

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

BONAIRE *September 28- October 12, 2007; Volume 14, Issue 32* The REPORTER

PO Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 786-6125/6518

SINCE 1994



Regatta Week

October 5-14 Pages 8-9



**Sensor Monitors
On Watch**

Page 3

**Shimaruku
Perfect Fruit?**

Page 22

**Music School
Anniversary**

Page 12

**Tourism
Directions**

Page 13

Flotsam and Jetsam

BONAIRE The REPORTER

American Airlines®

Tiara Air

Continental Airlines

KLM

Delta

Delta Air Lines offered a special introductory rate of \$179 each way on its new non-stop Atlanta-Bonaire route beginning February 9, 2008. Delta flight #371 will depart Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Saturdays at 10 am, arriving at Bonaire's Flamingo International Airport at 3:10 pm.

The return flight #370 will depart Bonaire Saturdays at 4:15 pm, arriving at Atlanta at 7:55 pm. Delta will use a 150-seat, 737-800 Boeing aircraft.

► Continental Airlines has announced that due to increased demand it will add a second non-stop Houston-Bonaire flight beginning December 14, 2007, and ending January 7, 2008. During this time, Continental Airlines flight #1898 will depart Houston International Airport on **Fridays and Saturdays** at 11:30 pm, and arrive in Bonaire at 6:12 am. The return flight #1899 will depart Bonaire on Saturdays and Sundays at 8:30 am, and arrive in Houston at 11:28 am.

► "Commuter airline" **Tiara Air** now operates six weekly non-stop roundtrip flights between the Aruba and Bonaire, adding to the convenience of connecting to Bonaire from the US through Aruba's many daily US flights. The Tiara Air flights depart Aruba Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:45 am., arriving in Bonaire at 10:30 am, and Friday and Sunday at 7 pm, arriving in Bonaire at 7:45 pm. Tiara Air is using a Shorts

360 airplane with 33 passenger seats and 215 cubic feet of cargo space.

Tickets between Aruba and Bonaire are \$90.56 each way and can be purchased online at www.tiara-air.com.

► KLM's winter schedule released this week has little change for Bonaire. A much higher Amsterdam airport departure tax is to be charged for Antilles-bound travelers, 45 euro (approximately Naf 110) as compared to EU country-bound flyers (11,25 euro), a fact that is discouraging to Antilles travelers.

► Winair from St. Maarten provided air service from Curaçao to Aruba, Bonaire, and Venezuela with one of its 19-seat Twin Otters for Insel Air for the last couple of weeks while Insel's aircraft was under maintenance. The Twin Otter, four pilots, and a mechanic, loaned to Insel Air on September 3, did not affect the off-season Winair schedule.

► The Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba will begin the "wet lease" of two De Havilland Dash 8 aircraft next month, said Caribbean Commodore Peter W. Lenselink late last week. The planes will improve and extend the Coast Guard's control and monitoring at sea, and search and rescue tasks, he added.

It will be the first time the Coast Guard has had its own aircraft. They will be equipped with radar and other detection gear. The planes are set to arrive

on October 1 and be stationed at Hato air base in Curaçao.

► The Bank of the Netherlands Antilles reduced the interest on its loans to commercial banks by a half per cent from 5.75% to 5.25% following the lowering of the US Federal Reserve's Federal Funds Rate. Two weeks ago the bank increased the interest from 5.5% to 5.75%.

► The Antilles Council of Ministers has officially requested the Netherlands to extend Bonaire-born Frits Goedgedrag's term as Governor of the Netherlands Antilles. His term was to end in July 2008, but in light of the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles on December 15, 2008, the Council of Ministers decided to forward Goedgedrag for another term in office. The new term will officially be for another six years, but his function as Governor will be moot when the Netherlands Antilles is dissolved.

► Having two passports should no longer be regarded as a problem for the Netherlands, advised the Scientific Council for Government Policy. "At a time of globalization, having two passports is increasingly a fact of life," WRR says in a report. "Not just for new Dutch nationals but for Dutch emigrants as well." Currently, people acquiring Dutch nationality have to formally renounce their original nationality, unless forbidden to do so by law.

► Diving accidents are rare but do happen. An Aruban local, Omar de Kort (23), died after a spearfishing dive in Aruba when he resurfaced too

quickly and suffered from "the bends," according to a newspaper account. De Kort was spearfishing with a friend, a certified nurse who provided on-scene treatment at Roger's Beach. The emergency squad of the Valero oil refinery and fire department also assisted. deKort was rushed to the hospital in critical condition by ambulance, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

► Minister of Finance Ersilia de Lannooy has issued a ministerial decree instructing the Inspectorate of Taxes to start withholding income tax on tips received by workers in casinos, restaurants, bars and hotels. She said the Tax Inspectorate considered tips part of a worker's salary and therefore he or she should pay wages tax on these monies. De Lannooy said the calculations would be made based on the service charge on the customer's bill.

However, there is no standardized practice governing the disposition of the service charge. Some establishments reportedly retain some or most – if not all – of it as revenue to be used to help them meet their overhead, while some distribute it among their workers.

► The problems of the Antilles Police Force originate from the reorganization that took place in 2000, according to Justice Minister David Dick. He told a press conference held in Curaçao Friday that not enough thought had been given to the reorganization. The Minister during the last month has been under much pressure from the police union to solve several problems, especially in the area of salaries, the ranking system and the lack of a dress code, that are affecting the functioning of the police force. "Hopefully by December a dress code will be ready," Dick said.

(Continued on page 4)

This Week's Stories

Clear Blue Water	
Sensor Volunteers	3
Editorial	5
Announcements	5
Bonaire Population	7
Klein Bonaire Cleanup	7
Capt. Don's Regatta	8
Regatta Schedule	9
Windsurfer Reports Belgium	10
Guest Editorials	
Development-Cruiseships	11
Music School Anniversary	12
TCB Marketing Meeting	13
Introducing Saskia Romeijn-Vermeer	14
Swim to Klein Bonaire	14
Turtle Tracking Report	15
Shimaruku Time	20
New Shopping Center	20

WEEKLY FEATURES

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Sudoku	6
Biologist's Bubbles:	
(Tri-D)	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
Classifieds	17
Pets of the Week	17
Sudoku solution	18
Bonaire on Wheels -bike	18
Tide Table	19
Reporter Masthead	19
What's Happening	20
Sky Park (Mars Coming)	21
Café Astrology	
September	21
Picture Yourself With The Reporter-	
Windmills, Holland	14
On The Island Since (Erwin LaCruz)	23

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CLEAR BLUE WATER NEWS

What's This Project About?

The "LMSP" (Light and Motion Sensor Project) aims to keep continuous watch on key areas of the water surrounding Bonaire.

The water surrounding Bonaire at this time seems to be good enough to promote a healthy environment for birth, growth and nourishment of millions of organisms. Good water quality will maintain Bonaire's strong coral reef structure and allow it continue to be one of the best attractions in the Caribbean for visitors to enjoy now and in the future.

However, if this delicate chemical liquid we call seawater is contaminated with toxic chemicals, human waste and high levels of unwanted nutrients, it will quickly be transformed into a poisonous cocktail, irreversibly destroying everything in it.

The LSMP is monitoring Bonaire's waters and pinpointing sources of pollution so immediate action can be taken.

Measurements regarding degrading water quality are now being collected to establish what is termed a "Base Line." Later the new conditions can be compared to the base line of the past, and proper measures can be taken to identify problems and pollution.

As you might expect, efficient long term, broad based monitoring programs can be very costly for a small island community like Bonaire to fund and carry out.

However, thanks to an innovative concept developed by a globally recognized scientist, experienced in the field of shallow water pollution, Dr. Burton Jones, and his associates have agreed to guide the Bonaire team, provide equipment and analyze the data collected from the sensors. Dr. Jones is from the University of Southern California (USC) and visits Bonaire on diving holidays.

STINAPA will publically reveal the results from all sensors each week on its website.

There are currently four sites with "rainbow" arrays: three along the leeshore near dive sites Playa Lechi, Front Porch and Black Durgeon and the LMSP control site on Klein Bonaire.

Each week *The Reporter* will provide the names of the new donors and updates on the LSMP and anecdotal reports from some of the volunteers who are making the dives to record the results.

How to Donate

Please support this important program with your donations. Your help is vital for it to continue.

The following donation levels are available:

LMSP Patron - \$1,000 +

LMSP 'Salinity' Sensor Donor, \$1,000.

LMSP 'Rainbow' Water Quality' Sensor Mooring Donor (9 sensors) Donor, Phase 1 - \$450.

LMSP 'Rainbow' Sensor Array (3 sensors) Donor, Phase 1 - \$150.

Friends' of LMSP - Under \$150

A big thank you to our new donors **Bill & Pro Phan Wildin**, Bonaire-Full "Rainbow" Mooring

John & Cindy Jensen, Bonaire-Full "Rainbow" Mooring

Ashley Collins & Douglas Crowell, California-One "Rainbow" Array + supplies.

To make a donation contact Albert Bianculli at (599) 717-2214 or 791-2214; email directab@gmail.com. 100% of all donations go directly to project equipment.

Sensor Report

This week's sensor report come from Rick Aguliar at the Black Durgeon:

Date: Saturday, September 22, 2007; Mooring Type & Depth: Independent Sensor Mooring Line,

drilled into Reef Slope Shoe @ 28 meters.

Number of Sensors: 3 each depth (white, blue, green) @ 5 meters, 12 m, 20 m. Total Number = 9 Sensors

Visibility: 30 Meters/ 99 Feet Current: 0 Knot Water Temperature: 28.8 C / 84 F

Comments: Visibility was awesome, again. The little sharp nose puffer was no longer there, but the chromis surrounded me once again. Also, I found another frog fish not far from the mooring line after completing the cleaning. I should have brought my camera. □

Albert Bianculli



Key to the program is the hardware used to monitor the seawater every eight minutes (our Reporter article last week erroneously said eight hours, but the water is actually sampled every eight minutes).

In Donna Wuyts' right hand is one of the miniature sensors. Nine sensors at varying depths make up a monitoring array. Four arrays are operational right now, two will be installed this week and five more in October.

Volunteers use the "reader" in Donna's left hand to scan in the data when they check and clean the sensors each week. Donations for this hardware are needed.

Party Invitation

We are celebrating the 4th anniversary of RE/MAX Paradise Homes! Please come join us at our office to enjoy drinks, tapas and Latin-style jazz music!
Thursday 18th of October from 6 to 8 PM

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

► The Curaçao ship repair Drydock, CDM, was back in operation last Saturday following



CDM Dry dock

Thursday's deadly explosion on board the vessel *Seamec II* which killed five welders who were burning a hole into the hull to take out a defective machine. The exact cause has not yet been determined. Five welders, from ages 20 to 61, lost their lives and an additional six people were also injured, including a crew member of the ship, who badly fractured his legs. By Thursday evening, two were released from the hospital.

An employee who was close to the ship at the moment of the explosion said that he heard an enormous bang that broke windows. Four days later the fire was still burning inside the hull.

The *Seamec II* is a multifunctional relief ship for diving operations and is also equipped for offshore provisioning and fire-fighting. It was built in August 1982 in the Netherlands. South

East Asia Marine bought the ship and renamed her *Seamec II*. Its replacement value is \$24 million.

► After having been gone for nine months, **Bonaire's General Practitioner Josefa Castro has reopened her medical clinic in Rincon.** Antillean medical authorities suspended Castro after a complaint in connection with a patient death. During the past nine months she worked in Curaçao under supervision.

Castro has been working for almost 10 years in Rincon and enjoyed a large following of patients. A group of patients organized a special welcome ceremony for her return in front of the medical clinic in Rincon with songs and sermons from Minister Jan Jonkman and Father Andres Mackowiec.

► As in India, **Bonaire's Hindus celebrated the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi**, September 15-24. The festival marks the birth of Ganesh, eldest son of Shiva and Parvati. He is one of the most popular and worshiped Indian gods. His image is one of the most widely drawn, painted and sculptured. He is the elephant headed god. According to individual family traditions, Ganapati celebrations are held for one and a half, five, seven or 10 days. The images are immersed into the river, sea or wells on the second,

► After receiving the green light from the Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds, **Nazario Alberto took the initiative to organize a 20K walk as a fundraising activity for this cancer awareness month.** This event will take place on Saturday, September 29th 2007. Together with another famous long distance walker, Felipe Melaan, he will start at 3 pm at the Rincon church, walk through Rincon, then set out for Kralendijk with detours through many Bonaire neighborhoods.

Around 6 pm they plan to arrive at Nort di Saliña. Starting from Kaya Karibe they will go through all the streets of this town, then follow Kaya Korona. The next streets will be Kaya Hose Girigorio Hernandez, Kaya Vicente Gomes, Kaya Papa Cornes and then return to Kaya Korona.

They will continue their walk by entering Kaya Nikiboko Noord, Kaya Pos di Amor, Kaya Emerenciana and Kaya Avelino Cicilia until Kaya Nikiboko Zuid. From there they will enter

fifth, seventh or 11th day of the festival. It is also forbidden to look at the moon on those days.

► The US and Brazil have chosen the **Dominican Republic as one of the four countries where biofuel will be produced** with their assistance in financing and



Nazario Alberto and Felipe Melaan,

Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt and be back in Kaya Nikiboko Zuid until the church of Playa. The last trajectory will be Kaya L.D Gerharts, Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot, Kaya Herman Pop and Malecon. Finish will be at Wilhelmina Park around 10 pm.

Collecting boxes will be available during the walk and at the end. Nazario and Felipe are en-

couraging everyone to participate and walk with them. Radio Digital will be partly covering the event by providing information on the walkers' exact locations.

At the end you can continue to cooperate with the Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds by buying T-shirts, snacks and bags to support their good cause. □ Story & photo by Natalie A.C. Wanga

technical support. The other countries are Haiti, El Salvador and St Kitts. In March of this year, a biofuel co-operation agreement was reached between the countries involved and now feasibility studies are to commence as early as this week.

There is also a plan to produce

biodiesel in Bonaire from algae grown in salt company basins.

► Interim head of Economic Affairs Department (DEZA), Jeffrey Levenstone, clarified a new government employment requirement for businesses; at

(Continued on page 5)

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Often Imitated,

Which **features** do/did you like best?

What **topics** do you like best?

Flotsam and Jetsam
On The Island Since...
Pet of the Week
Sky Park
Astrology
Letters to the Editor
What's Happening?
Editorials
Picture Yourself
Windsurfer Report
Reef Windows
Antique Living Houses
Bubbles form the Biologist
Coral Glimpses
Sudoku Puzzles
Turtle Reports
Bonaire On Wheels

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Flotsam and jetsam (Conti. from page 4)
least 50% of their employees must be locals. The idea is to promote the return of Bonaireans from Holland. A similar policy will also be introduced for managerial level positions within companies: at least 50% of the managers must be local. This policy appears to be in conflict with previous initiatives to attract foreign workers to fill the hundreds of jobs that, according to government studies, are needed to fuel a growing Bonaire.

► **The economy of the Netherlands Antilles is showing signs of recovery after years of decline, said Central Bank Director Emsley Tromp** during a meeting of the Central Committee of Parliament. He expected a 2.6% growth in 2008. According to Tromp, the Netherlands Antilles will benefit from the overall international economic growth and a deep decline in Curacao's unemployment rate.

► **Last week the first phase of the reconstruction of J.A. Abraham Boulevard** began. Commissioner of Infrastructure, Anthony Nicolaas, passed by to



Dion Mulder Director of MNO Vervat with Commissioner Nicholaas

personally observe the progress in the Playa Pariba area. The company MNO Vervat is doing the project; supervision is by



TAP students learn about their island.

► TCB graduated its first Tourist Awareness Program (TAP) class. The program, aimed at the residents of the island to make them more aware of the importance of tourism, was coordinated by Annette van Rooijen of Match Consultancy. More classes will continue in October. The following students received completion certificates on September 11 and 12: Rolando Marin, Ronella Croes, Luis Walters, Hilario Bernabela, Giovanni Paula, Farid Ayubi, Susan Angela, Urbano Nicolaas, Henk Abdul, Bernardo Samuel Pourier, Joselito Domacasse, Daniëlla Bernabela-Gustowski, Maria Marin-Martis, Lloyd Obispo, Jaqueline Clarendia, Ana Cecilia Francisca, Milva Flores. Laurena Casimiri, Rignald (Rudy) Merenciana, Rugia Abrahams, Jocelyne Angila, Balbino (Ben) Anthony, Deborah Semeleer, Christy Balentin-Cecilia, Hunthley Pietersz, Vanessa Tunk, Pierina Domacassé, Harry Landwier, Nymphette Josephia, Evelain Marchena, Ferina van der Hoek-Goeloe, Robert Evertsz, Bernard Landwier and Poppi Rodriguez.

Civil Engineering Caribbean (CEC), with Ashley Eugenia in charge. If you have questions about the project call Marco Thode, head of the Civil Engineering at the Public Works (DROB) on 717-5130.

► **Golden Reef Inn has partnered with Day Spa Face and Body by Nubia to provide full service Spa facilities** for its guests. Golden Reef Inn will offer a 15% savings on Spa amenities when combined with any other package, effective October 1, 2007, to February 1, 2008, for divers and non-divers.

(Continued on page 6)

Editorial

Regarding Movieland Closing

What a shame that a community cannot support its own movie theatre. It doesn't help when movies are offered free at other places like the cruise ship that is on the dock every weekend or at other restaurants or bars. A spokesperson from the MCB bank says there is no information for the press at this time concerning the future of the Movieland building. When something is decided upon, they said, it will be as an announcement in the newspapers either by the bank or the Notaris. -L.D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mika is Director of the Wannadive Hut and Tuesday, 25th of September was her birthday! She turned 30. Happy 30th from your friends at Wanna Dive

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(Continued from page 5)

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► **Plantation**, the furniture and antique store with the vast array of imports and interior decorations, has a new name. It's "**Interiours.**" It's run by the same people and they'll continue to receive exciting new items from the Far East.

► As of last week **Bonaire's only movie theatre, Movieland, is out of business**, having been closed by the *Deurwaarder* (Bailiff), according to Ron Gijsen, one of the owners of the building. "I was at Movieland last Saturday," Gijsen reported, and at about 4 o'clock a group of children arrived, expecting to see a matinee and play games. They were so disappointed to know that it was closed." See editorial on page 5.

► **We are pleased to report that the student chefs of the SGB High School WILL be able to participate in the student exchange program in Italy** even though the funding did not come from AMFO, its traditional source. Sara Matera of the Culinaire Foundation reports that if all private donors contribute what they pledged, the students will go to Italy. A plea for funds was published in the last edition of *The Reporter*. Thank you Bonaire!

► What's coming to Bonaire that hasn't been officially announced? Look for **spiffy vans decorated with donkey paintings** that will be used in the Donkey Sanctuary Safari Park. And a new **Visitor Center for STINAPA** is in the planning stage.

► Mamita Fox writes, "We are approaching the month of November which is the month of Thanksgiving. **We on the island of Bonaire are celebrating "Dia di Gracia" (Thanksgiving) for the 5th year in our unique way**, by giving away everything for FREEyes, FREE. You can participate starting now by contributing what you can spare in good condition so we can make "Dia di Gracia" a great success. Contribute a handkerchief or a refrigerator.- anything useful. For more information call Meredith Nicolaas (at Termotek), 717-4658 or 786-2024 Shela Winklaar, 510-7412 or Mamita Fox, 717-2953 or 796-1919 This year Dia di Gracia will be on the 3rd Sunday of November, which is November 18th, on the playground of St Dominicus school. The event will take run all day."

► On Friday, September 28, at 8:30 pm, at the Plaza Resort, **Bòi Antoin, historian and Editor of the Extra Papiamentu language newspaper** will present a **historical perspective of Bonaire on film and in person. Free admission**, presentation language is Dutch. Call 717-5021 for more information or email manage-

ment@matchconsultancy.com.

► At **BONHATA'S** Annual General Meeting on September 19 at Captain Don's Habitat **the following were elected:**

Associate Members: Blue Divers (Anouschka van de Ven); Captain Don's Habitat (Jack Chalk); Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino (Sara Matera); KonTiki Beach Bonaire (Martin van Bekkum); Plaza Resort Bonaire (Boudewijn "Bous" Scholts)

Allied members: Bonaire Tours & Vacations (Corine Gerharts); Divi Dive (Serge De Groote); Jibe City (Dirk Jan Methorst); Wannadive (Bart Snelder). The Executive Board positions for 2008 will be announced after the next Board of Directors meeting on September 27th and will become effective as of 1st January 2008. BONHATA'S current membership consists of 16 Associate Members (accommodation providers) and 46 Allied Members, representing all other businesses involved in the tourism industry of Bonaire. Contact Marion Wilson, Executive Administrator, 717-5134, marion@bonhata.org for more information.

► **The Extreme H Games are coming to Bonaire.** Zuleyha Sierra, C.E.O. *Comunidad cu Vitalidad*, writes that the first Extreme Health Games (eXtreme H Games) will be held at the Sporthall on Saturday, October 6, from 10 am to 2 pm, for children, ages 6 to 17. Entrance is free.. Call 701-7773 for more information or to sign up.

□ L./G. 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
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78

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Governor's Back-up



Customs Chef Edward Thielman was sworn in on August 29 as second acting Lt. Governor, by Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé. Thielman will act as Lt. Governor following James Kroon. Thielman is shown with his family after the ceremony.

Klein Bonaire Clean-up



Jong Bonaire members with their leader, Ruviano Josefia: Ashlwin Frans, Giovanni Priest, Erickson Christian, Ricky Alberto, Jurgen Roier

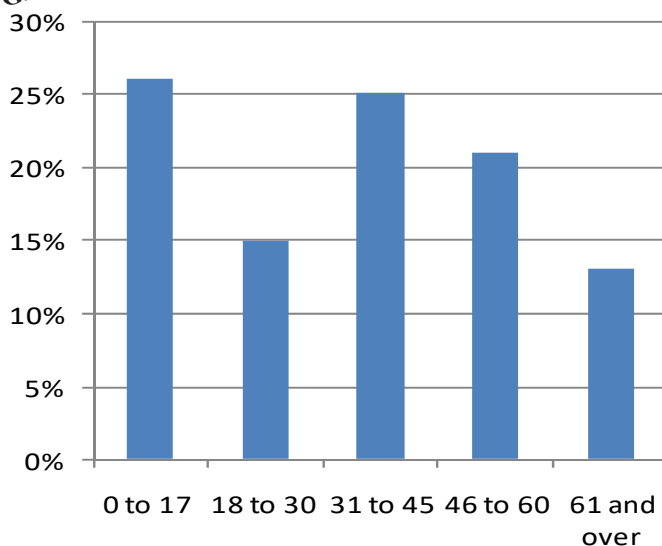
Bonaire Population

Age breakdown

Bonaire's latest population figures show that there are more men than women living on the island, a departure from past counts. Also notice the dearth of people in the 18-30 group. It's assumed they are off studying or making their fortune elsewhere. □ L. D.

2006 Age Category	Males	Females	Total	Percentage of Total Population
0 to 17	1,830	1,769	3,599	26%
18 to 30	1,037	1,049	2,086	15%
31 to 45	1,798	1,717	3,515	25%
46 to 60	1,568	1,442	3,010	21%
61 and over	907	889	1,796	13%
TOTALS	7,140 (51%)	6,866 (49%)	14,006	100%

Or Graphically Percentage of Total Population



On Sunday, September 16, a beach clean-up was successfully conducted at No Name Beach on Klein Bonaire. The clean-up was organized by STCB and STINAPA as part of the annual International Coastal Clean-up effort sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy. No Name Beach is Bonaire's primary hawksbill and loggerhead nesting beach and maintaining unobstructed access to beaches for egg laying females is extremely important to the survival of these endangered animals.

As in other years, the cruise ship *Freewinds* supported the effort, providing food and drinks, as well as extra volunteers. The water taxi *Kantika di Amor* helped with the transportation of volunteers and SELIBON participated by placing a truck on the pier for dumping the trash. The trash was sorted and the types of trash collected were recorded on data forms which are sent to the Ocean Conservancy. Ocean Conservancy releases an annual report with the results of the clean-up sites all over the world and the data is used to help formulate strategies for reducing marine debris.

A total of 175 bags of trash were collected and sorted. As part of our planning, the bags will be saved and reused in the

next clean-up.

STCB and STINAPA would like to thank SELIBON, the *Freewinds*, Junior Rangers, Jong Bonaire, the SGB (local high school) group from STCB's high school program and all the volunteers and staff who helped during this clean-up.

The International Coastal Clean-up is the world's oldest and largest volunteer effort to clean up our marine environment. Each year, volunteers remove trash and debris from their local beaches, rivers, lakes and streams – along shorelines and under the water. Since 1986, over five million volunteers in 123 countries have cleaned 130,000 miles of shoreline – over five times the circumference of the earth. □

Story & photo by Mabel Nava
Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire



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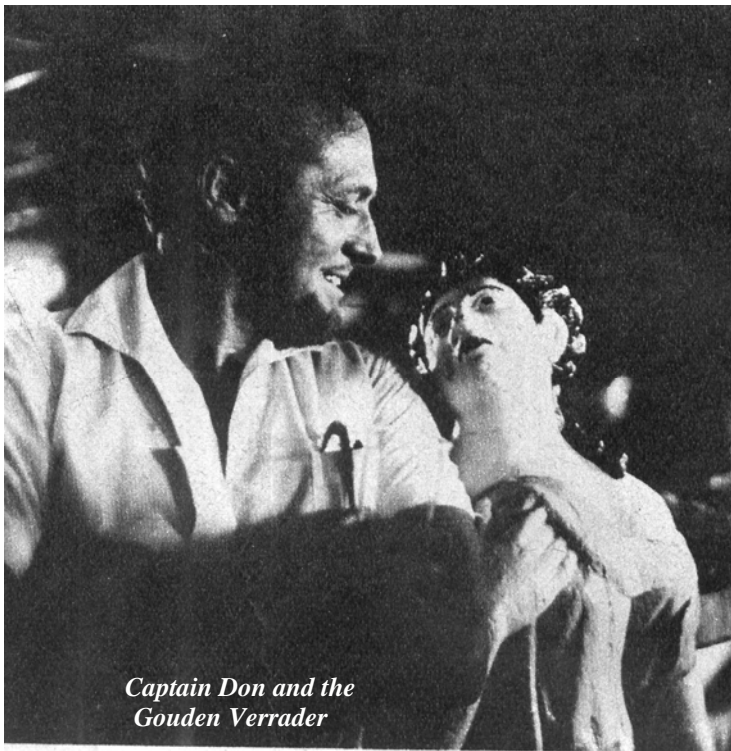
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Captain Don's Regatta Recollections



Captain Don and the Gouden Verrader

Yesterday: September 8, 1968

I loved the old Flamingo Beach Club, though most affectionately thought of it by its former name of Zee Bad.

It was the kind of place that one didn't go to, but rather wore. And I had often been quoted as saying that "Zee Bad is a frame of mind, and not to be mistaken for a hotel."

The ancient figurehead at the head of the bar, (NB 5) *Gouden Verrader*, stood sentinel over all Zee Bad's happenings, both good and bad. If we were to know her secrets from the day she came out of a trunk at Jato Bako, we would know more than the island's historians who are constantly searching the history of our island.

I saw her the other day, the *Gouden Verrader*, nailed to the wall in the foyer of the Flamingo Beach Hotel. I, like many other oldsters, had quite a crush on her, and I wondered if she remembered me.

I put the question directly to her ear, and then waited. I watched for a sliver of a smile, for a nod of recognition, but none came. I backed away from her in utter disappointment, but as I was turning to leave, just from the corner of my eye, mind you, I saw her wink at me. That made me feel great. Nine years we had been together, nine long, interesting years, and I turned to go back to her. Standing at her side, I put my back comfortably against the concrete wall and talked to her softly so as not to disturb the passing guests. Even then, eyebrows climbed foreheads, and a step in strides was missed. But I was visiting with an old friend, and I didn't really give a damn for the onlookers; I was off duty.

We reminisced about old friends: the Aad Machel's, the

Jimmie Olieman's and many others no longer here, those who had made the final long voyage. The crazy tower workers down at the salt flats, my trusting friend Larry who owned a boat with me, the guys who built the pier, the Zinky Smiths and their bulldozers, and the guys who built the new tourist roads. All those who had helped put the blood in the Zee Bad's veins. I asked her if she recalled a Cowboy Royce, and I thought she was going to dislodge herself from the wall. That made me laugh and made a tourist bolt ahead to get out of possible harm's way.

"Remember the Cowboy, do you?" and the wall vibrated some more. Paul Maduro stuck his head out of his office door, and I signaled all was well, only an emotional tremor. Old Cowboy, what a rascal he was, built short and tempered like a spring. Can't ever recall seeing him without his plastic hat on and wondered if he slept in it, if he wore it because Peggy, his wife, might have belted him, as I'm sure she had every right, or because a salt truck might have run over his head. I often told him I thought he had a deformed head under that plastic cap. He would spring up on his toes, give me a cocky Floridian grin and say, "I'll betcha!" One such time, out of the clear blue, he said, "I'll betcha!" Seven years at Zee Bad had conditioned me so that nothing was ever really a surprise. So I asked him, "What?" mostly because I was an innkeeper trying to be polite.

The Challenge

"Ebo can whap ya."

Now I was surprised. "Whap me, why in the hell would Ebo want to whap me?" (Whap, in Cowboy's language, meant beat me.)

"Because I said so!" and I

looked over at the bar top to see how many empty Amstels were there in front of him.

Ebo was at the cash register and looked over at me with a "hende bai loco" expression on his face.

"Okay!" I prodded. "Beat me at what?"

Cowboy laughed, "Sailing, of course."

Well now, I thought, that's an idea. Ebo's boat, the *Velia*, was a super boat, but the *Sislin* also had a history. Hmhmhmhm! Jimmie Oliemans was fast on the take-up. Though he didn't take sides, being a banker, he sure did a piece of organizing the wager. Cowboy quickly offered, "Well, I'll betcha 10 cases of Amstel."

I had to think about that for a moment. I looked over at Ebo again who smiled that wonderful smile of his and shrugged his shoulders.

"OK, you're on," I replied, and a cheer went up at the bar that was now packed. The loyalties of friends, family and neighbors were being split at that moment. There was no question, though, that Ebo and the *Velia* were the favored team. It made me feel unwanted until Larry Thielgard came in and heard of the bet, then put up 10 more cases in favor of the *Sislin*. Of course, it must be realized that Larry was half owner of the *Sislin* and was partial to his own small ship. It seemed pure madness to pit a local island boy like Ebo against a renowned deep-water sailor such as myself. There was little hope for Ebo from the beginning, I thought, but the betting had opened in earnest with 10 cases of beer. The bar became feverish as the wager grew to 27 cases when the betting closed at midnight.

Preparation

Later, more important things had to be done, secret sails made, ballast trimmed and checked, crew lists made, shrouds tightened, bottoms scrubbed, and most importantly, the flags designed.

By day two enthusiasm was running high, and the date was set for the coming Sunday, September 8th. I was happy to see that more Bonaireans began to have confidence in their old Captain Don, just in from the seven seas, saying that surely he knew all there was to know about sailing because his ship, the schooner *Valerie Queen*, was so big. Yet on the other hand, some shyly said, "Ebo knows the waters." I should have paid more attention to that.

It seemed that all was in readiness, except for one small detail, the rules. There was no question that we were to circle Klein Bonaire, but that was it.



Headline news in 1968

Which direction, how to start, and where to finish were yet to be decided.

"The rules!" I kept screaming. "What are the rules?" The bar went quiet, and the Gouden Verrader waited. All of us looked at Cowboy and waited some more. Then he sprang off the bar stool, landing on his toes, and hollered, "THERE ARE NO RULES!"

And as now had become my custom, I looked at Ebo, who registered nothing. Then the both of us looked at Cowboy Royce and broke out laughing. I had to sit down with Ebo to make a few rules of our own.

couldn't be seen anywhere. I really felt sorry for Ebo, relaxed, drank a beer, and slowly headed for the rowboat that had been tied to the pier with a long rope.

Then, out from a shadow, someplace near the water plant, the *Velia* materialized with a bone in her teeth and coming down fast. My crew screamed for more speed, and I hardened the main sail, but my *Sislin* sluggishly moved forward like a slow motion dream.

Only 50 meters, and the race would be mine... Then a shadow closed over that little rowboat, and I was staring at the stern of the *Velia* and that damned big



smile of Ebo Domacassé.

Epilog

The fishermen soon became serious, and we raced almost every weekend. *Seagull*, *Velia*, *Eagle*, *Sislin*, and a boat that I have forgotten. Always beer for the winner and cheap rum for the loser. A carnival attitude developed, and people wanted to spend money, have fun, drink beer, dance, and snack on cheap sandwiches till dawn.

My boat partner, Larry, the Lions Club's President, turned The Regatta into an island project. I still made sandwiches and sold a lot of beer as we all danced all night. Few remember, or even knew, but the Regatta saved the month of October for the old Flamingo Beach. Without the Regatta's coin, she could have never have made the October payroll.

□ Captain Don /79

The Race

Sunday the beaches were clustered with cheering spectators. It was to be a fisherman's start, anchors down, main sails up. A shout from the pier hollered, "Go!" and the free-for-all was on. No jumping from boat to boat, no setting of secret anchors, but pushing was permitted. Anchor lines tangled with jib sheets as crews fell over sacks of ballast. "Around Klein Bonaire clock wise," Ebo called. "Finish at the rowboat," which could be anywhere near the main pier.

Before the wind we flew, secret sails all pulling. Down the long side of the island, around the corner, then suddenly no sign of Ebo. Then across the backside, and still no Ebo. "He sank," I screamed. Then another corner and into the eye of the wind, hard tacking, but no matter. The race was easily mine. The *Velia*

The 2007, 40th Anniversary Regatta

Schedule - Save This Sheet



20.00 - 01.00 Regatta Festival Regatta Boulevard

Friday, October 5th
18.00 - 24:00 9th Regatta Domino Tournament Kas di Regatta

Opening Regatta Kas di Regatta

Saturday, October 6th
09:00 - 17:00 1st Regatta Beach Volleyball Tournament Sorobon Beach
14:00 - 18:00 Pre-registration for all classes Kas di Regatta
20:00 - 00:00 Pre-registration (incl. Micro- and Fishing boats) Kas di Regatta



19.30 - 20.30 All Nations Parade* Kralendijk Streets
20.00 - 02.00 Opening Regatta Festival Regatta Boulevard



Sunday, October 7th
05.00 - 10.00 2nd FCB Bicycle Tour 36km Wilhelmina park (start)
07.00 - 10.00 4rd Pia Pia Regatta Walk Kas di Regatta
07.00 - 10.00 7th Swim to Klein Bonaire Eden Beach (start)
09.00 - 14.00 Registrations (incl. micro - and fishing boats) Kas di Regatta
10.00 - 17.00 Finals Regatta Beach Volleyball Tournament Sorobon Beach
18.30 - 19.30 Skippers meeting/

Monday, October 8th
07.00 - 17.00 Sailing Races Kas di Regatta
12.30 - 13.00 Press Briefing Kas di Regatta
14.00 - 17.30 DJ Music / Activities Kas di Regatta
17.00 - 20.00 After Sail Happy Hour Kas di Regatta
19.00 - 20.30 Skippers Meeting and tossing of Micro Boats Kas di Regatta



Tuesday, October 9th
10.00 - 17.00 Sailing Races Kas di Regatta
12.30 - 13.00 Press Briefing Kas di Regatta
14:00 - 18:00 Micro Boats races Kas di Regatta
14.00 - 17.30 DJ Music / Activities Kas di Regatta
17.00 - 20.00 After Sail Happy Hour Kas di Regatta
19:30 - 21:30 Captain's Cocktail Party on board MS "Freewinds"
20.00 - 01.00 Regatta Festival Regatta Boulevard



Wednesday, October 10th
08.30 - 10.30 9th Annual Kayak race round Klein Bonaire* Kas di Regatta
10.00 - 13.00 Freestyle Windsurfing kids / Fishing boats races Kas di Regatta
12.30 - 13.00 Press briefing Kas di Regatta
14.00 - 17.00 Microboat races Kas di Regatta
14.00 - 17.30 DJ Music / Activities Kas di Regatta
17.30 - 18.30 22nd Comcabon-WEB

run* WEB office
18.30 - 22.00 Participants BBQ Party Kas di Regatta
20.00 - 01.00 Regatta Festival Regatta Boulevard

Thursday, October 11th
10.00 - 17.00 Sailing Races Kas di Regatta
11.00 - 13.00 Kayak Races Kas di Regatta
12.30 - 13.00 Press briefing Kas di Regatta
14.00 - 17.30 DJ Music / Activities Kas di Regatta
15.00 - 17.00 Fishing boats races Kas di Regatta
14.00 - 18.00 Microboat races Kas di Regatta

17.00 - 20.00 After Sail Happy Hour Kas di Regatta
17.30 - 19.00 Workingboat Parade* Kralendijk Harbour
19.30 - 23.00 6th Int'l Ladies Softball Tournament* La Sonrisa Ball Park
19.30 - 23.00 2nd Mr. Bug Cup Men's Softball Tournament * La Sonrisa Ball Park
20.00 - 01.00 Regatta Festival Regatta Boulevard

Friday, October 12th
10.00 - 17.00 Sailing Races Kas di Regatta
12.00 - 12.30 Press briefing Kas di Regatta
14.00 - 18.00 6th International Softball Tournament* La Sonrisa Ball Park
14.00 - 18.00 2nd Mr. Bug Cup Men's Softball Tournament * La Sonrisa Ball Park
14.00 - 19.00 Music / Activities Kas di Regatta
14.00 - 16.00 Microboat races Kas di Regatta
20.00 - 21.30 Award Ceremony / Closing Regatta Kas di Regatta
21.30 - 03.00 Regatta Festival Regatta Boulevard

Saturday, October 13th
11.00 - 18.00 Finals International Softball Tournament La Sonrisa Ball Park
11.00 - 18.00 2nd Mr. Bug Cup Men's Softball Tournament * La Sonrisa Ball Park
20.00 - 03.00 Closing Regatta Festival Regatta Boulevard
24:00 Fireworks show Northern pier

Sunday, October 14th
18.00 - 19.30 Finals 2nd Mr. Bug Men's Softball Tournament with live musical bands and show. Kas di Regatta

The Regatta Festival offers nightly events on the Regatta Boulevard from Karel's Beach Bar, City Café to Wilhelmina Park: a variety of stands with food, souvenirs, games, shirts, bars, local and international live music and shows. There will be also live music groups with after midnight party at Karel's Beach Bar, Pirate House and City Café.

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Bonaire Windsurfer Reports

What a windsurf pro does when the winds don't blow

This year the EFPT/IFCA production boards Free-style Championship in Oostende, Belgium became one of the most important ones because the Engadinwind in Switzerland was cancelled and the EFPT found itself with just two events to go.

I flew from Turkey after spending the summer full of wind and action straight to Brussels where I was picked up by the Belgian fellas, Nick and Pascal. I arrived in Belgium a week before the main event and used my time to practice in the not-so-easy conditions. After a few days we found ourselves ripping up waves in France, in Wimereux and Wissant, where winds were up to 35 knots, waves between one and three meters. I received my new 2008 Loft free-style sails and went for a spin. They look stylish, feel sweet and work good, not much to say but GOOOD.

The forecast for the following days looked pretty good for the beach visitors but not for us windsurfers; no wind at all for a whole week and super hot days.

So what do we as pro windsurfers do on a competition trip without wind? We take time to hang out with the fans and to e-mail our sponsors, take the opportunity to see different cities, places and



Picture by Twinsclub

Ruben in Brugge

cultures. I and a few other riders of course had a chance to go on this excursion trip guided by Sven Fransen, organizer and co-owner of the Belgian *Swell* magazine.

Day 1—Trip to Brugge

The event organizer gave us a trip to see one of the oldest cities in Belgium. We all had a nice walk in Brugge and saw many historical buildings and museums. And of

course we got to taste the delicious Belgian chocolate.

Day 2 -Beach Soccer

The Belgian kids organized a soccer match against the EFPT riders. It was a nice bright sunny day with the tide at its lowest - creating the ultimate beach soccer field right in front of the event site. The soccer match was pretty interesting because of all the local kids who really gave all they had to beat us riders. We even had to deal with a little girl who unexpectedly gave us some hard times. After some heavy action, the end score was 5:3 for the Belgian local kids. They managed to score goals using their techniques- 3 kids vs. 1 rider. After a long while with in-between player exchange the game ended 5:4, victory for the Belgian kids.

Zero Decibel Party

At night we had a nice BBQ at the Twins Club followed by a Zero Decibel Party. We arrived there and saw everybody dancing and hanging around but we couldn't hear any music. It was because one of the sponsors of the event, SENNHISER, provided ear phones (head sets) for everyone at the promotional party. A bit funny it was but I can say that's a pretty interesting way to



Picture by Twinsclub

At the Zero Decibel Party: Just use earphones.

advertise or promote a head phone company.

Day 3—More Hanging Around

No wind and another warm day - just hanging around. Some friends and I went to Oostende, the city nearby.

The Awards Ceremony was held with no results so the prize money was split between the riders. Also they randomly handed out three brand new Samsung mobile phones to the riders who I guess got lucky. Straight after, the mike

was handed over to me and I presented my rap tracks and performed for a crowd of 1,000 folks. The action went on and most of us headed home to have a good night's sleep because of our early departure the next day.

Stay tuned for the next windsurf report on the Invitational Engadinwind 30 Years Anniversary event. Thanks for reading. □

Ruben Petrisie NB-50

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What Do You Have to Say?

Guest Editorials

WARNING FOR BONAIRE - ARUBA'S OVERDEVELOPMENT

I am always happy when I come back from Aruba, where I lived during 18 years, to our "underdeveloped" island. Although Aruba's license plates, which have to be thrown away at the end of every year and replaced by new ones in another color, still carry the name "A Happy Island," the people there are much less happy than years ago. You would expect that the current frenzy of hotel overdevelopment with thousands of new rooms would result in a substantial improvement to the financial situation of Aruba and to the standard of living of its inhabitants. However, the opposite is true.

The despaired government had to introduce a sales tax this year, a measure which had never existed there before. Although the number of foreign workers from various Latin American countries (about 50,000), predominantly from Colombia, is alarming, the government labor department speaks about the necessity to bring to Aruba another 12,000 workers during the next 3 to 5 years. It is not surprising that Spanish is currently the main language on the island where in the past Papiamentu was spoken by the majority of its inhabitants. Speaking about the living standard, it is a shame that the "rich" Aruba has till now not been able to introduce garbage containers like the "poor" Bonaire and heaps of garbage in front of private houses, mostly in plastic bags and old oil drums, wait sometimes several days to be collected.



The Aruba coral reefs are seriously damaged and part of them disappeared completely, the same phenomenon as on Grand Cayman where in connection with construction of numerous large hotels all beautiful shallow water reefs along the famous Seven Mile Beach live now only in the memory of the former visitors.

While it is still not clear how long the delay of starting the planned construction of the Divi Sunset Resort on Bonaire will take, Divi Resorts is very busy on Aruba, realizing currently several large projects, among them the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort. It seems unbelievable but this large building complex is being constructed exactly on the same spot where an almost completed huge Ramada hotel had to be demolished (!) 10 years ago.

It seems unbelievable but this large building complex is being constructed exactly on the same spot where an almost completed huge Ramada hotel had to be demolished (!) 10 years ago.

Jiri Lausman

INCREASED CRUISE SHIP VISITS

We were very concerned to read in *The Bonaire Reporter* that additional large cruise ships will be coming to Bonaire and that some of them will have to anchor, because a new pier being built to accommodate them has not been completed. We can't help wondering who would sign up cruise ships to visit Bonaire without having the capacity to moor them properly. We worry about the potential impact on the reef; but more importantly, we are concerned that the apparent desire to have more and larger cruise ships may be counter-productive to the long term economic life of the island and the quality of life of its citizens.

There is stiff competition for the tourist dollar. Each destination must determine its 'niche' in the market place and build on its strengths. From our perspective, what sets Bonaire apart from many other Caribbean islands are its reef, its nature, and its relaxed and friendly ambiance. People come here to dive, snorkel, wind-surf and just relax, away from the bustle of

their busy lives. Bonaire is a small island and even two large cruise ships visiting at one time threaten this relaxed atmosphere. We can't imagine what three or more would do to the island.

Having Bonaire inundated with cruise ship passengers may make this a less desirable destination for tourists who stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants, and enjoy and pay for our many outdoor attractions, including supporting our parks through the nature fee. This revenue is critical for Bonaire and must be preserved. Since we live here, we can just avoid going downtown whenever the cruise ships are here—however, our visiting tourists don't have that luxury and may decide to take their business elsewhere. We recognize that cruise ships also bring revenue to Bonaire; however, it is uncertain that even the visiting cruise ship passengers will have a positive experience here on Bonaire when larger and larger ships arrive simultaneously.

We are also concerned about the quality of life for those of us who make the island our home. We have lived here full time for 10 years and have visited here since 1981. We love the island and its people and realize that Bonaire, like the rest of the world, must

change and move forward. We hope and pray that as the island moves forward, it is done in a way that preserves what makes Bonaire special and that the interests of a vocal few don't adversely impact the future of the island and its people. We don't want Bonaire to become another Aruba with its traffic, congestion and high rise buildings.

In conclusion, we are not against having some cruise ships visit Bonaire—as long as they don't leave their waste in our landfill. However, we do believe these visitors should also pay a nature fee to support our parks. We understand that they provide revenue for some aspects of the tourist industry. What we ask is that serious thought be given to balancing the advantages of increasing the number and size of visiting ships with the disadvantages of overwhelming existing capacities and making Bonaire a less pleasant place to live and spend one's vacation. More is not always better! Having seen some of the mistakes that were made in the U.S. and on other islands, we strongly encourage a serious long term planning effort to ensure that Bonaire grows in the very best way.

Laura and Ben Buchbinder

The Bonaire Reporter welcomes letters from readers. Letters reflect the writer's opinion and may or may not be that of *The Reporter*. Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number or e-mail address. Letters without that information will not be published. If a writer wishes to remain anonymous or just use initials we will honor the request. Letters should not be more than 400 words in length and may be edited at the Editor's discretion. E-mail: letters@bonairenews.com.



Now, results have a name!

CARIBBEAN HOMES SOULNIGHT

The harbor is filling, flights are fully booked, and people are full of anticipation for Regatta Week. And capping the week of racing and partying will be the performance of the King of Soul, Mister George McCrae, at Caribbean Homes Soul Night, Friday October 12.

The Bonaire Entertainment Foundation arranged for superstar George McCrae to appear in Bonaire to give a performance in line with the Regatta's 40th anniversary.

As many people already know, Bonaire Entertainment

Foundation was founded last year by Jo Bux and Bert Poyck, with its most important and main goal "to support Skol Di Musika, to maintain the unique Bonairean culture of music." Their sponsorship provides encouragement to young people to introduce them to the pleasure it brings to play in a band.

Last November the Foundation organized a fundraising musical night at the Plaza Resort beach for an evening of Rock 'n Roll entertainment by René Shuman, a great Elvis Presley impersonator, and Angel Eye. "After the show, plans

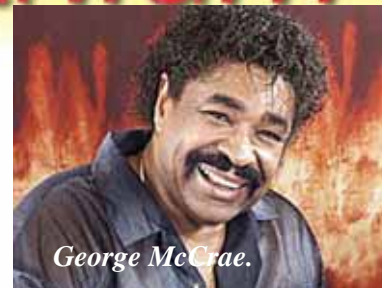
were made for the next fundraising event," explained Poyck. The foundation decided that this year the theme would be soul music from the 70s.

For the final Regatta night, Friday, October 12, at Wilhelmina Park, George McCrae, a.k.a. "Mister Rock Your Baby," is the main act. Entrance is free. This world famous artist is renowned for his soul tunes and has sold millions of copies of his hits. "DJ Rick-The Soulman," as Poyck describes him, "one of the most successful Soul deejays of The Netherlands, will kick off the

evening to create the right atmosphere." He will be followed by the *Freewinds* Soul Band

The night will be concluded by the soul legend, McCrae himself, and will take the audience back to the 70s. According to Poyck the performance will be an "unforgettable experience with non-stop soul music made famous by artists like James Brown, Supremes, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Commodores, Temptations and many more. So we've got the ingredients for a great night at a dream location!" □

David Radomisli



George McCrae.

Caribbean Homes Soul Night: Friday October 12, Wilhelmina Park—Free Entry
8 pm: DJ Rick-The Soulman
10:30 pm: Freewinds Soul Band
Midnight: George McCrae

Admission is free thanks to the following sponsors: CARIBBEAN HOMES, ArkeFly, Plaza Resort, Antillean Wine Company, Bocar, BSC Painting, Caribbean Laundry Service, City Café, Duijn Bonaire, Flamingo Communications, Flamingo TV / ICT, Jody's Fashion, Karel's Beach Bar, Krioyo Paint, Le Flamboyant, Mambo Jambo, Mega FM, Mona Lisa, Polar, Radio Digital 91.1 FM, Rento Fun Drive, RE/MAX Paradise Homes, Salsa Restaurant, The Bonaire Reporter, The Ribs Factory, Tiara Air, Total Carrental, The VD 17, Warehouse, Wattaburger, Waterplanet Images.

Skol di Musika Lives with a little help from their friends!

Wilhelmina Park was rocking last Sunday when Bonaire's Skol di Musika invited all the local musicians, singers and groups to come and perform. According to Sigfried Molina (the school's music teacher, event coordinator, janitor and more), "It was cool and great with all those musicians coming to support us!" It was all to celebrate the school's re-

birth a year ago and the Park was hopping. Food from Suriname, artists and handcrafters were there as well as a bar with low cost beer and sodas. All the proceeds from the bar went to the music school according to volunteer bartender Bert Poyk of Fun-



"Femssa," the all girl group, poses at the Park



School Director Boy Janga with one of the youngest music students, a four year old



Two 60 plusser students who are mastering the Kuarta

dashon Bonaire Entertainment, which supports the

school. Earlier, at the school's open house, nearly every current music student and some new ones showed up, many with their parents. Six of the groups made

up of all ages of musicians performed as well as eight soloists. Exactly how many have signed up hasn't been announced yet. But the message is clear: **Bonaire is an island where music and musicians are important.** We thank the school's staff, volunteers and students for their gift to the community of music for the heart and the soul. And thanks to all the generous musicians who gave their time and talent on Sunday to support

Bonaire's Skol di Musika: Freewinds Band, Femmsa (from the school), Grupo Bon Bini, Happy Band, Sebari, Grupo Eso, Tuti Fruti, Tin Foil, Flamingo Rockers, Niki Mix, Uprising, Foyan Boys, Janja Brabu and the Project! You guys are great! □ L.D.
Note: Some funding comes from the government but the school can use financial assistance for more instruments and equipment. "Any amount can make a difference," says School Director Boy Janga. For donations: Skol di Musika Boneiru, MCB Account #106.753.03. For more information call the School at 717-2795 or stop by the School itself, next to the Harbourside Mall.

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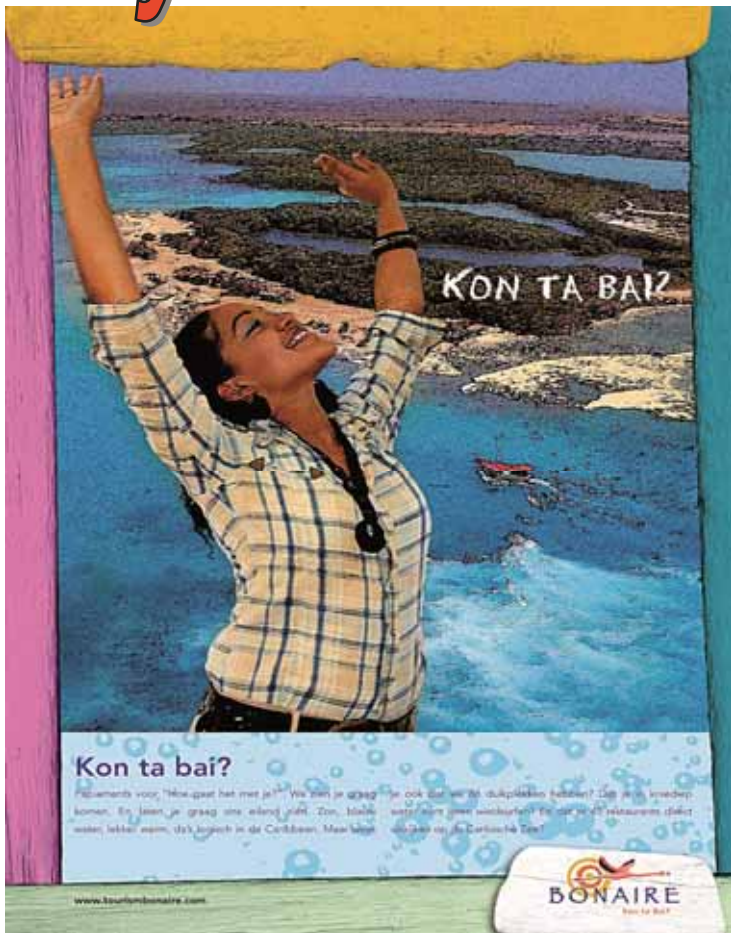
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Only Good News From TCB



This sample of the new advertising brochure incorporates elements of freedom (action), island people, rural (driftwood frame), a personal message (How Are You?), combined with a standardized logo (flamingo), background and colors.

Bonaire's tourism industry finally has the attention of the highest levels of island government, funds to fulfill its objectives (from USONA) and a coordinated campaign, including local education, to show the world the island's unique qualities. At the Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) Annual Marketing Meeting last week the "Kon Ta Bai" campaign was presented to a cross-section of islanders, tourism representatives from overseas and invited guests. It

is impressive in quality and depth. As a bonus it was reported that for the first six months of 2007 tourist arrivals are up 13% (to 36,928) and, according to a recent Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) release, Bonaire is now in top three of developing Caribbean islands. Candice Kimmel, of TCB NY observed that Bonaire now has more airline seating than conventional hotel rooms, a situation she hoped would soon be remedied by the construction of



Several people, including Poppy (Mama Smile) Rodriguez, who assisted with the campaign, were given mementos in recognition of their efforts.

the new Divi "Sunset" resort. Complementing the new approach is a brand new Bonaire website focusing on Bonaire's niche in the leisure market. Conventional advertising is dead. Content is king according to a Mc Kinsey study. Only 80% of vacation seekers read print ads. Internet marketing is becoming the best way to deliver the content.

TCB's new website was pre-viewed. It's "beta-ready." It first will offer Bonaire information with a second release in six months to incorporate interactive features, a personal space, booking capabilities and more.

There was discussion of the quantum leap in the number of next season's cruise ship passengers. Elsmarie Beukenboom, STINAPA Director asked, "What is driving the change in tourism emphasis on Bonaire (cruise ships, three megaships per day)? It was observed that some of Bonaire's former dive competitors, the Cayman Islands in particular, have turned to other directions, like cruise ships, because their reefs are almost gone.

Ronella Croes, TCB's Director responded that up until now Bonaire hasn't adequately addressed this market. Cruise tourism value isn't as apparent as stay-over tourism. Balance is the goal; the two markets create a balance. For example, what happens if a storm, similar to Hurricane Lenny, wipes out the reefs?

Croes said this was a "new era for Bonaire." She aims to convert cruise ship passengers to stay-over tourists. There is no intention to make Bonaire a mass tourism destination.

Marine Park Manager, Ramon DeLeon, also expressed concern about the "carrying capacity" of Bonaire's reefs. How can there be a balance he asked between 150,000 cruise tourists per winter season vs. 60,000 stay-over visitors in a year?

Taxi 7 owner, Farid Ayubi rhetorically asked what about the local people who don't work directly in the tourism industry? They must also prosper. He said, "10 cruise ships a day is OK with me."

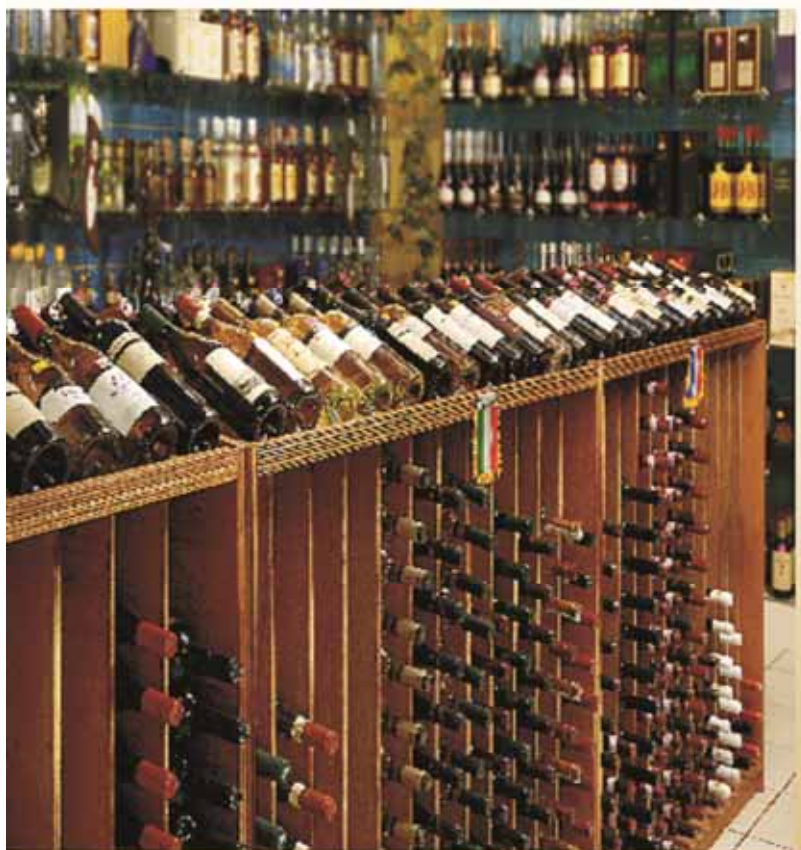
Prior to breaking out into web work groups the marketing Directors of South America, the US and Europe agreed that this year was the year that things came together to make Bonaire the destination of choice for more potential visitors because:

- Nearby South America has 250,000 divers
- Soft ecotourism is growing and Bonaire has numerous offerings
- The average age of a Bonaire tourist is 50. Much of Bonaire's advertising is aimed at these "baby boomers" who want adventure and comfort together.

G.D. □



Rick McPherson from the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) presented a thought and discussion provoking presentation, "Merging Environments and Marketing," which highlighted the fact that tourism is the planet's largest employer. In reef areas tourists want clear water, mega fauna, colorful fish, spectacular underwater scenes, diversity, visibility, coral formations, all explained by a congenial staff. It's a good market segment since surveys have shown that divers spend double the amount of money than non-diving tourists. However, coral is the "Goldilocks" of the animal world. It does best only within a water temperature difference of 2°C. Active protection, like Bonaire's, makes all the difference in quality. Bonaire's innovative sensor monitoring project (see page 3) will continuously monitor water conditions and enforcement of National Marine Park will ensure protection. McPherson's presentation was doubly applauded. □



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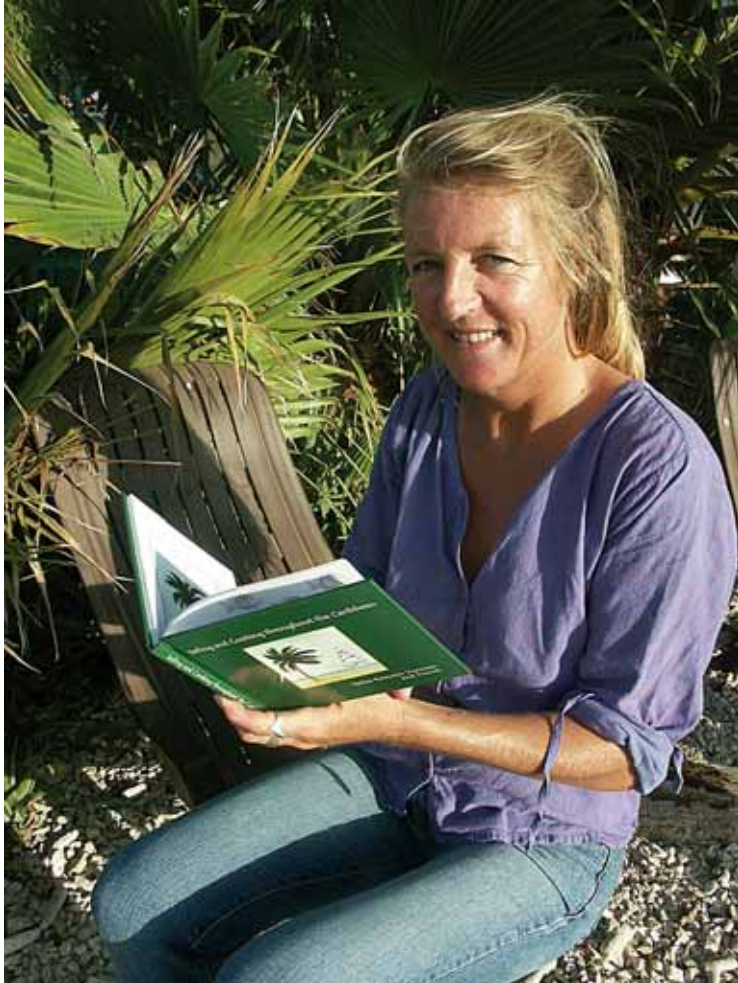
On Sunday a Casserole night for \$10.—

Daily Happy Hour from 5pm till 6pm
And on Tuesday a special from 5pm till 7pm

Hilltop Restaurant at Caribbean Club Bonaire
At the start of the scenic road to Rincon.

Tel 717-7901

Introducing Saskia Romeijn Vermeer



Meet Saskia Romeijn Vermeer, cookbook author, artist, sailor, wife and mother of two. Her beautiful

little hardcover book, *Sailing and Cooking throughout the Caribbean*, has just come out on Bonaire, and it's a little treasure.

Saskia has agreed to share some excerpts from her book beginning in the next issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*. As Saskia explains, "The aim of this book is to stir up your enthusiasm for cooking, to make cooking more fun and to give you more background about the (local) ingredients..." Saskia and her husband, Marten, ran a charter boat, *Random Winds*, in St. Martin for 11 years. Her cooking impressed her guests so much that they encouraged her to write the book. Join her in the next editions of *The Reporter*. We can guarantee it will be fun and educational too. □ L.D.

Romeijn-Vermeer was born in Ireland and grew up in the Netherlands. Her interest for cooking started when she was offered a job as a chef on a sailboat in Greece. With her husband Marten, she has been sailing around the Caribbean islands for 14 years. Her children are Skye and Sil.

The Jong Bonaire youth center is once again organizing its annual fundraising *Swim to Klein Bonaire*. This year it will take place on Sunday, the 7th of October, before the start of the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta at Eden Beach Resort (starting point).

The entrance fee is NAF25 for adults and NAF 15 for children. That gets you an entry number, a meal, a drink, fruit and a T-shirt.

Jong Bonaire offers one of the most varied programs in the Antilles for teenagers and serves hundreds of high school students on Bonaire.

Last year, almost 350 people swam to Klein Bonaire and most of them swam back as well. This time, again a record-breaking number of participants are expected. The distance to Klein Bonaire is about 600 meters and can easily be managed by almost anyone who can swim.

This year the participants can choose either to swim for fun or for the competition. There are different categories and prizes.

For those who do not wish to swim back there are many boats available to pick up people and return them to Eden Beach Resort. Participants who swim for fun can use fins, masks or even flotation devices.

Everyone, young and old, is invited to participate in order to turn the 7th *Swim to Klein Bonaire* into a huge success! □ Press release

Picture Yourself With The Reporter

IJsselstein, The Netherlands



Margriet and Gijsbert den Hollander write:

"In February 2007 we were in Bonaire. But since then we forgot to take a picture with *The Reporter*, but today we finally did!

We live in the Netherlands in the city of IJsselstein near Utrecht. The picture is in front of the windmill "De Windotter" in IJsselstein.

The windmill was built in 1732 and restored in 1987."

Westzaan, The Netherlands



In keeping with this week's windmill theme for "Picture Yourself" we are publishing this photo Linda sent us with her nephew, Niels Hauen-dorfer. The windmill in the background is named "De School-meester."

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when on vacation or when you return to your home. Then snap a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand.

THE BEST PHOTO OF THE YEAR WILL WIN a *Reporter* night on the town.

Turtles On The Move

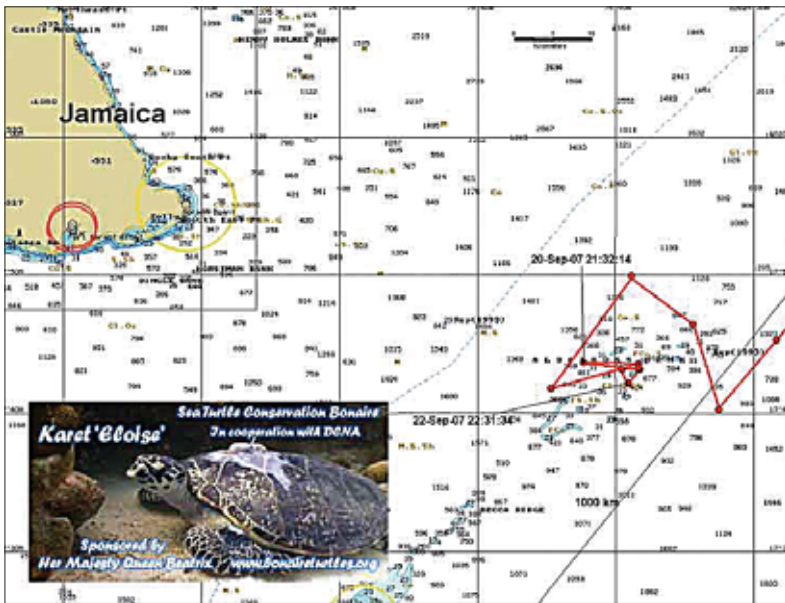
The travels of Bonaire's sea turtles equipped with tracking devices continue to fascinate.

'Darwina,' the Green Sea Turtle, as predicted returned to the west coast of Bonaire and came ashore around 10 pm local time Saturday night. A search of the beach failed to confirm the nest, but it is highly likely that she in fact did nest.

Per the data from the Satellite Tracking and Analysis Tool at SeaTurtle.org website, 'Darwina' has traveled over 3,400 km since being fitted with her satellite transmitter some 58 days ago.

Meanwhile the Hawksbill Sea Turtle, 'Eloise,' continues her foraging on the Albatross Banks east of Jamaica. She appears to be moving over and around the Banks, some 50 km south-east of Jamaica. Navigation charts for the area show the bank coming within several meters of the surface.

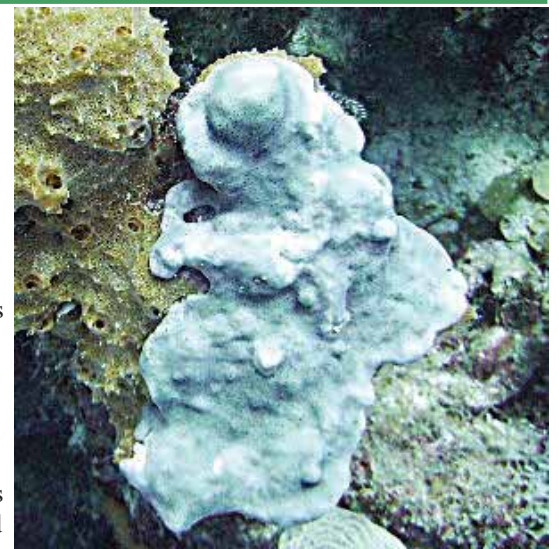
In all likelihood, 'Eloise' is foraging for food after her long migration to Bonaire and her nest laying efforts. Typically, sea turtles do not eat until after they have completed their nesting activities. Adult Hawksbills prefer to feed on sea sponges. □ STCB



Bubbles from the Biologist

CORAL SPAWNING Did You Know...

Tunicates can grow over nearly everything? Colonial tunicates are tiny animals that grow together in a thin mat that can be light green, blue or white. *Trididemnum solidum* (Tri-D) is a species that is found here in Bonaire, and some refer to it as 'Devil's Vomit.' Just look at the photo and you can see why. Tunicate mats can start out from one small larva, or from breaking off of a larger mat. From there, they grow much faster than many other invertebrates (up to 13 centimeters a month!) and grow over much of what is in their path. This includes not only many types of coral, algae and sponges, but even stinging animals like fire coral. This can be bad news for a coral reef since the smothered corals will likely die. Also, there aren't many natural predators of these animals, and they have babies every single day! If you're in the water late morning, you can see the tiny black tadpole larvae breaking free from the mat and swimming straight up! There is still a lot to learn about these tunicates, but scientists find out more every year. So the next time you see animals that live on the reef bottom like coral and tunicates, you'll know that even though they look like they're not moving or doing much at all, there's a lot more going on than meets the eye. □ Emily McGrath



Trididemnum solidum (Tri-D)

Article written by and Tri-D photo by Emily McGrath. Emily is a former student of CIEE Research Station Bonaire and is now a CIEE fall teaching assistant. (photo of Emily McGrath)



Biologist Caren Eckrich, the usual author of this column, 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.

Best Buddies & Pearls

Kaya Grandi 32

Gifts, T shirts & Pearls

Nominate yourself

Win the "Appeltjes van Oranje 2008"

The Oranje Fonds is looking for projects that bring together different groups of people in a unique manner. Do you have or do you know of such a project on the Netherlands Antilles or Aruba? Then please nominate it for an Appeltje van Oranje 2008 before 1 October!

The Oranje Fonds consists of an amount of € 15,000 and a bronze statue, which will be awarded by our patron, Princess Máxima.

For more information and the nomination procedure, please go to www.oranjefonds.nl/appeltjes08.

The Appeltje van Oranje is the annual prize of the Oranje Fonds, which consists of an amount of € 15,000 and a bronze statue, which will be awarded by our patron, Princess Máxima.

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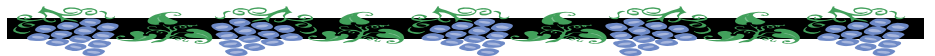
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DINING GUIDE



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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, Buddy's Pool Bar Sea Side 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; Mon. - "Dive and Dine;" Wed. - "Live Cooking by the Chefs;" 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



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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.

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DIVING

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Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine) -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly cleanup dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Cafe and at Eden Beach.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Property

Harbour Village Marina Front Condo For Sale- Large one bed-



room, 2 bath apartment located in a secluded all condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. www.luxurybonaire.com.

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Wanted

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

Put your ad here
Personal ads are free

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-maro@flamingotv.net and our phone-numbers are 717-6321 and 786-7440.



Animal Day is coming up on Thursday, October 4, and the Shelter will have a Special Open House to celebrate from 10 am to 3 pm. Come join the fun. There will be tours of the Shelter and free check ups for your pet. Bring in your dogs for the dog wash or your cat for grooming and/or nail clipping (for a small charge of NAf7,50). On sale will be tee shirts, animal toys and dog cookies. Shelter staff Marlies, Monique and Tineke will be on hand to welcome you and your pets. ☐

Pets of The Week



"Luca"

Sweet little "Luca" is one of the pups who were found by good Samaritans after their mother had been killed. He and his siblings were hand fed and cared for until they were old enough to be brought into the Shelter. Luca is about three months old, in top notch health, very smart, alert and loves people. With some gentle but firm training he will become a fine pet for some lucky people. He should grow up into a small to medium sized dog.



Michael

Another fine specimen at the Bonaire Animal Shelter is "Michael" the handsome black and white cat. Michael is about six months old and has long silky fur. Just imagine him on your lap while you stroke that soft fur. That's true relaxation for both of you!

Both Luca and Michael have been examined by the vet; they've been wormed and tested and given their injections. And most importantly, they're healthy and sociable around people. The adoption fee includes sterilization as well. These two won't last long!

The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. Telephone 717-4989. NOTE: Beginning October 1 the Shelter's new opening hours will be: Monday through Saturday - 8 am to 1 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm.

☐ L.D.

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Antriol 's Naishel Everts and His Unique Dragster Bicycle



Naishel Everts, born September 28, 1996, nearly 11 years old, is the very proud owner of one of three custom made dragster bicycles, constructed by Eduard Winklaar of Bonaire. (Photograph: J@n Brouwer)

Bonaire/Antriol P'abou –

His name is Naishel Everts. He's 11, and he lives with his family (father, mother, sister Trini, 10, a twin, Nene, and Chino, two) in a cozy house along the Kaya Gutu in Antriol P'abou.

Naishel, a pupil at the Papa Cornes School, class 2E, is the very proud owner of an extremely extended bicycle. The bicycle has the looks of a hot Suzuki Hayabusa iron. The bike was built by the father of Gulu, one of Naishel's best friends. Gulu's father, Eduard Winklaar, is a professional welder. He converted a normal BMX bike into a real dragster. He's built three so far.

For loads of time Naishel Everts saved his money to be finally able to buy the strongly converted custom bike. He purchased his jewel in July 2007.

The bike has an overall length of 235 centimeters. The rear wheel chain measures 335 real centimeters! The bike is fitted with two 16-inch rims and tires. The rear tire is a real "slick." An original BMX handle bar is mounted. The seat is a high end "Selle Royal" type. The dragster has only one speed and is not fitted with lights, mirrors, fenders, locks or side stands—just another example of a pure homemade Antillean bike. This custom made bicycle is sprayed blue and green and the front fork and the rims are glossy black.

Very proudly and very handily Naishel Everts maneuvers his dragster bicycle from the porch of the house to the front garden, ready for snapping a photograph. The picture shows a young real Bonairean man, proud of his dragster bicycle. Naishel is a happy boy and will hopefully grow up to be a happy adult. □

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer

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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

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KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
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
9-30	1:02	0.8FT.	15:42	1.9FT.					95
0-01	2:04	0.7FT.	16:44	1.9FT.					86
0-02	2:52	0.7FT.	17:49	2.0FT.					75
0-03	3:38	0.7FT.	18:48	2.0FT.					63
0-04	4:13	0.7FT.	19:46	1.9FT.					54
0-05	4:45	0.8FT.	20:34	1.9FT.					50
0-06	5:15	0.9FT.	11:34	1.3FT.	14:23	1.3FT.	21:29	1.8FT.	52
0-07	5:32	1.0FT.	11:22	1.4FT.	15:54	1.2FT.	22:14	1.6FT.	58
0-08	5:33	1.1FT.	11:33	1.5FT.	17:18	1.2FT.	22:56	1.5FT.	66
10-09	5:10	1.1FT.	11:50	1.6FT.	18:38	1.2FT.	23:45	1.4FT.	72
10-10	0:29	1.3FT.	4:16	1.2FT.	12:13	1.6FT.	20:10	1.1FT.	76
10-11	12:43	1.7FT.	22:01	1.1FT.					78
10-12	13:22	1.8FT.	23:21	.0FT.					78

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Free Concerts Dixieland Band from Holland:

Friday Sept. 28th at Buddy Dive from 5.30 pm

Saturday Sept. 29th at Salsa restaurant from 6 – 7.30 pm

Sunday Sept. 30th at KonTiki from 6 pm

Wednesday Oct. 3rd at Little Havana from 9 pm

Thursday, September 27—Free Coral Spawning Lecture at CIEE—next to Seaside Apts., Kaya Gob. De-Brot 21, 7:30 pm

Friday, September 28—Historian and extra newspaper editor Bôî Antoin speaks about Historical Perspectives on Bonaire. Free. In Dutch. Plaza Hotel, 8:30 pm.

Saturday, September 29—20K Walk to benefit Cancer Awareness Month, starts at 3 pm at Rincon church. More on page 4.

Thursday, October 4—Animal Day Open house at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, 10 am to 3 pm. Free animal check ups. Bring your dog for a dog wash, your cat for nail clipping and grooming. See page 20

October 7-13 - Bonaire Regatta, 40th Year—Full schedule on page 9

Saturday & Sunday, October 6 & 7—Final Signup for Beach Volleyball Tournament. Call Richenello Abrahams 700-3600

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

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

Sunday, October 7—Chill Out with Flamingo Rockers and “Femssa” all girl group, Sunrise, 4-7:30 pm. Free.

Friday, October 12—Caribbean Homes Soul Night with George McCrae, Wilhelmina Park, Midnight, free. More on page 11.

COMING

Thursday, October 18—ReMax Paradise Homes Party—see page 3

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

Sunday, November 18—Dia di Gracia. See page 6

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

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily

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

• HH—50% off- Buddy Dive Resort, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

• **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm– 4 am; Sunday 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) with live mariachi- **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. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

• **Wine Tasting** at AWC’s warehouse, **2nd Saturday of the month**, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NA/20 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 nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeke for more information—796-7870.

• **Flea Market every first Saturday of the month** from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NA/5 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 ambience at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm

Mondays

• **Dinner and a Show at Casablanca Argentinean Grill**—Reporter writer **Albert Bianculli** presents his **Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday"** at 6:30pm, 7:30 pm & 8:30pm

• **“Dive & Dine” Buddy Dive Resort**, 6:30 –9:30 pm

• **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. Reserve ahead. Tel. 717-5091, 717-2288

• **“Live Cooking by the Chefs”** with live music by the Flamingo Rockers Unplugged - **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

Fridays

• **Mixed Level Yoga** 8:30am, **Buddy Dive** 786-6416

• **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 - 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

• **Friday Weekly Market at Wilhelmina Park** with local art, music and food; summer fashions, jewelry, glass-work, Bonaire pictures, driftwood art, paintings and all kinds of Bonaire souvenirs, 9 am to 2 pm.

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

• **Manager’s Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, Live music by Flamingo Rockers, **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 6-7 pm

• **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30- 6:30 pm) with Moogie Nation, followed by all-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

Monday- Land & Ocean Bonaire by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of Bonaire Dive & Adventure.

Tuesday—**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Buddy Dive Resort, 7 pm—717-3802.

Wednesday—**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker’s Carib Inn (717-8819) at 7pm.

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

BONAIRE’S TRADITIONS

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

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

Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868 **Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors’ Center**. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

Weekly Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi’s - Tuesday - 6:30 pm -

call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7.30 pm at Sunrise Pool Bar. all levels, NA/2,50. 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: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

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

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

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

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arto Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 717

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451; Valarie@telbonet.an

Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4303.

Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

Special Olympics— Call Claire 717-8290

Volunteers to train children in sports.

Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am. **Rincon**, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children’s club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. 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, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

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

Send event info to:

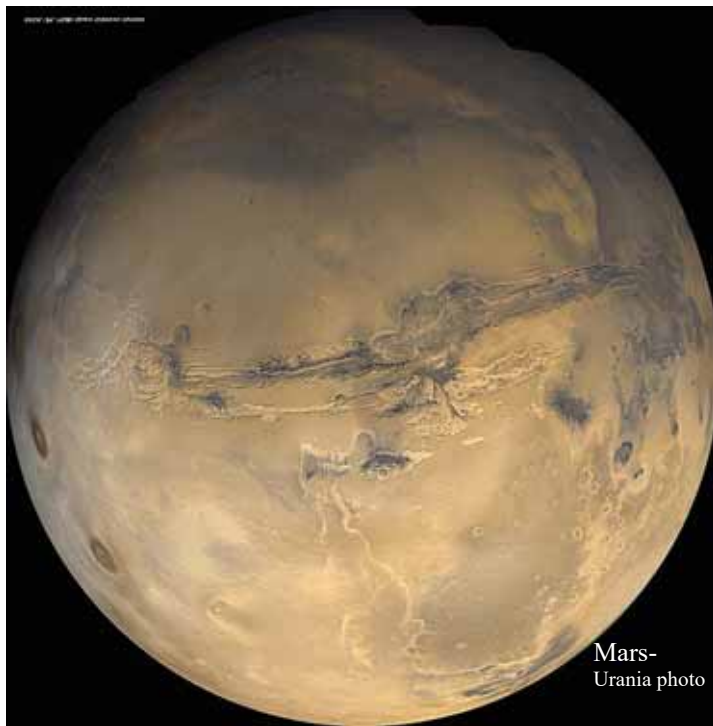
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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

And as I write the red planet Mars is zipping towards us at a speed of almost 25,000 miles per hour and will get brighter and brighter every week until on Christmas Eve it will be at opposition and at its closest and brightest. And if you start watching Mars now you can see it dramatically brighten from now until Christmas.



Mars-Urania photo

If we could go way out in space and back in time one year ago to October 1st, 2006, the planet Mars was on the opposite side of the Sun and a whopping 243 million miles away. But since that time as both Mars and Earth have been whizzing around the Sun in their respective orbits, they have been coming closer and closer to each other, from 243 million miles apart on October 1st, 2006 to only 90 million miles apart this October 1st. Which means Mars and Earth are now 153 million miles closer. Plus Mars is now 6 times brighter! But you ain't seen nothing yet. The best is yet to come.

This week and next about one hour before sunrise face southeast where you'll see all the bright stars of our old friend Orion, the hunter, and to his left the constellation Gemini, the twins, with its two very bright stars. But right between Gemini and Orion and even brighter than any of Gemini or Orion's stars is the tiny 4,000-mile-wide red planet Mars which doesn't really look red but looks kind of a brassy yellowish-gold. And even though it's very bright right now, by Christmas Eve it will be four times brighter. In fact, even though Mars is only 90 million miles away this week by the third week of December it will be 35 million miles closer, only 55 million miles away and a whopping 23 times brighter than it was a year ago!

And if you want to see something really nifty, next week the Moon will be journeying in the vicinity of Mars. In fact, if you go out just before sunrise Tuesday, October 2nd, you'll see a beautiful almost-last-quarter Moon hovering just above Mars. And if you go out at the same time the next morning Wednesday, October 3rd, a slightly smaller Moon will have passed it and will be down and to its left. And keep in mind that as week after week goes by Mars will rise earlier and earlier. This week and next it rises in the east around 11 pm, but it isn't really high enough for viewing until around 1 am. But by this Christmas Eve when Mars is at opposition it will rise in the northeast just as the Sun sets in the southwest and will be visible all night long.

Ladies and gentlemen start your Mars-watch engines now. □

Jack Horkheimer

Aries-Taking ambitious projects around the home works well for you this month.

Cafe Astrology

For the month of October 2007



Family life can be hectic, either due to increased domestic activities or cantankerous family members. Work is mixed with pleasure, perhaps through love opportunities on the job, parties or increased socializing, and efforts to make your work environment more pleasant. Opportunity periods arrive on the 15-17th, when you are able to attract who and what you want into your life. Partnerships require extra attention.

Taurus-While you continue to focus on having fun, flirting, and enjoying hobbies this month, October is more balanced when it comes to work and play. You are taking more pride in the work you do, and pouring over details is actually enjoyable for you. Tensions between your conflicting needs for friendship and intimacy with a partner re-surface. The 3-4 is excellent for all partnerships, business and personal, and the 13-14 brings a new sense of order into your life.

Gemini-The first half of October is especially productive and smooth-flowing for you, Gemini. Others are pleased with you exactly as you are, and you don't need to prove anything to anyone! Enjoying your hobbies, beautifying the home or redecorating, and recreation are all favored. Some tension between your attention to a partner arises.

Cancer-It's time to put your plans into action, and you are filled with the energy and gumption to do just that. Life speeds up for you, and others close to you might notice you are atypically self-involved. You may jump into something impulsively, or do something you have always wanted to do but haven't had the chance to act out. Competitive activities are favored this month. Work could involve traveling or teaching, and career opportunities knock at your door.

Leo-The desire or need to tighten your belt with spending is in focus. Try to schedule important financial transactions in the first half of the month. You have a finger in many pies in October. Your energy levels are lower than usual, however, so rest is in order. Your love life improves via a meeting of minds on most subjects, but it's important to take things step by step.

Virgo-You are more conscious of making a good impression on others as well as making peace with people close to you this month. You are stronger and more reliable, and others easily put their faith in you. A strong opportunity period for you occurs from the 16-19th, when your powers of attraction are high. Activities requiring team efforts are highlighted. Money from business income is strong. Working from home is successful.

Libra-Your career and professional life pick up speed this month. You are more ambitious than usual, and less cooperative when it comes to taking orders! Happiness is not dependent on others this month--it's you who is creating it. Your love life becomes deliciously private now--compassion and some personal sacrifices are in order. Secret admirers could be part of the picture. Harmony in love peaks from the 15-17th. A friend or group leans on you mid-month.

Scorpio-You enjoy a special fondness for your friends this month, as well as for anything new and unusual. Wrapping up projects and efforts that have run their natural course is in order. Harmony in love is most explicit on the 2-4th. A financial deal regarding house and property could come through. A partner has an important declaration, or requires special attention, around the 26th.

Sagittarius-Your love life is especially intimate and perhaps intense this month. You encounter people who stir up powerful feelings inside you. Career matters are in strong focus, as the need to deal with practical matters, as well as problems from the past, becomes insistent. You are beginning a long-term trend that points to a period of fruition, greater responsibilities, and recognition in your professional life.

Capricorn-Others are recognizing you as an authority this month, Capricorn. Honesty in your dealings is critical, as it is very hard to escape attention now! Taking a trip or embarking on an adventure with a loved one is indicated in October. Your close personal relationships can be fiery, demanding, and stimulating. The second half of October is particularly strong for personal influence, honor, recognition, and reward.

Aquarius-Much of your energy is poured into work, taking care of the little details of life, and health or fitness regimes in October. Financial gains can come from others, or benefits may be realized through marriage and partnerships. You could impress others with a creative solution to a problem on the job. In fact, your mind is in top shape.

Pisces-This is a month for romance, intense feelings, and the pursuit of emotional fulfillment. While partnership matters are more serious now, you are determined to experience more depth and intensity through others, and this energy suits you just fine. However, avoid speculation from the 7-11th. Recognition and reward through your profession arrives in the last week of the month. □ Astrology by Annie

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Shimaruku Time



Most people think it's the most delicious fruit that grows on Bonaire. We're talking about the Shimaruku, or West Indian cherry. It grows wild in the inland areas of Bonaire, especially on the former Bolivia Plantation. The taste is surprisingly sweet and tangy. And it's good for you; just one cherry has as much vitamin C as a small glass of orange juice! Many trees are bearing right now so go picking.

In some cases the Shimaruku is cultivated for its high vitamin C content. In the 1950s, a manufacturer of baby food decided that apple juice was milder for infants than orange juice. The company claimed that a single drop of Shimaruku juice in an 8 oz. can of apple juice provided the amount of vitamin C of an equal amount of orange juice. In Puerto Rico, the tree is so prized that custom officials exercise considerable precautions to prevent exporting of cuttings.

Officially called *Acerola* (*Malpighia glabra*), it's also known as the wild crape myrtle, a tropical fruit-bearing shrub or small tree in the family *Malpighiaceae*, native to the West Indies and northern South America and also cultivated in India. It grows to 3m (10') tall, with a dense, thorny crown. The leaves are evergreen, simple ovate-lanceolate, 5-10 cm long, with an entire margin. The flowers are produced in umbels of 2-5 together, each flower 1-1.5 cm diameter, with five pink or red petals.

The fruit is bright red, 1.5-2 cm diameter, containing 2-3 hard seeds. Although resembling a cherry, it is unrelated to the northern cherry (*Prunus*). A cup has only 31 calories and contains enough nutrients to mimic a multi-vitamin. See below:

Vitamins

Vitamin A 752 IU 15% of daily needs

Vitamin C 1644 mg 2740%

Riboflavin 0.1 mg 3%

Niacin 0.4 mg 2%

Folate 13.7 mcg 3%

Pantothenic Acid 0.3 mg 3%

Minerals

Calcium 11.8 mg 1%

Iron 0.2 mg 1%

Magnesium 17.6 mg 4%

Phosphorus 10.8 mg 1%

Potassium 143 mg 4%

Sodium 6.9 mg 0%

Zinc 0.1 mg 1%

Copper 0.1 mg 4%

Selenium 0.6 mcg 1% □ G.D.



NOT an artist's rendition but an actual photo of Deepak Daryiani's new Shopping Center just north of the traffic circle.

Unique on Bonaire with its palms, it reminds one of Coconut Grove, Florida. □

G.D.

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On The Island Since... 1994

Erwin La Cruz

“I was born on Curaçao April 28th, 1943. My father was working at the Bank of Curacao and my mom was at home with us. We were three boys and two girls. My childhood was exciting as I was always up to something - the way boys are. We were raised well; they gave us direction and you couldn't say you didn't want to - nobody did that - nobody knew you could do that!

When I was nine we moved from Willemstad to a kunuku. Each boy got his own piece of land - except for the youngest one as he was too little - and we planted watermelon, pumpkins, beans and peanuts and we also kept goats. After elementary school I was sent to a boarding school, Boys Town Brakkeput.

In the early 60s I graduated as a fitter, a turner and a precision fitter. I was the best graduate and I immediately got a job with Shell. I stayed there for 33 years, almost half my life. I made my career and in the end I became a pneumatic and electrical instrument maker.

I got married once; I have four children with my wife and three children with other women. After the divorce my children left with their mother for Holland and they've been living there for more than 20 years now. In fact, all my children are living in Holland except for one.

At the end of 1994 I came to Bonaire. I had my pension from Shell, but I'd heard they needed someone in the technical department at the hospital. I talked to the director and I was hired. Yes, I used to come to Bonaire for years, 40 years at least, but just for weekends. I have no family here. At the hospital I became the assistant to the head of the technical department, then after a year I became the head of the department. I worked there for five years.

What is it like to be on Bonaire? I'm still thinking about it... I am cosmopolitan and I can go wherever I want to. I don't have a steady place I call home.

After those five years I worked for a year for the Maria Hoppner Foundation, taking care of the boys. Somebody asked me if I wanted to do it, saying, 'You're good with people,' so I did it. It wasn't easy. I was strict and the children didn't like it, but when I left they were very sorry I was leaving and I noticed they loved me - especially the children I'd been strict with.

I went to Holland and stayed there for two years. I found a job because I didn't want to sit still and also I didn't want to be marked as someone who was getting government money for doing nothing. I knew Holland because I'd been going there almost every year since my children went there, so in itself it was nothing special. But to really live there is quite a different thing. Anyway, that's

something you experience everywhere in the world.

After I had an accident at work and had to stay home most of the time and do my physiotherapy exercises I felt like I had become a prisoner and so... I returned to the Antilles, to Bonaire, because I could get back the house I'd been living in before, a house in the *mondi*, a very special place.

In 1975 I began studying mysticism - metaphysics is in fact an occult science. It was like an urge; it's something you're born with. My father also studied and was a medium. I saw the books he was reading and I got interested. All my life I've been very curious about everything and at the same time I am very skeptical; I am always looking for proof. When I was in Holland I studied parapsychology and I also became a Reiki Master.

The thing is, when you're looking for proof you find out that proof is elusive - there's no end to it - because all is nothing and nothing is all.

I am a spiritual healer and my clients are satisfied because one is sending the

“Life is a balance and you always have to try to look for the center. It's a great thing to be an individual, but there's a time for everything - a time to be alone - but also a time to be with others.”

other. I still study every day in the afternoon for about three hours. If you don't pass on what you're learning to other people, you'll get stuck. It's like breathing - when you breathe in you have to breathe out. And it's also a feeling, an urge because after some time I stop studying and I change to creation; I start making art, I create what my mind is telling me to create.”

Erwin La Cruz (64) is a wise man and his art is of an indescribable beauty, the product of a totally original mind. His garden is a lustrous, well kept oasis and his house is filled with scientific books and symbols, well organized and neat.”

“Everything I'm doing, I'm doing with all my power and I'm always trying to reach perfection. But that's an illusion too, because once you reach a certain level, there's always a higher level.

Everything is illusion. Life is an illusion, but illusion lives. That's why there's no end to it. When you're search-



Erwin La Cruz

ing you keep on finding and only those who are searching will find it. If you're not searching yourself, other people will tell you what to do, but that is not always the right thing for you.

When I started my studies there was no one to talk to. In those days occult science was sort of taboo, also because of the church. But some years later I found someone and that person became my master and then it started.

To me life is a challenge and an exercise and when you do it consciously you won't err. When you're conscious you will always be able to take your bearings. Life is a balance and you always have to try to look for the center. It's a great thing to be an individual, but there's a time for everything - a time to be alone - but also a time to be with others.

I am a difficult person, really. I go to the extreme to learn, to experience, to see where my limits lie. It's hard sometimes. The majority of the people always live in expectation, but for me an expectation is half a disappointment. If you don't expect anything there will be no disappointment and the time you've been spending while you were expecting could have been used in a better way because to wait is to stand still. It's not bad, but to stand still is a feeling of the consciousness and I've done it already. Now I walk on.

There's a time for everything. Maybe I'm also standing still, but not like everybody else; I'm reaching for the highest, but I haven't achieved anything yet. There's always a higher level.

I'm helping other people by making them conscious of life - 360 degrees. And every degree has also 360 degrees, therefore... there's no end. And not everyone can be helped and not everyone may be helped because everyone has his own karma. The only thing I can do is to make people aware of their karma and how to handle it. The ignorant can be

helped because they don't know better, but there are people who have to experience themselves because they don't listen to their consciousness.

I always ask people, 'What do you expect from me?' Then they have to talk and tell me why they came. Most people come to me out of curiosity, but everyone has something, even when they are denying it. My goal is to help other people, to teach them how to help themselves. If they already know how to do it, they don't have to come here; they can help someone else instead.

People always think that life is what you see - people only believe in things they can see. The moment you start talking about the invisible there's already a taboo. I don't believe in anything, I convince myself for the moment, until the next mystery shows up. Life is what you can't see - that's life. Can you see what you're thinking? It's the result of the thought, that's what you see. The thought itself is invisible.

A human being has brains and a human being changes constantly, positively or negatively. Everything is just for the time being, an instantaneous snapshot. I can shine a light on something that has to be seen, but the person has to experience and live it.

I also used to think that one and one is two, but now I know it's not because one and one creates a third condition and that's how it is.

People who don't look further won't finish reading this article, but others who are searching will find and keep on searching, always... That's how we started and that's how we end.” □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



El Sueño

~ luxurious newly built apartments close to the ocean ~

El Sueño is Spanish for "The Dream" and that is exactly what this new to build high quality condominium stands for. Located at the J.A. Abraham Boulevard, just a few steps away from the crystal clear Ocean and in walking distance from the center of Kralendijk this four story Caribbean style condominium offers all one could wish for. The property consists of 4 luxury two bedroom apartments. The apartments of the second floor are overlooking the beautiful Caribbean Sea. Owners at El Sueño have their own private parking and storage space. This stylish condominium is surrounded by a tropical garden.

Lay out:

The four luxurious apartments have a large living room and open kitchen offering direct access to the ocean view terrace from the second floor, the ground floor apartment is adjacent to the tropical garden. The luxury kitchen is supplied with the following appliances: cooking ring, microwave, dishwasher and American style refrigerator with icemaker. Both bedrooms have their own private bathroom. The master bedroom opens up to the ocean view terrace; the second bedroom offers access to a smaller balcony facing the street side.

The apartments are newly built with high quality materials and will be very well finished.

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