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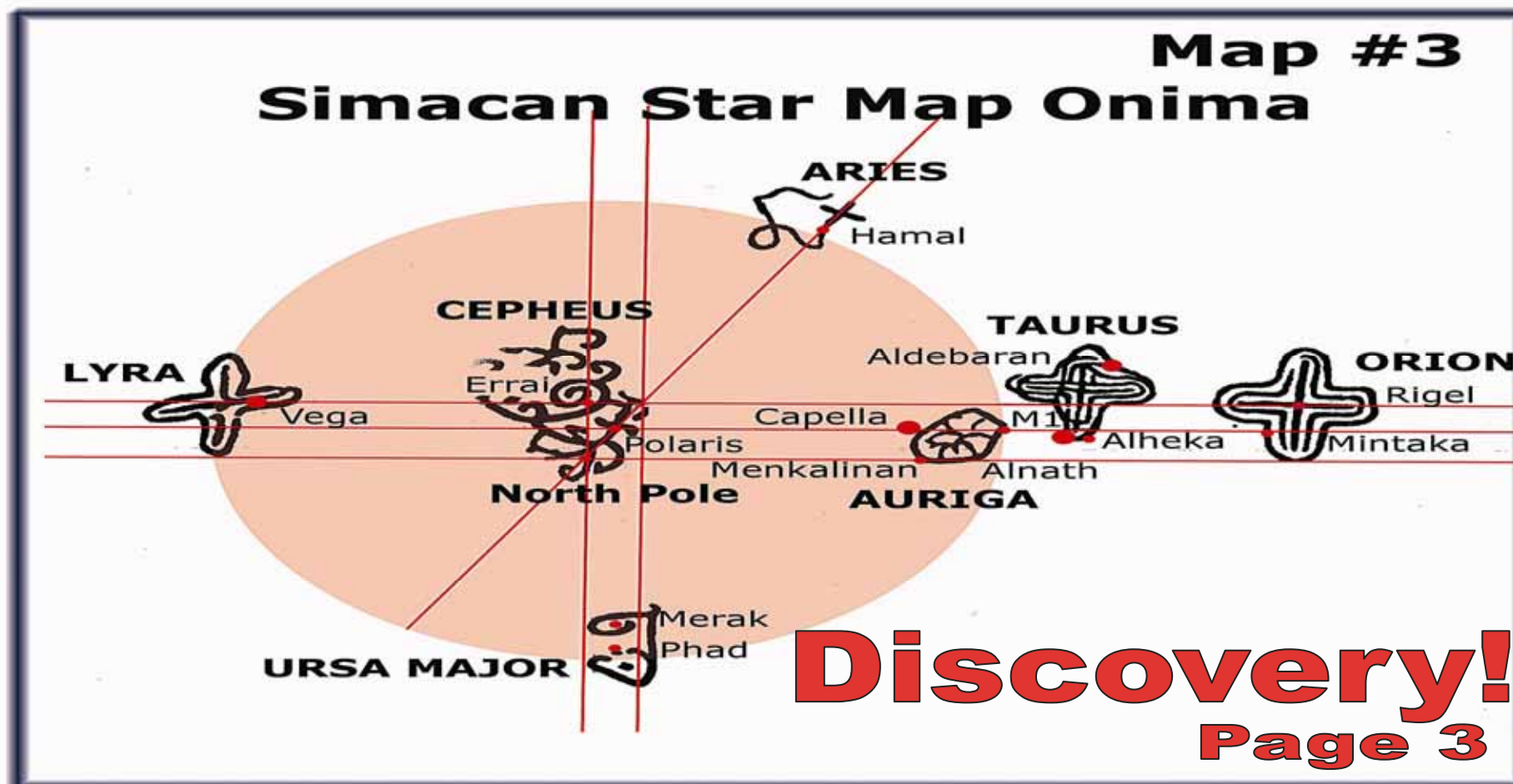
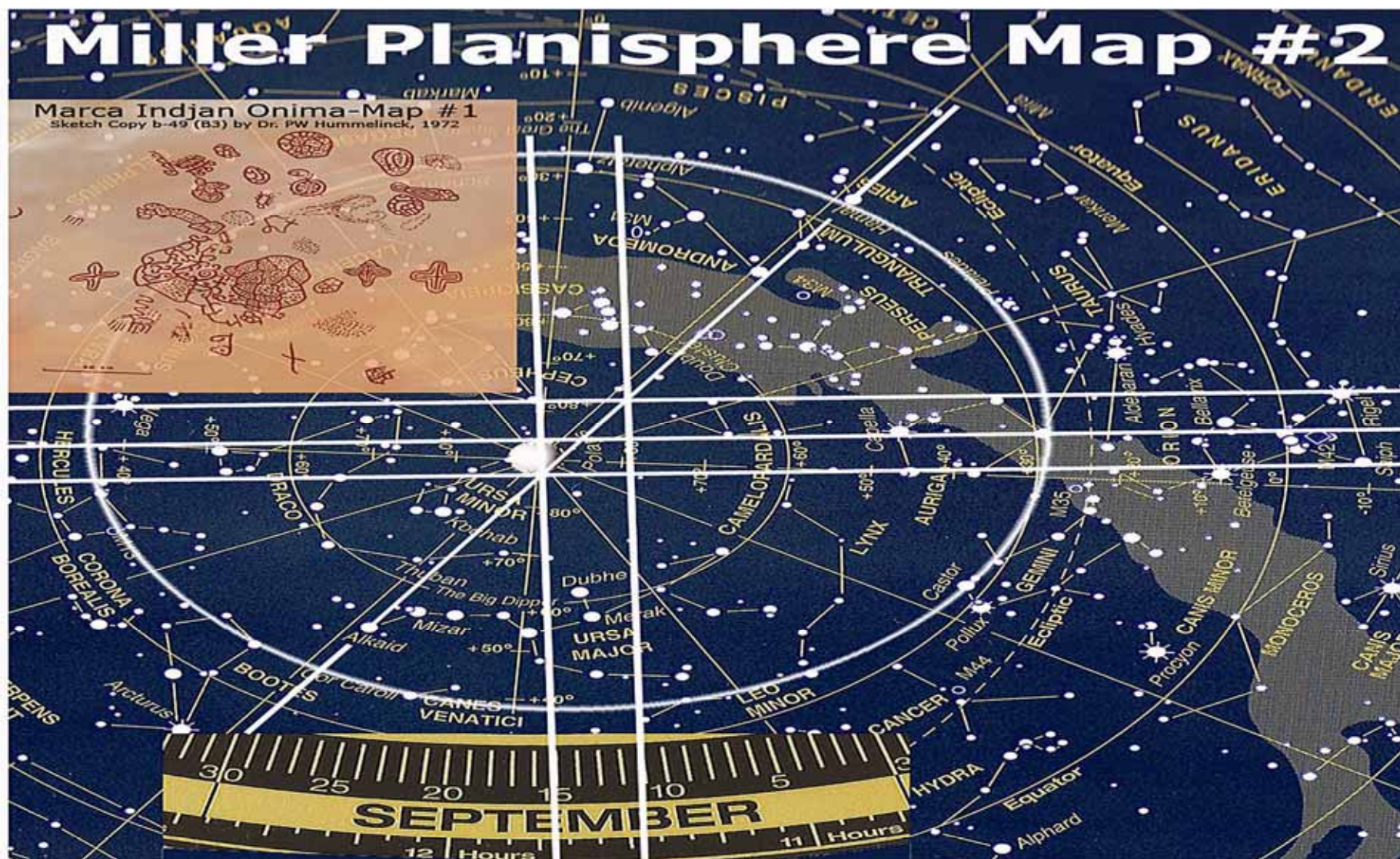
**HAPPY KARNAVAL**  
**BONAIRE**

January 25- February 8, 2008; Volume 15, Issue 2

# The REPORTER

*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

Kunuku Shimaruku, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-8988, 790-6518, email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994



**P**rogress towards Bonaire's integration into The Netherlands in December 2008 continues. **The standard of living will be the main topic of discussion in the BES (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) during an upcoming series of meetings.** At a previous meeting the Dutch delegation was unprepared to discuss it and the Bonaire and Saba delegations would not proceed without it. The meetings will take place January 28-31. Besides the standard of living, other important points of discussion will be public health, social security, education and youth, safety and finances. Before leaving for The Netherlands, the BES islands will meet in Bonaire for preparation before engaging in new negotiations with the Dutch.

► The Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and Surinam, all former Dutch western hemisphere colonies, will hold a **three-party Parliamentary meeting** for the first time in seven years. The meeting will be hosted by Aruba and is scheduled to take place from January 30 until February 1.

President of the Antillean Parliament, Pedro Atacho, said cooperation on justice and economic matters would be discussed.

► According to Bonaire's Commissioner of Economic Affairs, Burney el Hage, **the economic outlook for 2008 is extremely good** especially for the construction sector with everything that comes with it, like the sale of houses and condominiums.

He anticipates that tourism will continue to grow in 2008. He mentions new sectors, like the production of alternative energy, that will also contribute to the economy of Bonaire. There are also a number of new activities that will possibly come together in 2008 and become new economic activities for the

island, like the production of bio fuel from algae and healthcare, where foreigners can come to Bonaire for their health.

The building sector is expected to remain active through 2012. He admitted that the government is still not totally prepared for everything that needs to be done in connection with the economic growth.

► The Curacao Hotel Association is asking the government to **reconsider its decision to approve a 50% increase on the tariff for airplanes that traverse the Antillean airspace.** It fears that Curacao is pricing herself out of the market and will be bad for tourism, Curacao's most important economic sector.

In contrast to most other parts of the world, the Caribbean is made up of a hodgepodge of fragmented airspaces. Curacao is responsible for part of that and is also one of the fragments.

Currently, the airspace fees yield about Naf10 million per year. The standard tariff will rise from Naf 31 to Naf 47 per mile effective February 1. Local airline companies like DAE and Insel Air are significantly affected because they mainly fly in Antillean airspace.

► Early in January the Central Government Department of Aviation **stopped Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) planes from taking off** because their maintenance permit had expired. According to DAE, they have submitted a petition to renew the permit, but due to a 'misunderstanding,' the Aviation Department didn't receive the petition.

"It was actually an administrative problem," says director Floris van Pallandt, when asked, and said that, "The problem is more theirs." The problem was resolved in a few hours and flights resumed.

All DAE aircraft are back in service following their sched-

► The TCB reports that during the 2007-2008 cruise ship season, **156,702 ship passengers enjoyed the attractions of Bonaire**, more than double the 76,933 who arrived in the 2005-2006 cruise ship season, including *Freewinds* and *Polynesia* guests.

According to sources, "This finally puts Bonaire up in the big leagues of cruise ship tourism (see chart below)." The TCB hopes for even more "cruisers" next year, **at least 254,000, a jump of another 62%** and desires to convert some of them to stay-over tourists. The cruise ship season is considered to run from October 31 to April 30. See comments on pages 2 and 18 for more on cruise ships.

#### Caribbean Cruise Ship Tourism:

| Destination | 2006    | 2007    |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| Curaçao     | 174,527 | 204,326 |
| St Lucia    | 238,823 | 386,504 |
| Dominica    | 253,814 | 237,857 |
| Barbados    | 351,574 | 402,209 |
| Aruba       | 362,554 | 299,783 |
| Belize      | 461,106 | 460,927 |
| Cozumel     | 668,513 | 874,074 |
| Jamaica     | 686,774 | 706,384 |
| St. Maarten | 869,866 | 880,246 |

In a boon for cruiseship passengers and land travelers the **US government plans to offer special "passport cards" as a cheap alternative to traditional documents for Americans visiting Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean by land or sea**, the State Department announced.

"The passport card will facilitate entry and expedite document processing at US land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda," the department said.

The government will begin distribution of the cards, which will not be accepted for air travel, in the spring. US citizens can apply for them starting February 1. In addition Americans will need to show proof of citizenship in addition to an identification card. The US government has been tightening travel rules since the attacks of September 11, 2001.

uled maintenance.

► British airline Virgin Atlantic said on Monday it would run the **world's first commercial jet flight powered by biofuel** between London Heathrow and Amsterdam next month. The Boeing 747 will first fly without passengers as part of efforts by Virgin, Boeing Co and GE Aviation to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from aviation. Cargill Corporation plans to cultivate algae in Bonaire to be converted into

biodiesel, a product related to the jet bio-fuel.

► Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé hosted the traditional New Year's reception and again **emphasized the quality of modesty that some Bonaireans value** and that is included in the island's national anthem. He said he felt that he was not well understood during his New Year speech. He said, "Being modest doesn't necessarily mean that the Bonaire people be mute. It

(Continued on page 4)

#### Table of Contents

**This Week's Stories**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Cruise Ship Report  | 2  |
| Ancient Star Map Discovered   | 3  |
| Study Abroad (U. of Del.)   |    |
| On Wheels (Jeep Kodiak)   | 5  |
| High Rise Opposition  | 5  |
| Letters to the Editor (Cruise Ships/Empty Shelves, Snorkel Fish, Airport Parking) | 6  |
| Bonaire Ambassadors (Horst, Wunsch, Kloppenborg)                                  | 9  |
| Keeping Bonaire Clean   | 9  |
| Toys of the Rich & Famous   | 10 |
| Art For Fun (Elmer's Glue)  | 10 |
| Bonaire Gardener (septic water)   | 11 |
| Art Exhibit André Nagtegaal   | 11 |
| Mass Cruise Tourism   | 18 |
| Eat Cactus  | 18 |

#### WEEKLY FEATURES

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Flotsam & Jetsam  | 2  |
| Clear Blue Water News   | 8  |
| Bonairean Voices (Traffic)                                    | 8  |
| Pets of the Week ("Jack," Dog walkers)                        | 12 |
| Classifieds   | 12 |
| Coral Glimpses (Squid)  | 13 |
| Do You Know (Anemones)  | 13 |
| Dining & Shopping Guides                                      | 14 |
| Tide Table  | 15 |
| Reporter Masthead   | 15 |
| Picture Yourself with The Reporter (Argentina, New Hampshire) | 15 |
| What's Happening  | 16 |
| Sky Park (Jupiter, Venus)                                     | 17 |
| Café Astrology  | 17 |
| Island View (SGB explained)                                   | 19 |
| What's Coming Our Way (Waterlands Village)                    | 19 |

#### How to contact us

**Letters to the Editor:**  
Reporter@bonairenews.com

**Story tip or idea:**  
info@bonairereporter.com

**Print and Online**

**Advertising:**  
laura@bonairenews.com

**Archives:**  
Bonairenews.com then click on "Go to Archives"

**The Publisher:**  
George@bonairenews.com

**The Bonaire Reporter,**  
P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles.  
Phone 790-8988  
Phone 790-6518  
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# Ancient Star Map Discovered

## University of Delaware Study Abroad on Bonaire

In the last issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* we reported that Indian Inscriptions at Onima cave represented an ancient star map from around 1054 AD when the explosion of the Crab Nebula Supernova was seen around the world.

On the cover are three maps which detail why the Indian Inscriptions are such a star map.

Map #1 *Marca Indjan Onima - Indian Inscriptions precise representation by Dr. Pieter Wagenaar Hummelinck.*

Dr. Hummelinck was a scientist who precisely depicted the Indian Inscriptions at Onima Cave from photographs he took in the early 1950s. He published them in 1972. These Inscriptions were depicted previously by Father A. J. van Koolwijk in 1875 and published by Pastor P. A. Euwens in *Neerlandia News Bulletin* #12 in December of 1907.

Map #2 *Planisphere - Naked Eye Star watching map*

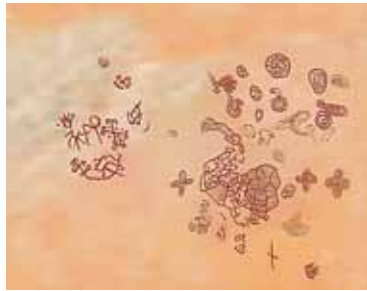
Miller Planisphere - Naked Eye Star watching map. The lines on this map line up to the lines on Map #3. In the year 1054 Polaris was about 6 degrees above the North Pole and to the right. Today the North Pole and

Polaris are almost together. The rest of the map would be the same.

Map #3 - *Simacan Star Map - Middle section of the original Inscriptions*

Parts of the original Indian Inscriptions at Marca Indjan have been lifted up from the whole to show the various stars and constellations that make up the map. It is the discovery of the Bonaire historian Frans Booi that they represent a precise naked eye planisphere star map that the Simacan (ancient astronomer) would have painted in the Onima Cave at Marca Indjan. You can see that the three great parallel horizontal lines match the stars on the Planisphere map and the Simacan Star Map.

The brightest star to the east is represented by a double outlined cross and is thought to be Rigel of the Orion Constellation. The next star cross to the left, which is wound up in a thread, is of the Taurus Constellation and represents the conjunction of the Super Nova, Crab Nebula (M1), and the stars Aldebaran and Alheka. The Crab Nebula Super Nova was a major explosion in



Onima - Indian Inscriptions

the summer of 1054 that was so bright it could be seen by day for weeks and for over two years by night. This was such a significant event that it was registered by the Chinese, Arabs and Anasasi Indians in North America. Frans Booi believes that this was also registered by the Carib-Arawak Indians in Bonaire at Marca Indjan Onima.

The third outlined star cross to the left of the North Pole is Vega in the Lyra Constellation. The Star Polaris is precisely in between Lyra and Auriga on this map and on the Planisphere. Alnath, the most eastern star in Auriga, aligns with Polaris and with Mintaka on the middle parallel horizontal line. The star Hamal, in the Aries Constellation, was aligned with Polaris around 60 degrees from the horizon in September of the year 1054. □ *Frans & Maggi Booi*



Art Trembanis, Professor of Geosciences at the University of Delaware, conducts an early morning lecture at Roomers' Hotel (formerly The Great Escape) for 16 students getting academic credit for studying on Bonaire

Sixteen students are spending all of January studying on Bonaire to receive academic credit in "Tropical Field Biology" and "Carbonate Geology" through the University of Delaware Study Abroad Program. Taught by Doug Miller, Professor of Oceanography, and Art Trembanis, Professor of Geosciences, from the University of Delaware, the students attend lectures, conduct field work and complete individual research projects. Roomers' Hotel (formerly The Great Escape) has been converted for the month of January into a classroom for learning about waste-

water, trash, parrotfish, day and night communities on the reef and tidal zone organisms. One of the students' assignments is to blog about their experiences on Bonaire, especially interacting with locals, as well as their research projects. If you're interested in those blogs, visit [www.bonairew08.blogspot.com](http://www.bonairew08.blogspot.com) to read more.

What is particularly exciting for these students is the opportunity to assist in a major science project, funded by NOAA and in partnership with STINAPA, to employ robots to

(Continued on page 6)

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Cont. from pg. 2) implies that we must respect and be patient with one another. We must not be arrogant, but care for each other."

► **The Central Bureau of Statistics, CBS, will conduct economic research on Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Maarten** in the month of January. The aim of this research is to get an update on commercial and economic development. The investigation will be conducted with all companies with 10 or more employees. Companies with fewer than 10 employees will be sampled. In Bonaire 82 will participate; 814 in Curaçao; 254 in St. Maarten.

► **The risk of being infected with dengue fever virus remains high in Bonaire** because of the continued rains. Members of the community are reminded to eliminate any possible breeding places, like standing water, of the dengue mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, which bites by day. The eggs of the insect can stay alive for a year and can withstand the dry season.

Use of long-sleeved shirts and long pants as well as repellent are recommended. For the most part visitors are unaware of the situation although it is a major topic of conversation for residents.

The health department employee who was most responsible for mosquito control in past years

retired, and there has been little spraying and no house-to-house inspections.

It is estimated that up to 900 people have been infected in the past year by the rarely fatal, but extremely painful, disease. Reportedly two cases of hemorrhagic dengue were registered. These persons were sent to Curaçao for further medical treatment. There is no specific treatment for the usual dengue victim except over-the-counter painkillers and rest. The illness takes weeks or more for recovery and gives the victim immunity to the dengue strain he or she was infected with, but none of the other three varieties. A vaccine is being tested but will not be available for some years. A press conference to update the situation is set for later this week.

► **Bonaire's first university preparatory high-school class (VWO-5) is soon to graduate on Bonaire.** Previously, students were required to go to Curaçao, Aruba or Holland for this level of education. Nearly all the students will continue on to a university or college in The Netherlands. To prepare for this next step the class has booked a flight via Arkefly for two weeks, beginning March 8, to The Netherlands to visit some of the schools they plan to attend. It is not a vacation, as each day they will visit universities and colleges and

become familiar with the Dutch transportation systems.

The trip will be financed by contributions from the students themselves, local sponsors and hopefully, contributions from the public. If you wish to help support this initiative transfer your gift to Standard Educated Dutch, account number 531339610, t.n.v. Foundation spell Boneiru Bèk, specifying class VWO-5.

► **A 45-year-old man was run over and killed at Knip beach in Curacao** by an Ocean Encounters dive boat while snorkeling. The propeller hit Raymond Mongen in the chest. He sank to the bottom and died immediately. The captain of the boat recovered his body. He said he had seen another man snorkeling in the area, but not the victim. Please take extra care while diving or



snorkeling around Bonaire and keep aware of boats in the area.

► **The Marine Mammal Foundation received confirmed information that yet another accident occurred at the Curaçao Dolphin Academy.** On January 11, 2008, the dolphin, "Tela,"



ABVO photo

► **The first Bonaire baby of the year 2008 was born Thursday afternoon, January 3rd** in San Francisco Hospital. **Klebertson Johannes Romero**, son of Raymond Francees and Marjin Romero weighed 4,250 grams (9.4 lbs.) and was 53 centimeters (20.9") long at birth. Also in the photo are the baby's brother, Jeferson, midwife Marita Djodjopawiro and assistant nurse Ellen Ignacio.

struck an employee, who was not seriously injured, in his back several times with his tail fluke.

This is the third "captive born" dolphin accident indicating aggressive behavior with humans at the Dolphin Academy reaching the press since April 2007.

All three were at the age of being considered "sexually active." It is common in the dolphin captivity industry not to use sexually active dolphins in Swim with Dolphins programs because they become difficult to handle and aggressive with swimmers.

The Dolphin Academy blamed

the accident with "Tela" on the victim just as it did with the accident with the dolphin, "Copan," in April 2007, when he bumped a girl and bit her father who came to her aid.

On January 1, 2008, dolphin, "Annie," jumped on the heads of three paying guests.

The dolphin exploiting operation has been experiencing difficulties recently after Cuban-captured dolphins were imported by the Curaçao Sea Aquarium and the owners fired their own Director, Laetitia Lindgren, for

(Continued on page 7)

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**BONAIRE**

**Declaration of Room Tax Bonaire**

The Executive Council has noticed that recently more and more commercial and private accommodations, among others, apartments, rooms and houses, are being rented or provided to tourists and visitors.

For this activity a room tax of NAf 9,75 per person per night is levied. However, for tourists or visitors who are residents of the Netherlands Antilles or Aruba, and for children under the age of 13, no tax is due.

Some of the accountable persons have not yet made a declaration for this tax.

The Executive Council invites everyone who has not yet done this so far, and who have rented out or provided accommodations in the years 2005, 2006 and/or 2007, to make the declaration for these years and pay the accountable amount at the Tax Collectors office.

The last day to do so is **February 20, 2008**. After this date the tax is considered overdue, with a penalty added and will be presented to those who fail to make the declaration.

**Declaration forms can be collected at the Tax Collectors Office, (Ontvanger), J.A. Abraham Boulevard 27.**

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**BONAIRE ON WHEELS**

**Janneke and Ad Brom and their Beloved 1995 Jeep Kodiak**

The 25<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brower, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."



The Jeep Kodiak (notice the single wiper) with its happy owners, Janneke and Ad Brom from Antriol

It all started back in 1999 when Janneke and Ad Brom got married and decided to spend their honeymoon on the tropical islands of Curacao and Aruba. They really enjoyed their holiday but when they returned to the old world they were told that they missed the loveliest island of the Netherlands Leeward Antilles, Bonaire! So they started saving money with the intention of visiting Bonaire as soon as possible. In 2002 they came to Bonaire for the first time in their lives and they immediately fell in love with it. They learned to dive the deep sea and got addicted to the divers' paradise forever. Since 2002 Ad and Janneke visited Bonaire frequently. In December 2007 they were here for the 10th time and they have the aim of living here in the near future.

A few years ago they bought an original Bonairean house in Antriol along Kaya den Stachie. The classic house must have been built during the 20s of the last century. It was in a deplorable state, but after a firm restoration during a severe time it is almost finished now.

In 2004 Ad and Janneke started to look for a sturdy and reliable Bonaire-proof vehicle. Finally they found the Jeep Kodiak, slightly misnamed Wrangler. In the beginning the Kodiak appeared not to be as reliable as it looked. Now, after a lot of improvements, the vehicle is all right.

Ad explains, "It is very difficult to get information about this type of car. We know that there is another Kodiak on the island, a red one. The Jeep Kodiaks are a kind of a kit car (car in a kit).

They are manufactured by the prisoners in a jail in Miami, Florida. For our Kodiak they used a six-cylinder in-line, two point five engine fitted with a three-speed automatic gearbox from a Dodge truck. They shortened the chassis, took out all the unnecessary parts and built the fiberglass body on top. The chassis is very sturdy; there are mounted side bars and the front bumper has a rigid bull bar."

"I really like our car," Janneke says. "Right now it is almost maintenance free. The fiberglass body is very easy to repair and almost nothing can break down because the car is fitted with almost nothing! No side doors, no back door, no side or rear windows, no radio, no power steering. Originally the car didn't even have wipers. Finally, because of the rain, we added a wiper with a motor like those used in boats! And, last but not least, the car originally was not even equipped with a spare rim and tire!

"Just recently we made a serious conversion to the body," Ad continues. "The hood in the front and the fenders were constructed as a unit. They tilted to the front, like the hood of the classic Jaguar E-type. After a slight accident we glued the fenders and the hood to the rest of the fiberglass body and with a grinder we cut a kind of more or less normal bonnet. The wood and the fiberglass of the body are that easy to work on! We think this car will last forever!"

Ad and Janneke: two happy persons. They fell in love with each other and they fell in love with the island. Forever! Cheers! □ Story & Photo by J@n Brower

**Punt Vierkant Residents Oppose High Rise**

A Dutch project development company, E.G. Vastgoed B.V. from Amsterdam, has announced the plan to build a four-story, 11-apartment complex on Punt Vierkant 20/22 along the shoreline in the middle of this quiet residential area away from the main road.

Area residents say this large building will spoil the neighborhood, the shoreline and the ecology of the environment there.

Within the context of the "Tene Boneiru Plat" initiative, the great majority of residents of Punt Vierkant have signed a petition to the Bestuurscollege delivered on January 14th, protesting this development. The petition requests to only permit the building of residential houses with a maximum of two stories along the coastline and to incorporate this in an official zoning plan. □

Story & Photo by Allerd Stikker



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## Letters to t

- Topics: 1. Cruise Ships/  
Empty Shelves  
2. Snorkel Fishing  
3. Airport Parking



CRUISE SHIP  
RASPBERRY AWARD

Dear Editor:

Who is the person at TCB that wants to stand up and take the credit for ruining commerce on Bonaire? The store shelves are bare, no milk, little fruit and a poor selection of meat.

Why?

Because we have two cruise ships at the dock leaving no room for our cargo carriers to off-load.

Makes even more sense when, in watching the happy cruise ship passengers re-board their floating hotels, you notice that few are carrying with them anything purchased on our little rock.

To further enhance the insult to the residents of Bonaire, it's become common to close down Kaya Grandi and Kaya Charles Heilmund while the cruise ships are in port to allow more passengers to roam empty-handed through the main shopping district.

Parking in the area continues to worsen and is made virtually impossible as the cruise passengers idle away their shore time, leaving with a few photos, a sunburn and little else.

You needn't develop a large study group to come to the conclusion that the cruise ship industry has done little for the islands of the Caribbean.

The stampede of happy passenger feet down the gang plank brings nothing but unnecessary pollution and congestion to every port on the itinerary.

Well, thanks to the TCB folks, we have an excellent example of how not to do business.

Brian McCarley

### SNORKEL FISHING AS BAD AS SPEARFISHING?

Dear Editor:

Last week I saw about 60 mid-sized and larger fish taken -- legally -- by four snorkelers. It took only 1 1/2 hours and pretty



well wiped out the largest fish between Cliff (dive site) and WEB. One can imagine that the four could remove 90% of the largest fish between Belnem and Sabedeco, easily, in 2008.

I observed their technique, which is to drop weighted and baited line down to a big fish, yank it away from smaller fish, and after catching a big fish simply tie it to a string attached to a float (bottle). Cliff had two remaining large snappers, which delighted divers. However, the snorkel fishermen (two were teens) spotted them, put the bait in front of the mouths, and hooked them both within minutes. It is, quite literally, like shooting fish in a barrel, and must be as bad for fish depletion as spear fishing.

As a 15-year visitor to Bonaire I've observed how the big fish have disappeared. It's one of the common reasons divers complain that it isn't "worth it" to visit Bonaire (and everyone knows crime and sewage damage are also major detractors). Of course the Antilleans can do whatever they like with or to their island, but surely prohibiting snorkel fishing is in their best interest.

Brad Smart



M. Leurs photo

### AIRPORT PARKING

Dear Editor:

In reference to the Airport Parking story in "What's Coming Our Way" in the last issue... paid parking at the airport is NOT a totally new phenomena to Bonaire. Having been on Bonaire nearly as long as Onima's arrival I recall that when the new airport was opened in the mid-70s paid parking was in effect for quite some time .. exact dates are fuzzy but Bonaire surely had it ...

Petri

# Bonaire Ambassadors

The Bonaire Ambassador program is to honor frequent travelers to the island. There are three levels: Bronze, 10 years; Silver, 15 years; and Gold, 20 years of visiting Bonaire. These folks are some of the most recent recipients:



Merker Horst

Merker Horst came to Bonaire for the first time about 20 years ago. He'd done some work for ALM airline and they asked him to come to the island. On that vacation he decided to start diving. He came back to Bonaire in 1990, got certified as a diver and that was it.

He got captured by the beautiful environment here and says, "The people are so friendly; they always have a smile on their face." At home he always looks forward to his next dive vacation in Bonaire. Mr. Horst has a suggestion: keep Bonaire's underwater world as healthy as it is.

Sterat and Jacqueline Wunsch first came to Bonaire in 1995. It was the best diving they ever did. They have been to Hawaii, Fiji, Belize, Honduras and a few other places



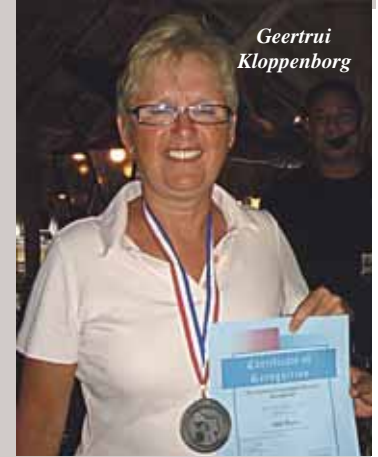
Sterat and  
Jacqueline Wunsch

in the Caribbean, but Bonaire was still the best, they say.

On their third trip here, they found Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn, and they were "home." The people were friendly and accommodating. Over the years they met many new friends at the Carib Inn. They keep in touch with them all year and come together once a year on Bonaire. "It's like a family reunion where the diving and the people are the best in the world," they say.

Geertrui Kloppenborg visited Bonaire for the first time in April 1992 and fell immediately in love with the island due to its tranquility, fantastic climate and friendly people.

Back in The Netherlands Geertrui was already dreaming of a second vacation in Bonaire.



Geertrui  
Kloppenborg

It took her two years to visit the island again, but since then she visits Bonaire regularly and stays at Buddy Dive.

Nowadays it feels like "coming home" whenever she arrives. Sometimes she invites friends to come with her and experience "her lovely island." She gives them a tour through the Washington Slagbaai National Park where they snorkel at one of the many great snorkeling spots.

She hopes to visit Bonaire many more times in the future and be able to enjoy everything the island has to offer.

Congratulations to all the new Ambassadors! □ Press release

Study Abroad (Continued from page 3) map out coral reef habitats in the twilight zone beyond the access of divers. Involving a number of scientists from the US, British Columbia, and the United Kingdom, this project is seeking to gather data on shifting baselines on the reef to compare with similar data acquired 20 years ago at Klein Bonaire by Dutch scientist Fleur Van Duyl. Such data will also make it possible to compare the condition of the reefs 20 years from now. Trembanis said that Bonaire was chosen as the location for study abroad and the science project because of the pristine reefs and the ability to build on previous research. For more information about the science project, visit <http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>. □

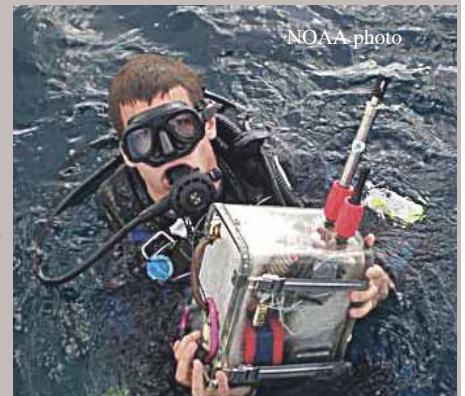
Story & photo by Professor Pauline E. Kayes, Bonaire & Champaign, Illinois, USA.



### Technical Description of the Project

The goal of the Bonaire expedition is to survey this unique environment over a greater depth range than can be reached with compressed air SCUBA, using three Autonomous

Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), technical diving, and in a future year, a manned submersible. Scientists from the College of William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the University of Delaware, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography are leading the expedition. We also have help from the Island Government of Bonaire, scientists at the National Oceanography Centre, United Kingdom, and two makers of underwater technology, Hafmynd and GeoAcoustics. This unique mapping of the biological and physical environment will document patterns of biodiversity in shallow and deep parts of the reef. We may discover new species. Because AUVs can fly in close proximity to the bottom in terrain-following mode, the AUVs will provide a superior method of imaging the bottom using such sensors as side scan sonar, multibeam sonar, and digital video, compared to towing these sensors over the reef on a sled, or using a boat at the surface. The AUVs can also simultaneously measure water currents near the bottom, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, pH, conductivity, and temperature. We will also be deploying fixed bottom instruments to measure temperature fluctuations and water currents. Because the AUVs can work 6-12 hours/day depending on survey speeds, we should also be able to map several square kilome-



NOAA photo

One of the devices in use

ters per day.

This re-mapping of the shallow reefs of Bonaire, using new tools and the explorations into deeper water using AUV technology, will provide an important resource for this island territory in the form of a detailed snapshot of shallow and deep reefs. The shallow reef mapping will be compared to the 1985 snapshot taken by van Duyl as well as other limited surveys by other scientists. The deeper reef mapping will serve as a new snapshot against which future explorations can compare. This reef mapping expedition, with the GIS database on bottom type, species composition, and overlying water quality, will help the Island Government of Bonaire continue to protect this unique ecosystem and help guide efforts to manage Fishing Protected Areas and marine reserves. □

Bonairew08.blogspot

*Flotsam and jetsam* (Continued from page 4)

calling the practice of capturing wild dolphins "immoral;" one of the new wild caught Cuban dolphins, "Rene," died; and two others got in a vicious fight.

The Cabinet of the Antilles Governor has started a preliminary investigation on the importation of the six captured dolphins from Cuba and whether the decision of the Curacao government is in conflict with international treaties and national legislation. The Dutch Parliament is also discussing the situation

► One of the most popular purebred dog breed on Bonaire is the Dalmatian. **Topping the list of the most popular dogs in the US is the Labrador Retriever**—top dog since 1991, followed by the Yorkshire Terrier, the German Shepherd, the Golden Retriever and the Beagle, the American Kennel Club said last week.

► **Bonaire's "Dive Into Summer 2008" promises to become one of the most important activities in the Caribbean this summer.** Together with Earth Eco, STINAPA and CORAL, the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is putting together a comprehensive program with lots of activities for visitors. For example, during the International Year of the Reef Week (June 21-28), Earth Eco's guest speakers for that week will be Jan and Alexandra Cousteau, who will also guide dives.



► This week the *State of the World's Sea Turtles* magazine headlines a story that describes what is one of the **longest recorded migrations of any vertebrate, a leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)** that was satellite-tagged in Jamursba-Medi, Indonesia, and swam across the Pacific to the coast of Oregon in the US—a total distance of 20,558 kilometers

(12,774 miles) over 647 days.

The longest measured annual migration of any animal, terrestrial or marine, is the sooty shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) of nearly 64,000 kilometers (approximately 40,000 miles) between New Zealand and the North Pacific.

► **Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino in Bonaire has renovated all guest rooms** with new furniture, draperies, and bedding. Studio suite renovations will begin this year and will include new kitchen appliances, granite countertops, new bathroom fixtures, furnishings, and bedding. Divi Flamingo has also gone wireless, with free Internet access now available throughout the property.

Divi Resorts represents a group of nine resorts on six Caribbean islands. There is still no construction activity at the former Sunset beach Hotel site off the traffic circle that Divi said it planned to build on last year.

► **MCB Bonaire now has 10 ATM sites spread over the island from the airport to Rincon.** Most US and European bank cards are acceptable for transactions.



► Another sign of Bonaire's exploding economy is the plan in the second half of 2008 for **Orco Bank to open a branch on Bonaire.** Director Kenny Canword expects increased interest from business and private investors on the island. Orco bank is active on Curacao and Aruba. The relatively small Orco Bank saw its loan portfolio grow 30% in 2007 and has 30 employees.



► **Well-known Bonairean captains of industry assisted by local artists will make and sign their works of art.** The unique works are to be auctioned and revenues will be used to fund several Bonaire Lion's Club projects amongst which are *Drecha*

*Kas* (renovation of houses of the less fortunate in the Bonairean society) and other pending projects.

Workshops are at the Bonaire Lion's Club Den (parking place behind church in Playa) on January 23, 26, 29, 30, starting at 5:30 pm. Artists may choose the date (s) that suits them. The Exposition will be February 22-29 at the Plaza Resort.

On Saturday, March 1, at the Plaza Resort there will be a dinner from 5:30 to 7:30pm, followed by the auction at 8pm. Tickets are NAf65 for the dinner and auction. For reservations call 717-3015, fax 717-3015, or e-mail dickdisselbonaire@flamingotv.net.

► **The Bonaire Barracudas Swim Team** is preparing for a busy year in 2008. Major competitions this spring include the CARIFTA Games, Inter-island School Competition and the Dutch Caribbean Invitational Meet. Team members do Open Water training every other Sunday in front of the Black Durgon Inn.

► **The Bonaire Island Government announced this week that Bonaire will get a €20 million subsidy** from the European Union for the implementation of the sewage project. *The Reporter* detailed the plan and progress in the last edition.

According to Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas it represents the culmination of attempts extending back over 18 years to get financing committed. "I am very satisfied," he said. "The agreement is signed and the invitation to bid can

Continued on pg. 13

► At the start of its 46<sup>th</sup> year in Bonaire **Maduro & Curiel's Bank announced that it will construct a new NAf 6.5 million building** across from its present Hato



branch. The bank will use the 1,140 m<sup>2</sup> space to accommodate management and the credit, bankcard, legal and collection departments. Popita Engelhart and Chun Miao "Michi" Zhen, the oldest and youngest employees of the bank, laid the first stone, representing the bank's 91 employees. Crèche Bon Kuido, Speelschool Jiwiri and crèche Hardin Tia Sus each received donations of NAf 5,000. Completion is set for 2Q-2009.





► **Rudsel Leito is the lucky winner of the MoneyCard** campaign launched by Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. in connection with its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Leito, who had purchased a Kompa Leon MoneyCard, was awarded an MCB VISA Moneycard valued at \$100. In the photo Mr. Leito is being given the card by Ms. Gilda Beukenboom (right), chief of the credit card department and Ms. Orphaline Saleh, Assistant Director of the bank.


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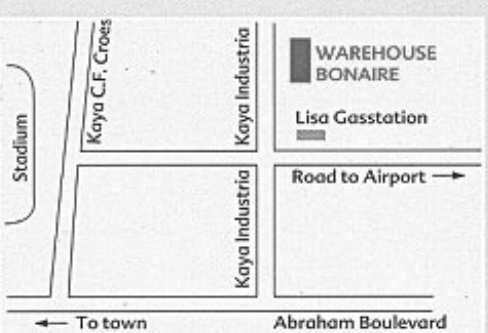
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# CLEAR BLUE WATER NEWS

## MONITORING BONAIRE'S REEF-WATER QUALITY

Bonaire strives to maintain its leadership role in the conservation of coral reefs, its precious natural resource, by using modern technology to produce scientific data to study sea water quality around the island to be able to provide early warning of ecologically threatening situations. This past August, the Bonaire National Marine Park, under the advice and guidance of Ramon de Leon, BNMP Manager, "Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire" (STINAPA), announced the launching of the "Light and Motion Sensor Program" (LMSP). With cooperation of the Harbormaster, the battery powered, optical sensor devices are being deployed at selected locations along the entire leeward coast of Bonaire. Unseen from the surface, the "Rainbow Moorings" do not interfere with boat traffic or the natural beauty of the seacoast and are visited by a team of on-island diver volunteers each week for service and data retrieval. This 10-year-long project is entirely funded by private donations from concerned and interested individuals and is being carried out by volunteers on Bonaire and in America at the University of Southern California

(USC).

New donations for the first weeks of January are: Joy Johnson, additional \$150 added to her original \$300 to now name a full "Rainbow Mooring" for recently deceased, island resident and LMSP volunteer, Chile Ridley. Additionally, Tricia & Gary Rowen, residents at the Sand Dollar Resort, have donated \$450 for a "Rainbow Mooring" to be named later and deployed on the north coast in February or March. Another \$150 was transferred to the Sea Monitor Foundation account from an anonymous contributor in the US, who also resides on Bonaire on a part time basis.

Recent Sensor Service Reports have generated the following comments by our team of Diver Volunteers:

Thursday, January 10, 2008 ... Lots of fish in the water around the mooring, creole wrasse, brown chromis, a school of silver-sides went by near the surface. Also noticed what looked like mucus floating in small clumps through the water column. Fish eggs? Later in the dive, saw a school of Horse-eyed Jacks cruzin' by out in the blue water at about 80 feet. Saw many eels and scorpion fish. Cindi observed an aggressive confrontation between a grouper and a spotted moray - after the sand cloud cleared, the moray

swam away.- Cindi & John Jensen  
Tuesday, January 08, 2008, ...  
Special day today! While cleaning the top sensor set, two dolphins were circling the mooring and checking out the LMSP activities. After the cleaning and data collection, we proceeded on the dive. On the way back at 12-14 feet the dolphins returned. They were very playful and approached to within 5-feet. Too bad no camera with us... - Mike & Ellyn Bernhagen,



Sea Monitor Foundation photo

### Algae growth on a sensor at 20m (66') depth

Sunday, January 06, 2008.... The line, bottles, and floats are all very overgrown. We will undertake a thorough cleaning of all next week. The sensors themselves show a light growth of algae each week. There were eight large horseye jacks cruising past the array as we cleaned and read.- Lynn & Todd Fulks

Friday, January 18, 2008..... Algae Growth:...Interestingly, there was quite a bit more algae growth at the 12M depth than the 5M depth for a change. Water cooling down. 79F. Nothing else particular to report....except that I spotted a juvenile fish that I can't identify. Guess I'll have to go back for a



Sea Monitor Foundation photo

### Albert Bianculli checks a sensor

better look. OH, a large Barracuda was curious and came in for a closer look while we were cleaning. The Aida cruise ship was coming in and docking during the dive. That made it a particularly noisy dive. The fish don't seem to mind it, but I do. - Bill Wildin

Wednesday, January 09, 2008 ... a couple of yellowtail jacks were very curious about the cleaning and data collection process. They followed us from the sensor array at 5m down to the 20m array. We couldn't convince them to help with the cleaning though, but they were nice company.

Somewhere along the line between 5-10 m I noticed a small "worm" swimming near the line. Took a picture with Cindi's hand as a backdrop (attached). Looking at the picture, it looks like a baby eel, but I don't know for sure. Also, I noticed a single small slender filefish (thumbnail-sized) on the mooring line at about 10m. With no cur-

rent, Cindi's bubbles were streaming past along the mooring line and the small guy roared them upward and out of sight before I could get my camera to take a decent picture. - Cassandra Neal

**For more information contact:** Ramon de Leon, Manager of the BNMP, [marinepark@stinapa.org](mailto:marinepark@stinapa.org). To donate or to volunteer contact: Albert Bianculli, SEA MONITOR Foundation, [directab@gmail.com](mailto:directab@gmail.com). □ Albert Bianculli

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# BONAIREAN VOICES *Keeping Bonaire Clean*

The reason for my column is to let the Bonairean people express themselves through The Bonaire Reporter. There are many issues that concern our people, but we never stop for a moment to hear their voices. With this column they can express and educate themselves. Questions and remarks can be sent to The Reporter. (info@bonairenews.com)



## Traffic

Our first topic is about traffic. Nearly everybody knows that at the end of the year 2007, traffic claimed two lives. During my interview with different people they all agreed that our traffic is getting dangerous.

As an elderly lady of 79 said, "In the past we didn't have so many cars. In Rincon they had the first, the one and only car they called *Kachipin*. It helped the people from Rincon to get their provisions in Playa, al-

though some liked to walk from Rincon to Playa rather than pay a few cents to get the services from the *Kachipin*. Life was hard but there were few accidents." She continued, saying, "We are missing respect for each other in traffic. A lot of young people are getting their drivers' licenses and the authorities have to make more severe laws. Fixing the roads is another option to avoid more accidents. People are concerned about the donkeys on the road, but in the past people raised donkeys at home and there weren't a lot of donkeys wandering loose, so things have changed a lot."

And when I decided to go on with my interviews, a young man of 29 said, "Traffic has become a horror. People are doing whatever they want on the roads by driving in crazy ways, going wild and competing in races with others on the road." In his opinion, "The police have to give a good example in this matter by enforcing the laws, paying more attention and controlling the traffic. A lot of people take chances driving in forbidden areas; most of the traffic signs are in bad shape; the white strips are fading; the roads between Playa and Rincon are in urgent need of reflectors. Bonaire has a

lot of cars; all young people with a driver's license want to get a car; and our roads are pretty in bad shape. So the authorities should listen to what our people have to say about this matter."

A 19-year-old school girl I interviewed said, "Automobile drivers don't give preferences any more to others, causing traffic jams. The police should control cars that are not in good shape which can cause problems in traffic. According to a 15-year-old girl, "Traffic has its good and bad sides. On the good side you see the island increasing in population, but what you see in the peak hours, 7:30 am, 12noon and 5 pm, is getting worse. Lots of people don't take notice of the most important things in traffic like the zebra crossings, animals, bicycles and motorcycles. Traffic has its dangers and I wish that in 2008 it would get better."

**So those in authority, having heard these comments, should try to make changes.**

We don't want our traffic to become like that in other countries. □

Siomara E. Albertus



SELIBON photo  
Director of SELIBON NV, Jonchie Dortalina, a representative of Telbo NV and Hamoudy Daboussi of City Shop congratulate grand prize winner, little Sue-Ella Christian.

The top three winners in SELIBON's plastic bag collection contest in the primary schools were announced in a live TV show on BoTV on January 12. They are:

**Sue-Ella Christian** in Group 2 of Kolegio San Luis Betran won a computer donated by di City Shop and a year's internet connection by Telbo NV.

**Zena Spong** Of Cycle 1, Group 2 of Kolegio San Luis Bertan won a weekend for four persons at Sand Dollar Condominium, donated by Sand Dollar.

**Jean Marie Agostien** in Class 2D at Kolegio Papa Cornes was awarded a bicycle donated by Fundahon Tene Bonieru Limpi.

More than 55 thousand discarded plastic bags were collected by the schoolchildren during the three-month campaign.

SELIBON and the Fundashon Tene Bonieru Limpi (Keep Bonaire Clean Foundation) thank the other sponsors, the public and the participants for their enthusiasm and cooperation. In 2008 SELIBON will again organize campaigns to maintain the awareness to keep Bonaire clean.

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# Toys of the Rich and Famous

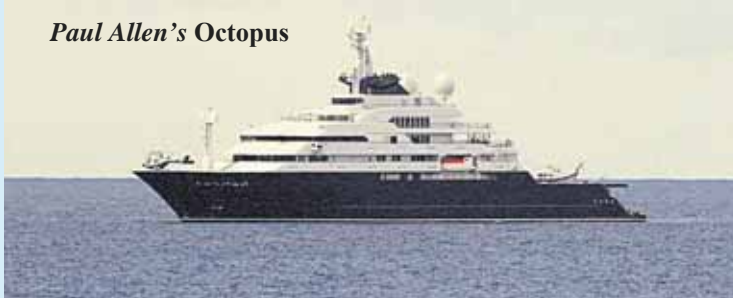
The rich and famous are arriving from other parts of the world to play in Bonaire waters for a season. Here's how we can tell.

January 1 saw Paul Allen's *Octopus* arrive almost mid island but some three to four miles out. The dock was used by the *Octopus* Zodiacs to transport items needed by the guests aboard, but the fine lady, as of January 5, had not yet graced the docks of Bonaire which she has done in years past.

*Octopus* was the largest individually owned yacht, launched in 2003, with a hull length of 214 feet, and still holds the prestigious spot as the most luxurious yacht afloat with its two helicopters, a submarine that can take eight people and stay submerged for over two weeks, a full gym and a remote ocean bottom crawler, camera equipped to view the ocean floor, and a glass bubble mounted in the hull for guest to witness the passing of fish, turtles and other sea animals. The yacht is reported by *Forbes* magazine to have a construction cost of \$200 million and a yearly upkeep cost of \$20 million, provided the fuel tanks with a 250,000-gallon capacity do not have to be topped off too many times. With a crew of 60, it will be hard to put a glass down on a table and not have it refilled and the spot wiped immediately.

Saturday morning, January 5, saw a few well fed guests leave the offshore yacht (which was seemingly drifting in the warm currents controlled by thrusters and GPS) via helicopter about 7:30 am and arrive at Flamingo Airport in just minutes from their take off in a Sikorsky S-76C. The helicopter has a seating capacity of 12 people and is owned by Vulcan Aircraft in Seattle, Washington. The civilian version of the helicopter was designed from the military UH-60 Black Hawk and has a top speed of 287 miles per hour. The British Royal family also uses the S-76C for their transportation.

After a long wait of five to six



Paul Allen's Octopus



BD-700-1A10



Sikorsky S-76C

minutes the guests strolled, at their leisure, over to their jet that will whisk them to any part of the world. The BD-700 can easily be purchased for a mere \$40 million. The range on the BD-700-1A10 jet is New York to Tokyo non-stop and can transport 23 passengers to the far parts of the world with only one fuel stop. The flight speed is 552 miles per hour with a ceiling of 51,000 feet. It too is owned by Vulcan Aircraft located in Seattle, Washington. To a lesser degree, but certainly beyond a poor man's dream, there were other aircraft spotted on Saturday. The Westwind 1125 was parked next to the BD-700 so those present assumed some of the guests of the *Octopus* were using it for their transportation. This aircraft is reported to now be selling in the \$3.5 to 4.5 million range and was owned by British Creek Air LLC stationed in Den-

ver, Colorado.

Other large yachts such as the *High Chaparral* and the sail boat *Passe Partout* were seen at the docks this morning, but space will not permit further descriptions.

Bonaire is not only the diving paradise of the world but it is also the tropical playground of the mega wealthy. □

Story & photos by  
Bob Lassiter



# ART FOR FUN

## Elmer's Glue

Just recently I was reading some fun facts from one of my art publications and found some items of interest that I would like to share with you. Maybe you can apply them to everyday life in Bonaire. Here they are:

Maybe we could help the flamingos, parakeets or loras with this one! "Elmer's Glue isn't just for arts and crafts projects. In a joint effort with Elmer's, Sea World of San Antonio used Elmer's Glue to save the life of a baby penguin. A quick-thinking penguin expert covered an unhatched penguin's cracked egg with Elmer's Glue-All." The egg was successfully incubated, and the result was a baby penguin, named Elmer after its savior"

"You never know how Elmer's Glue might save the day. When a potted cactus fell on a six-year-old girl, emergency room doctors came up with a unique solution to remove the 600 hard-to-see spines stuck in her arms. The solution: Elmer's Glue. A pediatrician poured the glue on the child's arms, dried it with a surgical lamp and peeled away the

This article is part of a series by Janice Huckaby of JanArt. Call 599 717-5246 or 791-5246 for information on art lessons or to view her artworks



Now there's a better way.

needles." So now in Bonaire, if you get a cactus stuck in your foot or leg while out hiking, or while repairing your 4-wheel drive flat tire because of a cactus, you can pour on the glue (on yourself or your tire?) sun-bake until the glue dries and pull it off with all the needles intact! Maybe we should consider adding Elmer's to our first aid kit. □

Janice Huckaby



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# The Bonaire Gardener Art Exhibition

The Bonaire Reporter welcomes back the popular column, *The Bonaire Gardener*. How we and our gardens have missed it. Here's Ap:

First of all, we from Green Label wish all the people in Bonaire a happy new year.

After a very busy year, I will start again what I promised to many readers - to start my column again for *The Bonaire Reporter* and I will do so every month.

With all these new fellow Bonairean inhabitants, maybe I have to introduce myself again. My name is Ap van Eldik and I'm the owner of Green Label Landscaping.

Last year we moved our garden center from the cozy corner on Kaya Nicolaas Debrot to Kaya Industria, behind TIS (The Island Trader) and that didn't leave me too much time to write the column. But now we are more settled and enjoying all that new space to grow more and more of our own plants. So now I have more time, and with all the development going on in Bonaire, maybe we can add in a positive way our thoughts and experiences.

There has been something on my mind for a long time that I



would like to write about. There is a lot of discussion going on about our septic tank water. Everybody agrees that the situation as it is now with the dumping of the water at Lagoen (at LVV) is not good and a lot of people are working very hard to solve this problem. The solution will come in the form of a sewage plant, but it will take a lot of time before this is completed. Thank God all new construction will have septic tanks and no more *beerputs* (cesspools) are allowed.

But I've also read a lot of negative press about septic tank water being used for irrigating the plants in your garden. Of course, I agree that no septic tank water should be able to reach our beautiful reefs, but with more and more houses being built and the other solutions being still far off, the re-use of this water is still much more preferable to dumping

it.

Even on seashore properties, with a good balance of the water and the number of plants, this is a good way of re-using the water. With a well installed irrigation system, with not too many big drippers and, most importantly, good maintenance, all of this water can be absorbed by the plants. We now sell a product in our shop that reduces the number of nutrients and takes away a lot of the smell. Believe me, this is not the best solution, but it sure helps to find a good solution for this waste water problem.

Next time I will write more about this topic and how to create a good balance between the water you have and the number of plants in your garden so you don't overwater them or have to add a lot of Web water. □ Ap Van Eldik

Ap founded Green Label Landscaping which designs, constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. The garden shop carries all your gardening needs plus terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Tel. 717-8310, 566-6033.

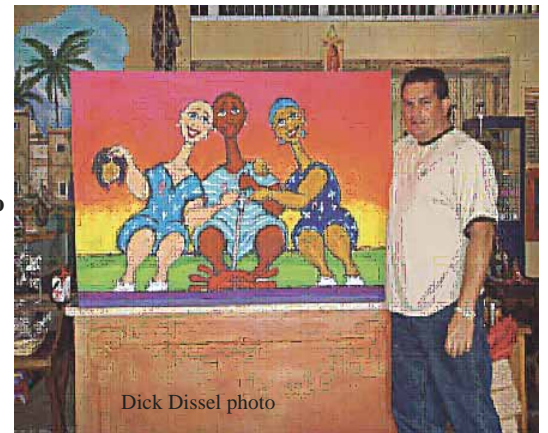


André Nagtegaal, an upcoming young Antillean artist, will have an exhibition at Kas di Arte February 4 to 29. His specialty is recording the disappearing culture of our islands.

He says, "I lived on Curacao all my life and adore the island. When people ask me where do you get your inspiration from I tell them: if you live for 40 years somewhere you truly love, the stories get embedded in you. Culture always fascinated me, and being pretty nosy and eager to learn, I got to know a lot about this wonderful 'rock' .... and still learn more and more each day."

When you ask him when he started painting, he answers, "I was always painting, but nothing serious until 2002. At the Peter Stuyvesant College everybody knew which table was mine: doodles, sketches drawn with a pencil all over the place. My true 'addiction' for painting started in 2002 when a friend of mine gave me a canvas to paint on. I still have that first one ..... my treasure!"

"My island's culture is slowly fading away into oblivion and this



Dick Dissel photo

is my way of helping to preserve it. My naive paintings shine with the island's perception of daily life (past and present). Proud, happy people with long necks, depicting poses in colorful bright contrasting colors in which I try to 'record' the traditional aspects that are slowly fading away through time. It's a journey that started in 2006 and has me floating in this sea of amazement every day and I wonder where it will take me next. It's something like a dynamic recording in motion, updated on a daily basis." □ Dick Dissel

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## Pet of The Week

"Jack" was recently brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter and already he's gained a reputation as a smart, busy little character. Maybe that's because he has some Jack Russell blood, and he seems to have gotten the best characteristics of the breed. Jack needs a firm hand and someone who can take the time to train him. That person's efforts will be well rewarded with a smart, clever, obedient and fun loving dog. Jack is about six months old, he's healthy and social and has been sterilized already. You may see him at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. ☐L.D.



"Jack"

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## Bonaire NOT



We couldn't resist showing you how many dogs in Buenos Aires get their exercise. As far as we could tell all the dogs were very well behaved with each other and showed lots of enthusiasm to get going when the professional dog walker showed up. Luckily, the city is dotted with beautiful parks with lots of trees to accommodate the pets. ☐ L.D.



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# Dee Scarr's Coral Glimpses



*This group of young squid, hanging under a floating mooring line, watches me curiously. –caption and photo by Dee Scarr*

Dee Scarr is an environmentalist and experienced naturalist whose goal is to help you better understand marine creatures through her writings and slide presentations. She was honored for her contributions to the scuba world by induction into the Women Divers Hall of Fame in 2000.

A PADI scuba and specialty instructor, Dee has published three books: *Touch the Sea*, *Coral's Reef*, and *The Gentle Sea*, and her articles and photos appear

in *The New Guide to the Bonaire Marine Park, Dive Training, Skin Diver, The Bonaire Reporter* and other publications.

Dee offers close contact **TOUCH THE SEA** dives for all Bonaire divers.

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# Bubbles from the Biologist

## Did You Know...

That anemones attach to the substrate/ground by hydrostatic pressure, but when conditions become unfavorable they can move away...

Anemones are fascinating animals. Some species swim using their tentacles, others by contracting the muscles in their column and others can walk! There is even one, Sydney's 'Swimming Anemone' (*Phlyctenactis tuberculosa*), that can bend and use its tentacles to help it crawl 'inch-worm' fashion! It stays collapsed during the day and then crawls to the tips of plants to feed at night.

There are some anemones that hitch a ride on the backs of other organisms (a good example of this being the 'Cloak Anemone' which has a symbiotic relationship with hermit crabs). Others can inflate their bodies and be carried away by the tides. Anemones of one family (*Minyadidae*) are wholly pelagic and float upside-down in the sea by means of a gas bubble enclosed in their base!

Finally, *Liponema brevicornis* – found in the Bering Sea – is capable of drawing itself into a spherical form that can be rolled freely about the sea floor by currents! Now how incredible is that?!?

Didn't I tell you anemones were amazing?

Here are some sites to find out more!

[http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news\\_detail.lasso?id=7438](http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=7438)

<http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20050604/fob2.asphttp://www.pznw.co.uk/marine/cnidaria.html>. □ Claire Dell



Photo of crab by Sipke Stapper

*Decorator crab adorned with an anemone.*

Claire has an MS in aquatic bioscience and will be working at CIEE Research Station until May.

*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 7)*

take place. The start of the project is set for at the beginning of next year."

One of the reasons for the delay was to ensure the protection of the environment. The project includes digging and installing the sewerage lines and water treatment. The treatment will be on the LVV site and WEB is charged with the implementation.

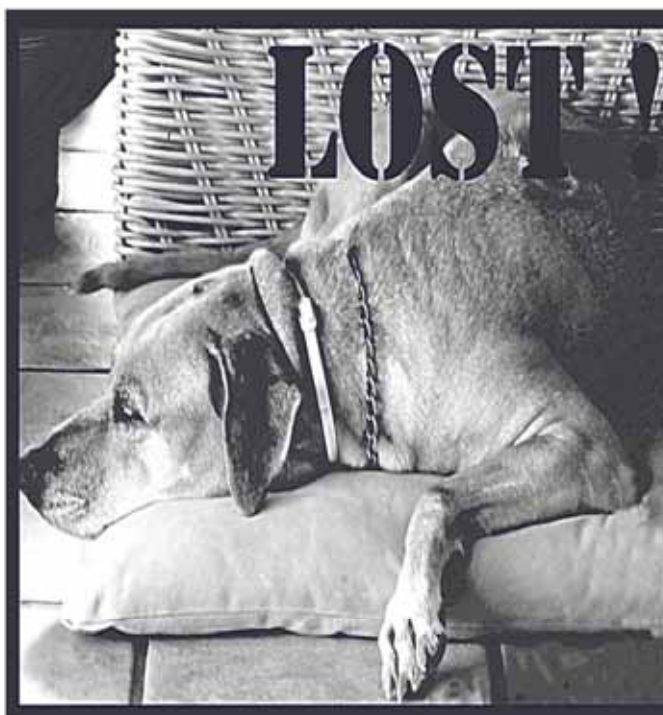
Waste water will be converted into water suitable for irrigation at the seaside resorts. This current phase will include homes and businesses within 1/2 km of the shoreline from Hato to Punt Vierkant, with a buffer area of 500 meters. All cesspools in that area will be eliminated as well to prevent waste water reaching the sea.

► **Post Office patrons will have to pay more** for certain postal products and services beginning February 1. The increase is based on a formula approved by the government. Management said in a press release that postal tariffs for certain of its products will be increased by 2.5 %. This means that the current cost to send a local 20 gram letter will be increased by 2 cents - from NAf 1.04 to NAf 1.06.

The rates for sending letters abroad will not be increased.

► **The Sixth Annual Special Olympics Bonaire (SOB) Walk-a-Thon will indeed be held, according to the Board.** It will be a Sunday in March, the date to be announced after we have gone to press. So now is the time to start training for this popular fund raising event, a 30-kilometer walk from the Slave Huts at the south end of the island to Rincon. You may walk, run, jog, ride a bike, even roller blade. You may join as an individual or with a group. All the proceeds go to a great cause – sending our Special Olympics athletes to compete in international games. More detailed information about tickets, what you get for your money, hints from walkers and a list of sponsors in the next edition of *The Reporter*.

► **Jong Bonaire will hold the first Jong Bonaire Fun Walk on the 17th of February.** The 20 Km. distance is a good warm-up for the 30 km, Special Olympics Walkathon the next month. It starts at 7 am at Wilhelmina Park. The cost is NAf 15 for adults and NAf 10 for kids under 12. More details in Happenings (pg. 16) and in the next edition of *The Reporter*, Friday, February 8. □



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# DINING GUIDE

| RESTAURANT   | PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN   | FEATURES  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Balashi Beach Bar</b><br><b>Bar and Beach Service</b><br>At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront                   | <b>Open every day</b><br>8am - 8pm.<br>Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.                       | On the beach<br>Extensive snack/salad/burger menu<br>available daily from noon.   |
| <b>Bella Vista Restaurant, Buddy's Pool Bar</b><br>Sea Side at Buddy Dive Resort<br>717-5080, ext. 538                     | Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am -<br>Lunch daily 11:30<br>Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm | <b>Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> 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) |
| <b>Bistro de Paris</b><br>Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46<br>(half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070                         | Moderate<br>Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am—3 pm<br>Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 pm          | <b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting<br>Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef<br>Owner-operated Eat in or Take away   |
| <b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b><br>At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront<br>717-8285 | Moderate-Expensive<br>Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner<br>Open 7 days                              | <b>Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday</b><br>from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28,50 or \$16.  |
| <b>Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant</b><br>One block south of the Post Office<br>717-4433                                 | Moderate<br>Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30<br>Dinner 7 nights—starting at 6 pm                     | <b>Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian</b><br>Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm<br>Great value anytime.  |
| <b>Hilltop Restaurant</b><br>At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road<br>717-7901                           | Moderate<br>Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner  | <b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country</b><br>Frequent Dinner Specials<br>Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.  |
| <b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b><br>On Kaya Gob. Debrot<br>½ mile north of town center. 780-1111                                      | Low-Moderate<br>Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday  | Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too.<br>Call ahead to eat-in or take out 780-1111              |

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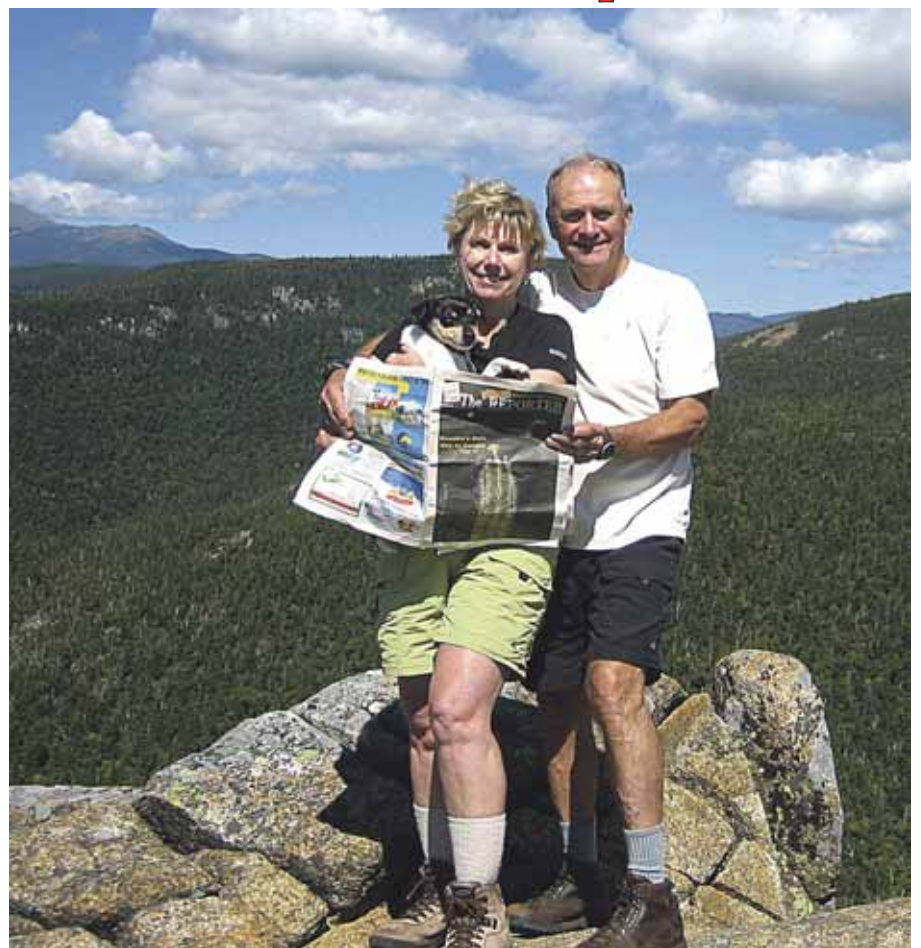
# Picture Yourself With The Reporter Buenos Aires, Argentina



**T**he Bonaire Reporter is at more weddings than a priest these days. Santiago Umashi, an Argentinean, and Stephanie Shepard, an American, decided to marry in Buenos Aires because it's far easier for US citizens to travel to Argentina than for Argentineans to visit the US. It was a typical boisterous Argentine wedding with endless food and dancing. The couple will live in the Boston, MA area and hope to honeymoon in Bonaire later this year. □

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com). (All 2007 photos are eligible.)

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter Mt Crawford, New Hampshire, US



**M**arsha and Fred Rutz with pup, "Rocky," on top of Mt. Crawford in the White Mountains of New Hampshire with Mount Washington (which boasts of having recorded the highest speed wind (231 mph-372 kph) ever recorded, in the background. They have been visiting Bonaire since 1986 and will be coming this year on January 30th. □

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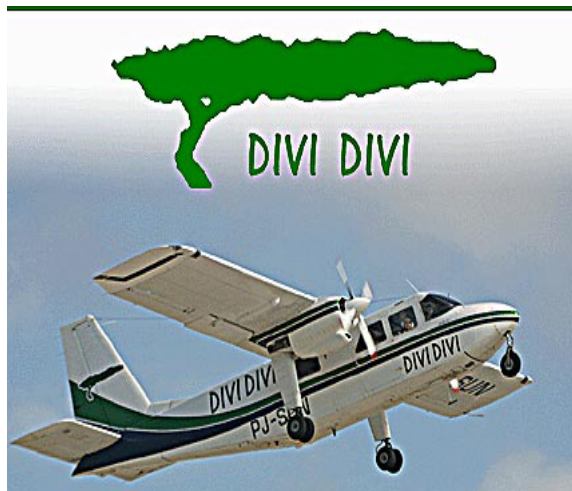


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| DATE | Time  | Ht.    | Time  | Ht.    | Time  | Ht.    | Time  | Ht.    | COEF |
|------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|------|
| 1-24 | 14:01 | 1.8FT. | 22:54 | 0.9FT. |       |        |       |        | 94   |
| 1-25 | 14:44 | 1.7FT. | 23:18 | 1.0FT. |       |        |       |        | 88   |
| 1-26 | 7:30  | 1.4FT. | 10:45 | 1.4FT. | 15:32 | 1.5FT. | 23:37 | 1.0FT. | 79   |
| 1-27 | 7:05  | 1.5FT. | 14:13 | 1.3FT. | 16:10 | 1.3FT. | 23:40 | 1.1FT. | 68   |
| 1-28 | 7:28  | 1.6FT. | 16:16 | 1.2FT. | 17:44 | 1.2FT. | 22:37 | 1.1FT. | 56   |
| 1-29 | 7:55  | 1.8FT. | 16:58 | 1.0FT. |       |        |       |        | 45   |
| 1-30 | 8:21  | 1.8FT. | 17:46 | 0.9FT. |       |        |       |        | 35   |
| 1-31 | 8:49  | 1.9FT. | 18:19 | 0.9FT. |       |        |       |        | 31   |
| 2-01 | 9:22  | 2.0FT. | 18:49 | 0.8FT. |       |        |       |        | 32   |
| 2-02 | 9:51  | 2.0FT. | 19:26 | 0.8FT. |       |        |       |        | 39   |
| 2-03 | 10:20 | 2.0FT. | 19:59 | 0.8FT. |       |        |       |        | 49   |
| 2-04 | 10:55 | 2.0FT. | 20:27 | 0.8FT. |       |        |       |        | 59   |
| 2-05 | 11:32 | 2.0FT. | 20:58 | 0.8FT. |       |        |       |        | 70   |
| 2-06 | 12:05 | 1.9FT. | 21:31 | 0.9FT. |       |        |       |        | 79   |
| 2-07 | 12:45 | 1.9FT. | 21:54 | 0.9FT. |       |        |       |        | 87   |
| 2-08 | 13:30 | 1.7FT. | 22:06 | 1.0FT. |       |        |       |        | 92   |
| 2-09 | 3:57  | 1.3FT. | 6:36  | 1.2FT. | 14:13 | 1.6FT. | 22:02 | 1.1FT. | 93   |

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON



**KARNAVAL 2008 SCHEDULE**  
Thanks to Fukabo

**Thursday, January 24 – Jump up, Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador, 18:00-20:00**  
**Friday, January 25 – Election Queen, Prince and Pancho (Adults), Jong Bonaire 20:00**  
**Saturday, January 26– Children's Karnaval Parade – Rincon 15:00-18:00**  
**Sunday, January 27 – Children's Karnaval Parade – Playa 15:00-18:00**  
**Thursday, January 31 – Karnaval Party – City Café 20:00-01:00**  
**Friday, February 1 – School Parade & Jump Up, Rincon**  
**Saturday, February 2 – Adults' Karnaval Parade – Rincon, 15:00-18:00**  
**Sunday, February 3 – Adults' Karnaval Parade – Playa, 14:00-18:00**  
**Monday, February 4 – Children's Farewell Parade 17:00-20:00, Party at Rincon**  
**Tuesday, February 5 – Adults' Farewell Parade, Playa – 19:00-24:00**  
**Wednesday, February 6 – Shinshi – Burning of Momo**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**February 4—29 –Andre Nagtegaal Art Exhibit, "My Gigis" - Kas di Arte, 5-9 pm (more on page 11)**  
**Wednesday, February 6—Ash Wednesday -- Lent begins**  
**Saturday, February 9 - Mountain Bike Tour for riders of all levels of experience, 3:45 pm. Contact Bonaire Wellness Connexions BV; Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot 73**  
**Sunday, February 17—1st Jong Bonaire Fun Walk. Fundraiser, more details in the next issue.**  
**February 22-29 –Art Show Exhibit by Bonaire's Captains of Industry, Plaza Hotel**  
**Saturday, March 1—Dinner & Auction, Captains of Industry Art Show. Dinner 5:30-7:30 pm, Auction 8 pm. Naf65. Phone/fax 717-3015, email dickdisselbonaire@flamingotv.net (More on page 7)**

## Coming in March—Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Arts & Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, 10 am-2 pm:**  
Tues., Jan. 29-*Sea Princess*;  
Wed., Jan 30-*Summit*;  
Wed., Feb. 6-(2 ships) *Crown Princess, Summit*;  
Sun., Feb. 10—(2 ships)- *Queen Mary 2, Emerald Princess*

## REGULAR EVENTS

- The popular **SGB High School restaurant, Chez Nous**, has recently reopened to the public. Four-course dinners with welcome cocktail on Tuesdays. Seating begins at 6 pm. Lunches on Wednesday & Thursdays. Call 717-8120, ask for Chez Nous or email: keesleeman@telbonet.an
- 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 playground open every day into the evening hours.

## Saturdays

**Steak Night On the Beach** (a la carte) with live mariachi- **Buddy Dive Resort, 6—10pm**

- 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](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon).
- All You Can Eat BBQ at Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.
- 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 Koeks for more information—796-7870.
- Mountain Bike Training for riders of all levels (also Tuesday) at 5pm.** Bonaire Wellness Connexions, Eden Beach, 785-0767, email [info@bonairewellness.com](mailto: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

- "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

**Le Boulevard Restaurant**, open 9 – 10:30 am. Only on Fridays. Coffee, tea, homemade baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27

- 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
- 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-Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea Slide Presentation, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8529**  
**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 holi-

days. 717-8444/785-0017

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

**AA meetings** - every **Wednesday**; Phone : 786-4651 or 786-7699 .  
**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, Naf2.50. Call Joop 717-5903 or be there by 7:15.  
**Darts Club** plays every other **Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.  
**JCI - First Wednesday of the Month-** Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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  
**Ministerio di Kristu Hesus** Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.  
**Send event info to:**  
**The Bonaire Reporter**  
Email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel:790-6518 or 790-8988





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## Venus and Jupiter Meet Again

Please don't miss next week's super sensational meeting of the two brightest planets in our solar system. Earlier in the Sky Park, on Monday of this week January 21st, when you faced south-east with a clear flat horizon you saw two incredibly bright lights, so bright you might mistake them for the landing lights of oncoming aircraft or two UFOs. The brighter was the brightest planet in our solar system, 8,000-mile-wide, Earth-sized **Venus**. And down to its left, the second brightest planet of them all and 11 times the width of Venus, 88,000-mile-wide **Jupiter**. Then Venus and Jupiter were only 11 degrees apart from each other, which is pretty simple to visualize if you think of a full **Moon** as being one half a degree wide, which means that we could fit 22 full Moons between them. But each morning from then on they move one degree or two full Moons closer to each other which is really fast for heavenly objects. In fact in only one week's time by Monday the 28th they will be only four degrees or eight full Moons apart.



Venus and Jupiter

And from then on you should take a look every single morning because the change from day to day will be very dramatic. On Tuesday the 29th they'll be only three degrees or six full Moons apart. On Wednesday the 30th only two degrees or four full Moons apart. And on Thursday January 31st, only one point 2 degrees or little more than two full Moons apart. The day of super closeness arrives as we welcome in the new month because on Friday February 1st these two brightest of all the planets will be at their very closest, only six-tenths of one degree apart which means we could just barely fit one full Moon between them. Believe me seeing these two brilliant objects so close together will simply knock your socks off.

And please remember that although you don't need any optical aid to see this wonderful sky show it's even more fun if you use a pair of binoculars or a small telescope. So please, please start watching some time this week. And starting next Monday the 28th watch every single morning as they close in on each other until on February 1st they practically slam into each other, visually speaking of course. And I say visually speaking because even though they'll look like they're super close and side by side nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact on February 1st Venus will be 107 million miles away but Jupiter will be over five times farther away than Venus a whopping 578 million miles. Wow! So start your Venus / Jupiter watch now. It's fun, it's free, it's science and it's beautiful. □

Jack Horkheimer

# Cafe Astrology

For February 2008



**Aries** - This month your confidence and energy levels increase after a period of lull. There is a long-term trend towards more detail work in your professional life, although work this month is quite pleasurable. Love moves from business-like and practical to friendly by mid-month, but overall more impersonal than you've been used to recently. Super days for love and money occur on the 1-2 and 25-26.

**Taurus** - In February, career and reputation matters take front stage for you. If you're hoping to escape attention, this is not the month! Others notice you for what you do--and for what you don't do--so keep it positive. It's a great time to earn recognition for your past efforts. Love in February involves sharing philosophies and good times, as well as professional goals, not only intimate moments.

**Gemini** - While you may be feeling on the groggy side until the 18th, your confidence builds in the last ten days of February and personal initiatives and projects get a second wind. You are beginning to feel braver and more energetic towards the end of February. Travel opportunities or other adventures that pull you out of your routine figure strongly this month.

**Cancer** - Although you are not moving forward quickly quite yet, events behind the scenes are at play, conspiring to get you back into high gear. Career matters begin to improve considerably, although career opportunities won't knock at your door until March. Partnerships and one-to-one negotiations are powerful and revealing this month.

**Leo** - Negotiations and diplomacy are highlighted in February, and it is a favorable time to begin new relationships or to re-define existing ones. Disagreements with friends or group connections clear up. Reassess your budget rather than jump prematurely into big purchases. Social opportunities arise on the job or through co-workers. Reassess your budget rather than jump prematurely into big purchases. Social opportunities arise on the job or through co-workers.

**Virgo** - February brings the beginnings of significant personal changes for you, dear Virgo. A solar eclipse stirs your need for more satisfaction from your work, and a lunar eclipse activates an urge to change your personal image in a manner that reflects the inner changes that have been in the works for the past six months. Re-assessing your work figures until the 18th, after which you are more decisive.

**Libra** - Your creative juices are flowing, and any kind of celebratory, playful, and just-for-fun endeavors are spotlighted in February for you. There is a strong sense of moving forward and being "on the same page". Opportunity periods occur on the 1-2 and 6-7, when cosmic energy favors you, particularly on romantic and mental levels. Family is a source of joy this month.

**Scorpio** - February is a strong month for making long-range plans for the future, doing any type of re-organizing or even re-modeling of the home or home environment, and for family-related activities. Home improvement is the focus. Work matters that have been stalling improve considerably, and work projects move forward.

**Sagittarius** - You are feeling very much at ease in the world of the mind this month, as well as in social situations. A taste for comfort and the good life takes hold, and you will need to watch your spending. A flurry of activity in the last week of the month surrounds your career. You are required to keep on your toes.

**Capricorn** - This month, you feel quite at ease expressing your more playful qualities. Money matters are strong but your urge to spend is also great. Before then, job matters could be frustrating and slow. A career opportunity could present itself on the 1-2, however.

**Aquarius** - A Solar Eclipse occurs on the 6th in your own sign, Aquarius, bringing dramatic changes to your outlook, manner, and confidence level. February is a personally busy time for you, when you are especially brave and ready to enjoy new experiences. After the 18th, your relationship with a lover or a child will begin to improve.

**Pisces** - While it can be an especially busy and even tumultuous month for many, you are more inclined to take it easy and enjoy some down time for the first few weeks of February. Friendships are rewarding and comfortable. Pay attention to a dream or your intuition on the 10th. A partner needs your attention around the 20th. □

Annie

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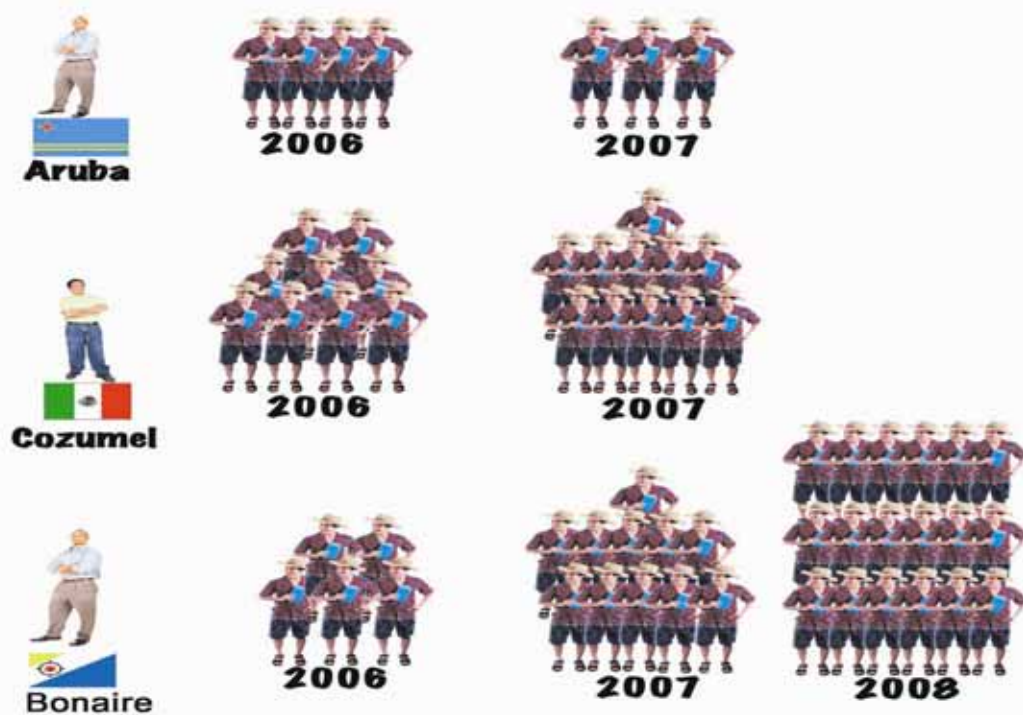
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# Mass Cruise Tourism Reaches Bonaire

# Eat Cactus

Cruise Passengers per local citizen



Several Bonaire government and tourism officials have often claimed Bonaire will never have mass cruise tourism, but what they fail to realize is that it is **already here**. There is no number to describe what exactly mass cruise tourism is so let's look at the number of cruise tourists on Bonaire and other Caribbean islands compared to the population mass of each island.

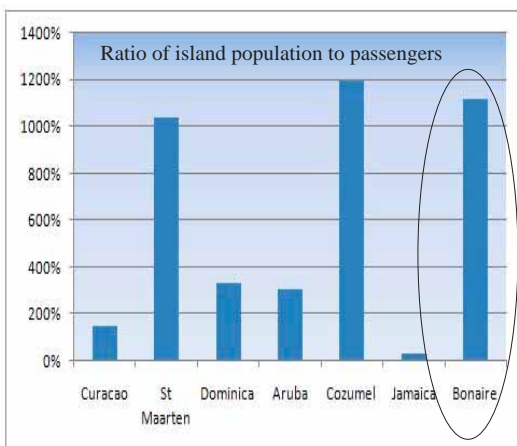
With this comparison it is clear that Bonaire now leads the region, along with Cozumel, in mass of cruise passengers compared to population. As a matter of fact, if cruise visitors increase to 254,000, as projected for next year, our cruise tourists will be almost double the ratio of other islands. This is clearly mass cruise tourism. Here are the statistics.

In this cruise season, only Cozumel, which is well known for its mass cruise tourism and depleted undersea environment, will have a slightly higher ratio of cruise visitors to local population. Cozumel's cruise tourists will be 1,194% greater than its population while Bonaire's cruise visitors will be just slightly less, with cruise visitors 1,119% greater than the population. **Bonaire, just like Cozumel, will have over 11 cruise visitors for every man, woman and child living on the island.**

But as mentioned above, it gets worse next year. **The 254,000 cruise visitors planned for Bonaire next year will mean that the island will have 1,814% more cruise visitors than population, or a ratio of over 18 for every person living on Bonaire. This will be by far the highest level of cruise visitor density in the entire Caribbean.**

A look at the chart will show the numbers of cruise visitors compared to population for the Caribbean region. The chart also shows that third place in the cruise visitor-to-population comparison behind Bonaire is St. Maarten, also well known for its mass of cruise tourism and wasted underwater scene.

It is also interesting to note that Aruba, well known for mass cruise tourism, is actually decreasing its number of cruise passengers, and its ratio of cruise visitors to population is lower than Bonaire's.  *Concerned Citizens*



Almost everyone on Bonaire arduously avoids the "tuna" cactus, better known as prickly pear. However, it is gaining popularity as an exotic, gourmet and healthy addition to one's diet. The prickly pear plant has two different edible sections: the pad of the cactus (nopales), which can be treated like a vegetable, and the pear (tuna), which can be treated like a fruit. They grow wild throughout Bonaire. In the US you may find them de-spined in the gourmet section for \$5/lb. But on Bonaire they are free for the taking from the roadside. The flavor of prickly pears has sometimes been compared to kiwi, but not as acidic.



A different kind of tuna salad

Find pads that are bright, green and firm. If you're harvesting them yourself, wear gloves! Snap the pads off of the plant or cut at the stem. Remove the spines from the pad by using a vegetable peeler or a paring knife. Don't take off the gloves until the pads are completely rinsed and the peeled remnants are cleared. The pads not only have large spines, but there are also tiny, invisible and far more irritating spines called glochids that are extremely difficult to remove from the skin. Run the pad under cool water.

Peel or cut off any discolorations or bruises on the pad.

Slice or cut the pads, or leave them whole, depending on what you will be using the nopales for.

Cook the nopales. They can be either boiled or grilled, as well as mixed with other ingredients to make unique, satisfying and healthy dishes.

If you grill the nopales, coat generously with pepper, salt, and other spices. They're ready when they're tender and slightly browned.

Grilled nopalitas strips can be seasoned with fresh lime juice and a little olive oil. You can also add grilled Portobello mushrooms to the mix. Try stirring the cooked nopales into soup, mixing them into a salad or omelet, pickling them, or eating them alone. The flesh of the prickly pear can even be used to make jam, jelly, sorbet, and "cactus candy."  G.D.

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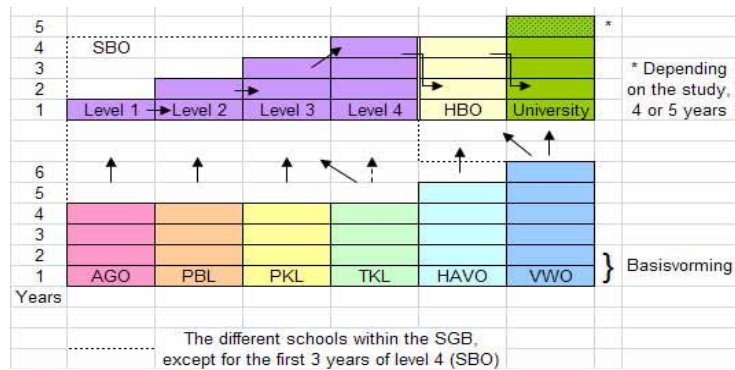
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# Island View



There is a Chinese saying:  
If you want one year of prosperity, plant corn.

If you want 10 years of prosperity, plant trees.

If you want 100 years of prosperity, educate people.

If you take this to the ballot, everybody would vote for 100 years. So, let us take a look at the education on Bonaire. Do you know what the *Scholengemeenschap Bonaire* (SGB -Community of Schools) has to offer for the children of this island? Between the reports of fighting and fireworks going off on school premises, have you ever had information about the school as a learning institution? If not, please take seat. Here is a general overview.

The SGB is a school which offers different paths. These paths all lead to new highways, roads, cart tracks and lanes. In other words, a diploma of the SGB is an entry permit for the continuation of education in order to be able to pursue a profession.

In the secondary education the SGB has six different paths. First, *Arbeidsgericht Onderwijs* (AGO: profession-directed education), and then three paths which are together called *Voorbereidend Secundair Beroepsonderwijs* (VSBO: preparatory secondary vocational education). VSBO is divided into *Praktisch Basisgerichte Leerweg* (PBL: basic vocational program), *Praktisch Kadergerichte Leerweg* (PKL: middle-management vocational program) and *Theoretisch Kadergerichte Leerweg* (TKL: middle-management theoretical program). The two paths which are left are *Hoger Algemeen Voortgezet Onderwijs* (HAVO: school of higher general secondary education) and *Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs* (VWO: pre-university education).

VSBO takes four years to complete. After the *basisvorming* (basic education) of two years the student can choose different directions in which he or she will graduate. The PBL student can choose between construction, metal technology, motor vehicle technology, hospitality, and care and health. The PKL student can choose between all the former directions and also administration/commerce and electrical engineering. The AGO student (although not a part of the VSBO) has the same choices as a PKL student, but instead of care and health they can choose AVMB (*algemene vorming voor maatschappij en beroep*: general training for society and profession). The TKL student can choose between technology, economy and care and health. Are you still with me here? I am just getting started.

What happens after the VSBO? The students can now enter the *Secundair Beroepsonderwijs* (SBO:

secondary vocational education), which, for some courses, can be completed at the SGB. Level 1 takes one year, Level 2, two years, etc... There are four levels in total (see chart). With an AGO diploma you can start at Level 1 (at FORMA). The PBL student has the skills to do Level 2, the PKL student will start at Level 3, and (you may already have guessed) the TKL student does Level 4. (Actually the TKL student will do Level 3 first, and then continue with a fourth year of Level 4.)

In theory, a student who starts at Level 1 can continue up to Level 4. The completion of one year Level 1 gives you access to the first year of Level 2. After Level 2 you can "flow" into the second year of Level 3. After that you follow the track of a TKL student.

After the first three years of HAVO or VWO, the student can choose between four 'profiles.' There is economy and society (EM), culture and society (CM), nature and technology (NT) and nature and health (NG). A profile determines what studies the student can pursue after getting his or her diploma. HAVO takes five years before coming close to holding that diploma. This diploma is the ticket to *Hoger Beroepsonderwijs* (HBO: college of higher education). The VWO student has to persevere for six years, and after successfully ending his or her secondary education, he or she can choose a study at the university.

The SBO, HBO and the university do not have to be the end stations. Completion of Level 4 at the SBO gives you the right to enter the HBO. A diploma of the HBO opens the doors to the universities. After university there are still the PhDs to do. The SGB gives every child on Bonaire a chance to complete his or her secondary education right here on the island. That is a start on those 100 years.

Do the teachers educate for 100 years of prosperity? No, they do it for the children. Even though the students lie through their teeth ("Yes, I've done my homework; I wrote it in white ink"), can be merciless ("Teacher, are you sick? You look horrible. You cannot teach like this."), and have raised sleepiness to an art form, a teacher goes to work for the children. The students enter the school as children and then something happens. You can see the promise of their growing, changing, developing, and hopefully blossoming into prosperous adults. □ *Mary Ann Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.*



# What's Coming Our Way ?

This time, checking out what's coming our way, we want to know more about the complex that is being built opposite the airport platform where the KLM aircrafts always park during passengers disembarkation. Until recently there was a large billboard on Kaya International, saying it was to be Waterlands Village, but the sign was taken away since they started erecting the wall that now surrounds the complex.

The development is located on one of the 10 peninsulas that were artificially created here over 20 years ago. At the time the Venezuelan investors wanted and got the permission to create a village around waters similar to one they had set up in Venezuela. With the help of dynamite and a lot of digging over two to three years, a system of canals was created. All the rubble that was excavated while digging was added to the peninsulas for elevation. It must have been a tremendous job at the time, and one wonders whether a project like this would have gotten approval nowadays, as it must have had its effects on the ecosystem and nearby coral reefs.

Just a few months ago we all heard about the controlled explosions of the leftover dynamite that were still on the island and had to be gotten rid of. The original village plan was never realized. The developer went bankrupt, and as a result all the peninsulas, with the exception of two, where parts of the Plaza Resort are now situated, were left deserted for years and years afterwards.

Now we suddenly see lots of activity on almost all of them and big numbers of workers. We hear and read names as Saramaca, Bahia Waterfront Villas, Azul Casitas, Hilton and others. These are all projects appearing here now. We may be back focusing on them later, but for now let's just see what Waterlands Village is all about.

We are told that the project consists of 24 cottages inspired by Indonesian architecture. Ah yes, we see the roofs, which look different indeed from what we usually see around on the island, giving the homes something of a Far Eastern touch. The cottages will be



fully furnished, and lots of furniture from Indonesia is currently coming in on the island. Now, furnished means fully furnished here, and even plates, spoons, knives and corkscrews are included in the package. As a new owner you don't need to bring anything more than your toothbrush and swimsuit, it seems.

All cottages were sold 'from the drawing board' by Harbourtown Real Estate -mostly to Dutch people plus a few from the US- and they needed about eight months to get the job done. Some of the cottages have even been re-sold before actually being finished. You can probably imagine that the realtors don't oppose this phenomena.

Our first impression when we had a look around is that Waterlands looks more like a resort than just a collection of houses. There's a swimming pool area and an office being constructed, and we are told that palms, trees and plants for the lush gardens-to-be are carefully being cultivated elsewhere on the island. For almost all owners the cottages will be their second home, and we may expect that the accommodations will be rented out to tourists anytime the owners will not be there themselves.

Looking around we see some funny details: all cottages have their own outside -but still pri-

vate- ample shower area. Designed nicely. We also see concrete benches in the living rooms. Just put cushions on them, and you'll have a couch that will last forever. Simple and strong. Kitchen cabinets and headboards are made out of concrete as well.

The majority of the cottages are on the waterfront while a few others are located somewhat closer to the main road. Some may probably comment that the latter is quite an understatement.

We are told that once the cottages are finished a beach will be created along the entire waterfront of the peninsula. We wonder if people will be swimming in these waters in a few months from now. If so... watch the feet! We once heard about lots of lobsters in the waters here.

Waterlands will be opening its doors around May of this year. From then on there will be trouble for our taxi drivers! What on earth is a reasonable fare to charge tourists who hop into your taxi at Flamingo Airport saying they need a ride to Waterlands Village?

□ *Marcel Leurs*

*Leurs is a developer himself (Brisas Lodge)*



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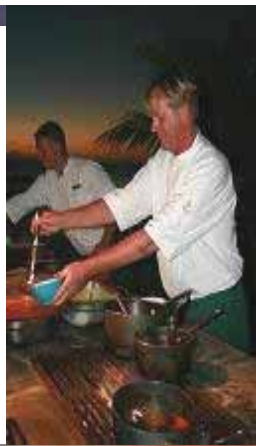
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