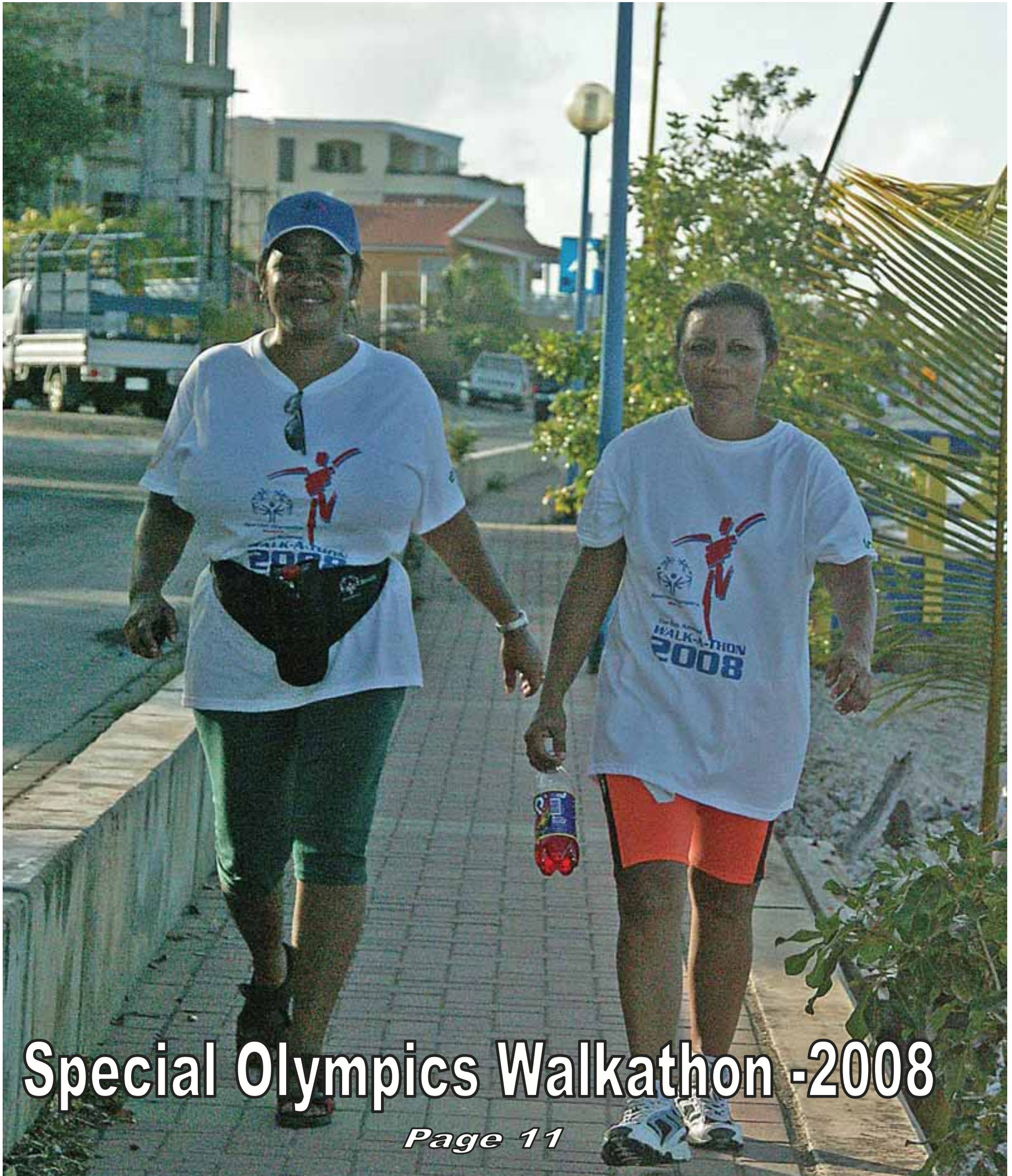


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**T**he Island Council has directed appropriate government agencies (LVV and SSV) to eliminate roaming dogs. Perhaps motivated by the recent attack on two women walking near Seru Largu who were severely bitten by a pack of four runaway "guard dogs" as well as continuing attacks on farmers livestock, the action is set to begin next week.



One of the victims' many wounds. Extensive stitching was needed (right panel). H.Cox photo

The dogs' owners agreed to assume financial responsibility for the victims medical care and their dogs have been quarantined. The victims are recovering slowly as the dogs' attack was traumatic, the wounds painful and their injuries could have been fatal.

There has been considerable commentary in the community about the enforcement of Bonaire's existing laws which require dogs to be leashed when on the streets. In the past when troublesome dogs proved to be a problem they were shot on the spot by police.

Animal lovers are upset by this approach and are appealing for dog licensing, more animal shelter space, and increased education regarding animal care.

► **The Government (BC) wants the Central Government in Curacao to take the same measures to minimize the effect of high fuel prices for Bonaireans as it did for the people of Curaçao.** Bonaire spelled out what it wants in a letter to Prime Minister Emily de Jongh- Elhage. The Executive Council wants to lower the

excise tax on gasoline. Bonaire learned that, upon request of the unions, Curaçao put off the increase in the price of gasoline and is looking for alternatives. Bonaire wants the Central Government to help Bonaire look for long-term alternatives for the problem. The BC stressed that Bonaire is not interested in short term solutions that will cause more financial problems for Bonaire in the long run.



► **The up-market Dutch evening broadsheet, NRC Handelsblad, says that Holland will inherit an unsafe airport** when it takes ownership following Bonaire's direct link with Holland at the end of this year. Bonaire officials say that is nonsense and the Flamingo Airport is safe and secure. It may not meet all Dutch standards, but those are inappropriate and unnecessary in Bonaire.

Around 2000 the Bonaire government took money from its other municipal projects to extend the airport's runway and install a fueling facility, offer cheap jet fuel and make other improvements in order to attract KLM aircraft which had been using Curacao and Aruba as stopovers on flights to South America. They were successful and for a time Bonaire was one of KLMs busiest overseas hubs. It sparked the economic upturn that continues today on Bonaire.

The NRC story was based on a

► **Captain Don was honored by the dive industry last weekend in an award ceremony at the Beneath The Sea conference in New Jersey.** Captain Don Stewart received the Diver of the Year Pioneer award.

In part, the award stated: "There is an old joke that you can always recognize the pioneer, he's the one laying face-down in the field with an arrow in his back. But that cynical observation doesn't allow for the visions that pioneers such as Captain Don Stewart are driven by, visions of a future the rest of us live-in and enjoy because these pioneering men-of-vision took the time from their lives to be sure the future was ready and in-place for our moment beneath the waves, and under the sun."

Captain Don Stewart must have been quite a sight that May afternoon in 1962 when, with only 63 cents in his pocket and a sailboat under his feet, he made landfall on the island of Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles. Captain Don was headed for Antigua, but Antigua never got him, he was home."

The pioneering spirit of Captain Don Stewart, is what inspired Bonaire's dive industry. Over the last 45 years he has given Bonaire its scuba diving infrastructure, inspired its marine park, vitalized its tourism industry and devised means of preserving the health and beauty of Bonaire's underwater and above water environment.



**Captain Don**

Original painting by Henk Roozendaal

report by Dutch civil servants who said the runway asphalt paving was deteriorating, water runoff was a problem in heavy rains, physical security was inadequate, and disaster plans did not meet international standards. When Holland takes over they estimated they would have to pay would be €20 million to set things right. They question whether KLM will have to continue to stop in Bonaire since new jets have longer range. The plan for KLM no longer plans to use Bonaire as a stopover on its Panama service has been scrapped.

The NRC story sparked of sensationalism as it revived the allegations a bribe of €40,000 paid to local officials and €680,000 in overcharges. Those charges were never proven.

► **KLM may increase its**

**fuel surcharge again,** according to the airline's Operational Director Dutch ANP news service reported. "The fuel surcharge is still based on an oil price of \$90 a barrel," he said. Last Wednesday morning, the cost of a barrel of crude oil was over \$101, said ANP. In January, the airline raised the fuel surcharge to €88 (\$137) for intercontinental flights, like AMS to BON, because of higher jet fuel prices.

► **Bonaire's reefs are among the best in the Caribbean concluded a report covering four years of study.** During that time there was no decline in coral cover however the report voiced several concerns. Turn to page 12 for more details. A report from a US NASA group came to the same conclusion last month.

(Continued on page 6)

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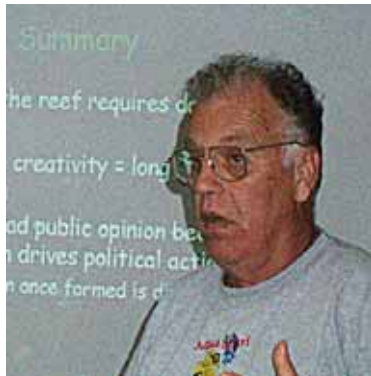


# Clear Water Means Healthy Reefs

Tom Reynolds loves scuba diving Bonaire's beautiful reefs, and he wants to keep doing it. But he couldn't help but notice that in recent years they didn't seem as healthy as they once were. The retired Pasadena California resident wondered what he could do to reverse the trend.

The answer became clear after he invited his best friend, Dr. Burt Jones and his family to join him, diving in Bonaire.

Burt Jones is a towering figure in oceanographic research, specializing in near coastal conditions. A Research Associate Professor in the Marine Environmental Biology section of the Biology Department at the University of Southern California, his research interests include bio-optical oceanography, physical-biological interactions, coastal processes, and coastal ocean observing systems. He has been involved in studying the dynamics of physical/bio-optical interactions in a variety of environments that include coastal California, the Arabian Sea, Japan/East Sea, and the Adriatic. Recently, he's done research in harmful algal bloom monitoring. Dr. Jones has been involved in a coastal observing activities that



Tom Reynolds

includes both fixed sites and autonomous vehicles.

These projects usually have million dollar budgets. The money is well spent because it provides the scientific evidence in deciding how to correct problems affecting ocean water quality.

Tom Reynolds and Dr. Jones reasoned that if they could supply Bonaire with similar scientific data addressing the potential decline of Bonaire reefs it would influence the Bonairean government to take appropriate action.

One thing stood in their way. Lack of money. The big money that paid for the expensive monitoring equipment and staff just wasn't available on our island. However, together with their

local diving buddy, Albert Bianculli an idea took shape. If they could find a substitute for the expensive monitors and enough staff to run the project on Bonaire and some money, then the science measurements could be done.

The Bonaire National Marine Park was enthusiastic about the plan and agreed to not only cooperate, but to post the results on the STINAPA website.

The secret to cutting the cost of the project is a microchip sensor originally developed to track fish. With the addition of color filters it could be adapted to monitor light and temperature. The light data the sensor records, following extensive data reduction and analysis, could be used to measure the clarity and the amount of organic material in the water.

Following a successful pilot test of a sensor array at Jerry's Reef at Klein Bonaire in August 2007 the Light and Motion Sensor (LMSP) program was launched.

The sensors, in sets of three, set at three different depth cost about \$55 each. Commercial units performing the same function cost as much as 300 times



Dr. Burt Jones with one of the instruments he usually uses. The sensors used in Bonaire are about the size of a pack of

more. Bonaire's LMSP sensors lack the automated cleaning and remote data readout of the expensive units. As a result the LMSP sensors get visited at least once a week by volunteer divers

who do those tasks. These so called "Rainbow Arrays" were deployed in 13 locations from WEB to the White Slave huts and through this February re-

(Continued on page 12)

## Wonderful Family Home - Kaya Garnet #21



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# Tourist Sickness Cure

It is a malady that strikes thousands of Europeans every year. S.A.D., or Seasonal Affective Disorder, is the curse that drives sufferers either to the doctor's surgery or to the travel agent's door. Either path is a temporary fix, and even the 12 x 12 inch light box (that some entrepreneur has patented and sells for around \$500) offers little respite from the gloom that arrives with the interminable grey skies of a European November. Living with a sufferer is a long-term nightmare and should be placed on the statute books as a reason for divorce - alongside mental cruelty, unfaithfulness and irretrievable breakdown.

The best solution is to *pack* your suitcase as soon the shops *unpack* the Christmas. Ideally you should make sure you are standing in an airport terminal by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

The older you get, the easier it becomes. Your children are off hand and pleased to have their Christmas free of parents and in laws. Your own parents have either shuffled off this mortal coil or are ga-ga in the local nursing home and happy to gum-chew the plate of gristly turkey and rock hard roast potatoes. You won't have to attend the drinks parties with the neighbors who ignore your existence for the other 364 days of the year.

From 2004 we said "Bah Humbug" to Christmas. We packed a soft bag, and caught a plane to anywhere that offered cheap flights and warmth. Goa, Thailand and Cuba did the trick for four years, then it all went wrong. On the way back from Cuba in 2006 we made a convoluted detour - via Venezuela and Curaçao - to the island of Bonaire. We stayed for nine days - not long enough to explore the kunuku, not long enough to snorkel every beach, - but certainly long enough to fall in love with Bonaire.

The seed was sown! Most women are good mental gardeners, and I am no exception.

What can I say about this little island?

I have sat on the wooden deck of a house in the *mondi*, under a canopy of stars, and eaten food cooked on an open fire sunk in the deck's centre. I have been shown hospitality that puts us to shame back home in England.

I have eaten the best Chinese food ever: a full-blown meal for less than you would pay for a plate of prawn crackers in London's Chinatown, though I have to say that the EU regulations now in force back home would have the door firmly locked and barred, and a team of rat-catchers doing their stuff.

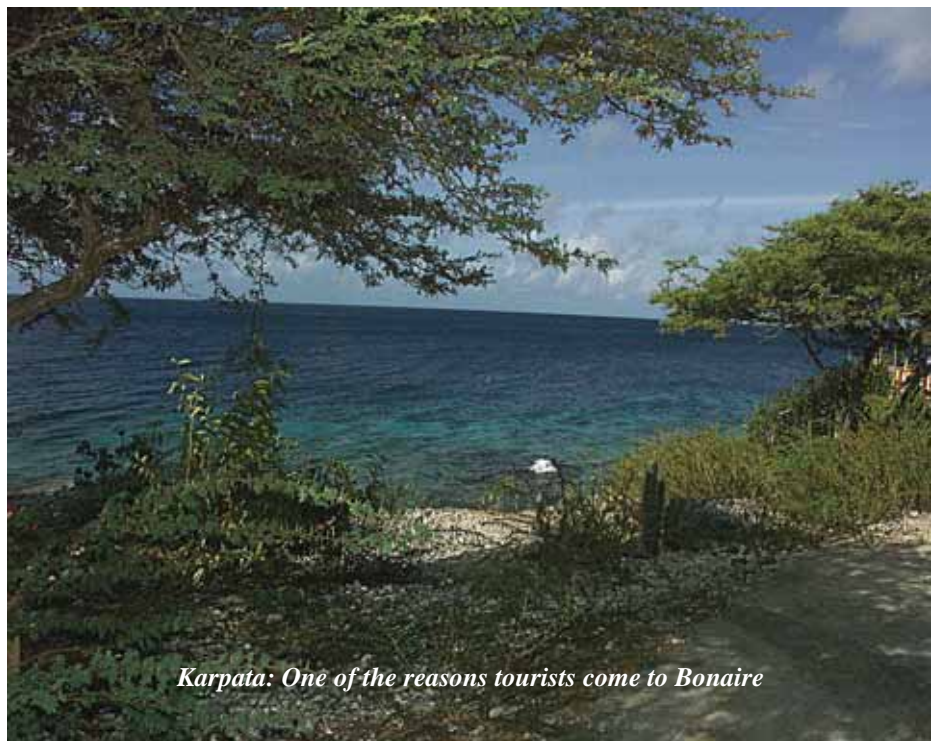
I have walked the hills round Lagoen at dusk, and been brought to tears by the stunning beauty of the red earth and the majestic cacti. I have done all the tourist things and loved them all: bumping down the pitted roads of Washington Park, lying on a sun bed at Sorobon and watching the windsurfers scream over the turquoise waters, sitting back with a glass of wine on an idyllic sunset sail on *Mushi Mushi*, gorging myself on a delicious meal of goat meat at the Rose Inn in Rincon, and swimming and snorkeling from every beach we could find.

Are there things I was glad to get away from? A few:

Mosquitoes for one! I was obviously born to be a packed lunch for them. I smothered myself in Osi, Autan, Cutter and Curaloe. I spread it on like butter and watched the mozzies sit in the middle of it, almost sliding off, but somehow that proboscis found a way through and delivered its load of histamine, in exchange for a slurp of my blood. I would have been happy to transfuse a pint into a bag, tape it round my leg like a catheter bag and hang a little notice on it saying, "Mosquitoes welcome."

Shopping for foodstuff was a real bun fight (if you will excuse the pun). Transport is essential, as you need to travel between all three main supermarkets in search of what is never on the shelves. You also need to be adaptable and imaginative, as the vital ingredient for your intended meal is often sitting in a container waiting for the cruise ships to clear the docks.

Speaking of cruise ships.... Well, there's another thing I don't miss. You can be having a nice peaceful read or a quiet lunchtime beer, when these blocks of flats disgorge their contents. They don't come in twos and threes, they come in 10s and 20s, garish floral shorts bursting at the seams, bellies bursting with the all inclusive food and beverage. You can only deduce that the thrum of the engine or the cabin airco has impaired their hear-



*Karpata: One of the reasons tourists come to Bonaire*

ing in some way, as conversation is carried out at decibel levels normally saved for when your dog is half a mile away chasing goats. There seems to be an innate fear that they might lose each other, as they line up the sun beds a regulation six inches apart. Then they flip-flop their way down to the water and for 10 seconds there is perfect peace. But hey, it's only right that they want to share their experience. The whole beach needs to know. "Guys - have you seen this? You just gotta see this." "Gee man, this is awesome... awesome."

Some look as though they have been dug up and are there just to make up the numbers. They sit under the shade of the palm trees, white legs stoppered with

blindingly white socks and shiny trainers, floppy straw hats drawn tightly down over wizened faces. Two hours later, the whole caboodle shuffle out to the waiting transport, back to safety and afternoon tea.

However, I do miss the friendliness of the people on Bonaire, the climate, the scenery, the sea, the casual dress, sun-downers, and most of all - my brother and his partner who have made the island their home.

You have a little piece of paradise - take care of it. ■ Penny Davison



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# Profiles

## Introducing: Klasita Emerenciana, Contributing Her Joy and Charisma to the Market

**K**lasita Emerenciana was born on Bonaire 75 years ago. After she finished school she left for Aruba, spent some time there but returned to her *dushi* Bonaire.

Klasita was one of the first participants in the crafts market at Wilhelmina Park which was set up some 10 years ago. "It was very different then," she says. "Our booths were made of palm leaves, and we could use the booth only from October to April, during the cruise ship season. In those days mainly local people participated and only a few non-locals. It was SKAL (the Culture Department) that set it up." She recalled, "Unfortunately one morning when we arrived at Wilhelmina Park we found that all of our palm booths were burned to the ground. Some youngsters had set them afire the previous night. I have to admit" says Klasita, "that Selibon did such a splendid job cleaning the debris that Wilhelmina Park came out much cleaner than before! In order to continue our market, we had to try to find a place under one of the trees just to be in the shade while selling our goods! But there weren't enough trees for all of us, and this made spending a day on the market a bit hard."

While she is talking I am struck by the happiness she radiates. Her eyes are expressing her joy and her zest for life. She looks wonderful in her traditional Bonairean dress and headdress, a beautiful and colorful representation of Bonaire.

Klasita is proud of her booth where she sells mainly her own creations. She enhances pieces of driftwood (which she finds and gathers herself on the beaches) by making them into colorful souvenirs of Bonaire, decorated with boats, waves and blue Bonairean skies. She also displays her plaster-of-Paris creations and ceramics. She learned these crafts at the Instituto Venezolano on Bonaire. "I love to be creative," she says, "and since the Instituto taught me how to use different materials I can do something creatively. Selling my things to tourists is like a crown on my work." From the money she earns, Klasita can buy new materials like the paint, the plaster for casting and the materials for making her ceramics. Her technical skills are needed as well, when she attaches metal chains to her driftwood pieces.

Before the market existed, she worked making uniforms in the Cambes factory on Bonaire that closed down some 18 years ago.

She is much happier now, doing the work she loves. Much of her creative work she can do at the 20-member Nort Nikiboko Womens Club. Twice a month they have bolas games at the ballpark. The club competes on Bonaire and international competitions on Curacao, Aruba and Venezuela. Klasita trains every week to keep herself in condition and practice her technique, and it shows! She's been doing this for over 15 years.

On a market day Klasita arrives early with all her articles, the wrapped up booth and foldable tables in her car. She never has to set up the booth by herself; her colleagues are always there to help. "We all help each other," she says. "That's what I like about being here. Another thing I like very much is talking with the tourists. They ask me many things about Bonaire, about the government building and why it is built as a regular house. They ask me about the building opposite my booth (the former doctor/dentist office), and I tell them that when my mother grew up, it served as a school. My mother went there when she was young. That was over 100 years ago. At that time the kids only went to school until the age of 10. Still my mother could write, read and



Klasita Emerenciana

she was very good with figures."

Klasita had two brothers. One died on Aruba, the other on Bonaire about four years ago while out at sea in his fishing boat with his son. She is grateful to have a nephew left here on Bonaire, and there are always the grandchildren of her women friends whom she sees and visits regularly.

She hopes to be part of the market for many years to come. "I am so happy to be here," she says. "I love what I am doing and I love the contacts with the people." Be sure to pass Klasita's booth when you visit the

market. It's definitely a joy to talk to her.

A tourist couple stops at her stall and they express their amazement that this market is so different from the ones on the other islands they visited. "This market really has quality stuff, no cheap tourist junk. There are more arts and crafts here than in the other places."

I do believe Bonaire can be proud of its market, of the participants and the beautiful arts and crafts that are being made on the island. ■ Story and Photo by Louise Rood



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# Buy A House In Bonaire?



*Bellafonte Bonaire Apartments*  
Caribbean Homes Photo

The Caribbean, including Bonaire, has been getting more affordable. The *Global Property Guide* says the depreciation of the US dollar against major currencies such as the British pound and the euro makes Caribbean properties more attractive than they once were: more affordable, but still not cheap!

Property prices in more popular and developed islands can easily reach over \$1 million for a place near the water.

In its March 2008 survey of Caribbean property prices the *Guide* finds that in Bermuda foreigners must pay an average of around \$1.5 million for a three-bedroom house and lot. It reported that the average price of a three-bedroom house in Curaçao and Bonaire is around \$525,000; while a four-bedroom house is \$640,000. A two-bedroom apartment can be had for around \$295,000. Properties in Curaçao and Bonaire are significantly cheaper compared to the rest of the Caribbean but slightly higher than in Aruba. The ABC Islands lie outside the Hurricane Belt, an added attraction for buyers, and there are no restrictions on foreigners buying property. For Bonaire the upcoming direct affiliation with Holland is a plus for buyers.

Property prices in highly-developed areas such as Bermuda and the Bahamas exceed US\$7,000 per sq. m. Coastal properties in Barbados are also expensive, at around US\$6,700 per sq. m. In the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and the US Virgin Islands (USVI), real estate prices are around US\$5,000 per sq. m. Sint Maarten also has expensive properties at around US\$5,300 per sq. m.

Property prices in St. Kitts and Nevis, Puerto Rico, Martinique, St. Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda range from US\$3,170 per sq. m. to US\$4,500 per sq. m.

For apartment buyers, Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos Islands are among the most expensive with prices at around US\$5,000 to US\$8,000 per sq. m. A two-bedroom apartment costs around US\$841,000.

Despite these high prices, Caribbean properties are still considerably cheaper than coastal properties in Mediterranean Europe. For instance, apartment prices in Barcelona are around US\$10,000 per sq. m., more than twice the price of apartments in the Bahamas or Cayman Islands. The ABC islands, and especially Bonaire, should continue to flourish.

Bonaire buyers should consider the following factors:

**Rental Income:** Non-resident's rental income exceeding NAf 23.950 (US\$13,456) is taxed at progressive rates from 11% to 39%, depending on the tax base. Additionally, a surtax is applied on the income tax, 25% in Bonaire. There are no capital gains taxes.

However, heirs inheriting property located in

the Netherlands Antilles from a non-resident are subject to a special conversion tax, at a flat rate of 8%. Resident individuals are taxed on their worldwide income.

**Buying Costs are moderate in Bonaire.** Round-trip transaction costs- the total cost of buying and selling a property- are around 9.2% to 14.4% of the property's value. The buyer usually pays the 4% transfer tax, and the registration costs of 1% to 2%. The seller pays the agent's commission, which can be in the area of 4%.

While Netherlands Antilles' law is pro-tenant in practice, rents and rent increases can be freely negotiated. Long-term rental agreements usually cover one year, with automatic renewal after the first year. While non-payment of rent and breaching the terms of the rental agreement are grounds for eviction, evicting local tenants can take a long time. ■ *Global Property Guide/G.D.*

*Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from pg 2)*

► **Bonaire may be in need of the "protection" that a law being considered in The Netherlands to control the movement of Antillean people may provide.**

Once Bonaire becomes part of the Netherlands one would expect that education, medical care and social benefits would improve and outstrip similar benefits on nearby islands. Then a flow of people from Curaçao, similar to the flow from Holland in recent years for better social security should be anticipated.

The new kingdom law should by default provide Bonaire with the same protections as European Dutch.

► **The island continues to experience power blackouts.**

According to a WEB (power company) release, a problem in the distribution system caused the automatic protection system to disconnect the Hato power plant around 8:30 am last Wednesday morning. The entire island was without power.

The power first went out in the north of the island. The technicians at WEB couldn't find the problem at first and tried to get the system operational again. While they were doing that another problem popped up and caused a total blackout.

It turned out that a high-voltage switch in the power plant was defective. All neighborhoods were connected again around 2 pm. WEB said that there will be some repair work in the coming days and that the power will be have to be cut now and then. However, advance notice will be given.

► The Miami-based Marine Safety Group has called upon the **Bahamas government to ban shark-feeding tours** in the wake of a recent death. An Austrian diver was bitten by a shark while diving in Bahamian waters that had been baited with bloody fish parts; he later died from his wounds.

► **Several hundred years ago, the coral reefs of the Caribbean had up to six times more fish than they have today,**



*Monk Seal*

according to a study published Wednesday. The estimate is made by US scientists poring over the fate of the Caribbean monk seal, a fish-loving mammal driven to extinction in 1952.

Historical records from the 17th and 18th century show there were huge numbers of

*(Continued on page 7)*

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Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from pg. 6)  
 monk seals, distributed among 13 colonies across the Caribbean. They were so plentiful that some ships' maps of the West Indies even noted particularly dense locations of seals.

► After a year-long absence, the Bonaire International Fishing Tournament will be held this year from April 11th to 13th, one week after the International Fishing Tournament on Curaçao. This year the headquarters for the tournament will be at the Club Nautico pier opposite It Rains Fishes Restaurant. Shore-side activities such as special BBQs, live music, distribution of the prizes and a live performance by the Foyan Boys band on Sunday afternoon will take place in the parking lot of It Rains Fishes.



► Last month three rangers from the Bonaire National Marine Park, STINAPA, worked closely with their counterparts from STENAPA in St Eustatius (Statia). Their visit was the second ranger exchange scheme between Stinapa and Stenapa through to increase competence of park rangers, funded by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA).

The Bonaire rangers performed all the routine daily tasks of the Marine Park, including mooring maintenance, patrols, yacht fee collection, diver supervision and fee checks, turtle-in-water monitoring dives, Zeelandia beach cleanup, boat maintenance, and snorkel club instruction for 8-10 year olds.

They also worked with Statia rangers Walter Blair and Nadio Spanner to install four new yacht moorings in Oranjestad Bay.

Upon their departure, the rangers said they had learned a great deal in Statia and that they had found that the people were very friendly and gentle. The Chief Ranger urged the Island Government that if they want to keep coral in good health, they need to enact more laws, such as banning spear fishing, and also ensuring that there is more personnel working for the Marine Park.

and musicians, followed by the main act of Izaline Calister and her trio. We'll have more information as the date gets closer.

► Dr. Daniela Maldini, who is here this semester teaching Marine Conservation Biology at CIEE and specializes in marine mammals has established a **dolphin research project focusing on the dolphins around Bonaire.**



If you would like to participate contact her at the CIEE, 717-4140.

► There has been much speculation on what currency Bonaire would use once direct ties with Holland are established, the US dollar or the euro. Now a new idea has been raised-keep the guilder. OBNA (Antilles Investment Bank) Director Gomez Casseres while touching on various subjects, which included dismantling of the central government, and the future of SVB, APNA, the Central Bank and the debt issue recommended a step-by-step approach. "The Antillean guilder should remain the currency of the BES islands (Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba) for another ten years," he said.



► The Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival for 2008, will be held from May 22 to 25. It promises to become another big success. The festival will be opened by the Lt. Governor on May 22 with a "Jazz and Poetry" presentation in Fort Oranje. The evening will start off with local poets



► Keep an eye out for a wayward cat. Wanda is missing in Tera Cora/Nikiboko. She broke out of a screened window at the vet's office Feb. 14 (near La Portuguesa). She has a scar under her ear. She is a very timid/shy cat. Please call 786-3134 or 786-4538 if you see Wanda.

► The TCB is promoting several of Bonaire's upcoming events on out neighboring islands of Aruba and Curacao. On April 3 they will be in Aruba and the next day in Curacao. The delegation is made up of Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes TCB Director, a representative of the Bonaire Jazz Foundation, Elvis Martinus of Aquaspeed Windsurfing and Bonaire Sailing Foundation will be represented by Byron Tromp and Edsel Pieter.

The press conferences they will hold will focus on the Dia di Rincon, Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival, Pro Kids and Bonaire International Sailing Regatta.

► Dear readers, remember to patronize the advertisers of The Bonaire Reporter and let them know you appreciate their support. They keep up "still Free." ■ G.D.

## DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

Sudoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site [www.SudokuShack.com](http://www.SudokuShack.com). Answer on page 9. Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney (who has to solve all the puzzles first.)

### Dragonfly Kite



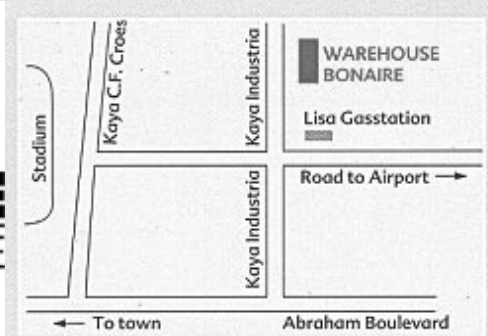
► Don't miss the 30<sup>th</sup> Kontest di Fli (kite contest) next Sunday at the field behind Kooijmans. Every year it's a huge success. Families, friends and all kinds of groups get together to built the most amazing kites, and often it takes a whole crowd to launch them. It's a wonderful, wholesome atmosphere. Bring chairs and tables, food and drink coolers and spend the day. ■



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# Windsurfing Wave Competition



Ann Phelan photo

Elvis and the riders at the captain's meeting

Thanks to a Caribbean-wide storm, the swell last Saturday was enough to create a challenging wave event a Lac Cai. The local contingent of windsurf youth and pros and a few international riders were on hand to compete in the annual wave challenge. Italian rider Davide Giardini, studying at CIEE, was on hand to compete. An impressive group of junior riders were eager to sample the afternoon swell. Local pros, Taty Frans, Kiri Thode and Tonky Frans, each performed a set of freestyle wave feats including forward loops, table tops and more. When they were up, the junior division dazzled the crowd in the big swells. Young Dylan Robles proved practice makes perfect. His skill in the waves has vastly

improved since last year's event. Top gun Bjorn Saragoza wowed the crowd with some slick moves.

There was a large spectator crowd on hand, a mix of locals and tourists. During lunch everyone enjoyed local food including fish and fungi and creole style chicken. The mood was enhanced by Antillean and Latin music and a festive vibe. The awards ceremony was a fun time and the winners revealed were:

- Juniors: 1. Bjorn Saragoza (Hot Sails/Starboard)  
 2. Hendrick Balentien (JP)  
 3. Amado Vrieswijk (Hot Sails/Starboard)  
 Pro: 1. Taty Frans (North/Starboard)  
 2. Kiri Thode (Gaastra/Starboard)  
 3. Tonky Frans (Gaastra/F2)



Veronica Zufelt photo



Veronica Zufelt photo

Thanks to the following supporters who provided prizes, event support and cash: Fast Forward, Jibe City, Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations, Bonaire Windsurf Place, AB Car Rental, Bonaire Seaside Apartments,

Antillean Wine Company, The Island Supplier, Divi Flamingo Resort Bonaire, The Red Cross and Aquaspeed. ■

Ann Phelan Press PR

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# BONAIREAN VOICES

## SPORTS

“A sport field without players is not a field; it’s a place abandoned to the Hawks and the Sparrows.” - old saying

Sports are the physical activities that are governed by a set of rules or uniforms and often engaged in competitively. Bonaireans like sports. Besides other games that are played, the most popular sports in Bonaire are soccer, softball, windsurfing, judo and baseball. In the past they played “korfball.” It’s like basketball but with three divisions in an organized group.

But if we sit and think for a moment we might ask ourselves what is going in sports nowadays and why are people complaining about how sporting activities are being managed here in Bonaire in the 21st century?

A very active and fit lady used to played korfbal and soccer in the past. Now, at 69 years old, she says, “I loved sports and still love them. In the past, when I was a young girl we didn’t have much recreation besides our duties in school, going to church and helping at home. We made sports our recreation. At first it was for fun, but then we organized a sport club for all young men and women. We were very disciplined. First we had to do our school work, help at home and then get on the field. Our main goal for the teams was to get better and become winners. Nowadays the teams are not happy with each other and they lack a

lot of information about how to behave when they’re competing. There are a lot of young children walking around who are not so interested in sports because they don’t have enough information about them. They may think that playing on an organized team

is just something to pass the time and they don’t see any need to help make the team move forward and be a better one. Sports officials need to see how important each sport is here on Bonaire and help our youngsters keep out of trouble by taking sports seriously. Of course discipline goes along with it. Let’s do this to make Bonairean sports grow.”

Another lady (47) who has been in sports most her life, said, “In the past teams liked to stick together and everybody worked to help the team grow and become successful. For the last few years the energetic team spirit and will to win have been drifting away. We have to sit down and see what the cause of all this is. It could be different problems: the fields, the high cost of living, the sports officials, the politicians, the government or us.



Sports Commissioner el Hage at the opening of the soccer season game between ATC and Vitesse

Don’t let prejudice and arrogance turn our sports into a war zone just because of our own misunderstanding. We can’t be so selfish because we are not only harming ourselves but also the younger generation that is learning from us grown ups. We want to stop the crime, the drug abuse, the alcohol abuse, the peer pressure among youths if we could, but how we are going to do that if we take sports for granted? Stop fighting and start thinking wisely. What can we do for our team(s) and for our self as a member of a team or teams (some people participate in more than one sport)? Sports are as much a part of our culture as whatever else we might practice here on Bonaire, be it music or art. Some people like me start feeling the bitterness of being an athlete, and I know that’s a wrong feeling, but that is the reality. We

have here in Bonaire some good people who really care about athletics on the island. Please, sports officials, get to these people before is too late here on Bonaire and give all Bonaireans the chance to grow in all kinds of sports activities.”

As many of us know this subject of sports was the top issue discussed on the radio and in the newspapers for the last three months and it is a continuing issue.

■ Siomara E. Albertus

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email reporter@bonairenews.com .



## SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 7

378264195  
461597283  
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714859632  
632741958  
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193482576  
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## Did You Know...

That the Green Iguana found on Bonaire has the easiest scientific name to remember on the planet? While most scientific names are confusing and you have no idea what they mean, this animal's name is simply, *Iguana iguana*! Why can't all species' names be this easy? This herbivorous reptile can grow old enough to reach a length of two meters and is native to South and Central America. It is often found close to water, which provides an easy escape route from predators such as birds. Be careful where you step. If you are walking down a path you may accidentally stumble upon an iguana warming its body against the rocks. They blend in so well to their environment, with their typical green to grayish colored bodies, that you might not notice one unless it moves! n *Brian Reckenbeil*



Iguanas at leisure

*Brian Reckenbeil is a Biology major from Moravian College in Bethlehem Pennsylvania. He is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of college, and the kicker on the football team He played lacrosse at college for the first two years, but is now studying Tropical Marine Ecology and Conservation in Bonaire this semester at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire.*



Bonaire is full of surprises as Lee Scruggs, who took these photos discovered.

A walk along the scenic road, called the tourist road by locals, on the west side of the island offers some lovely panoramas with steep cliffs and crystal seas.

But there are several artworks there too.

Just along the roadside, using your imagination, you can find Snoopy, the dog, a wooden flamingo and a small green submarine.

Take a ride or a walk along the tourist road and see if you can find them.

Along the east, windward, side of Bonaire, along the coast, are driftwood constructions that come and go. Some say they are the result of wave-tossed driftwood randomly coming together. Others say there's a mystery sculptor roaming the beaches. Check it out. ■ *G.D.*



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# Walk-a-Thon Success

Although the sixth Special Olympics Walkathon was held a month later than usual, it didn't escape getting rained on... but just a bit; nothing like past years when the walkers all got soaked.

On Sunday, March 30, starting at the slave huts at 5 am, the participants set out on the 30-kilometer route that followed the salt slaves journey to Rincon and back each week. Entrants walked, bike and even roller bladed. There were eight water stops manned by kind people who gave out water, Gatorade, fruit, *pan dushi* (sweet bread) and lots of encouragement. One of the most popular water stops is at Karpata, organized by the Bonaire Bikers Club. Which offered a full (free) bar menu to fuel the walkers for the steep trek to Alta Mira before the slope down to the finish line at the Pasadia di Karino in Rincon.

556 tickets at NAf 25 were sold for the event. Here are a few photos from the day. ■ G.D.



First runner to finish:  
Nazario Alberto (of course).



Tabulating the finishers at the PasaDia



Teenage bicycle riders recharging with juice.



SOB Board Director, Claire Seely, restocks the pan dushi.



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# Bonaire's Reef's Are Best... But

The report on the status of Bonaire's coral reefs based on monitoring conducted from 2003 – 2007 by Robert S. Steneck and Suzanne Arnold from the University of Maine and Dr. Peter from the University of Exeter, School of BioSciences, on our coral reefs concluded that Bonaire's reefs remain among the best in the Caribbean. However, the monitoring revealed some potentially troubling trends that may require management action. The results were presented at Captain Don's Habitat last week and are available on line on the STINAPA website at <http://www.stinapa.org/pdfs/Bonaire-Report-2007-Bob-Steneck-etc.pdf>

The report said Bonaire's reefs have not declined since the study began having escaped the effects of an algae takeover that occurred on most Caribbean reefs since the 1980s when disease wiped out 97% of the black long-spined sea urchins that eat algae.

"We see three troubling trends of increased (macro)algae, declining grazing of algae by parrotfish, and increases in damselfish populations," the report went on. "Of these, the first two are most serious. Secondary trends of concern are increases in damselfish populations and declines in coralline algae (from 20% to 4%) which could lead to reduced recruitment of reef corals but to date this is not evident. Importantly, live coral cover remains relatively high (47%) . The monitored group of carnivorous fishes, the lutjanid snappers, are holding constant but we remain concerned about the past the continued loss of other larger bodied reef carnivores such as groupers and barracuda.

Macroalgae abundance on Bonaire's coral reefs in 2007 was significantly greater than it had been in 2003 and 2005 (Figure 1). At the same time, parrotfish biomass on Bonaire's coral reefs has declined for unknown reasons, perhaps fishing."

The survey which was completed last year did not comment on the recent acceleration of algae growth at some sites on the reef. ■ G.D.

Clear Water (Continued from page 3)

corded water conditions every eight minutes. Millions of bits of data were recorded.

To ensure that the LMSP sensors were accurately calibrated in February Tom Reynolds traveled to Bonaire with the "expensive gear" on loan from USC. We can report they passed the test and the first results were published in the last issue of The Reporter.

Currently, LMSP sensors are being re-programmed to record data at one minute intervals, multiplying the data and the task of analyzing it, but making it easier to calibrate LMSP sensors with the "expensive gear."

Tom says, "Global conditions notwithstanding, the land is a significant source of the reef's problems. When we report the results of our work we give the population and government the ability to determine the quality of their water. The LMSP will localize where the situations (affecting the water quality) may exist. Once located, other instruments will be able to pinpoint the source of the problem. Even now we can compare the clarity of the water between the Andreas and White Slave. As we process the data, we will know which locations have the clearest water."

It is up to STINAPA to publish results on their website and to take remedial action if necessary.

Up until now everyone working on the project have been volunteers. However, with the plans to increase the number of sensors, set more around Klein Bonaire, add fluorometer instruments and increase the sampling interval by eight times, the

flow of data will become a torrent.

This is very ambitious project without a doubt, unique on the planet. More data will be gathered in a single day by Bonaire's LMSP sensors than for NASA's entire moon mission. Further, there is global interest in this project. Dr. Jones and Mr. Reynolds have received inquiries from all around the world and will present the program at the Coral Reef Symposium in July.

Additional funds from private, corporate and government donors will be need to run the project for its 10-year life through the installation of the waterfront wastewater system.

The data analysis was being done by Dr Jones and it was hoped that USC graduate students could take it over. However, it is turning out to be so formidable a task that specialists may have to be employed.

Published LMSP information can even help divers contemplating a trip to Bonaire. They will be able to see for themselves which resorts have the clearest water which implies the best reefs.

Tom Reynolds concludes, "Hard science must precede informed political action. Having the data protects us from doing the wrong thing. Critically, we must do the right thing. What the ocean could tolerate in the past is not true today. After all it's not our father's ocean anymore." ■ G.D.

Money is needed to continue this project. Donations accepted by Support Bonaire (US tax deductible)/ or the SEA MONITOR Foundation accounts: Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) USD Account # 116.735.09 NA Account # 116.736.07 SWIFT TRANSFER: MCBKANCUBON



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# Picture Yourself With The Reporter Cruising Alaska West Chicago, USA



Cruise ships are in the minds of lots of people on Bonaire, but perhaps not in the same way they are for Walt and Lyn Bentsen, who live in Belnem. They recently took a cruise/tour to Alaska. They wrote, "We took *The Reporter* with us so we could look at the pictures of home to help keep us warm." ■



One Perhay writes, "When I returned home after a ninth Christmas in beautiful Bonaire I discovered that one of your flamingoes followed me! So, after teaching him how to make a snow angel we both posed with *The Reporter* We'll see you again in December, 2008." ■

# Bonaire Ambassadors Gold For Carol

Carol Dornbush was awarded her gold Bonaire Ambassador's medal from TCB's Rolando Marin last week.

She writes about her Bonaire experiences: From the moment my husband, Al, and I set foot on Bonaire 26 years ago we knew we had found a very special place. We were so enchanted with the island that in a short time we bought a first and then a second timeshare at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. We formed wonderful friendships there that would bring us back year after year for two weeks (and sometimes three) each January. As soon as we arrived we would stock up on groceries from Culti-mara and bread from Exito. Then we would enjoy diving and snorkeling each day, sharing a few Amstels with our friends at green flash, and savoring delicious dinners and ocean breezes at night.

I traveled alone when I returned to Bonaire this past January because Al passed away on



November 30. Although saddened by the loss of my beloved husband, I was comforted by our extended Bonaire family and treasured Bonaire memories. I knew then that I would always want to come home to the people and places of Bonaire. ■

TCB Release and photo

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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 Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	<b>Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday</b> from 6-9pm. Only NA/ 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

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### BEAUTY PARLOR

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### 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.

### BOOKS and TOYS

**At last, a real book and toy store on Bonaire, Addos,** in downtown Kralendijk sell books in three languages and has a variety of quality toys.

### 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

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### 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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## Letters to the Editor

### Hotel Development Good Schools New PO Service?

#### Aruba Hotel Development, A Lesson?

Dear Editor:

I have always been very critical about the frenzy of hotel construction on Aruba. However, in one respect Bonaire should follow the example of Aruba. A large sewage treatment plant with waste collection pipelines was built years ago along the Aruba shore before the construction of the hotels on the Druiif Beach, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach had started. The purified water does not flow back into the sea but is used for the irrigation of a large golf course. On Bonaire, just the opposite is happening. Development is proceeding and the waste water will be returned to the seaside.

The volume of waste water, going directly or indirectly into the sea around Bonaire is increasing every day. Uncontrolled release of nutrient-rich waste water promotes excessive growth of algae that may eventually smother the reef. Every diver or snorkeler can see that that reef algae, particularly near the resorts, is increasing.

Although development on Bonaire should be concentrated in other areas (consider the decrepit condition of several school buildings), the government of the island is fixated on the idea that the construction of more houses and new big hotels is crucial for the progress of the island. It is completely ignoring the seminal Pourier Report of the 90s, which counseled slow development and reef protection. Its most important principle is that all future development must consider the unique coral reef, the



Azul Project Road

main asset of Bonaire.

The local leading politicians and, unfortunately, also part of the local population, are proud that the hotels and large condominiums are being built. They do not realize that this development will have, next to the environmental damage, a detrimental effect on their own lives. A large influx of workers from the Caribbean and Latin American countries, required for the construction and operation of the hotels, will not only dramatically increase the current serious infrastructural problems but will also jeopardize the cultural identity of the Bonairean people. According to the statistics, Papiamentu is the mother language for just 68% of island inhabitants. Immigration by several thousand foreign workers will inevitably result in a gradual replacement of Papiamentu by Spanish as has already happened on Aruba!

And what are the prospects for the two new large hotels? I expect that the Divi Sunset Hotel will be a big success as the Divis on Aruba. Due to its ideal location and good services it may become the favorite high level hotel on Bonaire. Unfortunately for the existing restaurants, the guests will make use of

the hotel's own dining facilities because Divi Sunset will be an all-inclusive hotel. Having my own experience with the excellent, fresh food at acceptable prices in the restaurants of the Divi hotels on Aruba, I can predict that not only the Divi guests but also guests of other hotels and locals, will frequently visit the Divi Sunset hotel restaurants.

One situation concerning the Divi Sunset project has to be resolved and that is how the contractor will prevent damaging the coral reef by loose fine sand particles during the reconstruction of the hotel beach. I asked this question to the Divi Sunset Resort project manager, Mark Nooren, in December 2006 and he answered that he would get to me on this matter in due time. Obviously, the due time has not arrived yet. In my opinion, the project should begin with the beach reconstruction rather than with the building of block walls along the site perimeter.

While the Divi Sunset Resort has a bright future, the prospects for the Bonaire Hilton Resort & Spa are less optimistic. The main reason is that Azul Development, which had been involved in the past in the development of several hotels on the Aruba's famous Palm Beach, has, unfortunately, ignored the basic rule in the real estate and hotel development: "Location, Location, Location." Azul has chosen a site which has no beach and is absolutely below the standard for a Hilton hotel. It is for us incomprehensible that, according to our information, no high Hilton official had visited the site before signing the agreement to give its name to the resort. (A draft of this article was submitted to the responsible director at the Hilton headquarters in Beverly Hills, California, who had no comments

on it).

What benefits will the new big hotels bring for the Bonairean people? In my view, there will be more problems than benefits for the inhabitants of our island. The frequently used argument that the hotels will bring jobs for the local people is not valid in this case.

It is possible that only a very limited number of local people will work as managers in lower positions, like it has happened on Aruba. As everybody knows, there is no labor available on Bonaire for the construction and operation of the hotels.

Jiri Lausman

#### What Makes A Good School

Dear Editor:

A few years ago the Dutch daily, *Volkskrant*, gave its opinion on what makes a good school:

**A successful school: a powerful principal a strong team a clear vision of the purpose of the school discipline and peace and unwavering confidence in the capacities of the students.**

In what respect does the SGB live up to or does not live up to these requirements?

Knowing this, something might be done about it.

Ger Vellinga

#### Post Office's New Service?

Dear Editor:

Last Friday afternoon at 3:30 pm a nearly 80-year-old man arrived at the locked door of the Kralendijk Post Office where several persons were already waiting. He wondered why the door was locked at that time because, according to the information on the door, the Post Office on Friday closes at

4:15 p.m. He looked inside through the glass door and saw people in line in front of the counter. The man thought that perhaps for security reasons, only a limited number of persons were always admitted to enter the Post Office.

After a while, the door was unlocked from inside by a man in a white shirt and dark trousers. The old man wanted to enter, but the Post Office employee declared that the office was closed. To the question why the office was closed although it had to stay open till 4:15 pm the employee answered that the manager had ordered it.

After the old man asked to speak to the manager, the employee, who refused to give his name, shouted that it was not possible, grasped the old man and threw him on the sidewalk. The old man fell on his arm and hip and lay at a distance of about three meters from the door.

The waiting women shouted, "Bergwensa!" (Shame!), but the employee locked the door and did not look back at the old man on the sidewalk. When the man fell, three letters he wanted to send registered mail fell from his hand, and the strong wind took them away. He was not able to try to catch them. The old man, limping and feeling a severe pain, walked to the Medical Center where the doctor, after examination, stated that the old man suffered injuries on his hip and elbow. If he were not retired, he would be unfit for work for two weeks.

The old man later visited the Police Office and submitted a complaint against the Post Office employee due to maltreatment. You would never believe that such things are happening on our paradise island!

The Old Man



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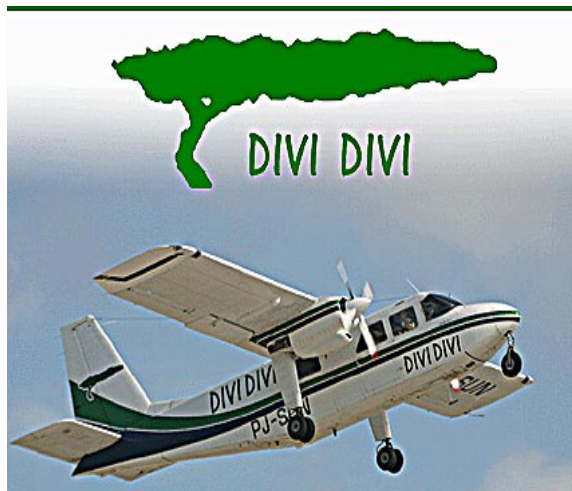
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### KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
4-03	4:23	1.2FT.	10:43	1.6FT.	17:14	1.1FT.	23:08	1.5FT.	67
4-04	5:47	1.1FT.	11:41	1.5FT.	17:06	1.1FT.	23:36	1.6FT.	80
4-05	0:05	1.7FT.	7:16	1.1FT.	12:38	1.3FT.	16:56	1.1FT.	90
4-06	0:48	1.8FT.	8:56	1.0FT.	14:10	1.2FT.	16:29	1.1FT.	97
4-07	1:35	1.9FT.	10:34	0.9FT.					10
4-08	2:30	1.9FT.	12:00	0.8FT.					10
4-09	3:32	2.0FT.	13:06	0.7FT.					95
4-10	4:33	2.0FT.	14:00	0.7FT.					87
4-11	5:41	2.0FT.	14:44	0.7FT.					76
4-12	6:40	1.9FT.	15:29	0.7FT.					65
4-13	7:43	1.9FT.	16:01	0.8FT.					56
4-14	1:25	1.3FT.	8:35	1.8FT.	16:28	0.9FT.	23:16	1.3FT.	52
4-15	3:26	1.2FT.	9:33	1.7FT.	16:50	0.9FT.	22:54	1.4FT.	54
4-16	4:48	1.2FT.	10:19	1.5FT.	17:00	1.0FT.	22:59	1.5FT.	61
4-17	6:05	1.1FT.	11:15	1.4FT.	16:47	1.1FT.	23:17	1.6FT.	68

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, April 5—Rincon Market** in the heart of Rincon, Spend the day shopping, playing games or visiting historic sites. This month's big market is dedicated to Ben Oleana who has been working for the betterment of Rincon for three years. For more information call Raymunda Fines at 717-3693 or Dorothy Cicilia at 796-9046.

**Sunday, April 6—2008 BWC Half Marathon, 14K and 7K Fun Run** Start at Eden Beach 7 am. Contact De Freeweiler bike shop or Bonaire Wellness Center, The total distance of the course is 7.1Km; starting from Eden Beach Resort and then it follows Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot towards south. Then it follows the ocean road—Kaya Playa Lechi, Kaya J.N.E. Craane - that runs until the town pier. At Plaza Wilhelmina, runners will turn left and then left again at Kaya Grandi to run towards Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar. The run follows Kaya Korona and at the end runners will turn left to follow Kaya Amsterdam and then back to Eden Beach Resort.

**Sunday, April 6—30th Annual Kontest di Fli** In the field behind Kooyman's. All day from 9 am. Sign up at the Flamingo Book Store on Kaya Grandi. Entry fee is NAf 3,50 for children; NAf 7,50 for adults. For more information read Flotsam & Jetsam on page 7

**Sunday, April 12—Beginning at 6:30 am. Bike ride to benefit the Bonaire Puppet Theater, JePoBon.**

Route: Kralendijk Stadium, Kaya Betico Croes, Nikiboko Zuid, Kaminda Lac, Kaya Ing. Van Eps, Kaya International, Airport and end at the Stadium. There will be five rest stops along the way. Cost: NAf 17,50 Adults and 15,00 for children. Make sure your bike is in good condition.

Cost covers a T-shirt, water, juice and fruit. Get tickets at the office of SKAL in the Bonaire Museum or Lula Hart, Kaya Zuid Nikiboko 127, tel. 717-2666.

Buy a ticket to support the cause even if you won't ride.

**Sunday, April 20—Rotorally** sponsored by the Rotary Club. Pre-sale tickets from all Rotary members or at info@rotarybonaire.org

**Sunday, April 30—Rincon Day**—Biggest party on Bonaire Details next issue.

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

*Cruise Ship Schedules Subject to Change*

Sun., Apr. 6—2 Ships -Aidavita, Hanseatic  
Tues. Apr. 8-Emerald Princess  
Wed., Apr. 9—Sea Princess  
Sun., April 13-Aida Aura  
Wed., Apr. 16-Crown 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: keesleeman@telbonet.an
- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm—4 am; Sunday 7 pm—3 am.
- By appointment—**Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the evening hours.

## Saturdays

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

- Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon.
- 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 ambiance 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
- Bonaireaan Restaurant**, open 9—10:30 am, run by teens in training. Only on Thursdays and Fridays. Coffee, tea, homemade baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27

## Fridays

- Bonaireaan Restaurant**, open 9—10:30 am, run by teens in training. Only on Thursdays and Fridays. Coffee, tea, homemade baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27
- 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

**Sunday—Creature Feature**—John and Suzie Wall of Buddy's Digital photo center present a multimedia slide Presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

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

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

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

**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.

## 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 at

7:00 PM-every Sunday at 5:00 PM.

Phone :

786-4651, 788-1369 or 786-7699 .

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

**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

April 8th's  
Occult  
Occurrence:  
Watch The  
Moon  
Hide The  
Seven Sisters

Mark  
Tuesday  
night, April  
8<sup>th</sup>, as the  
night when a  
cosmic occult  
occurrence  
will occur.

That's because

whenever one object in the heavens passes directly in front of another object and hides it from view we call such an event an **occultation** because the word occult comes from the word to hide. And next Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, in early evening an exquisite crescent **Moon** complete with **Earthshine** will indeed pass over the fabled star cluster, **The Seven Sisters**, and occult them, that is hide them from view for a brief time.

On Tuesday evening April 8<sup>th</sup>, just after dark, face west where you will see an exquisite three-day-old crescent Moon complete with Earthshine. Now in case you've forgotten what Earthshine is, simply keep in mind that the Moon does not make its own light but shines by reflected sunlight. So the bright part of the crescent Moon you'll be seeing is sunlight bouncing directly off the Moon and back to **Earth**. However, when the Moon is a crescent it frequently looks like there's a dark full Moon nestled within this crescent. And we call this Earthshine because it is light from the sun bouncing off our Earth onto the unlit portion of the Moon and back again. And believe me, the crescent Moon with Earthshine is always a beautiful sight.

But on this night if you look close by you will see several stars bunched up together in a group, the tiny cluster of stars known for thousands of years as **The Seven Sisters, The Pleiades**. And this evening from many places across the North American continent and the Sky Park, Moon watchers will be able to see the Moon slowly pass over and hide several of the sisters' stars from view. And although this will look fabulous with the naked eye, I strongly encourage you to use a pair of binoculars because not only will the Moon with Earthshine look great but you'll also see dozens more stars in this cluster which is actually a group of about 100 stars, 407 light years away. That means the light we'll see next week left these stars 407 years ago in 1601, only nine years before Galileo was the first to use a telescope to discover the extra sisters.

Now I strongly suggest that you start watching at dusk just before it gets completely dark out. Have a fairly clear flat horizon because the Moon and The Pleiades will set about three hours after dusk. And as it gets darker you can look to the left of the Moon and The Pleiades and you'll see the dim v-shaped group of stars called the **Hyades** which mark the face of **Taurus the Bull**. In fact Taurus' red eye star, **Aldebaran**, should easily catch your attention as will **Betelgeuse**, the red shoulder star of **Orion, the Hunter**, and the red planet **Mars** which on Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> will be visited by a wonderful first quarter Moon. So get out next Tuesday night and why not share this occult occurrence with a friend? ■

Jack Horkheimer



Jerry Lodriguss photo

Crescent moon and the Seven Sisters



## THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
For April 2008

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You may find that your documents are not in order. In-laws may cause difficulties. Travel should be considered. Get out and, about. You will be well looked upon due to your compassionate and giving nature. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) New methods and innovative technology will make your job far easier than you anticipated. Travel will initiate new friendships or love connections. Pleasure trips will turn out to be better than anticipated. Make your intentions perfectly clear and find out exactly what is expected of you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You need to do more research before you make your final decision. Elders may need your help. You must try to help. Emotional up and downs have caused doubts in your personal life. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You may blow situations out of proportion when dealing with the one you love. Sentimental feelings may make it difficult to get much done at work. Don't be too eager to give a piece of your mind or even your opinion this month. Set the ball in motion and be relentless until you complete the project. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Take care that arrangements to spend quality time together are made in advance. Recognition can be yours if you present your ideas and stand behind your beliefs. Empty promises will cause upset. Make love, not war, and all will be fine. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Offer good conversation and a nice soothing lunch.

Try not to let your emotions interfere with the completion of your work. It's time to reevaluate your motives. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better. You may want to make changes in your home environment. Don't give your heart too readily. Hobbies will be good for your emotional well being. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your ability to charm others will bring added popularity. Secret affairs will only lead to deception. You will be overly generous with children this month. You need to be careful not to make promises that you can't fulfill. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Older family members may take advantage of you by making you feel guilty. You will have a great day if you just say what you feel. You can stabilize your financial situation if you make property investments. Arguments with relatives may lead to a split in the family. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can make successful moves. You may be frustrated by the way situations are being handled in your personal life. Throw yourself into your work. You will be overly sensitive when dealing with your personal life. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your ability to work with detail could help you achieve your goals. You'll be able to discuss your ambitions with your mate. Don't let your mate bully you into thinking that you owe them your time and your life. Don't agree to make any of those cosmetic alterations you've been considering. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Investments will cost more than you anticipated. Your partner may push buttons that infuriate you. You may need a good friend to lean on. You need a day to rest and relax with the ones you love. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■

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# MCB International Tennis Tournament



Over the Easter weekend for the 6<sup>th</sup> time the MCB International Tennis Tournament took place on the island of Bonaire. Over 110 participants from the US, Europe, South America and the Caribbean joined for the biggest tennis event in the Antilles.

Five long days, starting on Thursday night with the opening rounds, working through more than 200 matches on the 4 courts of the Harbour Village Tennis Center, all players and the tournament committee were very busy. With a Player's BBQ on Friday night and an Easter Buffet on Saturday night, with Live Music from Glenn and friends the off court program also brought lots of entertainment and good times.

Thanks to automation the match schedule worked smooth, and on Sunday morning all quarter finals and semi finals could start. A total of 20 different categories have been played, so the entire Monday finals were played and award ceremonies held, for international players having to catch planes.

Leonard Domacasse from the MCB Bank and Adam Littman from Littman's Jewelers presented the trophies and vouchers for the winners. For the first time in the history of the MCB Tennis Event cheques were given to first and second prize winners Tim den Hartog (Holland) and Frank Hodgson (Aruba).

Tournament Director Elisabeth Vos likes to thank all players and all bar-, kitchen, and committee helpers for the tremendous job well done. A special thanks to Humphrey Hose, group leader from Aruba, who came with a team of more than 20 players. Congratulations are in order for Patricia Polo from Curacao, who became the MVP player (Most Valuable Player) of 2008, by bringing a team of young female A-players to the event, so for the first time the categories Ladies Single A and Mixed Doubles A could be played.

Without all support from the sponsors the event would never be so successful so a BIG thank you for MCB Bonaire and all co-sponsors: TIS, Telbo, Jibe City, Don Andres, Vespucci, Littman's, Duyn Bonaire, Budget Rental Car, Jacobs Architecten, Heineken/JC Herrera, Akkermans Auto Supplies, Tennisschool Sport Bonaire and Harbour Village Beach Club for all help organizing the event. The MCB 2009 will be even better!

The Results of the tournament:

Heren Enkel A. Uitslag  
 1e m den Hertog, Tim (NL) 6-2 6-3  
 2e m Hodgson, Frank (Aru)  
 Heren Enkel B.  
 1e m Sniijdersblok, Daan (NL) 7-5 6-2  
 2e m Hodgson, Marc (Aru)  
 Heren Enkel B40+.  
 1e m Farro, Egbert (Aru) 6-3 2-6 (7-3)  
 2e m Domacasse, Leo (Bon)  
 Heren Enkelspel C.  
 1e m Besseling, Lukas (Bon) 6-4 3-6 (9-7)  
 2e m Coffi, Leonard (Bon)  
 Heren Enkel C40+.  
 1e m Domacasse, Willy (Cur) 6-2 3-6 (7-4)  
 2e m Tdlohreg, Ludwig (Bon)  
 Dames Enkel A Finale.

1e v Albertsz, Thammy (Bon) 1-6 6-4 (8-6)  
 2e v Sleur, Miyolou (Cur)  
 Dames Enkel B Finale.  
 1e v Joubert, Sandra (Col) 6-4 6-4  
 2e v Kramer, Rixt (Cur)  
 Dames Enkel C Finale.  
 1e v Marks, Irene (Bon) 6-0 6-3  
 2e v de Meyer, Kalli (Bon)  
 Heren Dubbel A.  
 1e m den Hertog, Tim (NL) 7-5 6-0  
 2e m Schulten, Jeroen (NL) m Finies, James (Bon) m Veeris, Paco (Bon)  
 Heren Dubbel B.  
 1e m Domacasse, Leo (Bon) 6-4 6-4  
 2e m Domacasse, Leonard (Bon) m Uding, Joris (Bon) m Veeris, Paco (Bon)  
 Heren Dubbel B40+.  
 1e m Hart, Silvio (Bon) 2-6 7-5 (7-2)  
 2e m Kock, Andres (Bon) m Hirschfeld, Renzo (Aru) m Hose, Humphrey (Aru)  
 Heren Dubbel C.  
 1e m Hart, Giovannie (Cur) 6-4 7-5  
 2e m Josepha, Gideon (Bon) m Despomare, Frank (USA) m Peluso, Sebastiaan (Bon)  
 Heren Dubbel C40+.  
 1e m Celestijn, Roy (Bon) 7-6 6-3  
 2e m Tjin-Asjoe, Elvis (Bon) m Kock, John (Aru) m Vrolijk, Benny (Aru)  
 Dames Dubbel B Finale.  
 1e v Hageman, Yvette (Bon) 6-3 6-0  
 2e v Shea, Donna (USA) v de Vos, Meike (Cur) v Polo, Patricia (Cur)  
 Dames Dubbel C Finale.  
 1e v Muller, Margon (Bon) 6-4 6-4  
 2e v Stolk, Annemieke (Bon) v Bierings-vd Rijt, Rosalie (Bon)  
 Dames Dubbel C40+ Finale.  
 1e v Botterop, Elke (Bon) 6-2 7-5  
 2e v Joukes, Suze (Bon) v Fassnacht, Denise (USA) v Hirschfeld, Jennifer (Aru)  
 Gemengd Dubbel A Finale.  
 1e v Albertsz, Thammy (Bon) 6-2 3-6 (7-1)  
 2e m den Hertog, Tim (NL) v Sleur, Miyolou (Cur) m Sniijdersblok, Daan (NL)  
 Gemengd Dubbel B Finale.  
 1e v Bierings-vd Rijt, Rosalie (Bon) 6-2 6-0  
 2e m de Palm, Ibi (Bon) v de Palm, Krystel (Bon) m Tromp, Gregory (Aru)  
 Gemengd Dubbel B40+.  
 1e v Shea, Donna (USA) 1-6 6-2 (7-5)  
 2e m Kock, Andres (Bon) v Hageman, Yvette (Bon) m Domacasse, Arthur (Bon)  
 Gemengd Dubbel C.  
 1e v Muller, Margon (Bon) 6-5 opgave  
 2e m St.Hilaire, William ( m Da Costa Gomez, Francis (Bon)  
 ■ Elisabeth Vos

# Buildings on Bonaire

Tony and Terry Bond, former Bonaire residents and Reporter correspondents, recently returned to Bonaire for a vacation. They had a fine time but were appalled at the condition of the (RED) Slave Huts.



Tony Bond writes, "We decided to stop at the Red Slave Huts, a poignant place of reflection. As one looks across the roofs of the huts and out to sea, it is difficult not to feel a sense of shame of mans inhumanity to man. These small huts that once served as primitive forms of shelter for the enslaved stand today as a stark reminder to those darker days.

As we drew closer, it became apparent that these monuments have not been given the respect that they deserve. The roofs are defaced with graffiti, they have become obscured with weeds, paint is flaking and in places, there is evidence of structural cracks. We were shocked and saddened to see the abject vandalism coupled with the wanton neglect. These huts have stood since the 1850s, enduring all that nature has to offer yet today, they are being allowed to crumble and fall. ■ Tony Bond



Bob Bartikoski of RE/MAX realty celebrated the "highest point of his new office on Kaya Grandi last week."



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# Island View

Mary Ann Koops is off this week taking her VWO-5 students to Holland for an orientation session.



From Bonaire to



The Netherlands

## In The Netherlands

**S**GB High School class VWO 5 was in the Netherlands for two weeks for study orientation. The students and I (as one of their three supervisors) went to 12 different universities and colleges in nine different cities. Some of the students had never been to the Netherlands, and most of them had never been to a university or college. It was a trip with a lot of "first times." First time in Amsterdam, first time in a tram, first time in the blooming coldness, first time to see snow! Yes, ladies and gentlemen, we had snow. For the first time in 40 years the temperatures were so low around Easter that conditions were just right for some snow. It was a treat.

If you ask these students what their impression was of the Netherlands, they will reply: COLD! One of the students asked if the air conditioning was on when she stepped off the plane. Then they will comment on the amount of bread that is consumed by the Dutch. Some of the students thought it was not normal how much bread was

eaten during the day. We were invited many times to lunch and it was always a "bread" lunch. You could choose between almost every kind of bread you can imagine.

They liked the people of the Netherlands. Especially when you take a wrong tram and you end up where you do not belong. You could ask anybody and they would help you. This happened to some of our students who were supposed to take the tram which was going east, but they took the westward-bound one. The students learned how to correct their error, and I still have nightmares of them riding the trams of Amsterdam forever.

They also experienced "on time" in the Netherlands. When you have an appointment at 11 o'clock, the Dutch mean five to 11. The Bonaireans might mean a quarter past 11. When you are invited to a party here on Bonaire which starts at seven, you know you are not welcome before eight. The Dutch will ring your doorbell at a quarter to seven. Some Antillean students who are already studying at Dutch universities told our stu-

# What's Coming Our Way?



Marcel Leurs photo

## A wonderful pastoral setting at Bona Bista Island Estates

**A**lthough we already had a look at quite some developments "coming our way," we're still far from having seen all of 'em. In fact, we will probably not be able to catch up with all that is, and will be, appearing.

This time we head just north of Kralendijk. On the right hand side and at the beginning of the road to Rincon (Kaminda Gurubu), Bon Bista Island Estate is being developed. What will this become?

We are told that these developers want to complete a high quality residential area over the 255.000 m<sup>2</sup> (63 acres) site with 160 home lots plus an additional bungalow park. Not a small project!

The developer belongs to a group of investors, who over the last 20 years has been responsible for several projects on Curaçao, amounting to 3,000 building lots.

The person in charge of getting it all together is from Curaçao and has managed various similar, although smaller, projects on the Spanish Costa del Sol. When the market there slowed down, Bonaire seemed to offer new opportunities in the light of its upcoming direct ties with Holland and he moved here to focus on this project.

The land's sloping hillsides with occasional views over the sea have been owned by the investment group since the 70s. There were plans for developing it in 1996, but the time wasn't right. Then, at the beginning of 2007 plans came back on the table and were reshaped into what they are now. Planning is that the entire project will be accomplished over a period of about eight years.

Construction of the infrastructure for the first two phases (90 lots) of the project will begin within weeks and are estimated to be finished by August. All roads will be asphalted and will have completely paved sidewalks, something not all too common on the island. Infrastructure will possibly include a dual fiber optic network.

So far 25 lots have already been sold, both to individuals and to some (smaller) developers, all from Holland.

There is a contract obligation that requires buyers to start to build within three years after the purchase and complete within five years after buying. There are also certain restrictions on the building standards of this development. We are told that these quality stipulations (*welstandsbepalingen*) will indeed limit a buyer's freedom, but are there to safeguard long-term quality of the entire project, from which the same owner benefits. Just some examples are: a specific color should be used for the exteriors, a minimum of 50% of the roofs should be sloping and roofing should be made of terracotta roof tiles. In addition construction activities must be limited to Monday through Saturday, 7.30 am until sunset.

The bungalow park (38.000 m<sup>2</sup>/9.4 acres) that was mentioned earlier will be built in a later phase of the project and will bring a new resort to Bonaire with green and lush gardens. ■

Story & photo by Marcel Leurs



dents that a watch is a very good choice for a graduation present.

What about the universities and colleges? Before we left for the Netherlands, the students thought that once they were there they would be able to choose a study. Nothing was further from the truth. They now have the full picture of a how many possibilities there are at a university or college. After you have chosen a study, then you have to pick a city you want to live in. They brought more than 10 kilos of brochures and information from the Netherlands. The choosing has only just begun. And here they thought that this excursion would help them in their choice!

Then why take them to the Netherlands when it confuses them with an (almost) overload of information? You can only make a right choice when you know what your options are. Now they have the same options as a Dutch student. There is only so much information you can get from the Internet. You cannot get the atmosphere or the experience of different kinds of people at a university or a college from the Internet.

Everyone we met in the Netherlands, without exception, told us that this excursion was a good idea. Some people from the universities and colleges never realized that an Antillean student cannot check beforehand whether or not they like the insti-

tution and the city they have chosen. The objective of this excursion was to get acquainted with the Netherlands in general and the universities and colleges in particular. We sure have succeeded! There are also some unforeseen side-effects. This group of students is not only very well informed, but they have tasted their independence, and they are very motivated to start their future in the Netherlands as students. ■

Story & photo by Mary Ann Koops

Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.





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Entrance to the property through gate and driveway. Through the entrance to the hallway which leads to the ground floor section of the home that has an additional separate entrance and can therefore be used as a guesthouse. This part of the home consists of two bedrooms each with private bathroom and down the hall one finds a spacious living room with open kitchen and porch overlooking the pool. Taking the stairway one enters the upper section of this lovely home which consists of a spacious living room with fully equipped open kitchen adjacent the large terrace from which one has a truly stunning view over the Caribbean Sea and a large part of the island. The master bedroom is also situated on this floor and comes with private bathroom .

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Pool: 6 x 5 meters (approx. 19.7 X 16.4 ft)  
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