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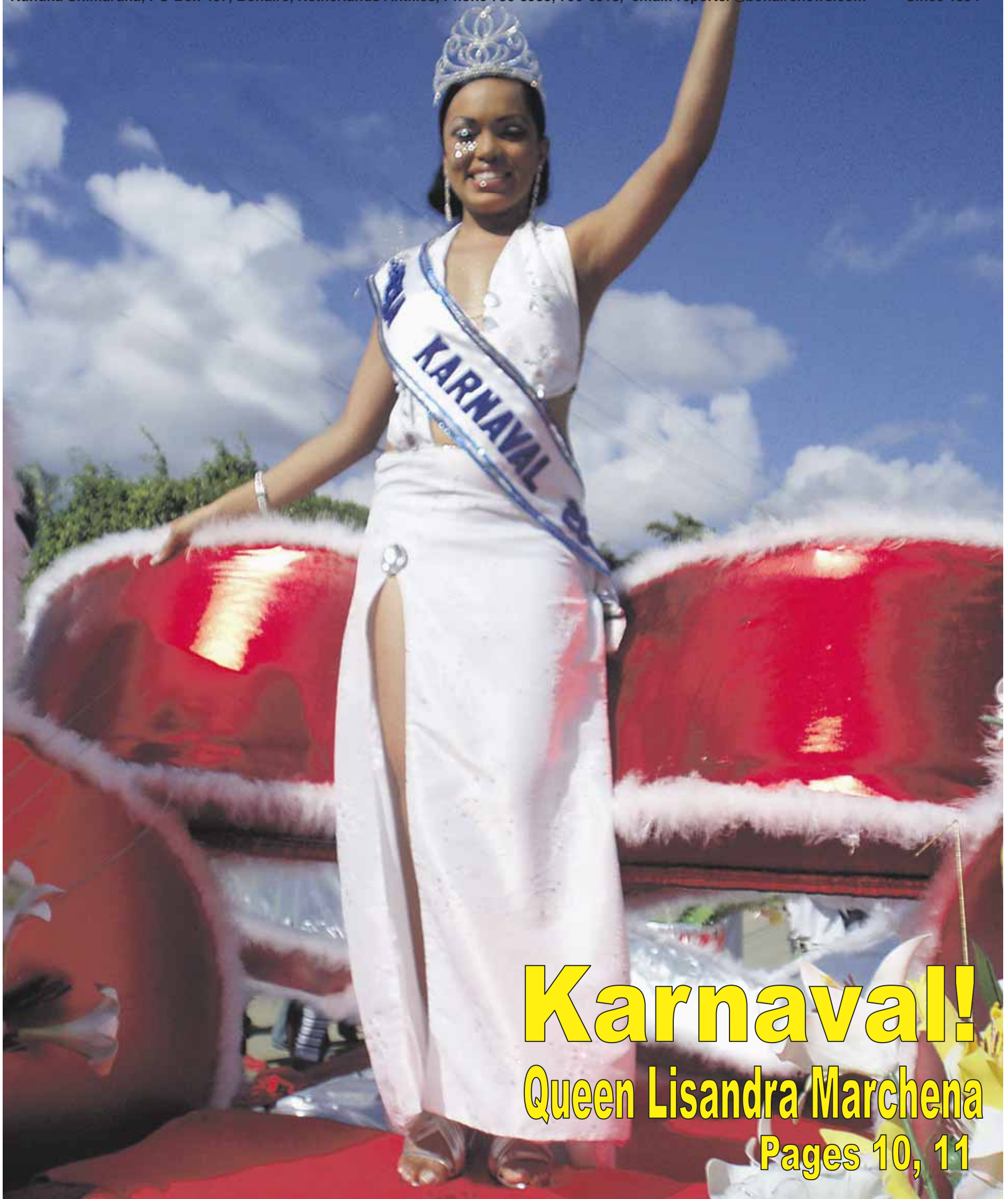
**BONAIRE**

February 8 -22, 2008; Volume 15, Issue 3

# 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



**Karnaval!**  
Queen Lisandra Marchena  
Pages 10, 11



**T**he dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles as a country is on schedule, emphasized Minister of Constitutional and Internal Affairs Roland Duncan during the political consultation with the Netherlands, Curaçao and St. Maarten on Tuesday January 22. See story to right for the latest status on Bonaire's progress.

► Bonaire Economics Commissioner Burney Elhage made a strong appeal Wednesday **not to jump to any conclusions about the currency to be introduced in the BES Islands** following his euro-friendly comments in Holland. "A first draft study by the Netherlands has resulted in the experts being, in the first instance, very positive about introduction of the US dollar as the currency for the BES islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba). Based on that I said that Bonaire is not against the introduction of the dollar. It's almost a natural choice, but we cannot make any choice yet," Elhage added.

► Informed sources have told *The Reporter* that **adoption of the euro as the exclusive currency of Bonaire when the Antillean guilder is phased out would be a mistake.** They pointed out that having both American and European tourists using their local currency allows for more prosperity when one or the other has economic hardship. Just a few years ago when the dollar was strong vs. the euro, Dutch tourists were a trickle rather than today's strong flow accompanied by a strong euro. They also point out that the euro-based French-side St. Martin residents flock to the dollar-based Dutch side every day for bargains.

► **The Minister of Justice said that a new, more user-friendly immigration registration and monitoring system is presently in its testing phase.** It will facilitate improved registration, management and exchange of immigration information and more effective supervision and control of aliens.

► **The Bonaire Executive Council, in a press release issued last week, denied that it had violated any agreements made on the issuance of land.** The Executive Council (BC) said that even with the development of all the reserved parcels of land, less than 9% of the geographical surface of Bonaire would be developed; and this doesn't include the surface of Klein Bonaire. This statement was part of a response to State Secretary for Kingdom Relations, Ank Bijleveld, who was critical of Bonaire's Development Plans. The BC says that it is not correct to use the developments around the Mangrove Village as an example for the environmental planning policy. In order to protect nature and the environment, the investors must comply with the conditions in the agreements, they said.

► **The Dutch government said last Friday it would explore new ways of protecting its coastline from the effects of climate change,** including the use of ground-breaking sensor technology.

The Netherlands, which has a quarter of its territory below sea level, will spend 22 million euros (US \$32.7 million) on anti-flooding projects. It would be good if they include its future new "village," Bonaire, in the **initiative as most of the southern half of Bonaire is less than a meter above sea level.**

► Will this new gas guzzler Dutch tax apply in Bonaire next year? Because of it a **Hummer now costs €19,000 (US \$28,000; Naf 49,560) more** in the Netherlands. The new gas-guzzler tax came into force last week, penalizing cars that exceed a limit on emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

► Even though the Netherlands Antilles is supposed to disappear on December 15, 2008, **it will offer a bond issue on Tuesday, February 19.** The issue concerns a 7.5% loan with a maturity of 10 years with a semiannual coupon.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Closer Ties With Holland

**L**ast week the Netherlands and the "BES islands" (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) **reached agreements on items critical to establishing direct ties to The Netherlands as well as defining the goal for the standard of living for the islanders,** a sticking point in the last round of talks. Delegation leader Ramonsito Booi explained that this does not mean that benefits will be the same as in The Netherlands because the islands' economy would be disrupted. The Dutch level is considered as a benchmark.

As a result of the meetings, **the Dutch Government will take on responsibilities for health care, public safety, education and social security.** The standard of living for the BES islands, following their constitutional status as "public entities," will be norms acceptable within the Netherlands, rather than the norms of other Caribbean islands. The Netherlands will be responsible for the legislation and funding in these four areas while the islands will carry them out. Special consideration is to be given regarding the small populations and areas of the islands, distance from the Netherlands, **the small and the current administrative; and social economic levels lag those of Holland.**

The proposed laws defining the new status of the BES islands, called the **WolBES,** will be sent to the Dutch Legislature's Second Chamber and the Island Councils of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba for review.



Antillenhuis photo  
*Dutch Prime Minister Balkenende meets with Bonaire delegation leader Ramonsito Booi.*

Among other things it gives the islands the right of representation and voting in the Legislature.

Specifically, **all children of the three islands will have an equal opportunity for education to continental Dutch children.** A proposal will be worked out for a scholarship program for the Caribbean islands. The possibility of free university preparatory and advanced education will be studied, compulsory education will be maintained, and special attention will be paid to students who need special care.

A **new public health care insurance system** will be developed and the Dutch Health Ministry will finance the drafting of a long term housing plan for the BES islands.

The **social security system of the BES islands also will be changed from the Antillean model to a Dutch model** and the outline of the system will be presented this month.

The **effect of separate measures in the area of taxes, social benefits and insurance (including health care insurance and pensions), on spending power and the population's burden will be evaluated** before the summer of 2008.

The Dutch Government will take responsibility for basic po-

*(Continued on page 9)*

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# International Year of the Reef 2008 - Island Kickoff

A small, but enthusiastic, group inaugurated Bonaire's International Year of the Reef 2008 participation last week in Wilhelmina Park. It followed up a news conference as part of the International Coral Reef Initiative Meeting in Washington D.C. on January 24, when government officials from Bonaire joined coral reef experts and managers from the US, Mexico and France to officially inaugurate the International Year of the Reef.

The island's slogan for the IYOR, "Bonaire, Leading By Example," was announced at the park ceremony. The first of 12 paintings created by school children with an IYOR theme was unveiled. Each of the 12 paintings will be on display throughout the year at various locations for residents and visitors to enjoy.

As part of the IYOR celebration, STINAPA announced the designation of two fish protected areas on Bonaire's reef to encourage the population growth of large fish species.

In 1997, Bonaire became IYOR's first partner in the Caribbean to establish a comprehensive plan dedicated to executing a program of public education about coral reefs, assessing the conditions of coral reefs and collaborating with local communities and other reef



*In Papiamentu and English, STINAPA proclaims the International Year of the Reef that leads off with the slogan, "Bonaire Leads by Example," in English and ends with "Join with us for a sustainable development for Bonaire," in Papiamentu.*



*Elsmarie Beukenboom, Director of STINAPA, gave an eloquent, impassioned speech for coral reef preservation. The winning painting is the backdrop*



*SGB Teacher Gemma van der Linden with Pernilla Mansveld and Ruard Anthony, winners of the artistic competition*

managers to develop and implement plans for the use of irreplaceable reef resources. During that year Bonaire also hosted the International Year of the Reef's inaugural Dive Festival event. As a focal destination for the 2008 celebration of IYOR, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has joined forces with the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), Earth Echo International, STINAPA and NOAA to execute a program that will continue the work that the Island began 11 years ago.

Other IYOR activities taking

place on Bonaire include Bonaire Dive Into Summer 2008; The NOAA- IYOR Environmental Project: a summer-long overarching ecology project; Love Our Planet Week and Clean Up the World Weekend and International Year of the Reef (IYOR) Week, June 21-28. IYOR week will feature guest speakers Jan and Alexandra Cousteau from Earth Echo International who will give seminars and lead dives, and experts from CORAL that will give workshops.

□G.D.

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**Flotsam and Jetsam** (Cont. from pg. 2)  
The general public can subscribe to this bond issue at all commercial banks in the Netherlands Antilles until 10am on February 15, 2008.

► **Last week the Bank of the Netherlands Antilles warned the public about the circulation of false banknotes.** Although the extent of counterfeiting is not substantial at the moment, the bank is nevertheless concerned.

Last year, counterfeiters were removing the gold foil found on 10 guilder notes and pasting it on the false 100 guilder notes they produced, which made the poor quality counterfeit notes look more authentic. For information concerning the authenticity characteristics of bank notes visit [www.centralbank.an](http://www.centralbank.an). If you believe you have been the victim of counterfeiting, contact the police. A person who falsifies or is aware of paying with false money is subject to a nine-year prison sentence.

► Based on information provided to the Dutch Parliament, following Indonesia, **Venezuela was the Dutch economy's biggest weapons export destination in 2006** with €196 million. Member of Parliament Martijn van Dam indicated that the Netherlands delivers a lot of arms to Venezuela and asked the Defense Minister whether the threats of President Hugo Chávez towards the Netherlands Antilles ought to be taken seriously.

► The Save Japan Dolphins Coalition sent a letter to Antilles Governor Frits Goedgedrag and Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage last week, focusing on the dolphins caught in the wild by Cuba that were purchased by the Sea Aquarium in Curacao, **asking for their return to the sea.**

► **The foundation Ban Boneiru Bèk (Let's Return to Bonaire) wants to keep the island's population in balance.** The foundation wants 75% of the population to be Antillean-born. It says the current percentage is 67%. Its first step is to see whether Bonaireans, especially those living in Holland, want to return to Bonaire. According to chairwoman Celia Fernandez Pedra, the motivation to establish the foundation was the alarming figures of the development of Bonaire's population. Its website is [www.banboneirubek.com](http://www.banboneirubek.com). The foundation asked AMFO for financial support last year, which was denied.

► **The Antillean Co-Financing Organization, AMFO, a prime agency to dispense money to fight poverty on the Antillean islands, last Tuesday activated its upgraded website, which it says will offer more extensive information to the public.** Its upgraded website retains the name, [www.samfo.org](http://www.samfo.org). A press release said, "The site has been expanded a great deal with more information,

especially relevant to all NGOs that require funding." At the moment the site is only in Dutch, but the Papiamentu and English versions will soon be added. AMFO, which has been restructured and which has now been active in its new form for eight months, also announced that it is currently internally evaluating its procedures.

► **Finally, the new vehicle number plates are available.** Get your white plate with blue digits at the Ontvanger's Office.

► The St. Elisabeth Hospital on Curaçao informed the Bonaire Government that **the intensive care unit is full** and that Bonairean patients cannot be admitted for the time being.

► According to the records of a local veterinarian, Jan Laarakker, **Dalmatians are not among the most popular island dogs as we reported last week. Leading the pack are "pit bulls" followed by Dobermans and Rottweilers.** Dalmatians aren't in the top 10.



► **STINAPA has a new up-scale Boston Whaler to carry out**

► The Jong Bonaire Youth Center is organizing its first ever **"Jong Bonaire Fun Walk,"** on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February at 7 o'clock in the morning.

The start of this 20 kilometer walk will be at **Wilhelmina Park** and the finish at **Jong Bonaire.**

This is a competition. It's a good opportunity to walk with family or friends or get to know new people, while walking on our beautiful island of Bonaire.

Tickets are Naf 15,- for adults and Naf 10,- for kids under 12. You will get a free meal, drinks, fruit, a t-shirt and a water bottle.

You may buy your tickets at the De Freewieler bike shop or at Jong Bonaire during working hours.

Everybody, young and old, is invited to participate and turn this **1<sup>st</sup> Jong Bonaire Fun Walk** into a huge success. Sponsors include Caribbean Homes and The Millennium Inn.

Jong Bonaire is one of the largest programs in the Antilles dealing with teenagers and serves hundreds of high school students here on the island of Bonaire. The programs include homework support, computers, music and art lessons, sports and many other activities, all supervised by a professional staff and local volunteers.

**its Marine Park patrols.** It complements several other boats in the Park fleet.

► **Last week the SGB high school chemistry classroom was**

(Continued on page 7)



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**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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# Profiles - Medium Jan Arnold Francken

Spiritual Medium Jan Arnold Francken was in Bonaire for two weeks recently to offer his services to many of us who feel that our experiences in life have a deeper meaning and are tools that we can learn from and grow as human beings. He offered workshops, one-to-one consults, aura readings, channeling, psychometric help and sound advice. Rather than sunbathing on the beach he prefers to be of service on our island.

Jan Arnold was born a medium; he's been communicating with his spiritual guides for as long as he can remember. From the time he was very young people sought his advice concerning health and relationship issues and even took him along when they had to decide which house to buy. His way of dealing with these questions wasn't through his own point of view, he felt guided and learned to trust this guidance without interference from his own thoughts or doubts.

From the age of 16 he's worked full time with his gift; for him it was natural to know the answers other people struggled for. He went to school like other kids, but he felt very vulnerable and different. Some years later he started his own practice and has continued ever since. He feels what he is doing is a mission; he just follows his calling. It doesn't feel like



Jan Arnold Francken

ease with them. Nowadays nine out of 10 children born are so called "New Age Children." They resonate to higher frequencies and thank God many parents feel and understand it. In the past their abilities had to be stopped or ignored.

Because all of us have strong abilities in different fields Jan Arnold feels that his mission is to help people discover, develop and trust these abilities. All of us have dreams, get signals and hunches, have precognitions. Certain fears or insecurities can even have their origin in a past life. Jan Arnold can see the cause and can help the person recognize it and guide them through it. We all have our guides and help from the other side; the more we are able to use this guidance the happier and healthier we can live our lives here.

In this period on earth people feel the need to know themselves better. Who we are is, for a big part, the result of our upbringing. Now many people are ready to find out what comes from the outside and what really comes from their inner self? "Who am I really?"

By giving his workshops on Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba, he offers people the possibility of reaching their goals and enjoying the journey by means of coaching. During the workshops an inner

process is stimulated to work out certain obstacles from the past in order to reach the freedom to act intuitively, to broaden spiritual knowledge and be able to live and share it.

## ONE-TO-ONE CONSULTS

Jan Arnold uses his clairvoyance, his clairaudience and aura readings so that you are able to look at yourself (because everything you are is present in you). Every answer is there, but sometimes you can't see it and Jan Arnold is able to mirror this. Then you can go on and change the things within that you want to have changed. Jan Arnold lets himself be guided by "what comes through" without filtering anything.

## MEETINGS: Aurology, Tarot, Psychometry

Jan Arnold explains what he is doing, how he is working and what he is using. Everyone present can draw a Tarot card, have his aura read or bring an object or picture for psychometric observations.

## GROUP WORKSHOPS

The *Spiritual Coaching* workshop helps you to discover what you want to reach in life, what you want to change in order to reach your goals. This also includes a journey through the chakras, your energy points, and where obstructions are being stored.

The *Channeling* workshop deals

with being able to make contact with your inner knowledge, getting your own answers by letting go of what you want or fear to hear and allowing and trusting what comes up spontaneously.

## Karma and Reincarnation

workshop – If you are able to look into your karmic lessons you'll understand why you are who you are and why you are here. Understanding yourself gives you the power to take control and change what you want to change.

## Jan Arnold will be back on Bonaire from March 14 to March 24

His contact on Bonaire: 786-3341; Website: [www.spirituele-coaching.nl](http://www.spirituele-coaching.nl) or [www.bbderidder.nl](http://www.bbderidder.nl),

e mail [info@bbderidder.nl](mailto:info@bbderidder.nl). □

Photo & story by Louise Rood

Author Louise (Lous) Rood, is the former owner of Sorobon Beach Resort, and founder of the Bonaire Animal Shelter. She lived for many years on the island, left for a while to travel the world, but has since returned. She teaches silversmithing and stone setting, gives yoga to kids at school and gives private yoga classes from her house.

Rood says, "Bonaire always had and still has a draw for many pioneers who contribute to the island in their own unique way. I am interested in their stories, their ideals, motives, philosophy and their experiences, which can also inspire and stimulate others."

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## Letter to the Editor

### ROBBED AND ANGRY

My husband and his friends have been going to Bonaire to dive for the last 10 years. He and his friends again scheduled their furlough (vacation) to Bonaire for Jan. 26, 2008 to Feb. 6, 2008. They really enjoy the diving there. I too, have been to Bonaire a few times.

They arrived in Bonaire last night (1/26/08) thru American Airlines which was scheduled to land at 8:55pm. They went thru customs, picked up their truck rental and were on their way to the house that they rented on EEG Boulevard (through VRBO.Com). They met the person at the house, she gave them their tour, and she left. The guys were hungry so they went into town and grabbed a burger. They were gone for about one hour. When they returned, they discovered that someone had broken into the place

and my husband's and friends' personal and expensive belongings were stolen. Some of the items were an AGA mask (\$800), Dive regulator (\$500), 80 Gb Apple (\$350), accessories to IPOD(\$300), Bose speaker for IPOD(\$400), Digital camera (\$250), 6 pairs men's swim trunks (\$180), Cell phone (\$200), man's jacket (\$100), man's toiletry bag which consisted of a shaver, water pick, tooth brush and paste, deodorant, dental floss,



vitamins, other odds and ends (\$125), cigars (\$50).

It took the police awhile to get there. Police returned Sunday morning and were searching the house for fingerprints.

I was reading today on the internet that the burglary and crime in Bonaire were up. I also read that the individuals doing this are going to where the tourists are renting homes, condos, and even resorts to rob them while they (the tourists) are sleeping.

My husband and his friends were in Bonaire for only 2 HOURS and all this happened. What a way to start your furlough (my husband and friends are firefighters).

It is a real SHAME for your beautiful island.

I know I will be telling this story to anyone and everyone who wants to go to Bonaire for a vacation and I will tell them to go somewhere else.

*The wife of a  
Burglarized Victim*

# AUVs Map Bonaire's Coral Reefs

Last week at the CIEE center a presentation was given by the NOAA (US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) researchers who have been mapping Bonaire reefs.

Part of NOAA's mission is to explore the ocean for the purpose of discovery and the advancement of knowledge. The Bonaire mission aims to enhance knowledge of coral reefs and their value and to motivate people to take action to sustain them. The work in Bonaire has an especially high profile in 2008, which is the International Year of the Reef (IYOR).

The team of scientists, engineers and technical divers mapped the coral reefs around Bonaire using Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs). Their work will eventually be presented on Google Earth maps and be available to all in about one year.

The Bonaire expedition is led by Mark Patterson of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), along with co-Principal Investigators Arthur Trembanis (University of Delaware), Jim Leichter and Dale Stokes (Scripps Institution of Oceanography). In addition to the Principal Investigators and 16 students from Delaware, academics have come to assist the mission from

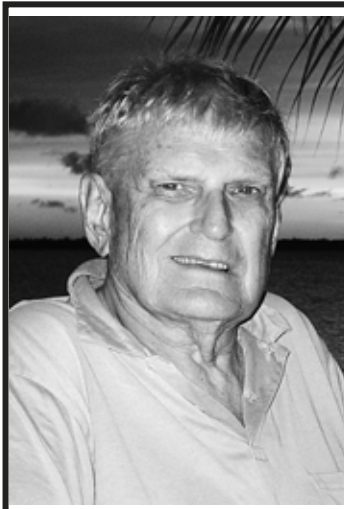
NOAA's Undersea Research Center (NURC, US), the University of British Columbia (Canada), and the National Oceanography Centre Southampton (UK). Technology specialists from Iceland and England are also on hand, helping gather the data needed to understand the reef environment.

One of the key aims of the mission is to look at ways of collecting sub-sea data using novel technology. Three AUVs are mapping the corals and taking measurements from the sea



Carib Inn's Bruce Bowker on the simulator

around them. Two "Gavia" man-portable AUVs along with the "Fetch1" AUV designed by Mark Patterson are carrying various types of survey equipment into areas that would be dangerous to visit or slow to explore using divers or surface boats. □  
G.D.



### REMEMBRANCE

Joan Thielgard is planning an "Evening of Remembrance" for her late husband, Larry, on Monday, February 11, at 7 pm at the International Bible Church. All of Larry's friends are invited to meet members of Larry's family-his son John, daughter Susan, and wife (Joan).

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*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 4)*



closed for safety reasons.

Principal Serapio Pop had the classroom checked to determine the exact locations of gas leakages. "We have stopped the practical chemistry lessons and have agreed to replace these with theory lessons until the situation is restored," said Pop. The school is also having a lot of problems with rats in the ceiling.

A reliable source sent us photos that seem to show that the high school is in dire need of a cleanup. One is above.



Johannetta Gordijn's photo

► Last Thursday two of Johannetta Gordijn's SGB high school students, Rockel Ellis (1<sup>st</sup>) and Roderick Gonsales (3<sup>rd</sup>), received prizes because they won the Inconvenient Truth Essay Competition. They are HAVO 5 students and they wrote their essays in their Dutch class.

This competition was organized by BONHATA and the prizes were awarded by Dr. George Buckley of The Environmental Management Programs, Harvard University. The ceremony took place at Captain Don's Habitat. The other two winners were also SGB students, but they were not on hand to collect their prizes.

► The US presidential race is heating up. US citizens living in Bonaire can vote in presidential and certain other stateside elections provided they register to vote. Alan Gross and Jane Townsend pointed us to a website: <http://www.votefromabroad.org/> that can

handle the details free of charge. US citizens can also contact the Board of Elections (Google them) of the state where they last lived for information and required forms.

► The "Books for Bonaire" action that Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) organized in the Netherlands in the summer was very successful. Thirty boxes of books were collected.

TCB thanks everybody who contributed, especially the Biblionef Foundation that donated 400 books. Rocargo Services Bonaire and IFC International took care of the transportation to Bonaire. Marisela Croes of TCB handed the books to the personnel of the public library.

► TCB reminded residents that during major cruise ship visits, except for taxis and other cruise-ship-related traffic the following rules are in effect:

- Executive Council building parking lot closed
- Kaya Grandi closed to traffic-noon to 5 pm
- Waterfront (Karel's to pier) closed to traffic- 7 am to 5 pm
- Waterfront (Divi to pier) closed to traffic- noon to 5 pm

► The Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), in its annual report on the status of the cruise industry, predicted a record year for 2008, projected to carry 12.8 million passengers. Cruise lines also maintained their high usage rates, with an occupancy factor of over 105% in 2007. CLIA said eight new ships and two redeployed vessels will join the fleet in 2008.

► Think the price of (regular) gasoline is high in Bonaire? How would you like to pay \$6.82 a gallon as they do in Oslo, Norway? Some other prices:  
 Brussels, Belgium - \$6.16  
 London, UK - \$5.96  
 Tokyo, Japan - \$5.25  
 Sao Paulo, Brazil - \$4.42  
 Bonaire, NA - \$4.24  
 New Delhi, India - \$3.71  
 Florida, US - \$3.22  
 Buenos Aires, Argentina - \$2.09  
 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - \$0.91 and the world's low cost leader, nearby Caracas, Venezuela at \$0.12 per gallon.

► Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations is planning a month of Singles Activities from February 23 to March 15. Single divers, windsurfers and snorkelers will meet by day on the beach and at night dine under the stars at several of Bonaire's dining establishments. Hikes are planned as well as other special activities. It's not too late to book. Email [ann@bonaiecaribbean.com](mailto:ann@bonaiecaribbean.com).

► The Bonaire Sailing Club is organizing a fund raising event this Sunday, February 10, from 11am till 3 pm at Vespucci's Restaurant in the Harbour Village Marina. All are invited.

At 11:30 the children will sail in to demonstrate their skills in Optimist, Sunfish, Laser and Splash sailboats. The school band will play. Lunch is included in the Naf 35 per person ticket price. A family ticket is Naf 80. A bar will be open.

All tickets include a prize kindly donated by Bonaire businesses. Prizes include dinners at great restaurants like KonTiki, Bistro di Paris, Papagayo and Bobijans as well as hairdos at Hair Affair. Proceeds of the fundraiser will be to maintain the sailing fleet, subsidize island sailors to attend off-island regattas and allow less privileged children to learn to sail. For more information contact Joyce at 786-5817, email [joyceotens@hotmail.com](mailto:joyceotens@hotmail.com) or Susie at 510-4251. Island Prosecutor David van Delft is the club president.

► Welcome to our returning advertiser, Bonfysiotherapie, better known as "Bonfisio." The practice was recently taken over by former practitioner, Robert Smaal and partners.

► Happy Valentines Day. We love our readers.



□ G.L. D.



Website screen capture

► The Tourism Corporation Bonaire finally announced the launch of their official website [www.tourismonbonaire.com](http://www.tourismonbonaire.com).

Visitors to the new website are welcomed by some of Bonaire's most familiar faces and greeted with "Kon ta Bai?" Never has so much information about Bonaire been located on one site, says the TCB. Site content is currently available in English and Dutch; soon to be available in Spanish and Portuguese.

Our testing found that the site still needs content, like schedules, and is slow loading. That's artist Henk Roozendaal in the photo.



► Warehouse Bonaire thinks it's important to contribute to a healthy environment. Groceries are frequently taken in thin plastic bags which can usually be used only once. This is a real burden for the environment. This new bag is strong enough to be used for years. Besides its strength and the environmentally friendly character the bags looks very nice too with the beautiful photos of Dushi Bonaire. Well done, Warehouse Bonaire! Here's hoping other markets will follow your example.



Suley Servina shows off Warehouse Bonaire's new environmentally-friendly grocery bag which promotes Bonaire at the same time.


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# CLEAR BLUE WATER NEWS

## MONITORING BONAIRE'S REEF-WATER QUALITY

The Sea Monitor Foundation has been accepted by Support Bonaire, Inc., so donations to SMF through this US based 501(c)(3) organization are tax free. Visit the website [www.supportbonaire.org](http://www.supportbonaire.org) for more information and make a contribution to SMF/LMSP/BONAIRE. Contributions will help guarantee continuation of Bonaire's leadership role in the conservation of the surrounding coral reefs.

Water Quality is the key link in the chain in preserving the health of the reef. In August 2007, after several months of testing and modifications, the Bonaire National Marine Park, under the advice and guidance of Ramon de Leon, BNMP Manager, launched the Light and Motion Sensor Project-LMSP. The project is producing, continuous, "minute by minute" scientific data to study and record the sea water quality around the island.

At the present time there are 12 independent, "Rainbow Moorings" deployed in place off the leeward coast and one control site on Klein Bonaire. Each site has nine instruments taking measurements at three levels under the surface, every eight minutes. A total of 117 optical sensors are constantly recording data. A dedicated, volunteer diver who cleans and transfers the data to an underwater reader visits each site every week. That

data is then downloaded and electronically transmitted to the lab technicians at the University of Southern California.

The visionary Light and Motion Sensor Program seeks to establish a scientific database of the present water quality on Bonaire reefs and, with continuous monitoring, produce a data stream to show any changes and trends, good or bad.

This 10-year-long project is entirely funded by private donations from concerned and interested individuals.

On the scientific side, the Phase #1 data is showing that sea water quality changes are taking place at an unprecedented rapid pace, by Bonaire standards. More information is needed. The LMSP scientists have suggested changing the sample interval to every minute, instead of the current eight-minute interval, increasing the volume of the data stream. Site #1 has been chosen as the first location to adjust. Later, during the first two weeks in March, a team of volunteers under the guidance of researcher Tom Reynolds from USC will calibrate the optical sensors here on Bonaire for accuracy, prior to the expected release and posting, in April, of ALL the data collected since August.

Phase #2, of the LMSP, the planned placing of the more costly and intricate salinity instruments, must start as soon as possible to



quantify the nutrient levels, biological content and sources.

With all these indications the LMSP as a work in progress has remained flexible to the existing demands as necessary. The scope of the project has grown beyond the simple "grass roots effort" started in August. More effort and more funds are needed to keep that unique environment that we all know and love as Bonaire alive. To insure success and continuation of the LMSP/BONAIRE, a non-profit, non-government organization (NGO), the SEA MONITOR Foundation (SMF) was established at the end of last year.

### Recent Sensor Service Reports have generated the following comments by a team of diver volunteers:

"Wonderful dive. In case *The Bonaire Reporter* decides to print this report, we'd like to remind readers who dive that they can volunteer to be a part of this project. It only

takes about 10-15 minutes of your dive time, and the rest can be spent diving your normal profile....with free air, by the way, courtesy of Yellow Submarine, on your "service dives."

Here is a description of our recent "service dive" prior to and after cleaning and reading the sensor array, so you can see how enjoyable it is to be a volunteer.

The dive started with Prawphan finding a Roughback Batfish. Some friends of ours discovered it a week or two earlier, but we hadn't been able to find it until this dive. Roughback Batfish are only about three inches long and almost impossible to distinguish from the rubble. Most people have never seen one. Quite a find.

Other things that entertained us on the dive were: Several unusually large and beautifully marked Green Razorfish, probably the largest we have ever seen,

A Yellowhead Jawfish with a mouthful of eggs,

A Mantis Shrimp in a green tube sponge, afraid to come out of the tube until we backed off several feet. Then it scampered over the rim and down to the safety of a crevice in the reef.

A beautiful peppermint shrimp, One of the cutest juvenile Balloonfish we've ever seen (and we've seen a lot), with those beautiful iridescent eyes that look like rare jewels.

12 medium size juvenile French Angels, unusual because they were all congregated together in one small area, along with a Night Sergeant.

A cute small Octopus in an unusual small den, which he will out-grow quickly.

On the way back in, Bill was lucky enough to notice a Pike Blenny, difficult to spot these critters, in an area where we had never noticed them before.

Of course, we had to stop and pay our respects to the little Batfish with its tiny red lips again on the way in. What a remarkable little creature! Not bad for a "working dive," is it?

We can train you on one of our regular "service dives" and hopefully point out some unusual critters that we regularly spot.

-Bill and Prawphan Wildin

You are invited to directly deposit your donation to SEA MONITOR Foundation accounts:  
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# BONAIREAN VOICES

## Tourists

Have you ever been at the Rincon Big Market Day on a Saturday or been on the roads in Kralendijk on a Tuesday or Wednesday? What do you notice that is becoming very common? That is our tourists. Every week, every month we are getting more and more tourists on the island, which is good for the economy.

The Rincon residents say that the tourists love Rincon. They like the market, the local restaurant at Rose Inn, the lovely gardens of the houses and the strange phenomena they see in traveling to Rincon and in Rincon itself: that's the cactuses. Maybe for us it is a common sight, but for them it is an interesting discovery. Remember, the word "tourist" means one who travels for pleasure. And besides this they are very curious about our culture, race and food.

A woman (69) who usually sells handicrafts at the Rincon Market, said, "Tourists like to come to the market to have a taste of our local food. You should see them eat *funchi* (cooked cornmeal) and fish with *krioyo* sauce. Some of them like to have a bite of everything. When they get to the Rose Inn they don't want to leave. They find Rincon a very restful and peaceful town. They just wish there were more mini hotels in Rincon besides the Rose Inn. They can stay overnight there and enjoy the panorama of the other areas near Rincon, like Karpata, Gotomeer and Washington Slagbaai National Park. The roads

in Rincon are so easy to drive on, there's not so much traffic, and they take pleasure in the nature and the friendly people of Rincon. They like to take picture of the gardens and people."

As she continue she wishes, "that Rincon have more to offer to these tourists besides the things we mentioned, like a fully equipped doctor's office for first aid assistance. Plus the Rincon people can benefit from it also."

"Not only that," a lady (55) said. "We have to motivate the Bonaireans to pay more attention to our tourists, when they are crossing the street, driving, touring and even in the stores. The tourist office should announce when the cruise ships are coming so the local people can be prepared when they go to town on certain days and what they can expect on the island. We need to be spontaneous and friendly with the tourists. Salesgirls and men working in the stores should learn how to deal with the tourists. We can't hold ourselves back because we don't know the language well. We have to confront the situation and do our best to speak the language; the tourists themselves will help us in this matter. Don't feel ashamed or shy. The tourist office can be of very great help in starting a project together with the businesses to supply

the needs of their personnel who come in regular contact with the tourists. Give courses about service, appearance and vocabulary for the worker. Do workshops. With all this we can improve our services to our tourists. We have to remember they are bringing the money to our island and they deserve the best. We have to remember that we travel too and when we go to their country we are also a tourist and would like to be treated nicely. Give the tourist their value and likewise we will get ours."

I know that the tourist office has given courses, "Tourist Services," but they should continue programs like this. So if you a have a business or you are a salesgirl or man, think about these suggestions and try to exert yourself to excellence. □

Siomara E. Albertus

Send questions and remarks to The Reporter .



BES Island leaders toast a successful week of meetings. Bonaire delegates Nicholaas, Booi and El Hage circled.

Getting Closer (Continued from page 2)

lice work on the islands. The present police force will be reorganized and upgraded. Disaster management, youth detention and jail capacity will have priority.

It was agreed that the BES islands should have balanced budgets by 2011. Until then the Dutch Government will finance budget deficits. The agreements were greeted favorably by most of the islanders. One reaction was that this would correct the situation that the three islands have always suffered from: the fact that the sizes of their populations and economies did not enable them to come up to the level of their more affluent neighbors, Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten. They were dependent on the Central Government, which generates the bulk of its tax revenues in Curaçao. The money often came late, if it

came at all, putting the Island Governments in a difficult position. By falling directly under the Dutch Government, it is anticipated that the islands will be given resources to address some of the arrears. However, this means accepting supervision in public finance and the loss of a measure of autonomy, but it was a price the elected representatives of the three islands are willing to pay so that their people can enjoy a better life.

There is still a long way to go, but the expectation is that the BES Islands will receive their new status effective December 15, 2008, as planned, while that target date is somewhat in doubt when it comes to St. Maarten and Curaçao who chose to become autonomous countries in the Dutch Kingdom, similar to the current status of Aruba. □

G.D.

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# Grand Karnaval Parade 2008

The 2008 Karnaval parades were among the best ever with wonderful spirit, elaborate costumes and numerous participants and spectators. We bring you some highlights in pictures. Here are a list of participants in last Sunday's grand parade:

GRAND KARNAVAL PARADE PLAYA				
Nr	Group name	Theme	Description	Members
1	Nos Nauralesa	Fantasia di Lora	Our Lora in nature	13
2	Club Ariba Peru	Juventud Amazonas	The Amazon	24
3	Deseo di Pueblo	Pueblo den akshon	Comical	25
4	The Crazy Happy People	Boneiru su rikesa	Typical Things of Bonaire	20
5	LIZEE	Nota di alegria	Lively Musical Notes	18
6	UNI den PURA	Disco Party	Scenes of the 70s and 80s	100
7	The Happy Navigators	Unicornio den arco iris	Fantasy Rainbow Unicorns	15
8	Grupo Glamour	Bisti di Egypte	Scenes of Egypt	30
9	Johnny & Company	Sirko	The Circus	12
<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>				
A	Shahaira Valerio	Play Girls	Bunny Servers	4
B	Aurora Molina	Reina di Flamingo	Queen Flamingo	1
C	Ilse Melaan	Diosa Reina di Laman	Queen of the Sea	1
D	Lisandra Marchena	Mannan Balioso	Karnaval Queen	5
E	Piet Mercera			1
F	Rishi Cicilia			1
TOTAL Marchers				270



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# Lora Count Report More Karnaval Parade



Some (but not all) of the Lora (parrot) counters at Washington Park entrance

The annual Lora count took place at dawn on Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup> with a total of 430 loras being counted. This result is dramatically lower than last year's successful count of 650 loras, so what is going on?

First a little background. The parrot that is found on Bonaire is an endangered species and a crucial part of any conservation effort is to keep track of the animal's population size. Lora counts have been made since the 1970s, and since 1990 there has been a count almost every year. In the non-breeding season the parrots generally flock together and form large roosts with up to 100 birds in each one. The roost locations are pretty much the same each year so teams of volunteers go out early in the morning, and as dawn arrives they can count the parrots leaving the roost on their way to find food.

This year's count was conducted by the STINAPA staff and over 40 volunteers including 15 students from SGB. *Salba Nos Lora* (Save our Parrot) and STINAPA organize the count and STINAPA provides a breakfast snack for everyone when they report their observations at the Park entrance. Many counters return from year to year to help with this event and the quality of the volunteers observations and note taking is very high. This is very important when we come to collect the results and ensure there is no double counting.

Last year we worked very hard to ensure the count accuracy and it was a great success. The number of birds seen this year is much lower despite the entire count following the same methodology. What is the difference you might ask? Well there has been a lot of rain prior to this year's count and it may well be that there is an abundance of food. This certainly seems to be the case and it is likely that the birds simply do not need to flock together as a result. It may be that they can forage just as effectively in smaller numbers. Several of the counters reported hearing distant loras and this would support the idea. So we don't think it is an actual drop in parrot numbers but rather a change in parrot behaviour that has influenced the count result.

But to be sure we'll have to see how the count goes next year!  
□ Sam Williams



*Editor's note:* Loras are protected species. In 2002 all the Loras that people had as pets were registered and had metal rings placed on their leg. Because of this, illegal Loras can be readily identified. There is a Naf 1.000 fine for anyone convicted of selling Loras caught in the wild. □



Bonaire Loras atop Kadushi cactus



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Timeshare at Buddy Dive (former Lions Dive) for sale: spacious 2-bedroom Imperial; 40 years/weeks, with FIXED maintenance fee of \$350 a year (all others currently \$730!). Maintenance fee for 2008 already paid. Will accept any reasonable offer. Call John or Maritha: (001) 480-626-7136.

For Rent Timeshare condo in Orlando 3 bedrooms , stays 12. Five stars Golf Resort minutes from Disney attractions. Price: \$ 2200 Contact: 796-0603

For Sale Pentax Optio WP 5 MP Waterproof land and in-water camera, doesn't need a housing. Includes 5 megapixel land and snorkel camera, manuals and original software, all cables, a canvas case and a plastic "skin" for in-water use, and battery charger. In excellent condition. NAf190.00 for all, call 717-2848 if interested.

### WANTED

SGB computer science teacher is looking for old memory sticks. 64 MB, 128 MB. Everything is welcome. Contact me at [informati-cagv@yahoo.com](mailto:informati-cagv@yahoo.com).

Wanted: Nice rental house for NAf 1000,- p.m. max.  
Please call: 786-7949 or e-mail: [maekoops@gmail.com](mailto:maekoops@gmail.com)

## Pet of The Week

Meet

"Randy," a blue-eyed nearly Siamese cat who's really still a kitten. Somewhere in his background there was a Siamese family member who bequeathed him his white fur with soft brown accent colors on his face, tail and ears. He's only five months old, a perfect age to



"Randy"

be adopted, young enough so he can easily get used to his new owner's life style. Right now, though, he's having a good time in the cat cage at the Bonaire Animal Shelter where he plays with all the other young cats. He's friendly with the human visitors too and he's a favourite with the volunteers. Randy has been examined by the vet, been given his test for feline leukaemia, had his shots and will be sterilized when he's old enough. You may see him at the Shelter on the Lagoen road, open Monday through Saturday, 8am to 1pm and 3pm to 5pm. Telephone 717-4989. □ L.D.

### ANIMAL SHELTER GETS A "FACELIFT"

Thanks to the generosity of Playa Trading, Krioyo Paint, Duijn Bonaire N.V. and a hardworking crew of volunteers, the Bonaire Animal Shelter got a much needed "facelift" last month. Shelter Manager Marlies Tiepel and her assistant, Monique Degenaar, organized a "work party" during which they and 11 hardworking volunteers spent an entire Sunday repairing, painting and revitalizing many of the Shelter buildings. The result is a fresh, bright new look for many of the buildings and kennels that house the Shelter's residents.

Please stop by the Shelter and see the new look and also check out the Shelter gift shop that is loaded with wonderful items for you and your pets. Thanks to recent visits from Bonaire Talk supporters

and a special delivery from one of the Shelter's sponsors, Ingrid Beckers-Bezuijen and her friends, the gift shop is full of new items for both dogs and cats, including soft carriers for small dogs, finger puppet toys for cats, collars for cats and dogs, and much more, all at below retail cost. Also available are original painted driftwood signs with pet themes. If you don't have a pet, stop by anyway! Spend some time visiting with the residents or perhaps you might see a dog or cat that steals your heart and you can leave fully equipped with a new pet and all the necessary accessories! □ Jane Madden

### OLD LICENSE PLATES TO THE SHELTER

This year Bonaire will be changing license plates. Please bring your old license plates to the Shelter, or call us and we'll arrange to get them from you. The Shelter has been having great success raising much needed funds by selling these old license plates to the cruise ship tourists and to other tourists during Regatta and other festival days. Giving the Shelter your used plates helps to keep the Shelter residents fed and cared for as well as helping to fund the sterilization project. More about the sterilization project in an upcoming issue of *The Reporter*. □ Jane Madden

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# Dee Scarr's Coral Glimpses



photo © Dee Scarr, Touch the Sea Coral Glimpses courtesy of Action in Behalf of Coral (the ABC Project)

The pinkish stuff below this coral colony is a type of calcium-based algae, and it's beginning to creep up onto the coral. To the left of it is a section of coral skeleton – possibly crunched by a parrotfish – which is hosting a green algae.

The more healthy the coral colony is, the more the polyps will be able to resist the growth of the algae.

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

Call 717-8529 or go to [www.touchthe-sea.com](http://www.touchthe-sea.com). □



## Bubbles from the Biologist

### Did You Know...

This week's 'Did You Know' is brought to you by the ubiquitous damsel fish.

As many of you will be aware, damsels nurture lawns of algae and guard these private gardens against even the most ill-

matched opponents such as three foot long parrotfish or even divers! What is really interesting is that not all damsels have independent grounds: two species actually have overlapping territories. The larger yellow-tail superimposes its broader feeding area over the gardens of several dusks. Both species protect the area from invaders, although the smaller are expected to do the majority of the work. Look out for them next time you're diving or snorkeling! □ *Claire Dell*



Turnerhome photo

Damsel fish / Juvenile below left



JimC photo



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

## Sunbelt Realty

### House of the Month | Republiek | Kaya Rubi

**Newly built eye catcher with great island views**

Total living area  
1614 sq. ft. / 150 m<sup>2</sup>  
Total lot size  
11,104 sqft / 1032 m<sup>2</sup>  
Long lease land

**Asking price:**  
**US\$292,000**  
**buyers cost**



This recently constructed family home is designed to ensure comfortable living and offers wonderful island views. The house will be sold completely finished, and is therefore in an excellent state of repair.

Lay-out: majestic stairs to wide covered front porch, entrance into living room which features areas with different elevated levels, open kitchen, one bedroom with bathroom. Second floor: spacious master bedroom with bathroom and wide balcony with spectacular island views, third bedroom and a study, spacious terrace at the street side.

Sunbelt Realty N.Y. | Kaya L.D. Gerharts 8 | Phone: 717 65 60 | Fax: 717 65 70 | Email: [info@sunbelt.an](mailto:info@sunbelt.an) | [www.sunbelt.an](http://www.sunbelt.an)

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# DINING GUIDE

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

# SHOPPING GUIDE

## AIRLINES

**Divi Divi Air.** Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

## APPLIANCES / TV / ELECTRONICS / COMPUTERS

**City Shop,** the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. Fast service and in-store financing too.

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER / QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents bikes, scooters and quads. Professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

## CELLULAR SERVICE

**Mio** offers by far the clearest, most phone reliable signal on the island. And their personnel are trained and friendly. Check out their unlimited calling plan.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

**Dive Inn**—For your diving with a personal touch. Located in town at Chacha cha Beach. Drop ins and cruise ship passengers welcome

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

## FITNESS

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

## FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

**Interiours**—New name, same owner and location. Has lots of beautiful, often one-of-a-kind furniture, antiques, crafts and accessories from mainland China and Indonesia.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

## MEDICAL FITNESS

**Bonfysiotherapie** helps when you need physiotherapy for any reason. It's professionals treat you with the most modern equipment and techniques. Phone 717-7030/7850 Fax 717-2444

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galleries Shopping Center downtown offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. **Full digital services.**

## PHOTO SERVICES

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

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

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

**Re/Max Paradise Homes:** Lots of Choices in real estate—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them to sell fast.

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

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

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

## RETAIL

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

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

**Valerie's Airport Shops** — Convenient shopping for unique items, magazines, gifts and more.

## SECURITY

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

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their services?**

## SUPERMARKETS

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

## WATER TAXI

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

## WINES

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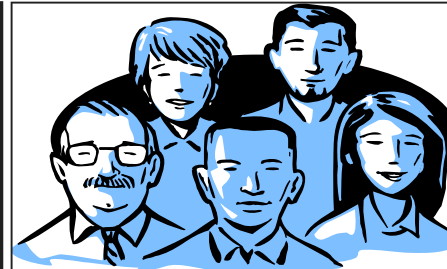
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# Picture Yourself With The Reporter Goo Sjang Island, Thailand



Popular and good looking Bonaire residents, Hans and Gea van der Veen, sent us this photo of themselves having a great time on fantastic Goo Sjang Island in Thailand.

**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 2008 photos are eligible.)

Winners of the 2007 competition will be announced in the next issue.

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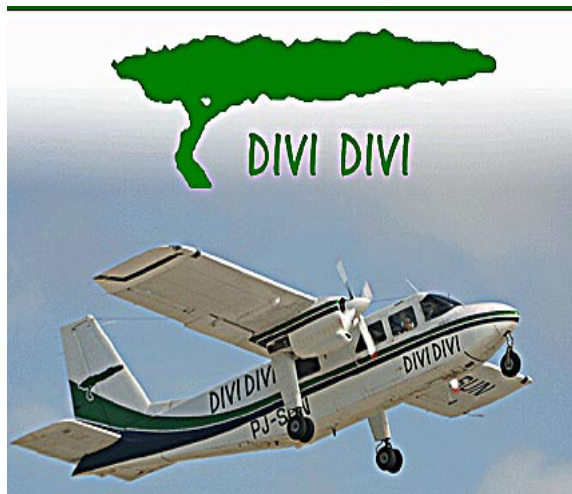


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# Tsunami Team Exploring Bonaire

(Photograph by J@n Brouwer)



Scientists Max Engel and Timo Willershaeuser taking sediment samples at Salinja Tarn.

During the month of January and in the beginning of February a group of German and Australian geologists and geographers visited Bonaire to pursue their research into the Holocene evolution of tropical coasts, especially the role of hurricanes and tsunamis.

The research was coordinated by Anja Scheffers from the Southern Cross University, School of Environmental Science Management in Australia. Frank Schaebitz represented the University of Cologne, Germany. Max Engel and Timo Willershaeuser are attached to the Philipps University of Marburg, Germany.

The ultimate specialist, talking about tsunamis, Professor Dieter Kelletat, was also on the island. Kelletat is a kind of godfather of the revolutionary new knowledge about tsunamis. The revolutionary idea of Kelletat and his student Scheffers is that tsunamis (so far three such events have been identified in Bonaire's history) placed the huge and massive boulders on the east coast of the island. A hurricane would never have had enough

power to do so.

During the last several weeks the team of scientists has been exploring the island, collecting rocks and corals. Measurements were taken of bokas and salinas with GPS and sonar. Bonaire still has a lot of unmapped and undescribed terrain. Sediments were taken, down to 11 meters deep, at Washikemba, Lagun, Boka Bartol and Salinja Tarn. The scientists will need about a year to inspect all the samples. They will be back in November 2008. By examining the rocks, corals and sediments the scientists will discover a lot about the evolution of the island and the Caribbean and the effect of hurricanes and tsunamis on the environment.

A well attended lecture was held at the CIEE. Some 50 persons listened to the presentation of Professor Doctor Dieter Kelletat, Anja Scheffers and Max Engel. The results of the research will be used to understand the development of the earth. All the results and measurements will also be given to the government of Bonaire. □ J@n Brouwer

## KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
2-09	3:57	1.3FT.	6:36	1.2FT.	14:13	1.6FT.	22:02	1.1FT.	93
2-10	4:27	1.4FT.	9:51	1.3FT.	15:19	1.4FT.	21:41	1.1FT.	91
2-11	5:20	1.6FT.	13:30	1.2FT.	16:38	1.3FT.	21:10	1.1FT.	85
2-12	6:06	1.7FT.	14:59	1.0FT.					77
2-13	6:55	1.9FT.	16:03	0.9FT.					67
2-14	7:47	2.0FT.	16:49	0.8FT.					59
2-15	8:32	2.1FT.	17:40	0.7FT.					56
2-16	9:23	2.1FT.	18:20	0.7FT.					59
2-17	10:07	2.1FT.	19:00	0.7FT.					67
2-18	10:52	2.1FT.	19:42	0.8FT.					76
2-19	11:40	2.0FT.	20:13	0.9FT.					84
2-20	1:53	1.1FT.	3:35	1.1FT.	12:19	1.9FT.	20:41	0.9FT.	90
2-21	2:11	1.2FT.	5:03	1.2FT.	13:06	1.7FT.	21:07	1.0FT.	92
2-22	2:45	1.3FT.	6:43	1.2FT.	13:49	1.6FT.	21:21	1.1FT.	91

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

\*\*\*\*\*

**Through February 29 –Andre Nagtegaal Art Exhibit, “My Gigs” - Kas di Arte, 5-9 pm**

**Saturday, February 9 - Mountain Bike Tour** for riders of all levels of experience, 3:45 pm. Contact Bonaire Wellness Connexions BV; Kaya Gob. Debrot 73

**Saturday, February 9 –Wine Tasting at AWC’s warehouse, 7 to 9 pm**, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. Naf 20 per person for six to eight wines

**Sunday, February 10- Bonaire Sailing Club Fund Raising Event** at Vespucci’s Restaurant in the Harbour Village Marina, from 11am -3pm. Kids will demonstrate Optimists, Sunfish, Lasers, Splashes. All invited. Naf 35 includes lunch (prize attached to tickets—like a dinner for 2 at Kon-tiki). Kids invited to come and find out about learning to sail. More info for sailing classes: 717-7972 or 510-4351. See page 7.

**Sunday, February 17 – Jong Bonaire Fundraising 20K Fun Walk, 7 am.** Tickets at DeFreeweiler and Jong Bonaire: Adults, Naf 15; children under 12, Naf 10.

**Wednesday, February 20—Total Eclipse of the Moon.** Page 17

**Thursday, February 21—Full Moon**

**Sunday, February 24 – Freestyle Frenzy – Fun Freestyle Windsurfing Event, Lac Bai, 11 am.** All welcome to compete. Great spectator event with plenty of photo ops. Tel. 786-3134 for information.

**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) Plaza Hotel

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, 10 am – 2 pm**

Sun., Feb. 10 – 2 Ships: *Queen Mary 2, Emerald Princess*  
Tues., Feb. 12 – *Veendam*  
Wed., Feb. 13 – 2 Ships: *Sea Princess, Summit*

Wed., Feb. 20 – 2 Ships: *Summit, Crown Princess*  
Mon., Feb. 25 – *Arcadia*  
Tues., Feb. 26 – *Sea Princess*  
Wed., Feb. 27 – *Summit*  
Thurs., Feb. 28- *Emerald Princess*

## REGULAR EVENTS

- The popular **SGB High School restaurant, Chez Nous**, is now open 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: keeslee-man@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.
- 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

### 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

- “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, run by teens in training. 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 holidays. 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** Ma-

jestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.  
**Weekly Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi’s - Tuesday - 6:30 pm** - call 567-0655 for directions.

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays**, 7.30 pm at Old Inn (across the street from Plaza) 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  
Tel:790-6518 or 790-8988





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## Don't Miss This Month's Total Eclipse of the Moon, The Last Total Lunar Eclipse for Three Years

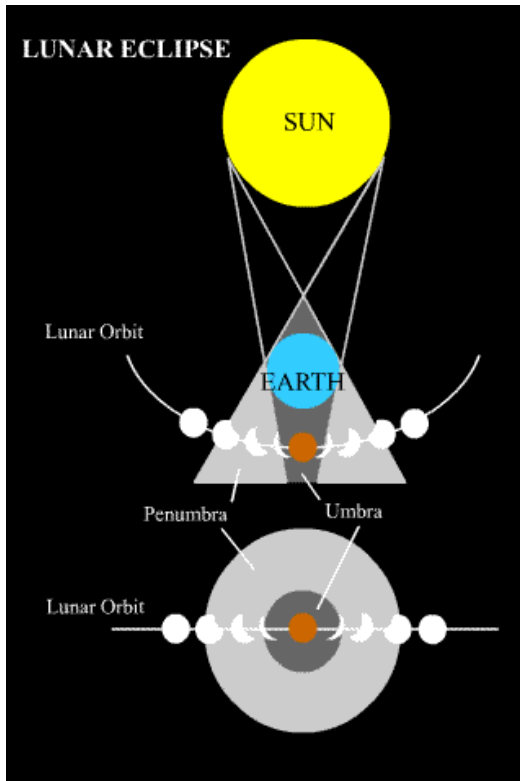
On Wednesday night, February 20th, the last total Lunar Eclipse until December 2010 will occur in the Bonaire Sky Park. And during totality **Regulus**, the heart star of **Leo the Lion**, will pop out on one side of the **Moon** and the ringed planet **Saturn**, at its best for the year, on the other.

Let's imagine that we're out in space looking down on our Moon, Earth and Sun. Now moonlight is really light from the Sun reflected off the Moon and back to our Earth. So one half of the Moon is lit up by the Sun at all times, although the only time we see the half of the Moon that is completely lit up is when we have a full Moon which occurs every month, whenever the Moon is directly opposite the Sun as seen from Earth. Now usually when we have a full Moon the Moon is either above or below the plane of our Earth's orbit. But occasionally the full Moon will glide directly into our Earth's plane and will pass directly through our Earth's shadow, which will block most of the Sun's light from reaching it. In other words our Earth's shadow will eclipse the light of the Sun, which is why we call such an event an eclipse.

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

Now if we could look at our Earth's shadow cone more closely we would see that there are two distinct parts to it. A pale outer shadow called the **penumbra** and a smaller inner, dark shadow called the **umbra**. The penumbral phase of the eclipse is never very noticeable so start watching when the Moon begins to enter the umbra at 9:43 pm Sky Park Time. As time progresses, the umbra, our Earth's curved shadow, will slowly creep across the Moon and gradually darken it and cause it to change color. But what color the Moon will turn no one can predict, which is what makes it so much fun. Will it turn bright orange, blood red? Only the shadow knows.

The Moon will be within the umbra and totally eclipsed for 50 minutes until 12:51 am Sky Park Time. But this year as a bonus during totality we'll also see the ringed planet Saturn at its brightest for 2008 and Regulus the heart star of Leo the Lion. From 12:51 to 1:09 am the Moon will slowly slide out of the umbra and return to full Moon brilliance at which time however, it will be difficult to even see Regulus and Saturn. So pray for clear skies Wednesday night, the 20th, the night when the Moon turns red. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the Month of February 2008  
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Make arrangements to meet friends at your local dance club. Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. Think before you act. Unforeseen circumstances will disrupt your daily routine. Try to take care of the needs of those you love. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Be sure to spend time helping children with projects that are too difficult for them to accomplish alone. Double check your work and be sure that your boss is in a good mood before you do your presentation. Don't avoid your true feelings. Your pilgrimage may end up being fruitless. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You will be subject to pushy individuals if you get involved in uncertain organizations. Your outgoing nature will win hearts. Get the whole family involved in a worthwhile cause or cultural event. Get out and experience the spice of life. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Try not to be too aggressive or judgmental when talking to your mate. Any renovation or decorating to your home should include the whole family. Your unique approach to life will interest others. You can ask for favors or run your ideas by those who will be able to support your objectives. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Do your own thing without drawing attention to it. Try to calm down and listen to your partner's complaints. Compromise may be necessary. Concentrate on your career and on making money. Your boss may not be in the best of moods this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't be too eager to cut those who have disappointed you from your life. Children may be demanding, and entertainment could cost a lot more than you can really afford. You can get into weight loss programs or go out and change your image with a new look in clothing, hairstyle, and attitude. Arguments with employers or colleagues will be to your detriment. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. You'll be surprised how much you can accomplish. Your changing philosophies may lead you into new circles and open doors that will give you a unique outlook on life. Try and avoid getting involved in idle chatter or gossip that might get you in trouble. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will find that valuable knowledge can be gained if you are willing to listen. If boredom has set in, find new and unique directions that offer interesting friendships. Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. You may have been too agreeable to someone who just wanted to use you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can make gains if you look at long-term investments. You can handle situations that require contact with institutions or large corporations. They will not be in the right frame of mind to put up with tactless comments. Talk to an older, established individual about your present situation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't let individuals with wild schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful. Creative educational pursuits will payoff. This is a great day to spend with family. Don't second guess yourself, just go to it. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims. Put your energy into behind the scenes activities. Your pursuits may end up being fruit less. You may have a hard time relating to children this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Disharmony will result in a lowered vitality. Stress may result in minor illness. Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. You'll find it difficult to control your emotions. Your tendency to vacillate will drive everyone crazy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday. □

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# Cultural Landmarks

## History - Mythology - Traditions - Architecture

Around Bonaire are what used to be empty pedestals. The idea was to have an explanation of the particular area and why it was important – historically, traditionally and/or mythologically. The pedestals sat empty for years. However, as a gift to the island and its visitors Frans Booi and his wife Maggie have transformed these pedestals into the cultural showpieces they were intended to be, with paintings by Booi and Winfred Dania and explanatory text in Papiamentu and English. Maggie's Wisconsin company, Industrial Graphics Corp., printed the plaques as a donation to Bonaire.

: Going north on the Rincon Road, past the sign for the Indian Inscriptions (on the right) you'll see a sign on the right saying, Piedra di Boneiru. Follow the road which ends at the stone.

### Piedra Bonaire – The Bonaire Stone

According to the philosophy that leads to the mythological stories of Bonaire, Piedra Bonaire is an important site associated with the original mythical ancestor whose name is Boynay. It is written in the Bonairean mythology book, *Boynay Tey*, that Piedra Bonaire is the birthplace of Boynay who is the First Bonairean – Yu di Baranca Mama – “Son of Mother Stone.”

Piedra Bonaire represents the navel rock of Bonaire – a central place in the mystical relationship between the Baranca Mama – Divine Mother Stone – and the umbilical cord that once attached Boynay to her womb deep under the island where she lives in Luga Bibi – “The Living Place.”

There is a belief that you are from the place where your umbilical cord is buried. The mythical Bonairean umbilical cord is to be found at Piedra Bonaire. No matter where it is buried, spiritually it is there at Piedra Bonaire. Bonaireans should keep as a tradition to take a sack of the sacred soil, called Guturucu, which is found only at Piedra

Bonaire, with them when they abandon the island to live and work abroad so when they are on their death bed they can put this sack of Guturucu under their pillow. They can die in peace on their beloved native soil. It is all right for Bonaireans even at an elderly age to return to Bonaire, specially to fetch the Guturucu of Piedra Bonaire (the sacred soil where your umbilical cord is buried) to take abroad to where they have chosen to live and die.

Doing the Bonaire Stone ritual you too become a spiritual Bonairean. In the rock next to Piedra Bonaire there is a small cave where it is believed that animals go to die. A force that comes from the ground inside this cave helps them to die faster. Many animal bones are found inside this cave. Part of the ritual to become a Bonairean is to climb through these bones, exposing yourself to these forces from beneath, and find your way out on the other side of the cave. It is as if you're acting in a play where you are passing through your mystical rebirth in a spiritual purification.

Next you climb up about three meters into the hole in the front wall of Piedra Bonaire and curl up in a fetal position. In your imagination you make contact with your divine Baranca Mama by shooting your silverish umbilical cord deep down into the earth towards Baranca Mama in Luga Bibu – “The Living Place.” You are now a son or daughter of the earth who will demonstrate your real love for the care of nature worldwide.

Behind Piedra Bonaire a healing power emerges from un-

der the ground. Animals like to sleep there to recover from their injuries or sickness. This is where you go to talk to Baranca Mama. Do not confuse Piedra Bonaire with Baranca Mama herself. □ *Frans Booi*



Donated by Industrial Graphics Corporation -- www.industrialgraphics.com

## KLM Delay

Early last month KLM flight 0754 was stranded at Flamingo Airport because of a technical problem with one off the engines (photo). Most likely a rock came into the engine and damaged the rotor blade. About 300 hundred passengers were forced to stay on Bonaire for 24 hours. They were all brought to different hotels and could fly the next day safely to their destination. □ *Dennis Lensink*



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# Island View

## Tourist Behavior Guide



Every year we have more tourists coming to Bonaire than people living on Bonaire. The tourists have a big impact on this island: economically, environmentally and socially. Tourists from various parts of the world come here with different ideas and morals. Sometimes those differences clash with the ideas and morals of the island. Here is a guideline for tourists so they can visit Bonaire without disrupting the lifestyle of Bonaireans.

Sometimes you are driving early in the morning because you are on vacation and you want to have an early start. Then you see something that captures your interest, let us say a church. Your first impulse would be to slow down to take a better look. But the persons behind you are just trying to get to work and they get really frustrated by a slowpoke in front of them. What you can do is mark the place of interest and find a parking place (still for free) nearby. This way you allow yourself sufficient time to check out this beautiful landmark so you can really appreciate the history of this island.

While walking or driving around on this island you may find that people (strangers in your eyes) are greeting you. This is a small island, and it is customary to greet a person even though you do not know the person intimately or even by name. So in Kaya Grandi or on the beach you always greet.

When this greeting turns into a conversation, there are things to talk about, but there are certainly things to avoid. While visiting another country you can talk about the "normal" things, like your name, number of children, what you do for a living, where you come from and why you are visiting this place. But things like divorce, illnesses or deaths are better left unsaid. The residents have heard some stories that even the mothers of the storytellers did not know about. It is very uncomfortable for the listeners. But when in the course of your conversation you find that you are talking to a kindred spirit, please pour out your heart. Some Bonaireans are indeed very good listeners.

Like I said before, Bonaire is a small island. This automatically means that certain things are on a

smaller scale than you are used to at home. This does not imply that everything is cute. A remark like "Oh look, they even have a little hospital!" is very offensive. We need things like a hospital and a cemetery. They are not dollhouse versions of the real thing; they are the real deal.

We really need to talk about your clothes, or in this case the lack of. Walking in a supermarket, dressed as if you are at the beach, you may get some looks from the resident people. If you have misinterpreted those looks as looks of admiration, let me straighten this out for you: those are looks of contempt. Bonaireans are very fussy about how to appear in public. They will not leave their homes until they are absolutely certain that they are almost dressed to the nines. In every public place like the supermarket, the gas station or on Kaya Grandi, it is considered "not done" to walk around in your swimsuit or your wetsuit. Dressed in your tuxedo in the Cultimara may be taking this too far, but a dress or shirt with shorts would be nice.

Imagine sitting in a restaurant, enjoying your company and your meal. Then somebody next to you starts talking really loud about things you do not want to hear. It is so annoying! Maybe because you are on vacation and you will probably never see these people again is reason enough to raise your voice. The thing is, you are not the only one. A nice romantic evening out on an island with a lot of tourists can be a challenge for the people living here. "What? I cannot express my feelings?" you ask. Sure, go ahead! If they are feelings of enjoyment and laughter, you can express them as loud as you can. The people around you may pick up your happy vibe and join you. Bonaireans consider tourists their guests. What can be more fun than laughing together with your guests? You may find that in the department of laughter, nobody can laugh as loud as a Bonairean.

□ Mary Ann Koops

In addition to observing us, Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.



# What's Coming Our Way?

This time exploring what's coming our way we return to the area where we had a look at the wooden houses on elevated platforms just two months

ago. We are on Kaminda Sorobon –coming from Playa about 300 m. past the road to Lac- and we see a sign on the right hand side of the road indicating that Duijn Bonaire is busy here. They are constructing a country house inspired by the style and architecture of Bonairean plantation houses like Karpata, Washikemba and Slagbaai.

On January 25 the highest point was reached (photo). High time for some Polars!

The development was begun by Experiential Training Bonaire, a cooperation between Dutch Training Institute van Harte & Lingsma, Sportex (a Dutch outdoor activity organization using the slogan "We take you where the action is.") and the local organization, Bonaire Boating Company.

We are told that as of October managers from Europe will attend training sessions here.

The developers say that Bonaire is a great destination for outdoor training: "The island has everything to offer we are looking for." Sounds like these will not be dull training sessions in dark classrooms with stuffy professors, theoretical handouts and endless PowerPoint presentations.

As part of the program we will see managers on bikes, in kay-

aks, on sailboats, exercising, abseiling, horse back riding, diving, learning the meringue, climbing Brandaris and so on. Sounds fun and it may well be tax deductible too. And after having done the abseiling thing in the Belgian Ardennes quite a few times now, European

managers will probably be eager to do something very different. Well, here they have it. The country house will be the exclusive home base for the training sessions and its participants and is a dream come true for the Bonairean partner ("I have always believed in Bonaire as an ideal training base") and the Dutch partner ("I came to Bonaire for the first time about 20 years ago, stayed in some kunuku house for a night and immediately fell in love with the island").

The country house is located on a piece of land of more than two hectares in the middle of the mundi. It will have a central lounge, a training room, a fully equipped kitchen (cooking together may be part of the trainings as well), 15 guest bedrooms and a swimming pool on the premises. Original vegetation of the island will be planted in the gardens around and the lands will be bordered by a wall. We can't wait to see it once it is finished. The complex will entirely run on its own electricity system, using solar power and wind energy (we like that!), but there is a backup generator for cloudy and no-wind days. An interesting idea from one of the people behind the plan: why not attach a coin insert machine to the generator to make the training participants more aware of their own energy consumption?

Marcel Leurs photo



We are told that the country house will also be available for local organizations and government; the accommodation can be rented for courses, workshops and seminars. This may attract business from Curaçao as well. The country house does not have a name yet, but that shouldn't be a problem for the developers because the time period until the opening is about the same that parents have to come up with one for their baby after they find out there is going to be one.

Having been around, we can well imagine that European managers, being part of and fully involved in the everyday rat race over there, will love the stress-free surroundings here. Some of them may even consider not returning back to their lush offices anymore. However, the monthly paycheck they can expect versus what would come in on Bonaire, will almost certainly convince them to check in with KLM for their return trip in the end but definitely with some sweet memories of Bonaire in mind. □

Marcel Leurs

Leurs is a developer himself (Brisas Lodge)



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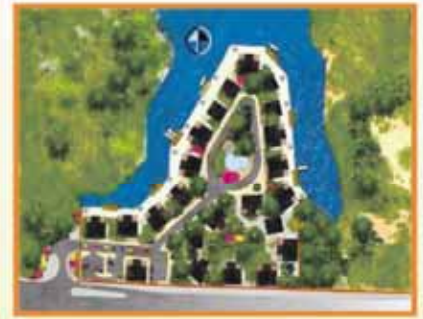
~ 2 bedroom cottage including inventory ~

Waterlands Bonaire is a small scale, individually-owned resort, consisting of only 24 cottages. It's located on a private peninsula in a lagoon, with an open channel to the Caribbean Sea and the Bay of Bonaire.

### Lay out:

Two bedroom cottages measuring 1.550 ft<sup>2</sup> floor space, when including the outside shower area and the roofed porch, even more than 1.883 ft<sup>2</sup>. The living room and large porch are connected without barriers. The larger part of the porch roof is conventionally built; the two corners feature a semi-open lattice-work, generating sun to enter in playful lines. The fully equipped kitchen is separated from the living room with a bar/countertop. It connects to the laundry room standard fitted with a full automatic washing machine and shelves. The truly king size master bed- and bathroom, has it all! A king size bed with 4 post netting, open bathroom, with two half-circles, one being the 'hanging' toilet, the other being the oversized shower (with oversized 20cm Ø showerhead), with wooden seat and soap niche, to name just a few.

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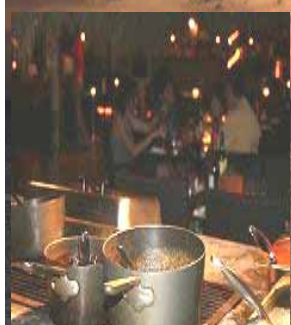


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