

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** May 16-30, 2008; Volume 15, Issue 10  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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Since 1994

**JAZZ**  
Next Week  
See pg. 10



**First Communion painting of Audette Sint Jago, now grown up, with Artist Asyla Ten Holt**

**T**he meeting to set a date for setting a new date for the dissolution of the Antilles was postponed. Dutch technocrats announced last month that they believe the islands can't attain their new status before December 2010. Reasons given were that the Consensus Kingdom Laws have to be approved by the Dutch Second Chamber first. Curaçao and St. Maarten want the status change for the islands to happen before the next Parliamentary elections which were to occur in early 2010.

A final decision on a realistic plan for constitutional change is supposed to be taken during the political consultation scheduled for May 22.

► In anticipation of the upcoming restructuring, by a vote of 14 to three, the Antillean Parliament made **December 15 Kingdom Day, a new official holiday in the Netherlands Antilles.** It will replace the Day of the Antilles which was October 21.

► **Beginning last month residents of the Netherlands Antilles have had to specify a reason when they either send or receive Naf 150.000 or more from their account.** The transferring commercial bank has the responsibility to get the information.

In a press release the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles said the decision had been taken in light of its task to regulate payments to and monies received from abroad.



► **This year the Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival promises to be the best yet.** In the past few years we have been very fortunate to have some of the world's most talented and successful musicians perform. This year you will find a

sublime combination of Caribbean flavored jazz mixed with jazz from other parts of the world. And if you really want to get up close to your favorite musicians join a late night jam session at one of Bonaire's hotspots. Don't miss it.

As a prelude to the festival be at Kas di Arte on May 21 for an Opening Art Exhibition with live jazz starting at 5 pm followed by an Indonesian meal with live jazz at The Reef Restaurant.

Page 10 has full details. **Presale Tickets** at: Plaza Resort, Divi Flamingo Resort, Flamingo Bookstore, Valerie's Airport Shop and the Hotel Rochaline.

► **Want even more jazz? Listen to Mega Jazz on the air!** Mega Jazz is a weekly two-hour program for jazz lovers, presented by Guus Gerritsen and Henk Roozendaal. Listen on FM 101.1 every Sunday and Thursday from 8 to 10 pm. Or go to [www.megafm.com](http://www.megafm.com) for live streaming or download of the last broadcast.

Every week there will be new guests (musicians and jazz lovers) with favorite CDs and recordings, an overview of all jazz spots on Bonaire, Aruba and Curacao, listing of the jazz festivals and a lot of swinging old and new jazz.

► **Rincon's Catholic Church will be 150 years old this month** with lots of activities to celebrate, according to the organizing committee. This Friday, May 16, at the Centro di Bario in Rincon historian Bôî Antoin will speak of the church's history at 8 pm. Then on the 22, 23 and 24 there will be ceremonies in the church beginning at 7 pm. On Sunday, May 25, another celebration and toast will be held in the church starting at 10 am.

► **Seventeen teenagers, members of the St. Maarten Archaeology Centre, SIMARC, were on Bonaire last week for a three-day exchange with Bonaire archaeology students,** members of the Bonaire Archaeological Institute (BONAI). The youngsters were accompanied by SI-



► **Bonaire's 21-meter-long version of The Hague's 50-meter long "Constitution Bench" has been built at the Mentor intersection.** Citizens concerned about their future when Bonaire becomes a Dutch municipality created it to illustrate their fear that following the shift they won't be treated equally as European Dutch. (See the article, "Implosion of the Netherlands Antilles," in the last issue of *The Reporter*.)

The original bench in The Hague at Hofweg, near Binnenhof, says "Everybody in the Netherlands is treated equally in equal situations. Discrimination because of religion, creed, political inclination, race, sex or on any other grounds is not allowed." The Bonaire bench has the same text as the one in the Netherlands but substitutes the second sentence (Discrimination...) with a Papiamentu translation of the first sentence.

MARC Director, Dr. Jay Havisier, and discussed youth, heritage, science and culture with their counterparts on Bonaire.

One of the group's recommendations was for Bonaire to map and tag its oldest and historic trees as was done on St. Maarten.

The programs were initiated and directed by Havisier, with Anita Broer of St. Maarten and Jackie Bernabela on Bonaire. SIMARC and BONAI are designed to stimulate more high school students to take an interest and active role in scientific research of their island's culture and environment.

The youth exchange is sponsored by EU-funded Support to the Netherlands Antilles Youth Development Program -SNADYP and the Obersi Group of Companies. Next month BONAI students will go to St. Maarten.

► **In an unrelated incident, St Maarten authorities have arrested five young men they say were involved in tossing a homemade bomb at the Bonaire sports delegation three weeks ago,** resulting in injury to one of the soccer coaches of the Bonaire

delegation, Shakairo Oleana. One young man confessed to making the "crofty bomb" – an easily assembled mixture of highly reactive chemicals in a plastic container – and throwing it at members of a Bonaire delegation, said St. Maarten Police Chief, Taco Stein.

The injuries to the victim was not severe. Nevertheless, the young bomb makers could be tried for attempted murder, as the reaction of a crofty is very unstable, highly unpredictable and has proven to be even fatal. The construction and aftermath of a crofty bomb can be seen on You Tube.

The Governor of the Island Territory of St. Maarten, Franklyn E. Richards, sent a personal letter of solidarity to Bonaire's people and Governor shortly after the incident.

► **Selling prices of Dutch homes are expected to rise** around 3% annually according to Rabobank analysts. The median house price in Holland is currently €244,000 (\$378,000), up €6,000 (\$9,300) from last year. In the US

(Continued on page 4)

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# Wall Art At Waterlands

Bonaire's top art students from the high school have changed the look of Bonaire for arriving air travelers. The featureless wall surrounding the Waterlands Village complex opposite the airport has been transformed into a permanent art exhibition.

Following an art competition with 70 entries, 11 finalists were chosen by a three-member jury to reproduce their artistry on the wall. SGB art teacher Gemma van der Linden organized the young artists. From the 11 finalists a winning team will be selected and will be awarded a Toshiba laptop computer and an I-Pod.

Popular Bonairean artist Norwin (Nochi) Coffie painted the Waterlands Village logo. Trudy Trenidad-Bos, who organized the event, thanked all volunteers and especially Krioyo Paint. ■ Press release/ G.D.



Trudy Bos photo

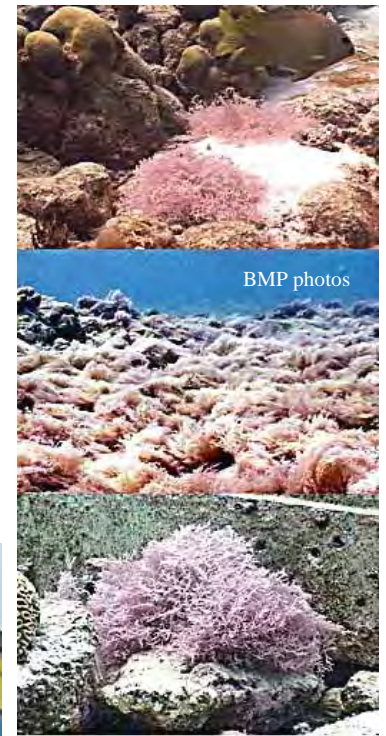


Herman van Leeuwen photo



Herman van Leeuwen photo

## Marine Park Request



BMP photos

If you see this algae please report it to the Bonaire National Marine Park.

Please note location, date, approximate extension of the patch and depth. Any picture will be appreciated. If you need more information please contact a dive shop manager or Ramon at the BNMP. Call 717-8444 or email

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BNMP-Manager . ■

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**Flotsam and Jetsam** (Cont. from page 2) home prices are dropping and expected to trend that way through this year. The median home price in California fell from \$554,280 (€ 360.282) in February 2007 to \$429,790 (€279.363) in January 2008. Bonaire housing prices have risen 5-10% in the past 12 months according to our sources.

► West African sand storms boosted by rising hot air can reach up to 15,000 feet high. The dust carried by wind travels over the Atlantic Ocean for thousands of miles, reaches the Caribbean turning the tropical blue skies hazy, reducing visibility and affecting air quality. Research by Trinidad immunologist, Dr. Michelle Monteil, has shown that **more children seek asthma treatment when there is a Saharan dust cloud over the area.**

Concerns about the effects of Saharan dust were again sparked last year when scientists, discovered six harmful pesticides which can cause severe health hazards and affect coral reefs in Sahara dust samples. They are DDE dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene a breakdown product of DDT (Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane), HCB (hexachlorobenzene), Endosulfan 1, Endosulfan 2, Endosulfan Sulphate and Trans Chlordane, Chlorpyrisos and Dacthal .

► A special team from the US is working on removing the asbestos from the Scientology cruise ship *Freewinds* in the dry dock in Curacao. The team is being supervised by an independent agency from the Netherlands. On April 28 the *Freewinds* was sealed and quarantined at the Mathey Wharf following the discovery of significant amounts of harmful blue asbestos in the ship's structure. The *Freewinds* is a frequent visitor to Bonaire and numerous island activities have been hosted aboard the ship.

MV *Freewinds* is a cruise ship owned and operated by the Church of Scientology under the name "Majestic Cruise Lines." Thousands of people have been aboard the *Freewinds* after paying to attend Scientology courses, training services and functions. Stories have appeared in Dutch newspapers suggesting that people who spent time aboard *Freewinds* should be checked by a doctor.

► An article in the UK newspaper publication, *The Guardian*, gives facts about **calorie burning during a scuba dive.** They provide the following information, which suggests that regular scuba diving can assist/promote weight loss and increase strength and general fitness.

**Shapely legs:** Swimming with fins (flippers) is like water-based weight-training - firming the front of the thighs as you kick down and the back of the thighs as you kick up.

**Weight loss:** Surprisingly good

for burning energy. Someone weighing approximately 70kg (155 lbs.) burns 13 calories a minute while scuba diving, so a 45-minute dive would use 585 calories.

**Cardio respiratory fitness:** According to the British Thoracic Society, scuba divers tend to have larger-than-average lungs and an increased vital capacity.

**Upper body strength:** The back, shoulders and arms get a certain amount of work lugging around equipment.

► A bill that would place "ocean rangers" on cruise ships that operate from California ports passed its first stage in becoming law because the cruise industry does not adequately protect its passengers from crime and has a poor record of self-policing its environmental law compliance. Cruise lines would pay for the program through a \$1 surcharge per passenger for each day the ocean ranger would be onboard. Bonaire's environmental protection efforts may benefit if all cruise ships were required to have an ocean ranger program

► CIEE Research Station Bonaire (Kaya Gob. Debrot 21) announces its next free public lecture on Wednesday May 21st at 7:30. **The subject will be "Reefs in the Greenhouse,"** a look at the possible future of coral reefs under conditions of global climate change, presented by John Ware, PhD, President, SeaServices, Inc. (seaservices.org). To many people, global climate change equals global warming, but there are more aspects of human-induced climate change than increasing temperature. Dr. Ware will provide a reasonably objective evaluation of the current state of coral reefs and some best guesses for the next 100 years. Everyone is welcome. It's still free.

► Last Friday was the last get-together of the "I Like to Read" (*Mi Gusta Lesa*) group organized by SEBIKI, Bonaire's social agency that helps with early childhood development. The topic was "A Story for my Mother." The animated session of mothers and children featured gift giving, songs and poems to commemorate Mother's Day.

► Bonaire plans its own Walk of Four Days, loosely modeled after the "Vierdaagse" International Four-Day Marches in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. It's set for July 31, August, 1,2,3 2008. Bonaire plans an event of 100 km. total, divided into four 25-km. segments with camps at So-robon, Landhuis Karpata and Slagbaai, Washington Park. It's to give walkers and cyclists a chance to prove their fitness while enjoying the natural



beauty of Bonaire. The event is to benefit the Center For Children in Poverty Foundation which helps single mothers and children. Contact (09) 697-1235 for more information.

► Each year, on the 12th of May, nurses worldwide celebrate their profession and unite to take pride in their jobs and show the world the importance of their work in a variety of ways and events. International Nurses Day is held each year on the 12th of May, the birth date of Florence Nightingale. She made many reforms to nursing and health care as a result of her hard work, dedication and training of fellow nurses.

► Did you know that motorcycles are environmentally friendly, emitting much less CO<sub>2</sub> and pollutants per mile than almost any automobile? In addition, they are fun to ride. For example a Harley-Davidson Sportster gets between 47 MPG and 60 MPG. Scooters use even less. There are several shops on Bonaire that rent scooters and motorcycles of various sizes.

► Wonder why the prices are so affordable at Interiours, the furniture and antique emporium? It's because there is no middle man. Their containers filled with unique and beautiful things for the home and garden come directly from Indonesia - no stops in Europe. Interiours is located on the dirt road behind Rocargo and Warehouse. They're open 9 am to 6 pm, non-stop Tuesday through



► Bonaire is this year's recipient of the prestigious *Islands Magazine/Caribbean Tourism Organization 2008 Sustainable Tourism Award*, one of the most prestigious and significant honors it has ever received. Bonaire was honored for its longstanding commitment and leadership role in marine conservation and for proactive measures in protecting the marine environment. The award was presented by Mr. Ty Sawyer, Editorial Director for *Islands*, during an awards luncheon at the 10th Annual

Sustainable Tourism Conference in the Turks and Caicos. Bonaire's Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé accepted the award on behalf of the island and was accompanied by Mrs. Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, Director of Tourism, and Elsmarie Beukenboom, Director of STINAPA. The Sustainable Tourism Award recipient was selected by a panel of judges from *Islands Magazine* and the Caribbean Tourism Organization who reviewed all of the entries submitted by CTO member countries.

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G./L.D.

► The Reporter welcomes two



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# Profiles: Eddie Cristiaan- Fisherman, Motivator and Philosopher

**E**ddie Cristiaan was born on Bonaire. The day of his birth he was flown to Curacao because he was born with a big hole in his stomach. Miraculously, that day a small plane was due to fly to Curacao, and miraculously, a woman from Rincon was on that flight and offered to deliver him to the hospital. Ever since his life has continued to be full of miracles. Eddie grew up with six brothers and sisters, but he spent the years between his third and ninth birthdays at the house of this woman in Rincon. As a gesture of gratitude his parents allowed her to be his second mother in his formative years.

She was a strict, religious woman. He learned about a God that one must fear and be extremely careful not to provoke to revenge. The women in this family didn't marry, and most of them became nuns. They went to the Catholic Church every day, praying to be spared the wrath of God.

Even at a young age Eddie questioned why one had to be friends with a Higher Power who would punish you for sure. These thoughts laid the foundation for his spiritual search later in life.

Eddie is well known for his swimming lessons for kids and elderly people. He's been doing this for 35 years and has taught four generations on Bonaire how to feel and be safe in the water. He

started to give his first classes at Sunset Beach in 1970 when the hotel still existed. Unfortunately that beach won't be accessible in the future because a new private project by Divi is being built there.

In those days, parents paid for the lessons according to their financial situation. Eddie just asked for a small compensation for his time, which was three to four times a week. In the very beginning the kids he taught to swim were Dutch kids and tourists' kids who were staying at the hotel.

When he started his swimming classes, about 70% of the Bonairean population couldn't swim at all in spite of the nearby ocean. They weren't very interested in learning how to swim either. Even most of the fishermen didn't know how to swim. But when Eddie started taking his own kids, a son and a daughter, and their friends to the beach to teach them, it drew more and more interest.

The first Bonairean who he taught to swim was Dr. Giovanni Frans. In 35 years Eddie estimates to have taught around 16,000 children how to swim. The friendships with the families often remain close. Last year he was invited to be the godfather of the son of one of his first pupils. And he was invited to attend the wedding of a couple who grew up on Bonaire, learned to swim here and returned here to get married.

Eddie went to school when the Fraters (Christian Brothers) were in charge of the schools. From the age of 12 he helped his father fish, a way of earning his living that he has been doing ever since. He owns his own boat and is proud of the fact that he's always remained independent.

**“He experienced a huge void in his life after his mother’s death, but it was more a spiritual void than it was her actual death.”**

Eddie once had a radio program talking about sports and later on more diverse subjects. He is the founder of Copi Bon, a cooperative for fishermen on Bonaire. He is also a board member of several football associations and is active in establishing Aveste, an organization that hopes to set up a social consciousness in the various barrios of Bonaire to prevent crime. The program's aim is to encourage parents to take responsibility for their children. Last year he went to all the elementary schools to speak to the children about how to behave in a social, responsible way, to respect each and every human being.

These kinds of contributions to society started to take a different shape some four years ago when a profound change took place in Eddie's life after his mother died.

He experienced a huge void in his life after her death, but it was more a spiritual void than it was her actual death. One night he had a spiritual awakening which showed him universal spiritual truths. He understood that love is the most essential truth of all and that it all starts with respect and love for oneself. He stopped drinking from that very day and started studying all kinds of philosophies, world religions and Eastern traditions. Books came to him often by surprise (he couldn't find them in the local library). Sometimes tourists sent him a book he was looking for, and sometimes people gave him a specific book he was interested in. He spends all his free time now reading, and he has stacks of books all



over his house. He has developed a broad view of life and is not limited to one particular spiritual view or philosophy or religion, but he does believe in reincarnation and karma. “Cause and effect is just a fact of life,” he says. He doesn't see God as a personalized figure but as the goodness and love in each and every living being. “Advocating or holding on to one particular religion has been and still is very destructive,” he says. “All the books I have read, in essence, state the same thing: all

*(Continued on page 7)*

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# Salba Nos Lora Art Competition

The Salba Nos Lora art competition was a great success, with over 100 pieces of art in a variety of mediums including glass, wood, canvas, fabric, as well as many on paper. The entries were divided into categories by age. There were between two and four prize winners per category depending on the number of entries and those winners got to choose which of the many fantastic prizes they wanted.

**Winners:**

**10 Years and under**

1<sup>st</sup> Charlotte Uding

2<sup>nd</sup> Chanel

**11-13 Years**

1<sup>st</sup> Vera Ghazzooli

2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Fisher

3<sup>rd</sup> Jlon Lane

4<sup>th</sup> Alexandra Platijn

**14-18 Years**

1<sup>st</sup> Timo van der Veen

2<sup>nd</sup> Ruanlys Martis

3<sup>rd</sup> Nethanja Bendt

4<sup>th</sup> Gideon Jansen

**Adults**

1<sup>st</sup> Anita Vader

2<sup>nd</sup> Gemma van der Linden

3<sup>rd</sup> Judy Bijman

All but one prize was donated. Salba Nos Lora would like to thank the following:

Dive and Adventure, Kiteboarding Bonaire, Jibe City, Outdoor Bonaire, Land sailing Bonaire, Jerry Ligon

Bird Tours, Bonaire Motorcycle Shop, The Bonaire Bikers, Chat 'n' Browse, Pasa Bon Pizza and Mangazina Di Rei.

This year Salba Nos Lora had a stand on Rincon day and the top art from the competition was displayed. There was also information about the wild loras, the care of pet loras and about the foundation itself. Many people stopped in to have a look at the artwork or to ask parrot questions with the Salba Nos Lora crew on hand. Later in the day, having recovered somewhat from their morning run to Rincon, the parrot team donned the incredible lora costumes loaned by Warehouse Bonaire. Immediately things were different, so many more people noticed the stall, kids and adults alike wanted their picture taken and stickers were being given out to everyone. The parrot team know not of fatigue!

The artwork events were not

over. The following Saturday Salba Nos Lora held a fundraising Art Auction at Captain Don's Habitat. A few technical hitches early on gave the attendees more time to enjoy the free wine generously donated by the Antilean Wine Company. The parrot lovin' movie "Amore!" was playing as people arrived but this was not nearly as "saucy" as had been promised. Despite no

knowledge of how to run an auction the Salba Nos Lora crew managed to pull it off and a fun and cash liberating evening was had by all. Nearly Naf 1.400 was raised and this will go a long way to protecting the loras on Bonaire.

There is one more stage in this amazing artwork adventure and

that is to create a new campaign poster highlighting the lora's protected status. A montage of the winning art will somehow be sculpted into a poster and this will be displayed around Bonaire. Look out for it in the coming months. ■ Story & photos by Sam Williams



The winning adult entry, an embroidered trapunto lora scene by Anita Vader. The Bonaire Reporter placed the winning bid for this superb artwork.



Winner in the 14-18 year age group, Timo van der Veen, at the Rincon Day lora exhibit.

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# BONAIREAN VOICES

## ANIMAL LOVERS

When we talk about animal lovers we might think of Marina Melis with her more than 300 donkeys or Marlies Tiepel at the Animal Shelter. But besides these two people there are a lot of Bonaireans who love animals. I myself was raised among all kinds of animals, which helped me to appreciate them more. Their cute, innocent faces and their naughty looks make you understand they too have feelings as some of the ladies I interviewed said.

She (34) confirms: "Some people have animals as a protection for their homes. That is true, they can protect your property very well. As it is in their nature they tend to protect what belongs to them, but I like to have them because they bring a pleasant atmosphere into my home. They make me happy when I'm sad, they keep me company when I'm alone. I care for my dogs as part of the family. They have fresh food and water every day. They have their regular bath, and I take them for a ride, to the beach and wherever else I can take them. Animals have feelings

and as well as you take care of them they will take care of you.

Like this experience I had with an old lady that I knew. She had this dog that was overprotective. Nobody could come into the yard or the house. One day the old lady got very sick and fell on the floor. The dog sensed what was going on and cried and made unhappy noises until all the neighbors came out of their houses to see what was going on. That day the dog let people come into the house because he sensed that something was wrong with his owner. So if you understand, those unpleasant noises that he was making were a cry for help and he got help. Unfortunately, the old lady died.

Dogs really care for their owner if they are treated right. If you don't have time and can't give the animal the love and care they need it's better that you leave them where they are. Don't forget they have feelings too."

Another lady (38) said, "I love animals, but when I was living in Sint Maarten I couldn't have an animal at the house because I didn't have enough space. So when I got to Bonaire the first thing I

wanted for my children was a dog. Our first dog that we got in August 2003 we named Princess because it was the first pet we owned in Bonaire and we treated her like a princess. She was so friendly and was part of the family. Thoughtless people poisoned the dog in our own yard in February 2004. We cried so much because we'd lost a member of the family. We had a regular funeral for her and mourned her for days. Then in March 2004 we got two other dogs, Tiger and Beertje. Unfortunately Beertje got sick and died. Last April 30, we were at Rincon Day, but when we came home we saw Tiger dead in the yard. Someone had shot him. That was a very unpleasant experience.

I like to have animals so the kids can learn how to take care of an animal, give it food, water and give it its bath. The animals bring joy, fun and protection into the house. You must love animals, and don't forget a dog is man's best friend. They give you good company. So if you have a dog, he or she deserves to be well



taken care of. Otherwise, find a solution. You can bring it to the animal shelter or give it to someone who can really take good care of it. Love and care is all they need, just as you need love and care." ■

*Siomara E. Albertus*

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com).



## Profiles (Continued from page 5)

living beings are here on earth to express their divine source, in whatever way they choose. To judge someone else is ignorance. Nobody is perfect; all we can do is to try."

Eddie lives his life now feeling like he is having a vacation. He feels happy and enjoys being with all kinds of people, exchanging thoughts, accepting whatever life brings him. "One can only be an example of kindness," he says. "One cannot preach kindness if one doesn't live it. This goes for everything else. Don't tell kids or grown ups what to do. Show them

alternatives by discussing other possibilities, and if they choose to try another way, support and help them. Life is a journey," Eddie says. "The longest stretch we have to take is the journey from our heads towards our hearts, but if we reach this goal, life really makes sense!"

Eddie Cristiaan, an exceptional man. Be sure to get to know him one day! ■

Story & photo by Louise Rood



## Dutch Soccer Team To Visit



*Peter Oerlemans (organizer), Jacco Swart (member of the Board of Directors of NEC, Nijmegen), Ferdinand Bernabela (coach F.F.B.), Burney Elhage (Commissioner of the island of Bonaire), Silvio "Chio" Semeleer (Sedrebo) and Jan Willem 't Hoorst (Caribbean Club Bonaire).*  
(Photograph: J@n Brouwer)

On Friday, May 9, a conference was held at the Caribbean Club Bonaire. Subject was the intended visit in June of a team of Dutch soccer players. The goal is triple. The Dutch soccer club NEC, Nijmegen, established in 1900, wants to organize an intensive training camp for their group of 22 soccer players. As well the Dutch soccer club wants to organize several football clinics, especially for the youngsters (male and female) of Bonaire, and third, the NEC soccer club wants to pay serious attention to the aspect of team building.

According to Silvio "Chio" Semeleer, three soccer clinics will be organized by NEC for the boys and girls of Bonaire. Oerlemans informed the public about the competition between Dutch and Bonairean players on Saturday, June 28, in the stadium in Kralendijk. Some 4,000 visitors are expected.

The Dutch soccer team will be on Bonaire from June 24 until July 1 or 2, some eight days. The delegation will exist of 22 soccer players, eight assistants and two directors. Oerlemans is expecting a great happening. Tickets for the match are available from Saturday, June 7.

■ J@n Brouwer

## DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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. **Answer on page 12.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

# Bon Fysio – Working to Keep the Island Fit and Healthy

Physiotherapist Robert Smaal, who previously worked at BonFysio for six years, is back on the island again, this time as owner of BonFysio. Although he'd fallen in love with Bonaire in those days, Smaal left the island five years ago to open his own practice in Holland. The Antilles still called to him so after three years in Holland he sold his practice and went to work in Aruba ultimately working for two years in the hospital there with a big orthopedic and neurological rehab team. "I learned so much there," Robert explains. But when well known physiotherapist and frequent visitor to Bonaire, Dos Winkel, saw Robert in Aruba he told him that BonFysio was for sale and that he would be the perfect person to buy it. "That brought up my old love for Bonaire," Smaal says. "And I still know a lot of the people and the doctors here."

Robert and his staff of physiotherapists are everywhere. They work with patients at BonFysio, at the hospital and in the patients' homes. They work with people who have had operations or who are in bad shape after having had pneumonia, or patients who've had fractures – teaching them to walk safely and/or use their limb

(s) again. Or patients who've had total knee, hip and shoulder replacement operations. "But what's really difficult and a real challenge," Robert says, "is working with children. For instance after having a fracture they're afraid to use that specific limb. Our job is to play a game with them, to be inventive, to distract them, so they forget and start moving that limb without thinking about it. Their brain has to get the message. That's very satisfying!"

He continues, "Often we work with people who are really motivated to get better and out of the hospital. Afterwards they come back to say, 'Hi, look at me, I'm running again!'"

The team works specifically with stroke and heart attack victims, the overweight and obese, those with chronic low back pain and diabetics. "Did you know," Smaal asks, "that the Antilles has the highest percentage of Type 2 diabetics in the whole world? We are starting to work with diabetic groups, doctors, dietitians and diabetic nurses. With a specific exercise program, after awhile they can often go back from injecting insulin to oral medicines or no medicines at all! We're hoping to

get medical insurance to cover this for our patients," he adds.

BonFysio also offers medical fitness, in small groups, for instance weight loss or back pain. "We give them advice on posture, how they can exercise here and at home," Smaal says, "preventative exercises."

People signing up for normal fitness get a schedule designed for them and a check up before and after 12 sessions. There's also unguided fitness with an introduction, or personal training, one on one. And they all get to train on high tech rehab equipment made by Technogym in Italy.

A final word from Robert: "Listen to your body. Most people don't. It's telling you something when you have for instance tiredness, sharp pain or a burning pain."

Call BonFysio. They can help you interpret what your body is telling you. They're located at Kaya Grandi 67, across from Xerox. Tel. 717-7030, 717-7850.

The BonFysio team is a major player in "Bonaire Wellness Month" starting June 1. All during the month of June there will be free running clinics, physiotherapy health checkups: blood pressure, fat percentage checks,



Photo of the staff: Physiotherapists: Robert Smaal (lower right), Antje Gunther, Marjolein Rijpkema, Paul Goudriaan; Office staff: Jacqueline Paulussen and Jeanine Bout

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lish (with clarification if necessary in Papiamentu or Dutch). ■ L.D.

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# "The Government Is There For The People"

An Ombudsman is an official, usually (but not always) appointed by the government who is charged with representing the interests of the public by investigating and addressing complaints reported by individual citizens.

On May 7, Dr. Alex Brenninkmeijer, the National Ombudsman for the Netherlands, held a short press conference in Bonaire's Passangrahan. He has been visiting with the local governments of the Antilles to discuss the role of the Ombudsman and the implications of having such official institutions on each island to deal with aggrieved individuals and will aim to find acceptable solutions to their problems.

The goal of Dr. Brenninkmeijer's visit will be to examine how the National Ombudsman will play a role for the BES islands (Bonaire, St Eustatius, Saba).

## What is the added bonus of having the Ombudsman here?

The institution of the National Ombudsman of the Netherlands has existed since 1982, and its status as a High Council of State guarantees its independence and impartiality. The procedures and jurisdiction of the Ombudsman

are enshrined in a statute. The present National Ombudsman is Alex Brenninkmeijer (appointed in October 2005), and the Deputy National Ombudsman is Frank van Dooren. Both are appointed by the lower house of the Dutch parliament (the House of Representatives) for six years. (source: 2006 Annual Report of the National Ombudsman of the Netherlands)

The role of the Ombudsman in the BES islands, all small communities, will be to allow the people to have easier access to local government in regard to dealing with problems they may experience. Individual citizens who feel aggrieved or unjustly treated can turn to an independent body for protection: the Ombudsman. There will be an Ombudsman office on each of the BES islands.

Although there will be guidance from the National Ombudsman offices in Holland it will not be a case of their telling the Bonaire office what to do. It is important for the Ombudsman in Bonaire to operate from a local standpoint, with local employees who are familiar with Bonairean customs and practices. A highly visible place will be created here where people can go to have their story heard, where they are

pointed in the right direction for finding a solution to their problem and helped in putting their problem on paper so it can be dealt with in a more formal manner.

The office of the Ombudsman will have a representative to all government bodies, a contact who will deal with the problems put to that particular government body. And the Ombudsman will engage in constant dialogue with these government bodies in order to draw attention to the problem and to find an effective action to solve it. Instituting investigations, raising instances of unfairness, cutting through red tape and sharing expertise with government bodies are ways in which the Ombudsman will try and resolve problems.

As Bonaire is a very small community where everyone knows one another one has to take into consideration the "culture of fear." This means that when you "rock the boat" there may be repercussions when you voice your dissatisfaction with a situation, and you may experience some negative reactions from the people involved. The Ombudsman will help break down this culture of fear by allowing the complainants to remain anonymous. This will create an atmosphere where the

people will feel that the Ombudsman is a trustworthy and powerful ally, meaning that going through the Ombudsman's offices will not do damage to the complainant, that they will be protected and helped by the offices of the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman must be easily accessible to the people; local languages and culture are considered. It is an institution of and for the people.

In the Netherlands the police and law enforcement offices are important sources of work for the National Ombudsman as they will be in Bonaire. They are especially involved in setting up structures for dealing with complaints from the general public in regard to police and law injustices. The Ombudsman is aiming for an authority to act against police and local law enforcement offices when necessary. This ultimately results in the government bodies having to improve upon their ways of dealing with situations, taking into account the individual's position and treating them properly.



Ombudsman Alex Brenninkmeijer

The Ombudsman helps to reveal shortcomings in the actions of the government bodies in order to improve the efficiency of the government. The investigations of the Ombudsman and their mediating between complainants and administrative authorities are key to restoring the public's confidence in their government.

No date has been set yet for the official start of the Ombudsman in Bonaire, although the sooner the better! ■ A.V.

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# BONAIRE HEINEKEN JAZZ FESTIVAL 2008

For the fourth consecutive year Bonaire will host a top-notch Heineken Jazz Festival. The Heineken Jazz Festival, 2008, will be held from May 22 to 25 and 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 and Musicians," followed by Izaline Calister and her trio. Izaline will perform her personal musical style which is a mixture of jazz and the music of her native Curacao.

The second evening, May 23, will be held at Plaza Resort and will start with the Bonaire Student band, strengthened by professional musicians from the Festival. Last year this band "stole the show" with a fantastic performance. Frankie Yanga's Quintet "Footsteps Ahead" will follow along with local percussionist Boy Janga and a Cuban saxophonist. Izaline Calister will again perform, this time with her full band of nine musicians.

The third evening will also be held at the Plaza Resort and will start with local band, Jon Hilgers' Blues Band, Tin Foil. This performance will be followed by the Venezuelan Jazz band Empatia, led by prize winning Pablo Gil, composer, saxophonist and flutist. The main act this third evening will be Willie Martines with his La Familia Sextet playing New York Style Latin Jazz. Willie is a professional drummer, percussionist and singer and he and his band play regularly in the Lennox Lounge in New York City.

The fourth and final day of the Festival,



Izaline Calister

May 25, will be held at the Divi Flamingo Resort with a Jazz Brunch where festival musicians and local jazz artists will hold a rousing jam session while guests can enjoy a wonderful brunch. Last year this jazz brunch was one of the highlights of the Festival.

Scott Katzev, Philadelphia saxophonist, whose parents own a home on Bonaire, will perform as guest soloist with several of the bands during the Festival, including the Student band and Tin Foil.

During the Jazz Festival there will be an art exposition at Kas di Arte sponsored by the Bonaire Jazz Foundation. The opening on May 21 is scheduled at 5 pm to a background of live jazz. The expositions on May 22 and 23 from 5 until 7 pm will also be accompanied by local jazz groups and guest players.

Starting times on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be at 7:30 pm and the programs will end around midnight. The Jazz Brunch will start at 11:30 am. Entrance

fees are low due to generous sponsoring by many of our island's businesses. Entrance fee for the first evening at Fort Oranje with "Jazz and Poetry" will be NAF 10 and for the main concerts on Friday and Saturday an entrance ticket will cost NAF 30 for each or NAF 50 for both. A ticket

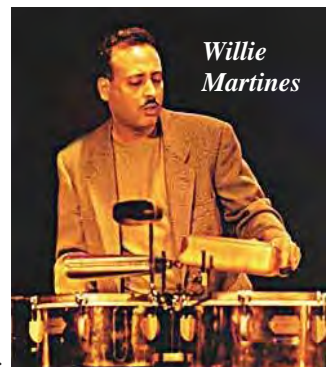


Tin foil

to the Jazz Brunch will cost \$25 or NAF 45 including the buffet brunch. For regular updates about the Festival and details about the bands please visit [www.bonairejazz.com](http://www.bonairejazz.com). ■ Photos & story Bonaire Jazz Foundation

**The supporters for the Festival** are a cross section of the island and include: Heineken, the Title Sponsor, RE/MAX Paradise Homes- Main Sponsor, Littman's -Main Sponsor, Plaza Resort Bonaire -Main Sponsor, MCB Bonaire who is Sponsoring Izaline Calister, Rocargo-Day Sponsor May 23, Multifunction Management - Day Sponsor May 24, Caribbean Laundry-Support Sponsor May 22, Notariskantoor Maarten Maartense-Support Sponsor, Tourism Corporation Bonaire-Support Sponsor, Russel Insurance-Support Sponsor, Bonaire Jazz Foundation -Support Sponsor and organizer of the Jazz Festival. Divi Flamingo Resort-Location Sponsor and Sponsor of the Sunday Brunch, The Sorobon Beach Resort, Location Sponsor, Budget

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# Artist Ten Holt at Kas di Arte

Cover Story



Asyla Ten Holt (left) presents the photo of Elisabeth Booi, Bonaire's first recognized (by the Queen) woman artist and poet, to Jackie Bernabela for the Bonaire Museum. The Museum has four or five of Ms. Booi's paintings but no photo of her until now.

Asyla Ten Holt's exhibition going on at the Kas di Arte right now is a retrospective of her years in Bonaire during the 80s. Viewing her oils and multimedia renderings of that period is particularly poignant as the face of Bonaire changes daily with all the new development and building. Changes are apparent in the views of the harbor and in the work of the people. During that period in Bonaire, Asyla worked with children, with other artists and had exhibitions. Her work lives on in the coral stone flamingos in the pavement of Kaya Grandi. Many of her paintings are on permanent display at the Maduro Bank Bonaire and the WEB office.

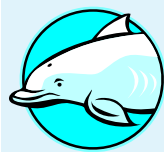
Asyla is a Reiki master, a yoga therapist, art practitioner and poet. She conducts art classes, hand crafting and flowing yoga. Her sense of spirituality is reflected in all of her works.

In addition to her paintings, on display and for sale are her jewelry designs made of healing stones and crystals, prints of her work and exotic hand-tie-dyed tee shirts.

For more information about the artist,

see her website: [WWW.asylatenholt.com](http://WWW.asylatenholt.com). Tel. 526-8813

The exhibition, "Remembering Bonaire from the 80s," will continue until Sunday, May 18. Open hours are 9 am to noon and 4 to 8 pm. ■ L.D.



# Bonaire's Dolphin Groupies

Thanks to the collaboration of an island resident and a visiting biologist it's almost 100% certain that Bonaire has a group of resident bottlenose dolphins. When Ron Sewell learned that a dolphin specialist, Dr Daniela Maldini, had begun teaching Marine Biology at CIEE, he arranged to meet.

Ron has been keeping records of BND sightings for 10 years and until meeting Dr Maldini didn't know how to interpret the value and the implications of his records. But Dr. Maldini did.

Dr Maldini, who specializes in ocean mammals research took hundreds of photographs (see photos) of the dorsal fins of passing dolphins during the past months. As a result about 50 dolphins have now been catalogued and named using the unique fin patterns. With Ron the "The Bonaire Coastal Bottlenose Dolphin Group" has been founded.

Local volunteers have agreed to be on duty several times each week to spring into action when groups of dolphins are sighted. Using boats or cars, they photograph the dorsal fins of any passing groups so that it can be confirmed that the same dolphin pods continue to be present throughout the whole year.

An informal sighting network had been in place for some years, with kind residents living along the coast calling Ron each time a group was spotted in order to identify the species and gather information about group size, number of young, direction of travel, feeding pattern and so on.

It would be helpful if this sighting net-



work could be extended and Ron would welcome calls from boaters, residents, dive operators, kite surfers, etc. in the event of a dolphin sighting.

Dr. Maldini has offered to continue to help analyze results and provide extra scientific input.

If any reader with suitable camera equipment would like to become a volunteer with the Bonaire Dolphin Group to take professional photographs of dolphin dorsal fins, or anyone with a boat who might be able to spare time to act as skipper for a photographer during a dolphin pursuit and photography session please contact Ron Sewell 717- 2458 795- 3368. ■ Ron Sewell/G.D. Photos: Daniela Maldini

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<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)
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<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.
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<b>Philips Cooking and Organizing</b> www.philipscooking.com 701-1100	Personal Chef	For Private Dinners, Catering, Party Snacks and Wedding Services <b>Let Philip do it all</b>

# SHOPPING GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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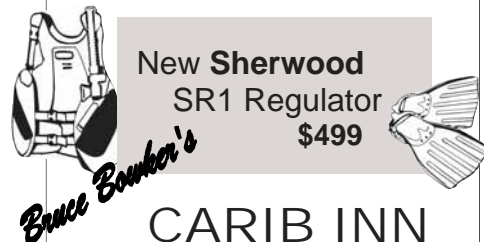
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Puzzle on page 7

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# Letters to the Editor

More SGB Issues  
Quad Control  
Waste water NO

## SGB High School Issues

Dear Editor:

I completely agree with Mary Ann Koops' article on the state of the SGB buildings in *The Reporter* of May 2-16, but did you know that things are much worse? Now that her article and the pictures of the SGB grounds in *The Reporter* have opened Pandora's box, I will add some more.

Did you know, for example, that **SGB teachers have been earning the same salary, except for living cost index raises, for the last 15 years?** How can people be motivated to keep on doing their work well if they are never shown appreciation in the form of a rise in salary? Kids on Bonaire and their school can be considered lucky that every year there are still teachers at SGB, some of whom have been working here for years, who are still doing their utmost to educate Bonairean youngsters in a refreshing way. But for how long, now that the prices for housing and for food in our supermarkets are increasing?

However, there are also problems at the school itself. Like the **management that changes every couple of years** because there's no agreement on how to run a school well. As a result the school has to make decisions on policies and vision time and time again, and up to this moment there is hardly any vision and even less policy on important issues such as safety. If a catastrophe should occur (the possibility of an explosion around the science department was a pretty

big issue a few weeks ago), nobody would know what to do because there is no set plan.

There is **conflict within the school's management due to strife and politics**. This does not contribute to a team atmosphere among the different departments in the school. Decision-taking is also hampered because of this. And who are the victims of this? That's right, it's always the students.

Did you know that, since SGB is the only government funded high school on Bonaire students of all ages and all abilities have to go to the same place, the SGB. You would expect a lot of care and attention given by specialized people for problems that may result from having these mixed groups of kids. For example, if there are students who tend to be more violent than others, there needs to be a good policy on how to deal with this and one would expect to find people who have studied how to deal with troubled adolescents.

At SGB there are many hard-working teachers, two counsellors with a part-time job, but **hardly any other specialised persons**. Without this support it's more probable that an unresolved issue can lead to increasing schoolyard fights.

Last, but not least, SGB is not only Bonaire's secondary school but also Bonaire's community college. This means that the grounds, the **buildings and the furniture, which are not in a good state as it is, are used from 7.30 to 18.30**. In order to maintain everything the school needs someone to head the maintenance department, alas,

there is no such person at SGB. Sometimes one wonders whether there are any maintenance people at all. So if the windows are broken, they will remain like that. And then we get to Mary Ann's broken window theory again and the circle is complete.

*Another concerned and involved individual.*

## Quad Control & Compromise

Dear Editor:

I read with interest about the new sign to discourage vehicles from damaging the mangrove area near at Lac (Envirowatch, April 18<sup>th</sup>-May 2<sup>nd</sup>). I often go to the north of the island and I regularly see vehicle tracks in inappropriate places. Last week I found quad tracks that had churned up a small walking trail in a remote area. As an environmentally concerned individual I find this damage frustrating. However, I wear two hats, and the other one is that of a thrill seeking petrol head so I can understand the ill placed motivation of the damaging motorist. For those who enjoy such things, nearly getting stuck on a quad bike or going sideways in a buggy is great fun.

I wonder whether it is possible to find a solution where people can have motorised fun here on Bonaire without destroying the environment? I believe that finding a solution is possible, but there is a fundamental problem to be addressed before this will happen.

The problem is that anyone can easily rent one of these off-road vehicles yet there are few appropriate places for that individual to use such vehicles. In a way this breaks down into two problems, the person and the place they go.

People who choose to rent an off road vehicle have not made that choice so that they can act responsibly. If they were going to they



Sam Williams photo

Quad tracks at Gotomeer

would probably rent a car. Requesting that people who rent these vehicles act responsibly is simply pointless. They will simply go somewhere where they believe they will not get caught. So one solution would be to stop renting vehicles without supervision. To my knowledge there is only one company responsible enough to only rent quad bikes under supervision and these are not the people disturbing wading birds at Gotomeer.

As for the place, well it is unrealistic to expect a tourist to know that the seemingly desolate muddy shores of Gotomeer are essential for birds migrating from South America to the Arctic. And even when they are told not to, people will still go on to the dirt there. The dirt tracks are not the place either as there are other road users on them. Perhaps it's time to consider providing a dedicated area where these vehicles can go. A place where neither people nor animals are disturbed. This is a popular and economically viable alternative that works elsewhere in the world.

*Sam Williams*

## Waste Water - NO.

Dear Editor,

I have been a regular visitor to Bonaire, my favorite diving destination of the many Caribbean Islands I've visited and dived, since the early 1980s. I was there in January of this year, and could not help but notice the slow but clear deterioration of the reef, especially in the heavily populated area near the resorts and hotels (we had our compulsory first dive out in front of Buddy's, and later did a night dive near there). I wondered if global warming might be responsible, but then I saw the article in *The Reporter*, "Clear Blue Water News," concerned about release of waste water into the sea.

I am dismayed and saddened at the thought that the release of untreated human waste is allowed. I must strongly urge those in Bonaire who are responsible for addressing this problem to do so with the utmost haste and serious purpose! I am already planning my next trip there for next winter, and I hope that clear, specific steps will have been taken to address this problem by time I get there.

*Jim Ogletree*



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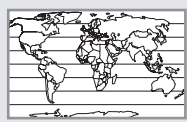
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## KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
5-16	7:22	1.0FT.	11:23	1.1FT.	13:54	1.1FT.	22:49	1.8FT.	59
5-17	8:30	0.9FT.	23:16	1.9FT.					66
5-18	9:41	0.9FT.	23:50	2.0FT.					71
5-19	0:16	2.0FT.	10:32	0.8FT.					75
5-20	0:49	2.0FT.	11:20	0.7FT.					77
5-21	1:21	2.0FT.	12:00	0.7FT.					77
5-22	1:54	2.0FT.	12:32	0.7FT.					76
5-23	2:30	1.9FT.	13:05	0.7FT.					74
5-24	3:11	1.9FT.	13:34	0.7FT.					70
5-25	3:49	1.8FT.	13:53	0.8FT.					64
5-26	4:42	1.7FT.	14:03	0.9FT.					57
5-27	5:37	1.5FT.	14:02	0.9FT.					50
5-28	3:07	1.4FT.	6:40	1.4FT.	13:50	1.0FT.	21:18	1.5FT.	46
5-29	4:34	1.2FT.	7:49	1.3FT.	13:37	1.0FT.	21:18	1.7FT.	47
5-30	5:50	1.1FT.	9:08	1.2FT.	13:29	1.0FT.	21:40	1.8FT.	54

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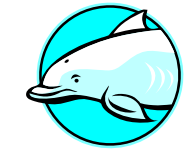
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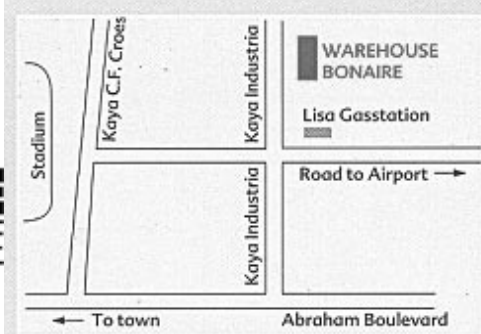
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# Bubbles from the Biologist



Fiddler Crab

Photo by Ryan Photographic

**D**id you know... Fiddler Crabs, or *Uca*, are one of the most interesting animals that you may never notice? Found in wetland marshes or sandy beaches these timid invertebrates are known for their large asymmetrical claw which is used for everyday life which includes but is not limited to gathering food, a tool for digging, defending from predators and even for signaling its own language.

Wow, really? Yes, Fiddler Crab waving is so sophisticated that every species has a different waving pattern just as different countries have their own language or dialect unique to them. Claw waving is done in different time intervals to mean different things, from showing territory, attracting a mate, or showing emotion. Many times when two male crabs encounter each another they like to

show mixed signals until the intentions of the other male is discovered. Put that away in the encyclopedia in your head, for with 17 known species and a couple unknown on the island you can find Fiddler Crabs anywhere, maybe today? ■ Alejandro Carrera



My name is Alejandro Carrera. I go to the one and only University of Kansas, home of the Kansas Jayhawks. I am still proud of my Texas roots and my hometown Allen. I studied Coral Reef Ecology and Conservation at CIEE Research Station Bonaire this semester.

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter Castaway Cay, Bahamas | Alozaina, Andalusia, Spain



Junella Pietersz writes, "Listen to a dead man's tale: Here, the Pietersz and Silberie families are posing with *The Bonaire Reporter* and the Flying Dutchman and Disney Magic Cruise ship at Castaway Cay, Bahamas, Disney's Private Island."

*The Reporter* is trying to reduce its backlog of photos. It's OK to keep sending them in. But please be patient.



Jake Richter sent us this photo of his family with Peter and Nice Lensvelt at their villa property, Finca Moralejo, just outside the village of Alozaina. "You may recall that Peter and Nice lived on Bonaire for 13 years. Peter was the manager of Lion's Dive, the owner of Raffles Restaurant and the building where it was located (and he was a bit saddened to hear it had just been torn down). Six years ago the Lensvelts moved to Spain to start this new project of theirs, and as guests at one of their villas, we must say they have done a great job."

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

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**Until Sunday, May 18—**  
Asyla Ten Holt art exhibition, "Remembering Bonaire from the 80s" -Kas di Arte. 9 am–12 noon, 4-8 pm

**Tuesday, May 20 – Full Moon**

**Wednesday May 21—Free public lecture, "Reefs in the Greenhouse." CIEE Research Station Bonaire (Kaya Gob. Debrot 21), 7:30 pm. All welcome.**

**Sunday, May 25—Rincon's Catholic Church will be 150 years old —celebration and toast, 10 am in the church.**

**Other activities:**

**Friday, May 16—Bdi Antoin speaks of the church's history, 8 pm, Centro di Bario Rincon.**

**May 22, 23, 24—Ceremonies in the church beginning at 7 pm**

**May 22-25 - Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2008. See pg 10.**

**Saturday, May 24- The Flamingo Rockers perform the best of Soul, Reflection, Rock and Country, Lee's Bar, 9:30pm.**

**Sunday, June 1 - Anniversary Celebration Washington Park, 8 am-5 pm. Free entrance and participation in activities. Call STINAPA 717-8444, 717-4163**

## 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. **Big Marché first Saturday of the Month**—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

- Divi Fitness:**

- Body Balance** (Mix of Yoga, Tai Chi and Pilates )8-9 am, 6-7 pm

- Body Vive** (Low impact aerobics) 9-10 am, 7-8 pm

- Body Dance** (High impact aerobics) 8-9 pm

## 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

- Divi Fitness, Body Balance** 9-10 am

## Thursdays

- Flamingo Rockers** at **"Admiral's Hour"** for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7 pm

- 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

- Divi Fitness, Body Balance** 6-7 pm

## 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

ham#27

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

- 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**

- Divi Fitness, Body Balance** 8-9 am; **Body Vive** 9-10 am

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

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

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

**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: 786-7699 .

**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 ) All levels, NAf2,50. Call Joop 717-5903 for venue.

**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: Centro di Bario Nord Salina**, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379 .

**International Bible Church of Bonaire**, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. 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 Antrioi*, 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

## "Mars and the Manger and the Beehive"

On the evenings of Thursday, May 22nd, and Friday, May 23rd, the red planet Mars will pay a visit to an exquisite cluster of stars known as both the Manger and the Beehive. So if you've never seen the Manger or the Beehive before now is your chance to find it using Mars as the finder.

On Thursday evening, May 22nd, about 10 pm, face due west in the Sky Park where directly above the horizon you'll see a steadily glowing rouge gold light which is our

old friend planet #4, 4,000-mile-wide Mars. And if you're away from city lights and if you have very good eyesight you'll be able to see a handful of dim stars clustered together in what some fancifully imagine to be the shape of a beehive or a manger. But to really see it well you'll need a pair of binoculars which will bring it crisply into focus. And I guess it does look something like the shape of a beehive. But since most people don't know what a manger looks like, your guess is good as mine as to why it is also called the Manger.

At any rate on Thursday night, the 22nd, as seen through a pair of binoculars Mars will stand out brilliantly against this cluster of dim stars. And on Friday night, the 23rd, Mars will have moved just a little bit farther beyond. So go out Thursday night and look for Mars' position in front of the Beehive Cluster and then go out 24 hours later and note how it has moved in relationship to it. Now this cluster has been noted for thousands of years. In fact in ancient China it was called *Tseih She Ke*, which translated means "an exhalation of piled up corpses," and believe me I have no idea what that's all about.

But in modern times we refer to this cluster as **M-44** which is object #44 in a list of objects put together by a gentleman named **Messier**, objects which do not change their position among the stars and thus should not be mistaken for comets even though they sometimes resemble them. At any rate back in the early 1600s **Galileo**, who was the first person to look at this cluster with a telescope, said that he saw more than 40 small stars here. Although in modern telescopes we can see about 200 stars in this group. And all told this group of stars is an incredible 11 light years in diameter and 515 light years away. Plus we now know these stars are very, very young compared to our own **Sun** which is about 5 billion years old. In fact these stars are estimated to have been born only about 400 million years ago, the same time as dinosaurs ruled our planet.

So on Thursday, the 22nd, and Friday, the 23rd, go outside at 10 pm, look west and train your binoculars on Mars as it passes in front of a star cluster born less than half a billion years ago. And see how many stars you can count. Can you count 40 like Galileo or even more? You just may surprise yourself. Happy Mars, Beehive, and Manger hunting. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



# StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

May 2008

**ARIES: March 20th - April 20th** A New Moon in your house of money will help you focus more on personal finances. You may even discover new ways to make money from one of your passions or talents. Avoid emails that could be confusing, it's better to connect one to one while sharing your thoughts.

**TAURUS: April 20th - May 21st** With a New Moon and Venus in your sign you'll feel refreshed and ready to tackle new projects. While Mercury back pedals in your money house you may be able to find new ways to cut expenses. Double check your digits before you shop. Take extra time to hunt for bargains, otherwise you'll find you've spent too much.

**GEMINI: May 21st - June 21st** Now that Mercury is in your sign, you'll be sharper and more focused. With Venus in your house of secrets you may discover someone has a crush on you. It's best to move slowly and give things some time to develop.

**CANCER: June 21st - July 22nd** This month marks a time of new beginnings, when you feel ready to embark on achieving new goals, wishes and dreams. It's also promising for the formation of new important friendships. Since lucky Jupiter is in positive aspect to this month's new Moon, you'll be sure to benefit from partnerships you begin now. All your relationships should be improving; yet if you're open to romance, you'll find it with someone very social and wise.

**LEO: July 22nd - August 23rd** This month your past hard work will bring respect and admiration from others. Still, good PR won't pay the bills and with Saturn (in your house of money, in harsh aspect to the Full Moon) you could be feeling the effects of inflationary recession. You'll be ready to attract a great new romance.

**VIRGO: August 23rd - September 22nd** Travel and love come hand in hand this month. The New Moon and Venus in your house of long distance affairs could make you fall for a foreigner. For this reason, it's a great time to take a class or study up. You're most attracted to brainiac types now, as you need someone to feed your mind.

**LIBRA: September 23rd - October 23rd** The new Moon in your 8th house puts you in a serious mood. You'll be especially interested in the mysteries of life and will enjoy probing into taboo areas or looking for answers to your 'bigger questions.' You may even discover that you have suddenly outgrown some of your current beliefs and that it's time to release some myths. Romance is strong this month and if single, you'll be drawn into some strong chemistry.

**SCORPIO: October 23rd - November 22nd** A new Moon in your house of relationships marks a favorable time for partnerships. If you already have a mate, then expect good times. If single, you're able to attract someone special. Since your ruler (Mars) is mutually received by Jupiter, it marks an auspicious time when you are guided towards a favorable someone or situation.

**SAGITTARIUS: November 22nd - December 21st** A new Moon in your house of health should inspire you to take better care of yourself. Romance wise things could be challenging. Sags love new adventures; however, this month could be a time of reunion instead of new beginnings. I say this because Mercury, the planet that rules communication, goes retrograde in your house of partners. No doubt - you'll hear from someone in your past who wants to reconnect with you. Yet if you opt for someone new, you'll find a refined, artistic type in your future.

**CAPRICORN: December 21st - January 20th** Caps got the rap of being stable and sometimes boring, but that's not likely now. This could be babies, creative projects or a new love affair. On the flip side, the full Moon forms a harsh aspect to your ruler. Don't expect others to agree with you; focus on your blessings instead of courting confrontations now.

**AQUARIUS: January 20th - February 19th** A new Moon and Venus in your 4th house of comfort marks a perfect time to throw an at home party. It's a good time to showcase your culinary and home décor talents. If you're single you'll be attracting a stable, dependable, mate now. Try not to give into whims this month. With Mercury retro in your house of pleasure (in stressful aspect to your ruler in your house of money), you'll be tempted to spend and live large. Exercise some financial control.

**PISCES: February 19th - March 20th** A new Moon favorably aspected to your ruler Jupiter in your 11th house of friends and goals means that one of your friends can help you move towards your dreams by offering you timely information about new opportunities. Your mind is ready and ripe to receive and share; so network all you can. This Mercury retrograde wants you to get more organized at home. Clean the closets, fix up things and catch up with family members. ■

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## Seven Colors and Mamparia Cutu



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

This stretch of shoreline is so flat that from the sea you often can't see the land on dark nights. No lighthouses existed on Bonaire until the 17th century so there were many shipwrecks along this shoreline. There were huge mounds of finger coral along this shore. During high winds the ocean waves would crash up on these mounds of finger coral and as the waves were pulled back out again they made a sound like tinkling bells as they ground

and polished against each other. The coast was alive with the beautiful music of the corals with the sound of tinkling bells and the pounding of the sea. These sounds warned many a ship off and kept them from wrecking. Much of the corals were removed for building projects in the 20th century.

### The Bonairean Legend of Mamparia Cutu of the Black Rock

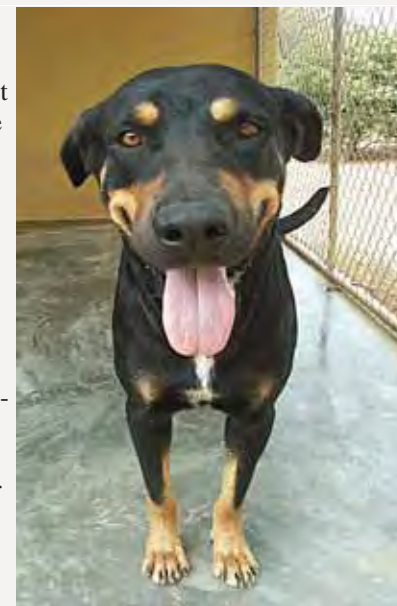
An old legend tells of a Mermaid called *Mamparia Cutu*. She was half-woman and half-fish and would sit on the black rock, golden hair blowing the wind. Her fish body shimmered green like a parrotfish. During storms the local villagers would hear the waves hitting the holes in the rocks making a sound like a large drum. They would say that *Mamparia Cutu* (Green Flesh Woman) was beating on her drums and making music with the corals.

Good people would say that she was warning the sailors off the dangerous coast. Those not of the villages would say that Mamparia Cutu was luring the sailors to the coast to be shipwrecked so that the people of the villages of Nikiboko and Terra Cora could take the plunder from the wrecks.

In the early morning after a fierce storm people would go to the coast to rescue whomever they could and salvage whatever they could from the wreck. They would mark their haul with colored flags. There were usually seven groups and the stretch of coast was called the "Coast of Colors." The salvaging was "Shete Colo" "Seven Colors." □ Frans Booi

## Pet of The Week

Meet handsome "Henk," a big stunning Rottweiler mix, who looks very menacing but is a sweet, friendly boy inside! He has the sturdy, broad physique of the Rottweiler. Henk is three years old, is sterilized and has been a family dog for all his life, but his owners moved and had no more space for him. What a pity as he is such an affectionate and nice dog. He's only been at the Shelter a short time and he shouldn't last long as an adoptee. So if you're looking for a great family dog who can protect you and your family, Henk's the guy. Stop in soon to see him at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm.



*Handsome Henk*

The puppies and kittens are still coming into the Shelter, and they're always welcome. But it emphasizes the extreme importance of the **Sterilization project** which provides sterilization for those animals whose owners cannot afford it. Please, if you can, support this program with your donations: "Sterilization Fund," MCB Account #10616410. The money goes ONLY for sterilizations. Or use your credit card to donate through Support Bonaire:

[WWW.supportbonaire.org](http://WWW.supportbonaire.org).

What to do with your old car license plates? Give them to the Shelter which in turn will sell them, with all proceeds going toward running this safe haven.

The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989. Website: [WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.org](http://WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.org) L.D.

# SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION BONAIRE

### 2007 Donors

#### Major Donors

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## STCB says thanks!

To all of those who volunteered and gave generously in 2007.

Since 1991 donors and volunteers from Bonaire and abroad have played a vital role in helping Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire protect endangered sea turtles.



### 2007 Conservation Partners & Donors of In-Kind Services

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 Support Bonaire The Beach Shop at Harbour Village  
 Wanna Dive WIDECAS

### 2007 Volunteers

Thank you to our hundreds of volunteers! In 2007, you helped us clean nesting beaches, collect scientific data, monitor habitat, rescue turtles, and spread the word about how everyone can enjoy and protect Bonaire's endangered sea turtles.

Find out about what we do!  
 Read STCB's Progress Report 2007,  
 available online now at [bonaireturtles.org](http://bonaireturtles.org)

To learn more about sea turtles and how you can help, contact us:  
 web site: [www.bonaireturtles.org](http://www.bonaireturtles.org)  
 email: [stcb@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:stcb@bonaireturtles.org)  
 phone: 717-2225



## REAL FRIENDS

As I write this, my friend is celebrating her birthday. She has been a real friend for over 25 years. Even though there is an ocean between us, when we meet we just take off where



we left off. With real friends I mean: the ones you can call at 3 o'clock in the morning and they will come and help; the ones with whom you can laugh about absolutely nothing until you almost pee in your pants; the ones with whom you can share everything.

Is it easier to make friends when you are younger? As adolescents we are put together in a group of our own age and those are our peers for years to come. The chance that a couple of 17-year-olds will have a lot in common is fairly high. And as we narrow down the subject of our education in further studies, this becomes even higher.

But when you start to work your horizon widens and the group of people with whom you are in daily contact becomes more diverse. By then you probably will have a partner or maybe a family who may demand a lot of your time. That could leave less room for finding more real friends.

On Bonaire you will find there is an extra handicap working against you finding the real friends: people leave. People born and raised here decide that another country or island might better suit their lifestyle or ambitions. And a lot of people who come to the island do so for only a few years of adventure.

Who can blame them? Bonaire is a perfect island to have your tropical adventures because it is relatively safe. There is not a lot of poverty (compared to the rest of this region), there are almost no dangerous animals (this is even a rabies-free island!), there is a democracy, the climate is fantastic, the island is not plagued by hurricanes every year, and most importantly, the people here speak four different languages: Papiamentu (of course), Dutch, English and Spanish. So people from all over the world can come here and still be understood. They can live here with most of the comforts they are used to.

But for a lot of them there comes a time that the island "becomes too small," and they will seek new opportunities and

adventures, or they will go back to the safety they came from. So every year there is a coming and going of people. This means that people are leaving and also that people are being left behind.

As someone who is still "being left behind" I can honestly say it affects you in a sort of negative way. When you meet a new person you will immediately assume they will be gone in a few years, especially if the person is not a Bonairean. Your attitude will probably be a bit nonchalant or even blasé, thereby lowering your chances of making new friends. But what if that person was to be that one real friend out of a million?

From the perspective of the newcomer: how does it feel when you start working somewhere and your colleagues cannot look at you without seeing the queue of people who have come and gone before you? It is only logical that they are waiting to see which way the wind blows because you are just one in a very long line and you are definitely not the last one.

However, meeting new people will certainly enhance your world, so you will handicap yourself by denying it. Just because someone only stays for a short period of time does not mean he or she cannot be a "real friend." Also on Bonaire everybody is a potential friend.

And THANK GOODNESS for e-mail because keeping a long-distance friendship going in letters is very tiresome and demands an ocean of patience for even the best of friends. Finally, there is good news for the people "being left behind" on Bonaire: when people leave, a part of this island will settle in their minds in such a way that they often have no choice but to COME BACK.

For my friend of course: Happy Birthday! ■ *Mary Ann Koops*

*Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.*



## The Best Four by Four by Far: Land-Rover (Made in England)

The 29<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Kralendijk –

In February 2008 John Tribhawan-singh and Jennifer Meyer started their new enterprise named Voyager Events Car Rental & Tours. They organize guided tours on the island, going south and in the northern direction, heading for Goto Lake and the northern coast. They intend to organize a tour through Washington Park every Friday and a tour to Playa Frans on Sundays. Voyager Events has connections with the resorts and hotels and with travel agencies abroad.



*Land Rover Excursion*

It is the safari tours division of this enterprise that attracted special attention from *The Bonaire Reporter* because of the use of two huge Land-Rover 127 inch Defenders. These two impressive vehicles were manufactured in England in 1992 and are fitted with very nice and very smooth running V8 engines.

"These two Land-Rovers," John explains, "were for sale for some time on our island. I always liked the Land Rover all terrain vehicles so when the opportunity came up I decided to buy the cars and to start with my Land Rover Safari Tours."

The cars are almost the biggest Land Rovers you can get. There is even a larger model, named the Defender 130. Only the aficionados can tell you the difference: the wheelbase is three inches longer.

A ridged chassis is made of sturdy though flexible steel. Massive 16-inch wheels, huge Michelin 750X16 tires, designed for rough terrain. Two very strong and stiff axles, an unbreakable Salisbury axle in the rear. Permanent four-wheel drive and differential locks. An impressive ground clearance. A very rectangular all-aluminum body that can last for 90 years! The spare wheel is mounted on the hood on top of the engine bay. A huge engine producing



*Nice (sustainably fished) catch at Sorobon*

countless original British Horse Powers at a very low amount of revolutions. This is a real vehicle. This is not just a four by four car. This is an impressive four by four truck, a state of the art top quality product of the British car industry!

The cabin of the car appears to be quite cramped. Never change a winning team, the English seem to think. The size of the cabin is basically the same as the size of the first model, the series I, introduced in 1948. But in the last decades people grew...

So let's go for a drive! Some 12 tourists are picked up from one of the biggest cruise ships and we are heading south. First gear engaged, hydraulic clutch, low revs, power steering. Twenty miles an hour, 30 miles an hour. The airport, Donkey Beach, the Cargill Salt Company, the slave huts, the Willemstoren light-house. Primitive art along the coast, made of drift wood and

shoes. Several stops are made, questions and answers exchanged. The guests loved the island and enjoyed the trip.

When we arrive at Sorobon some fishermen are cleaning big fish. The tourists are surprised. We check the shallows of the sea for conches. We know they are protected. Then we find one. The tourists are surprised again by the nature of Bonaire and the explanation by the guides. Then it is time to enjoy a soft drink or a beer in the water. The tourists enjoy the view of the windsurfers flying up and down over the surface of the sea. A watch tells us it is time to go back to the ship. Following the curly road we are heading for Nikiboko and Kralendijk. The ship is waiting. The tourists enjoyed their trip. This was just a small impression of our beautiful island. ■

*Story & photos by J@n Brouwer*

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