the surge. I see our line...it looks ok. At 20 meters the Blue sensor is flooded and I cut it free. All the others are good."

Saturday, Sep-

tember 08, 2007:

Site #3- Rick

Aguilar reports:

"...clear, calm water, 28° C, visi-



Chile Ridley



bility 30 meters+! I get to my mooring and all the sensors are operating. At the top of the 5-meter float there is a tiny fish already making its home between the lines after only one week. It is either a juvenile Filefish or Surgeon Fish. I can see a tiny spike in front of its dorsal fin. Perhaps this is a good luck omen!" □

Editor: *Albert Bianculli*

Further reports from volunteers and updates on the sensor monitoring program will be in upcoming editions of The Reporter.

DONORS (from \$25 to \$1000)

Armocost, Jessie & Chris
Barnes, Marcus L. and friends
Blackburn, Phyllis
The Bonaire Reporter
Burns, Steve
Cable, Venny
Callahan, Megan
Chambers, Elizabeth
Cobb, Laura Ann
DeSalvo, George & Laura,
Mark & Staff of ScubaVentures
Fulmer, Christopher
Gnann, Dr. John
Goodwin, Bill & Donna
Grove, Candace & Grant
Harrison, Elizabeth
Loo, Annie
McCarley, Brian
McKenzie, Jane
McRight, Blue
Miller, Beverly
Peterson, Bob & Catherine
Ridley, Chile & Linda
Segal, Lydia
Stockard, Mary
Wagner, Warren
Willis, Charlie
Winchester, Dr. Susan
Add your name: email directab@gmail.com.

GRAND TOTAL TO DATE:

\$4,920

BONAIRE DAY – 2007



Dozens of elected officials viewed the events from under sun/rain canopies.

In contrast to some other public holidays where the emphasis is on food and fun, Bonaire Day is more focused on the formalities and speeches that mark the holiday. To be sure there are lots of stands, music and dancing, but the contents of Bonaire Day speeches have some importance,

leaders, Bishop Luis Secco and Father Alex Senchi. After a parade of the uniformed groups, the flag of Bonaire was hoisted and Gilberto Martis sang the lilting Bonaire national anthem.

Bonaire Day was first celebrated in 1982 when the flag and national anthem was introduced. Bonaire was considered



Given decorations as Outstanding Bonaire Citizens were Ibo Domacassé, Lelia Booi-de Palm Bubui Cecilia



Bonaire Day's best-dressed bartender, SKAL's Hubert Vis

including Deputy Governor Adèle Pluijm-Vrede and Antilles Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage and religious

This year, the 25th Bonaire Day was celebrated in Kralendijk's Wilhelmina Park last Thursday, September 6th. The official celebration started in the morning with the arrival of the business-suited Island Council and Executive Council members, and invitees,

the island of peace and quiet. This year's theme was "Bonairean People as Sailors." There was a time when many Bonairean men worked aboard seagoing ships to support their families living on Bonaire. The sailor can serve as an example of how motivated the Bonaireans can be when it comes supporting their loved ones.

Maritsa Silberie, Bonaire Commissioner of Education and Culture, spoke, saying that the celebration of Bonaire Day is a good time to think about the future and ask ourselves what type of citizens we want to be; how are these citizens going to be formed and what would the norms and values be.

Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé also emphasized the future in his speech. Descended from a sailing family, he thinks that the helpfulness of the past must come back and that the parents must guide their children and the youth.

Ruling party leader Ramonsito Booi (a former teacher himself) emphasized the

importance of education in his talk. He feels the school hours must be extended, as there are many developments that don't leave much time to teach. "The Netherlands must soon dedicate herself to the improvement of the situations in the neighborhoods and in education. Tackling the problems of the youth must start today." His message to the Dutch: "Focus



Scouts enjoy one of the many games set up in the park



Customs Officer Dennis Lensink snaps a salute

investment more on bolstering Bonaire's youth than looking after prisoners. The Netherlands must help now."

Three outstanding Bonaire citizens were honored with decorations following the speeches:

Lelia Booi-de Palm who worked as a nurse for many years and raised many young children

Hubert (Buchi Ibo) Domacassé, the father of the Lt. Governor, for being a sailor, a pioneer in diving and the Regatta that contributed to the modern development of Bonaire

Carmo (Bubui) Cecilia as performer, politician, journalist, founder of a radio station, promoter of the sport of soccer, and for volunteering for the positive thoughts that contributed to the community.



Boy and Girl Scouts March

Vocalist Marcel (Broertje) Janga sang, a parade of the Bonaire Bikers Club, and a reception in the courtyard of the Bestuurcollege with free drinks followed. On stage 15 different groups entertained all afternoon and evening □

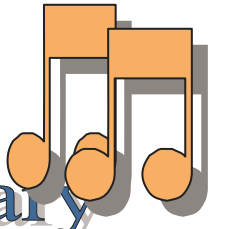
G./L. D.



An imaginatively decorated stand by Nanessa Wanga

Music-Music-Music

Celebrate the Music School's First Anniversary



(Mostly) Ladies only group "Femssa:" Farahnaz Ramzan, Lead Guitar; Saphira Razah-Sekh, Vocal, Guitar; Ariadna Timp, Vocal, Guitar; Ely Angel, Drum; Meralney Bomba, Keyboard; Sereeta Razar-Sekh, Bass; Sharief Kartodikromo, Drum; Teacher, Sigfried Molina



Mixed Group: Meralney Bomba, Keyboard; Sherigma dePalm, Keyboard; Churmer Bomba, Piano; Destry Frans, Bass; Jayson Pourier, Drum/Timbal; Diego Arias, Percussion; School Director Boy Janga (not pictured: Mitchell dePalm, Keyboard; Sharief Kartodikromo, Drums)

Music, Music, Music - 5 pm to 11 pm -
Wilhelmina Park
Call 717-2795 (Skol di Musika
Boneiru) or 786-5261 (Boy Janga)

On Sunday, September 23, from noon to 4 pm, everyone is invited to help celebrate Bonaire's Music School's first birthday. And the gift they're giving to the community is Music! Come join this high energy event with Bonaire's young musicians performing, demonstrations by the teachers, information about the school and more. Get ready to rock. The school is on the waterfront, next to the Harborside Mall.

Then at 5 pm the party moves to Wilhelmina Park for the big party - more music, stands, drinks and food. The school has invited every musical group and musician on the island to come and perform - groups like Stingray, Tinfoil, The Flamingo Rockers, Silver Bullet, Glen I su Geng, Reggae from Rincon, just to mention a few.

About the School

School Director Boy Janga says that there are a lot of kids on the island with musical talent, but there's nothing for them - no advance study or scholarships. "Every child on the island, from the age of eight years, should have the opportunity to take music at school," he states. "Music can give discipline to a child. Kids with nothing to do should stop by the school

and most importantly, bring their parents." (They're the ones who need to be convinced that music can help their child.) There are about 50 active students now and six really good groups, he says.

Some funding comes from the government, but the school can use financial assistance for more instruments and equipment. "We will appreciate any donation, even a few guilders," says Janga. "Any amount can make a difference!" For donations: Skol di Musika Boneiru: MCB Account #106.753.02.

Musicians on the island, Prepare!

A professional musician himself, Janga believes the island musicians should start working for the future. Things will change a lot, he says, when Bonaire has closer ties with Holland. Off island musicians can come here more easily, "flood the market," and make it harder for local groups to get work. Prepare now, he advises. Form a working union, get insurance, have a central booking agency, like the music school. □ *L.D.*

Sunday, September 23, Noon to 4 pm, at the Skol di Musika Boneiru, on the waterfront next to the Harbourside Mall. Big Birthday Celebration with

Turtles On The Move

This season Bonaire's Sea Turtle Conservation group (STCB) is tracking two sea turtles who are heading in opposite directions.

The female Green turtle, "Darwina," has continued to the southwest and is now right off the coast of Venezuela. She is traveling at a rate of over 54 km per day and is approximately 105 km from her starting point. Green turtle, "Darwina" started moving to the south on September 7. "Darwina" has made several journeys after nesting only to return to Bonaire and nest five times in all.

Turtle "Eloise" is heading north and is now swimming toward Haiti. She has slowed down considerably and is now moving at a daily rate of approximately 70 km.

"Eloise" is over 830 km from Klein Bonaire. Hurricane Felix passed directly over her path but Eloise was unperturbed.

Both turtles are equipped with radio transceivers that transmit the turtle's position as determined by the GPS system when they surface.

Bonaire researchers are amazed at the variety of destinations chosen by our turtles.

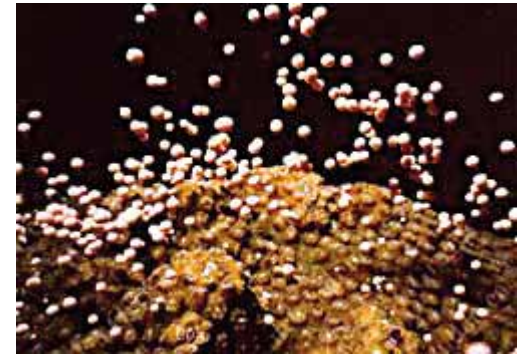
□ STCB



Bubbles from the Biologist

CORAL SPAWNING Did You Know...

Most corals have one hot date a year? In Bonaire, the most common coral is the boulder star coral, *Montastrea annularis*. This coral spawns once a year and spawns in synchrony with most of the other boulder star corals. In fact, if you're diving or snorkeling on the seventh night after the full moon in the warmest month of the year (usually in September or October for Bonaire) between 9:30 and 10:30 pm, you're almost guaranteed to see this coral spawn. No kidding!



Coral spawn cloud

Until recently, humans were very ignorant as to what the corals were doing down there that special night. Not many people went in the water at night and even if they did happen to see the spawning, the pattern was hard to determine. Now, we've got it pretty well figured out for most of the corals. Each little coral polyp releases sperm, eggs, or both (depending on the sex) simultaneously with its sister polyps. The boulder star coral's sperm/egg packets look like little pink balls, and as soon as they lift off of the colony they slowly rise towards the surface where they break apart and are fertilized. If you're lucky, you'll see colony after colony releasing their gametes within a matter of minutes.

CIEE Research Station Bonaire invites you to a free public lecture on Thursday September 27th at 7:30pm. Caren Eckrich will be presenting a 45-minute talk on coral spawning. CIEE is located on Kaya Gobernador Debrot # 21 right next to Seaside Apartments on the main road between Harbour Village and Kralendijk. □

Caren Eckrich,

Biologist 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 .



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 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!

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 Reporter Classifieds— Are still free Got something to buy or sell?

Non-Business Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):
Free ads run for 2 weeks.

Commercial Ads only NAf1 per word, for each two week issue.
Call 786-6518 or 786-6125 or email info@bonairereporter.com

JANART GALLERY

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

IS YOUR HOUSE NEW TO YOU?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

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

BONAIRENET

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

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

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

Bonaire Images

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

Searching For GOOD Maid Service?

For Quality House Cleaning CALL JRA

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

LUNCH TO GO

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

OUTDOOR SPORTS



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

JELLASTONE PETPARK

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

SUPPORT BONAIRE

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

For Sale

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

Cars

For Sale: One - owner 1997 Ford Explorer NAf12,000. Tel: 786-2692

Property

Harbour Village Marina Front Condo For Sale- Large one bedroom, 2 bath apartment located in a secluded all condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. www.luxurybonaire.com



JOBS

Staff wanted: Capture Photo seeks Computer Literate Individual for full time position in busy Camera Rental Facility. Experience with Scuba and/or Photography preferable. Call 599-717-6151 email- Info@capturecaribbean.com

Fitness center is looking for a part time administrator.

Phone: 09 512-6375 or Phone: (599) 717-2500 X- 8210 fit4life_fitness@hotmail.com

MAKE EXTRA MONEY Reporters and feature writers wanted for *The Reporter*. Get paid by the word and for your photos.



Stories waiting to be written. Send a sample of your writing to: info@bonairereporter.com or Call George 786-6125

Wanted

20 ft. container in good shape. Call Donna 795-9332

2-bedroom apartment at Hato

Max 2 persons, bath/shower, kitchen, boiler, weekly linen (bed/towels/kitchen), furniture and kitchen equipment. Minimum stay 2 months NAf 800,-excl. No animals. Monique 717-2529



LOST CAT

Since August the 25th one of our cats 'Suusje' has disappeared from our home at the Kaya Onix. (Republiek). Suusje is a fluffy grey, brown ('schildpad' in Dutch) cat and we (and the other cats) miss her very much. Unfortunately she is very shy.

Would you be so kind to contact us if you've seen her.

Our e-mail address is bi-mar@flamingotv.net and our phone-

Puppy Saviors

Several weeks ago, Czella and Hank Donaldson found a female dog shot in the streets of Rincon. Most likely the dog had been hunting goats and was killed for doing so, but it was also obvious that the dog had puppies and so the couple went to look if there were any survivors. They found nine puppies in the *mondi*. Two didn't make it, but they raised seven by hand, from day one. Czella says: "They are people puppies, hand raised. They're adorable and lovable and sociable and they are paper trained. One we kept ourselves, but we already have seven stray dogs, so that's why we brought the other six to the shelter and we do hope they'll find a warm and loving home." According to Monique Degenaar, one of the shelter's staff members, some of the puppies are no longer there, but others are still waiting for someone who wants to give them a chance for a new life. □ Greta Kooistra



Pets of The Week



This adorable couple, Pedro and Patricia, were brought into the shelter in June, together with their mom. In the meantime ma has found a new home, but her children are still looking for one. Brother and sister are slender, petite and elegant; Pedro's black and Patricia is black and tan. Their characters are typically those of smaller dogs, they are busy bodies and very alert – they see and hear everything and it seems they're never asleep. While Patricia loves to be hugged and pampered being the little princess she is, Pedro is a bit more conservative and keeps his distance; he's a bit of a macho, really. The Shelter would love to find a home for them where they could stay together, but it's also possible to adopt either one of them. You can find the Shelter at Kaminda Lagoen. Opening hours from 8.00 am till 13.00 pm. Phone 717-4989. □

Greta Kooistra

"The single most important thing that helped my new business was an ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*" ... Restaurant Owner

If you think that 6,000 copies of *The Reporter* delivered to markets, hotels, restaurants and other outlets on Bonaire every month can help your business call us: Laura 786-6518 George 786-6125 Email- info@bonairereporter.com



Home Inspections

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Over 25 years building experience

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neptuneconstruction@hotmail.com



BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The 19th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Nando Bernabela and His Black 2004 Harley-Davidson Sportster

From Wednesday September 5th until Sunday September 9th the 9th Bonaire Bikers Motor Club Tour was held. The official BBMC Tour 2007 started on Sunday at 11 in the morning in Playa/Kralendijk. A krioyo lunch stop was organized at the Rose Inn in Rincon. The tour ended at five in the afternoon at the promenade Kanti 'awa. Hundreds of bikers from Aruba, Curaçao, Costa Rica, the US, Venezuela and Bonaire joined the annual event.

From Wednesday through Sunday thousands of tons of steel, cast iron, aluminum and chrome have been pushed around on two wheels, mostly rear-wheel powered by American-made, huge V-twin engines. Of course there were some single cylinder motorcycles, some triples, four cylinders, six cylinders and even some V8s, but most of the bikes were fitted with V-twins from the stables of Harley Davidson's in Milwaukee, US.

Luckily, among all those impressive vehicles, sometimes even on three wheels, there were some sleek and neat and honest basic bikes - no nonsense bikes, bikes consisting of an engine and a frame, two wheels, a front fork, handlebars, a tank and a seat. Do you need anything more to enjoy one of the most pure ways of transportation?

One of those honest bikes is the black Harley Davidson Sportster of Nando Bernabela (a member of Bonaire's Bernabela family) from Aruba. Mr. Bernabela (most of the time riding his bike with a helmet, applause/jb) is the proud owner of the MFA - 1469. His Sportster was built in 2004 and is fitted with a five-speed 883 cc evolution engine. Conveniently, the machine has a carburetor instead of fuel injection. The bike is painted black and fitted with some chrome parts, nicely developed light weight rims and is belt driven. No chain, no grease, no leaks. Just a very nice and well maintained bike. A bike designed for driving.

This is the fourth time Mr. Bernabela joined the Bonairean event. He will stay on



A picture of the black Harley Davidson Sportster of Nando Bernabela from Aruba. The 2004 built bike is fitted with an 883 cc evolution engine, a five-speed gearbox and a belt drive. The bike is almost completely original and well maintained. Ready for everyday use. (Photo by J@n Brouwer)

the island of Bonaire for 10 days. His bike and a lot of other bikes from Aruba were transported by the *Doña Louisa*. Special cages were constructed in Aruba to fit the motorcycles. Two layers of 10 cages sleekly fit in a 40-foot container. They did a good job, those Arubans, constructing these bike cages. Easy, simple, handy and secure.

The Harley Davidson 883 cc XL Sportster was launched in 1957, superseding the old side-valve-fitted Model K. The XL Sportster was an instant hit, accounting for one fifth of Harley Davidson's total production in its first year on sale. The first Sportsters looked lean, fitted with a minimalist "peanut" fuel tank and the short exhausts. Those days the Sportster was equipped with a kick starter. The four-speed engine produced 40 bhp and had a top speed of 95 mph/152 kph. Cosmetically, even fully equipped Sportsters were as lean as a motorcycle can be, an attribute most retain to this day. □ *Story & photo by J@n Brouwer*

What's Happening in Rincon

Maria Koeks writes:

During the month of August a group of about 60 kids from the fifth grade of the Papa Cornes School followed a very interesting walking trail in Rincon. This trail is the Ruta Onima (Onima Route) that brought them to the caves where the Indian inscriptions are. It was a very educational and relaxed day for the kids and the teachers too. Popular historian, Mr Frans Booi, happened to be at the site and he was very happy to give additional historical information about the history of the Indians.

Such daytime excursions are planned for all the public primary schools of Bonaire and made possible with the financial aid from USONA funds, acquired by the efforts of Plataforma Rincon.

Soldachi Tours is responsible for conducting the tours.

Do you want to know more about our history, culture and nature?

Every Saturday morning Soldachi Tours offers you guided tours on these subjects.

We are ready to serve you. For more information call : 796-7870



Maria Koeks photo

Editor's Note: Soldachi (land crab) Tours bring you the history and lore of Bonaire by Bonaireans from Rincon. Don't miss this real island experience.

SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 6

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

Missing



Have you seen this woman? She was last heard from via a postcard from Bonaire four years ago. She is 1,74 m. (5' 8 1/2") tall, blue eyes, natural blonde curly hair, (dyed black in this photo from 2002), 46 years old. Her name is Carolin Birkholz

Five years ago she left Germany for a sailing trip in the Caribbean and, except for the card, hasn't been heard from since.

Her sister, Claudia Janet Birkholz, email- claudia.birkholz@hamburg.de, is desperate to find her.

If you can help please contact Claudia or *The Bonaire Reporter*, 786-6125.



Celebrating our
25th Anniversary
Rotary Club of Bonaire

"Support our Breakfast
in Schools Program"



Photo Copyright 2006 Anissa Thompson

Rotary Bonaire Foundation
PO Box 240, Kralendijk, Bonaire N.A.
Acct. 114.238.08 with MCB Bonaire

Soul Night Sponsors: Continued from page 10

Head sponsor: **Caribbean Homes;**
Co-Sponsors: **ArkeFly and Plaza
Resort**

Other Sponsors: **Antillean Wine
Company, Bocar, BSC Painting, Car-
ibbean Laundry Service, City Café,
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Fashion, Karel's Beach Bar, Krioyo
Paint, Le Flamboyant, Mambo
Jambo, Mega FM, Mona Lisa, Polar,
Digital 91.1 FM, Rento Fun
Drive, RE/MAX Paradise Homes,
Salsa Restaurant, The Ribs Factory,
Tiara Air, Total Carrental, The VD
17, Warehouse, Wattaburger, Water-
planet Images and *The Bonaire Re-
porter*.**

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
9-14	0:33	1.1FT.	15:08	1.6FT.					77
9-15	2:02	1.0FT.	15:55	1.7FT.					71
9-16	2:46	0.9FT.	16:41	1.7FT.					64
9-17	3:26	0.9FT.	17:32	1.8FT.					57
9-18	3:58	0.8FT.	18:13	1.8FT.					49
9-19	4:25	0.8FT.	18:58	1.9FT.					42
9-20	4:52	0.8FT.	19:42	1.9FT.					37
9-21	5:20	0.8FT.	20:22	1.9FT.					38
9-22	5:38	0.9FT.	21:10	1.9FT.					45
9-23	5:49	1.0FT.	11:05	1.2FT.	14:01	1.1FT.	21:57	1.8FT.	57
9-24	5:55	1.0FT.	11:15	1.3FT.	15:36	1.1FT.	22:42	1.7FT.	69
9-25	5:56	1.1FT.	11:38	1.4FT.	16:57	1.1FT.	23:38	1.6FT.	82
9-26	0:30	1.5FT.	5:54	1.2FT.	12:07	1.6FT.	18:27	1.1FT.	92
9-27	1:46	1.3FT.	5:43	1.2FT.	12:51	1.7FT.	20:11	1.0FT.	99
9-28	4:23	1.2FT.	4:41	1.2FT.	13:43	1.8FT.	22:10	1.0FT.	102
9-29	14:37	1.8FT.	23:44	0.9FT.					101

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$65; By mail to Europe \$130. By Internet \$25

Published **twice a month**. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles; phone (599) 786-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: www.bonairereporter.com **Published every two weeks**

Reporters: Siomara Albertus, Albert Bianculli, Sara Biggerstaff, J@n Brower, Caren Eckrich, Jack Horkheimer, Molly Bartikoski-Kearney, Maria Koeks, Greta Kooistra, Sara Matera, David Radomisli, STCB, Valarie Stimpson, Michael Thiesen, Ruud Vermeulen, Paul Wade, Sam Williams

Features Editor: Greta Kooistra **Translations:** Peggy Bakker **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** JRA .

Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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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

Wednesday, September 13-
Introduction to Meditation, sponsored
by Raja Yoga, Kaya Hulanda 25, 7 pm.
Call 786-2201, 717-8855. See page 6

Saturday, September 15- Fourth
Quarterly Underwater Cleanup Dive-
Yellow Submarine, 1 pm

**September 15-22 - Love Our Planet
Week.** See full schedule on pages 8-9

Monday, September 17- Coral spawn
peak—Dive at night—See page 20

**Sunday, September 23—Music School
Open House—1st Anniversary Cele-
bration Noon—4 pm.** Followed by **Big
Musical Celebration in Wilhelmina
Park 5 pm to 11 pm.** See page 14.

**Sunday, September 23—Autumnal
Equinox.** See page 21

**Thursday, September 27—Free Coral
Spawning Lecture at CIEE—next to
Seaside Apts., Kaya Gob. DeBrot 21,
7:30 pm** See pages 2 & 13

COMING

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

**Saturday, October 6 - 6th BWC
Mountain Bike Tour, 785-0767**

**Sunday, October 7 - 7th Annual Swim
to Klein Bonaire. Jong Bonaire fund-
raiser.** Visit www.jongbonaire.org
for more information or call 717-4303.

**Friday, October 12—Caribbean
Homes Soul Night with George
McCrae.** See page 10

**Saturday, November 10—7th Annual
EcoSwim.** Call BONHATA or go to
www.aquamoonadventures.com

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm,
Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar

- HH—50% off- Buddy Dive Re-
sort, 5:30-6:30
- **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily
for hot slot machines, roulette and black
jack, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm– 4 am; Sun. 7
pm– 3 am.

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

- **Parke Publico** children's play-
ground open every day into the evening
hours.

Saturdays

- **Steak Night On the Beach** (a la
carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm
- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy
a Bonairean breakfast while you shop,
fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local
sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles,
incense, drinks, music.
www.infobonaire.com/rincon. **Extra big
Marshé 1st Saturday of the month, 6
am-2 pm.**

- **All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi
Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm,
NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-
8285 ext. 444.
- **Wine Tasting** at AWC's ware-
house, **2nd Saturday of the month**, 7 to
9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from
Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAF20
per person for 6 to 8 wines.

- **Soldachi Tours**—See the real
Bonaire and be transported back in time.
Learn about the history, culture and na-
ture by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call
Maria Koeke for more information—796-
7870.

- **Flea Market every first Satur-
day 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.

- **Mountain Bike Training for
riders of all levels (also Tuesday)** at
5pm. Bonaire Wellness Connexions,
Eden Beach, 785-0767, email
info@bonairewellness.com

Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying
a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambi-
ance 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 Margaritas and a Taco bar! Plus
Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 6-
8pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**

Wednesdays

- **Beach BBQ & music at The Wind-
surf Place at Sorobon**, 7—10 pm. Re-
serve 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 Wilhel-
mina Park** with local art, music and
food; summer fashions, jewelry, glass-
work, Bonaire pictures, driftwood art,
paintings and all kinds of Bonaire souve-
nirs, 9 am to 2 pm.
- **Swim lessons** for children by
Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at
Sunrise Poolbar and Sportsclub, for chil-
dren 0 – 18.
- **Manager's Bash**—free Flamingo
Smash & snacks, Live music by Fla-
mingo Rockers, **Divi Flamingo**, Balashi
Beach Bar 5-7 pm
- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30- 6:30
pm) & All-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm,
Buddy Dive Resort

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- "Discover Our Diversity"
slide show-pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 7 pm,
717-5080

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays—Sea Turtle
Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea
Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st
& 3rd Tuesday at Buddy Dive Re-
sort (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 Eve-
ning 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 re-
stored and furnished so it appears the family
has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you
the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–12, 2-
4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.
Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view
from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about
Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th
century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018
Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind
the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays
from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868
**Washington-Slagbaai National Park,
Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open
daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holi-
days. 717-8444/785-0017

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday; Phone :
560-7267 or 717- 3902.
Al-Anon meetings - every Monday eve-
ning at 7 pm. Call 790-7272
Cancer Survivor Support Group Ma-
jestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes
Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD
Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.
**Weekly Bonaire Talker Gathering and
Dinner** at Gibi's - **Tuesday - 6:30 pm -**
call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7.30 pm
at Sunrise Pool Bar. all levels, NAF2,50.
Call Joop 717-5903 or be there by 7:15.
Darts Club plays every other Sunday at
City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5.
Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

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

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

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th
Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya
Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.
Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12
noon-2 pm - 'Pirate House', above
Zeezicht Restaurant. All Rotarians wel-
come. 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 Papi-
amentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am.
Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papi-
amentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.
Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in
Kralendijk.

Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rin-
con. Bible Study and Prayer meetings,
Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

New Apostolic Church: 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, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in
Papiamentu, 717-8304.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Satur-
day at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papi-
amentu 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:

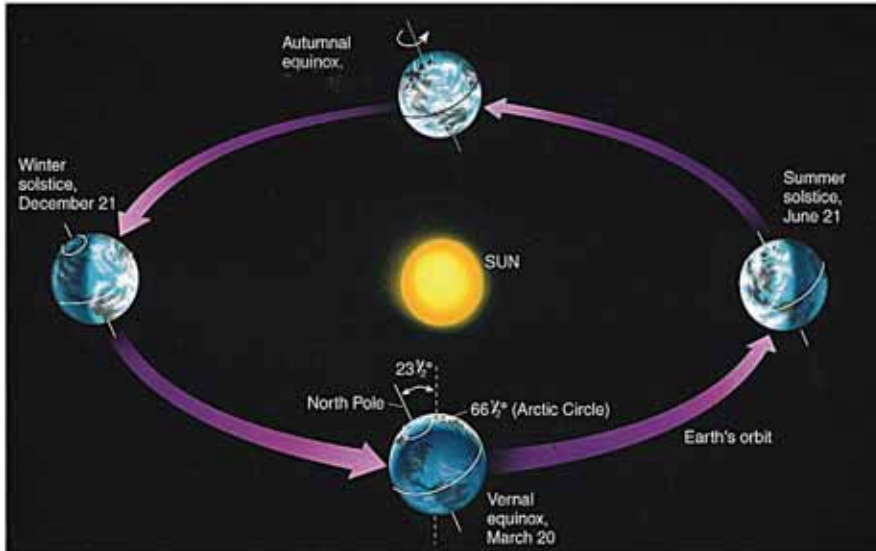
The Bonaire Reporter
Email_reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

An Alert to Drivers on Next Week's Autumnal Equinox



Next week Sunday, September 23rd at 5:51 am, Sky Park Time, the **Autumnal Equinox will occur**. And every year I like to issue an alert to drivers who venture out at Sunrise or Sunset. Why? And just what is the Autumnal Equinox anyway?

The word equinox comes from the Latin *equi* which means equal and *nox* which means night, equal night. And there are only two days of the year when the hours of night and day are equal, the Autumnal Equinox, the first day of Autumn, and the **Vernal Equinox, the first day of Spring**. You see these are the two days when the **Sun** on its yearly journey against the background of stars crosses an imaginary line we call the **Celestial Equator**. Thus on these two days of the year only will the Sun rise exactly due east and set exactly due west. Every other day of the year it will rise and set at a different point along the horizon. And you can see this for yourself.

In fact, on Sunday the 23rd you can see the Sun rise exactly due east and set due west. But on the next day Monday the 24th it will rise and set one Sun width to the south of where it rose and set on the 23rd. And each successive day it will keep rising a little farther south until **the first day of Winter, the Winter Solstice** it will rise at its farthest point southeast, after which it will slowly retrace its path, journeying northward each day until once again it will rise due east on the other equinox, the Vernal Equinox, the first day of spring. After that it will rise a little bit more northeast each successive day until it reaches its farthest northeast point of rising on the first day of Summer, the **Summer Solstice**, after which it will head southeast once again until the Sun rises exactly due east on the first day of Autumn, the Autumnal Equinox, which is where the Sun will rise on Sunday the 23rd.

And I issue a driver's alert for this reason. You see, if you're driving on a due east highway at sunrise on either the Autumnal or Vernal Equinox the Sun will rise directly over the white line in the middle of the road, and conversely, if you're driving at sunset on a due west highway the Sun will set directly over the yellow line in the middle of the road. So to keep you from being blinded, I alert you to put your sun glasses on and your sun visors down on both equinoxes! And in case the Sun doesn't rise or set over the line in the middle of your east/west road, it simply means that the road is not true due east/due west. So put those sun visors down and make sure you do not ever stare directly at the Sun on the equinoxes or any other day. □

Jack Horkheimer

the astrology zone September

Aries, March 20 - April 19 - You went through a difficult patch a few years back, one that lasted for so long it was hard trying to remember anything else. Not that you gave in to despair, despondency or did anything other than continue in your usual way, but it's good to remember how things were and how much they have improved since then. This month you enjoy the opportunity to build on your progress even more solidly, which takes time, but unfortunately there is no other way.

Taurus, April 20 - May 20 - The most important things to you are security and stability and you're not going to get either without a solid foundation. Though it's meant letting go of several potentially disruptive variables, you do have all this now, although some of the things that you've needed to say goodbye to were definitely hard things for you to let go. On this firmer basis, it's now time for you to reach out to the world once, again safe in the knowledge that if the worst were to happen, your innermost sanctuary remains more or less untouched, inviolable and safe.

Gemini, May 21 - June 20 - This month it won't be long before issues of home and family are at the forefront of your mind. You don't like this much because mainly you find it all so dreadfully dull and would rather spend your time thinking about almost anything else. You value the security that your home provides, so you must attend to these matters when they arise.

Cancer, June 21 - July 22 - A phase of serious thinking begins that can have several outcomes. Most typical and especially at this time of year, you might consider starting a course of study leading in a college, school or university. Look out for significant shifts in your thinking no matter what you do, based on changes to what you now believe.

Leo, July 23 - August 22 - You and this planet, Saturn, go together a bit like champagne and lard, since you're enthusiastic, effervescent and elegant while Saturn is dreary, dull and dismal. In many ways you are certain to feel heaps better anyway, although unfortunately your financial picture could take a while to catch up.

Virgo, August 23 - September 22 - Saturn sidles into your sign this month, for the first time since 1980 and for a stay lasting more or less, until the end of the decade. Most people fear Saturn arriving because it means hard work and removing from your life all that you no longer need. But you're a worker anyway and have been drifting for so long, that to have some definite issues clarify themselves out of the sea of nebulous.

Libra, September 23 - October 22 - Things change gradually and in time we get used to them. Yet there are still many elements you are struggling to maintain and you are trying to fit these in with all the new things that you do as well. No wonder life seems busy and often such a frenetic rush, when cutting back does not mean quitting or shirking your responsibilities in any case. Prioritize your goals as you move forwards into the future.

Scorpio, October 23 - November 21 - It is time to look again at your ambitions and to ensure these truly have the most personal slant you can give them. Nobody doubts the passion with which you are pursuing your aims and it's not that you are heading in the wrong direction. Purely personal objectives pursued for you alone won't have much meaning, but there is some gap between this course and just running without thinking on your childhood conditioning.

Sagittarius, November 22 - December 21 - With luck, and usually you have plenty, life seems on schedule and heading in the direction that you want. You are at a pinnacle of achievement, something you have worked towards for a long time. You can be sure that the things you're fully committed to will succeed, while others eventually will go.

Capricorn, December 22 - January 19 - It's not long into September before your financial obligations ease considerably. Although you'll always find something to concern you, the worst of the worries you've had over money seem to melt away. After all, it has been hard to enjoy the limitless potential of your higher mind in conditions you considered were borderline for your survival.

Aquarius, January 20 - February 18 - Being an Aquarian is one big paradox and you are usually wrestling with one dilemma or another. Your current quandary is mainly about being a people person versus your strong sense of individuality and the need for personal freedom over anything else. Although this won't apply forever and a day, at the moment it's more important keeping your own space than getting deeper into anything that you won't be able to maintain.

Pisces, February 19 - March 19 - Problems in your partnerships have been threatening for a while, and in September whatever cracks there are, really start to show. It's just that you have so much to do right now and your partner needs to understand and to want the best for you. Anyone who isn't prepared to take these extras on board must start thinking over where you're going together and about where they stand with you. □ Paul Wade

Picture Yourself With The Reporter

Somewhere in Bonaire

Ardsley, NY, USA



Here's a picture of **Linda (Anthony) and Eric van Silfhout youngest son, Fernando**, with his favorite "book," *The Bonaire Reporter*. Linda writes, "He's a huge fan of your paper. He especially likes the animal pictures. Whenever I bring home a copy, he grabs it, runs to the only place where no one will bother him (see picture) and starts reading out loud: "Tortuga, visje, dog, Meisje." (His kindergarten is very internationally orientated). As you can see in the picture he doesn't like to be disturbed when he's reading "his book"."

□



Joan and Alan Zale of Hartsdale, NY, who just completed their 23rd visit to Bonaire in August, where they celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary, hold a copy of the August 7-31, 2007 edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Since there is not much scuba diving where they live Joan and Alan substitute bike riding. On a recent 15 mile bike ride on the South Country Trailway, which was an old railroad line that once passed through Westchester County, they stopped to pose with *The Bonaire Reporter* in Ardsley, NY on September 3, 2007. □ Photo by Mary Doherty

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.

This feature is brought to you each week by



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On The Island Since... December 2002

Franklin "Paco" Veeris

"I was born on Curaçao in 1970, and when I was in the third grade of HAVO, my mom, my sister and I moved to Amsterdam. It was just too much fun! I quit school altogether and when I was 16 I started working at Schiphol Airport, cleaning planes and handling luggage. I started going around with the wrong people, but in 1990 I changed my mind and went back to my father in Curaçao and to finish HAVO high school.

I lived with my father and my grandmother and went back to school. There I met Marie Craane from Bonaire. She had an eye on me, but I wasn't aware of it; I was more interested in sports anyway! But during the last year, just before graduation, we were in a study group together. Then our relationship became more serious. After graduating Marie left to study in Holland and I stayed on Curaçao to study electrical engineering at the UNA, the University of the Antilles. A year later Marie told me, 'You'd better come to Holland, if not, our relationship is over!' She was such a sweetheart and I just wanted to be with her, so I went to Holland.

I arrived in Groningen in the north of Holland where Marie was studying to become a speech therapist, and I continued studying electrical engineering at HTS (College of Advanced Technology). Being back in Holland was nothing out of the ordinary for me; I don't care where I live, I am a cosmopolitan.

Very soon after my arrival I quit my studies because I heard a friend talking about the academy for physical education – ALO – and that's what I wanted to do. From the time I was very little I loved sports and I never knew an education for sports existed! To make your hobby your profession – it was the perfect thing. The school was in Groningen, so I could stay with Marie.

The years passed by and it wasn't always easy. When one of my best friends went to Curaçao for vacation he was killed in a car crash; it was a big blow to me. And then Marie's sister – a teenager at the time – was sent to Holland to stay with us because there were some problems, so we had to study and at the same time we were "parents" to a teenager girl. At times it was tough.

My study was hard but also great fun. I had to do a lot of different sports and also I was training and coaching teams - doing what I loved best – and in that sense I was having a wonderful time. Marie and I got married in Groningen in a civil ceremony on September 20, 2000, then on December 29th 2001, in the church in Antriol.

I'd lived in Holland for almost 10 years, and in my last year of school Marie wanted to go back to Bonaire where she'd been offered a job. I also applied for a job and got one at Jong Bonaire as a sports coordinator. They wanted me immediately so I didn't get to finish my studies in Holland, but it was possible to do it by e-mail and the board of Jong Bonaire agreed to that. But up until now it hasn't happened because we're always busy, busy, busy, especially because we're such a small team at Jong Bonaire, only seven people for 133 kids this year!

I started playing sports with the youngsters and coordinating and organizing sports tournaments like table tennis, soccer, roller hockey, volleyball and basketball. I also go wakeboarding and windsurfing with the kids. Every student who attends SGB high school can sign up; it's an after school program.

I was 32 when I came here, but during my studies I worked as a trainer with all kinds of kids, including those with social problems and mentally and physically disabled kids of all ages. Those groups were very big. I was a police officer and

"...we've been tempted many times (to live in Holland) as everything is more secure there, like your job and your salary..."

a social worker as well as a gymnastics teacher. However, being the gym teacher was to my advantage because at least I was doing something with them that they liked, and because of that I had a little better grip on them. Once you've survived that the rest is peanuts. So, when I came here, it was easy for me to understand and work with the kids as I knew the culture and the language.

Marie and I used to come to Bonaire often for vacation, and I liked it here especially because of the tranquility and the friendliness of the people. And every sport I like – tennis, basketball, windsurfing, free diving, wakeboarding and diving – I can do here... could do here if there were more hours in a day.

Officially I work 40 hours per week, but we have only 15 days vacation per year and so, for the other holidays we have to work extra hours. That happens frequently, for instance when we're

fundraising- like for the Swim to Klein Bonaire (October 7th), or the Mini Fun Triathlon, the Jump In with carnival, the Song Festival, the Mr. and Miss Jong Bonaire elections or

the Arte di Palabra (the Art of the Word) event or Christmas dinner. Those are the things that keep us busy throughout the year besides the preparations for the daily activities. For example, every Friday we have a special activity: we go to the movies or for a swim, and this week we're going hiking in Washington Park.

This year we took a group of youngsters to participate in the table tennis world championships in Valencia, Venezuela. We didn't win, but it was a great experience and it was an eye-opener for the kids because ever since we came back they're training more fanatically than ever. Now a colleague of mine has taken over the table tennis; he's better than I am, but I feel like I gave away my baby. I've put so much time and energy in building it up, but... my colleague will take it to a higher level now, and so it's okay.

I play tennis three times a week at Harbour Village and once a week I play basketball at the sports hall. When I was a little kid, 11, 12 years old, I was scouted to go and play tennis in the States, but my mom didn't want me to leave; she felt I was too young. No regrets though – I like my life as it is. As well as work I train elementary school children in basketball and I help with the world championships freestyle windsurfing during the Regatta. Fact is, you always see the same faces. It would be nice if we could get some fresh blood amongst the volunteers."

'Paco' Veeris (37) is a soft spoken, friendly man, handsome, open-minded and in very good shape. "At home I also take care of our children, B'lana, our daughter who's six, and our son Yuma, four, although not as much as Marie. She's a very busy girl; she has her own speech therapy practice and she works for FORMA, where she's developing educative instruction material for adults.



Franklin "Paco" Veeris with Jong Bonaire kids

She's also teaching Papiamentu at the Pelikaan elementary school where our children are going.

It's great fun to be a dad, and I've had the best times with my daughter B'lana when Marie was working in a hospital in Holland and I was taking care of B'lana while going to school part-time.

I like it here. Again, I don't care where I live; every country has its pros and cons, and when I mentioned that the people here are so friendly, I have to say they were just as friendly in Groningen. Maybe it would be better if we lived in Holland. We've been tempted many times as everything is more secure there, like your job and your salary, and the way things go in a more organized way. But on the other hand, life in Holland is very expensive and you have to achieve a lot to get somewhere and that causes lots of stress. Also Marie's parents and her sister are here and that makes it even more difficult to leave. But as I feel good everywhere, I feel good here too.

Maybe my future is a bit limited because there are fewer chances on Bonaire – but, that doesn't have to be bad because I love my job and I love to work with kids – I love to get them moving! Well, as far as the future is considered, we have a lot of land where we would like to build our house one day and... yes... I hope we stay here because Bonaire has become one of the places where I really feel at home." □

Story & Photo by Greta Kooistra

