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**BONAIRE** July 11-25, 2008; Volume 15, Issue 14  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

Kunuku Shimaruku, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-6518, 786-6125, email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994



**Dia di Arte-2008** Pages 10 & 11  
Organizer Emma Sint Jago Takes the Prize

## Bonaire Reporter Editorial

There's a battle going on at Bonaire's Ft. Oranje. It's about keeping commitments and promises and respect for Bonaire's history.



The landmark fort, which dates from Bonaire's earliest settlement days, was refurbished in 1996 under a grant that specified that part of the restored site was to be a museum commemorating its past.

The restoration transformed the run-down fort into Bonaire's Justice Court complex. Now the Central Government wants to oust the museum which is managed by Bonaire's high-schoolers as part of BONAI, the Bonaire Archeological Institute, to make room for more Justice facilities.

To us, the suggestion is unthinkable, especially against the backdrop of Bonaire monuments to make way for commercial development.

Government must keep its commitments to serve as a model for all citizens, especially youngsters. To usurp their museum is simply dishonest. ■

“The number of drug users in Bonaire has increased drastically,” said Ramiro Richards, Chairman of the Addiction Care Foundation. “It is very alarming and we must tackle this in a good and professional manner as soon as possible.” One year after the foundation was established by the government it gave an overview of its work.

Figures of the first half of this year indicate that the number of drug users has increased drastically from 72 to 166, a 131% increase over the same period in 2007.

At the request of companies and organizations 274 persons were tested in the first half of this year. The number that tested positive

increased from 18 to 59 (231%). The increase is thought to be because more people in the age group of 20 and 35 are using drugs, there are more people on the island and since there is more construction work more people without an education are making more money.

► **After a two-month-long refit, the ship *Freewinds* steered out of the Curaçao harbor last week.**

The ship belonging to the Scientology Church had some panels containing blue asbestos removed. The rest of the asbestos was encased, preventing it from causing any harm. The ship has Curaçao as a home port and visits Bonaire regularly.

Not corrected in the refit was its waste management system which still requires its sewage to be pumped out into tank trucks and dumped on Bonaire.

► **Four international airlines, including KLM, have agreed to pay \$504 million in fines to settle charges they conspired to fleece consumers by driving up cargo shipping prices.** US Associate Attorney General Kevin O'Connor called the scam an

"international price-fixing cartel" that cost consumers hundreds of millions of dollars between 2001 and 2006. In some instances, for example, fuel surcharges rose by 1,000%. Air France-KLM has agreed to pay \$350 million of the total settlement. The other carriers are Cathay Pacific Airways, Martinair Holland and SAS Cargo Group. Authorities said that executives from each of the airlines met repeatedly in the US, Europe and Asia to cook up a price-fixing scheme that raised cargo rates, fuel surcharges and security costs for businesses and, ultimately, consumers. The settlement agreement, filed last Thursday in US District Court in Washington, still requires a judge's approval.

► **The US Consulate General recently launched a new website <http://Curacao.usconsulate.gov>.** The website was developed to provide information about the US

► Rumors have it that the ever active Co de Koning (with Bòi Antoin, the motor behind Kuifje's *Asunto di Florisol*) is now working on a new project called “The English Book Club.”

Together with SGB English teacher **Arti de Vries** and two young newly enrolled students in English literature at the UNA, **Steffie Martinez** and **Paulina Craane**, currently on the summer staff of *Bistro de Paris*, Co plans to link up the two sources—one of supply and one of demand—for quality English books, both literature and thrillers (Crichton, Baldacci, Grisham, Ken Follett et al).

The basic idea is that many bookshelves in Bonaire's well-read households are sagging under the weight of books read but not discarded or passed on, which the owners (the supply source) would gladly destine for a second life among eager young book readers (the demand source) who do not have the means to buy new books and do not know to whom to turn for borrowing some good English books.

Arti de Vries, who already has a small English library on the SGB premises, will act as custodian. Books will primarily be lent out to the high-graders in SGB secondary school level, plus to former SGB students now enrolled in the UNA or other academic schools on Curaçao on their periodic visits to Bonaire. A catalog will be printed and updated every month or so, and donors of books will also be able to borrow titles of rare classics and out-of-print books (so as not to compete with Addo's “Books and Toys,” our priceless new quality bookshop on Bonaire).

All work is to be done on a voluntary basis – collecting, cataloguing, distribution – and except for a once-only caution deposit no cost will be charged to borrowers.

**Masja de Koning**, Co's daughter and a great reader of literature and thrillers in English and American, will monitor the project as to the quality of collection assembled. Her email address is [masja.de.koning@planet.nl](mailto:masja.de.koning@planet.nl), and any message of adhesion or offers for books to be collected at home will be more than welcome.

The program will start officially on September 15, 2008, after all the organizational details have been mastered. But collecting will begin this summer. From July 14 just call book phone 09 526-9420 for pick-up. *The Bonaire Reporter* will publish further details of the program in August. Finally if the program is a success beyond the boundaries of student demand the English Book Club may become a section of the new Bonaire library in 2009 as an English language sub-library, says de Koning.



and about its mission to the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. There are sections covering visas to the US, American Citizen Services, the latest news, speeches and press releases. There are also links to information about a broad range of US policies and issues.

► **Forecasters expect the Atlantic season's first hurricane, *Bertha*, to head toward Bermuda.** It was too early to tell whether the storm would hit the

island, but residents were urged to monitor *Bertha's* progress.

When the June tropical waves bring rain to Bonaire we are led to think about the upcoming hurricane season. While Bonaire has long been immune from direct hurricane hits, the island is affected by the sea swells and the wind reversals they spawn. Predicting the number of storms and their severity is an annual exercise.

(Continued on page 4)

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**B**onaire has an Earthship under construction between Angola and Seru Grandi. During the month of July a crew of 14 volunteers, local construction workers and even an SGB student will complete erection of an innovative set of buildings constructed primarily of trash—tires, bottles backed up by plenty of concrete and timber. The buildings may be used to accommodate eco tourists— ideal visitors for Bonaire’s natural attractions.

During our Monday visit we viewed the structural shell of the buildings: tire walls, beer can fillers, wooden roof beams, insu-



lation, greenhouse framing and glazing. The water and power systems use solar energy and the water will be recycled. Well known local builder, Sidney Manuel, is helping out and also studying the techniques which can be applied to local construction. What looks at a glance to be a bunch of hippies toiling in the sun, turns out to be a team of trained workers following an intelligently thought out and proven plan and process.

The site is adjacent to Mikeil Bij Kirk’s kunuku development and monument to the Antillean constellation of islands. To visit the interesting site follow the yellow sun signs on the blue-painted rocks from Kaya Korona onto Kaya Esther.

Michael Reynolds, the “Garbage Warrior” himself, is on site wielding a sledge hammer packing earth into

discarded tire casings. His decade-long effort to promote eco friendly construction is documented in a Sundance Festival film released last April. For more information visit <http://earthship.net/>

The view of Gotomeer shown on the site is misleading as Gotomeer is nowhere near the construction site. ■ G.D.



Overview of the Earthship construction as of early this week



Bonaire builder Sidney Manuel checks out the solar panels



A worker setting the mortar into the tire/beer can matrix by hand

## Lions Install New President



**O**n Friday, June 27 the Bonaire Lions Club installed its new Board of Directors for 2008-2009. Named were Marlon Bermudez as Club President with Treasurer Carmen Beck and Secretary Oswin Cristina on his Daily Board. Other Members include Vice Presidents Stanley Janga and Nelson Franco. Tamer is Hubert Nicolaas; Tail Twister is Calino Molina, and Riency Holder, Ronald Schleper, Sr Rudsel Leito, Francisco Soleana, Randolph Luciano, and past President Rijnaldo Timp. In the photo Marlon Bermudez receives his badge of office. ■

## 2 Homes In 1 - Kaminda La Union #9



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► The **Stichting Project Foundation** awarded Completion Certificates to its graduates on Thursday, June 19. All the parents of the youngsters were on hand to share in the exciting evening. Several of the youngsters will now attend the SGB High School. One young lady will begin work at the Buddy Dive resort following a successful training period.

To do that weather wizard **William Gray** emerges from his burrow deep in the Rocky Mountains to offer his forecast for the six-month hurricane season that started **June 1**. And the news media are there, including *The Reporter*, awaiting his every word. It's a lot like Groundhog Day — and the results are worth just about as much.

► **Female Loggerhead sea turtle**

“**Wiske**,” who was equipped with a transmitter by Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, is still hanging out around the Ebo's Special dive site off Klein Bonaire. STCB thinks she laid a nest in the middle of last week. That would mean she will be here for at least one more week assuming she lays only one more nest. Typically, Loggerhead's nest approximately once every 14 days.



► **Bonaire continued living up to its eco-slogan, Leading By Example**, with events during the kickoff week for the International Year of the Reef which included kayaking around Klein Bonaire, surveying reef fish, and special diving excursions focusing on reef preservation. Presentations by conservation leaders like **Jan and Alexandra Cousteau** (above in photo with Capt. Don) of Earth Echo, **Bryan Dias** from the Coral Reef Alliance and Bonaire naturalist **Jerry Ligon** were highlights. There are many more activities planned later this year that will focus raising awareness of the importance of preserving our reefs.

► **There will be an Underwater Cleanup this Saturday, July 12**, the third quarterly cleanup of this year.

Plan are to cleanse the Town Pier (permission pending) of some dumped ceramic tiles as well as



► **Ten Aircraft Maintenance Training School** students spent a day of study at Flamingo Airport on Saturday, June 28. The AMTS is a new school on Bonaire which was founded in 2007 by Aviation Maintenance specialist Jacinto Frans. Today it has 18 students who follow day or evening school courses to become an aviation maintenance technician. The school is unique in the Caribbean and offers young people the opportunity of a dynamic career in aviation. To teach the students more about General Aviation, they were invited to check out the BonAeroClub Cessna. Special attention was given to the engine, instruments and controls of the plane. Then all students enjoyed a sightseeing flight in the Cessna 172.

monofilament fishing line. If for some reason permission cannot be granted, then we will clean Chacha-beach. Those interested in participating should meet at the Dive Friends' Dive Inn at 1pm for the briefing. Shore support are also welcome. As normal, a BBQ will follow in the late afternoon. (From *Dive Friends Bonaire and NetTech, N.V.*)



► The Rotary Club of Bonaire continued their support of education on the island by **donating copies of the new Papiamentu-English dictionaries to the UniCollege high school** as well as Dutch- French, -German, -English dictionaries. UniCollege Board member **Mireille van Egmond** attended a Rotary meeting to receive the dictionaries handed out by Rotary Past Presidents **Marisela Croes** and **Ruud Vermeulen**.

► **The Four-Day Walk, Vierdaagse Bonaire, scheduled for the end of July, will most likely be postponed** because of the sud-

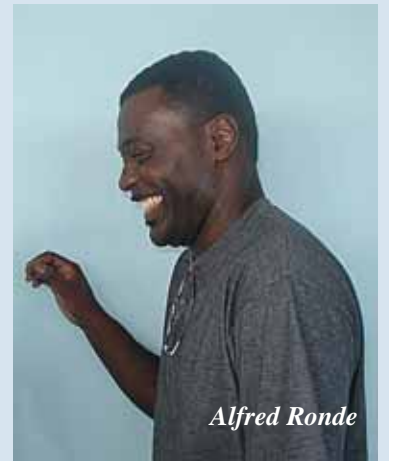
den death of one of its crew members.

► **Bonaire won About.com's "Favorite Dive Destination"** in the Caribbean competition with 51% of total votes, and the island is now in the final poll for Favorite Dive Destination in the World.

**Log on to About.com today to vote for Bonaire as your favorite dive destination in the world.** The direct link is: <http://scuba.about.com/b/2008/05/08/favorite-dive-destination-round-5-caribbean.htm>. Vote often.

► **Are you looking to go where (hardly) anyone has dived before and still be on Bonaire?** Then go with Larry's Wildside Diving on a RIB – diveboat excursion to the island's east side. Larry Bailie and his company, Wild Side Diving, will treat you to Bonaire's best diving.

► Years ago, Alfred Ronde, a man handy with a set of drums as well as a video camera, offered Bonaire something it never had had- it's own TV channel. Digital technology and Alfred's imagination, hard work and persistence transformed the original "Telecorant" into BoTV (Your TV), a favorite among Bonaire cable TV watchers hungry for local news and events. **Last week the Bonaire phone company, Telbo, took over the activities of BoTV**, making



Alfred Ronde

Alfred Ronde a member of Telbo's management team. According to Telbo's Director, Edsel Winklaar, Telbo will continue his business with an innovative trend.

BoTV is broadcast over channel 24 of MiTV, the Fiberoptic TV service offered by Telbo. "If the Flamingo TV service, long a BoTV host, wants to keep it on their cable system too, we can negotiate," said Winklaar, who added that Telbo plans to offer Bonaire's Papiamentu language programs to a Dutch audience as well.

► **Bonaire National Marine Park Rangers** have placed "NO ENTRY" stones at Goto Lake.



This was necessary because more people were entering the area, especially with quads. While doing so they disturb the flamingos and damage the sediment of the lake. ■ *G./L. D.*



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# Profiles: Renate van der Bijl: An artist specializing in oil paintings of Bonaire's vivid beauty



The subjects of Renate van der Bijl's oil paintings include local people, especially fishermen; the sea; the rugged landscape and all elements of the island's traditional culture.

A resident of Bonaire for nine years, her paintings are collected all over the world and today grace private homes, yachts, banks, companies and government offices. She has held nine exhibitions of her work and her art was introduced to Queen

Beatrix and the late Prince Claus on their 1999 visit to Bonaire. Her website is [WWW.bonairenet.com/renate/index.htm](http://WWW.bonairenet.com/renate/index.htm)

For more information or to see additional paintings not on the website you may email her at [renate@bonairenet.com](mailto:renate@bonairenet.com) or contact her by telephone at (599) 717-6500. She is planning a new exposition by the end of November/ the beginning of December. ■ Photos & story by Louise Rood



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## Parrot Watch

### An Interview with the Salba Nos Lora Foundation

The volunteers who form the foundation, *Salba Nos Lora*, (Save Our Parrot) have been increasingly active this year. *The Bonaire Reporter* caught up with them to learn a little more about where they've come from and their current efforts.

The foundation itself wasn't officially formed until 2005, but in actual fact people have been trying to help the loras for a long time. It was over 14 years ago when concerned individuals including Friar Candidus, Peter Montanus, Reverent Jan Jonkman and Rene Hakkenberg first started helping the wild birds. At that time Bonaire was experiencing droughts and the volunteers were providing fruit for the hungry birds. For many years *Salba Nos Lora* has been jointly responsible for organizing the annual count. There have also been several information campaigns and of course the critically important registration campaign. A registered pet lora has a ring on its leg. A pet lora without a ring is illegal and the people who bought that bird are responsible for damaging the wild population!

The volunteers who form the

current *Salba Nos Lora* are a mix of Bonaireans, Dutch residents and visiting British researchers. They have informal, often weekly, meetings and they plot their successful projects with a beer on the table and sand between their toes. It was in this relaxed environment that I got to ask them a few questions.

**Reporter:** The new campaign poster is beautiful. How did you find the picture?

**Jan Jaap van Almenkerk**, a recent recruit to the foundation, answers: "The painting was one of the entries from our art competition and we think it really fits our campaign message: 'The loras' beauty is in the wild.'"

**Reporter:** So is the campaign about the wild loras?

**Parrot conservationist and researcher Sam Williams:** "We all tend to forget what is around us and I think the lora is such an under appreciated part of Bonaire. You don't need to catch them and put them in cages to see how beautiful and entertaining they are. You can see them in town every day at the moment, but many people just ignore them and they miss out."

**Reporter:** Does any of your work focus on captive birds?

**Hensley Anthony, a Bonairean parrot keeper**, who is clearly

passionate about the wild lora: "Yes. We want the people of Bonaire to be thinking more and paying more attention to their lora and to give them better cages so they can be healthier."

**Reporter:** Let's get back to the wild birds. In this campaign you say we should protect the lora, but why?

**Biologist and conservationist Rowan Martin:** "Because it is a globally endangered species and because they have already gone extinct on Aruba, Bonaire is one of the last strongholds for this parrot." We sit and think about that for a second, then **Rowan adds:** "650 wild loras is not many at all, and if we lose the lora from Bonaire we may lose the species; it is that critical!"

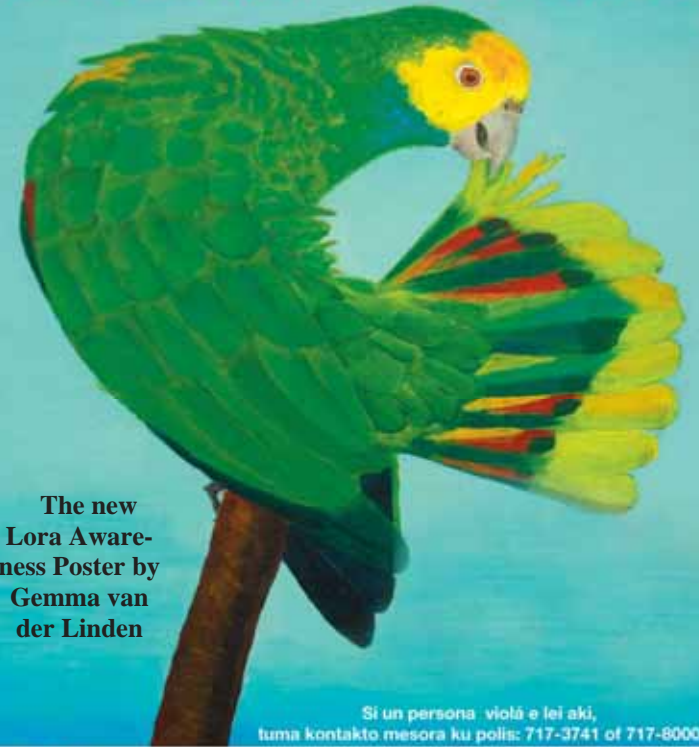
**Reporter:** This all sounds very dramatic and I can see why you want to protect the parrots.

In response to this **Maarten Schuut** presents a surprising view I hadn't expected "It doesn't matter about which species we protect. Basically I'm interested in protecting the whole environment and the lora is a good flagship species to do this with."

**Reporter:** That's an interesting perspective and it's nice to think of the lora as an ambassador for

## SU BUNITESA TA DEN NATURALES!

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The new Lora Awareness Poster by Gemma van der Linden

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### NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALES!



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Esaki ta un akshon di Fundashon Salba Nos Lora, STINAPA, SSV, KPNA, Polis Ambiental i DROB

Bonaire's nature. My last question brings the focus back to the lora and I wonder if someone can summarize what you hope this campaign, and indeed your work will achieve?

**Rhian Evans, assistant field biologist** and most recent *Salba*

*Nos Lora* volunteer, wraps it up nicely: "We would like to see greater awareness and appreciation of the importance of Bonaire's lora, and to eliminate the stealing of baby loras from the wild." ■ S.W./ L.D.



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## BONAIREAN VOICES

### GOVERNMENT Part II

As promised I am reporting about what the government is doing regarding our concern for our present and future. I decided to interview each political party. In this article I will start with two. Talking with the representatives of these parties I learned a lot about how they administer and manage things here in Bonaire.

A member (40) of the Bonairean Democratic Party (PDB-red party) said, "The elected party consists of nine members who are paid to work for their country, not only for those who voted for them. It's not an easy task because that party is now a public figure. Sometimes you don't notice the work right away, but it starts little by little, doing some administration work in the neighborhoods and for the island itself. Our party's main concern to work for are the people. We call our party 'Social Democratic Party' because we have a social economic problem that is affecting the lower and middle classes. We are very aware of their welfare. We'd like to bring these classes to a higher level so they can help themselves. We want to raise the level of healthcare, education and housing and create jobs and we have to make some changes. We believe in an autonomous country within the Kingdom because you have the power to make these changes, do more for your country, and without Holland's government intervention. Holland may intervene only where it is needed.

But now the situation is different. We are losing part of our autonomy and Holland is taking over by telling us what to do. CFT (Commissie voor Financieel Toezicht/ Commission for the Financial Supervision) was installed by Holland itself and is controlling the financial welfare of the island of Bonaire. People might think that as a country we can't do it ourselves. It's understandable that when a government or a political party is elected that party or whole administration office will be replaced, and not every government office works the same. It might create an image of bad administration, but it takes times to re-adjust the workings of an office. We as the Democratic Party believe that our people can do it. We have a lot of Bonairean professionals, on and off the island, who can do the job. But we have to work on wages, family well being, traffic, the social problems, ambience and recreation. In this way together we can bring Bonaire to a better future."

And what does a member (34) of the Bonairean Union Party (UPB-green party) have to say? "When you are elected you

are no longer a party, but a government that has to work in the general interest of the people, for those who have voted for the party and those who did not. The government's task is to work on a social capitalist system. But now we function as a semi-capitalist government. We have to focus on the economy to create more jobs for the people so the people in turn can support themselves. Through the department of DEZA (Dienst Economische Zaken en Arbeid/Department for Economics and Work) we are helping people to get jobs. Holland agrees that each Bonairean should have the same rights as a Dutch person. The content of these rights need to be agreed upon for those with a Dutch nationality.

Our Warranty function is The Charter of The Kingdom, art. 43, which shows that human rights are very important. And we don't have all the equipment to give the Bonaireans what they deserve. We are short in our finance and expertise. Most of our financial problems are being taken care of by Holland because Bonaire is a small island and can't manage all the financial problems we have. The taxes we collect don't bring in enough money to pay for all the things we want to do. We are working on the airport, the roads, and the hospital, soon in schools, on crime (police reinforcement), education and more. As you can see we need the financial help and experts to do these jobs.

The Bonairean market is too small. We can't afford not to take Holland's help. As a country we are free to choose what we want. The Bonairean is taking the lead on this island. But to be completely on our own there are always some things that we are not ready for. Just take for example repairing and rebuilding our schools and giving each citizen the right to the education they need. That takes a lot - millions of guilders - and we don't have that kind of money. We are not ready to be an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands."

In this manner these political members have informed you and in what direction their party is heading. If you have any suggestion or remarks, please send them to *The Bonaire Reporter*. ■

*Siomara E. Albertus*



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

## DECO now REGO



Rignald Anthony, who has run the DECO printshop since 1990, is now its new owner and operating under the name REGO. The printshop was established in 1973 by Frater Desiderius who returned to Holland after training Rignald. DECO was named for Desiderius Coopmans, the proper name of Frater Desiderius.

The shop, located in the back of the Fundashon Kas Bonairiano on Kaya Korona, has always specialized in low cost, high quality printing and copying. *The Bonaire Reporter* wishes Rignald Anthony every success. In the past DECO, now REGO, printed *Port Call*, the predecessor of *The Bonaire Reporter*. ■

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# Bonaire Real Estate Pacesetters



**The Sunbelt Realty Team: standing, from left to right; Martijn Eichhorn, Indira Adamus, Annet van Bijsteren, Jan Henk van der Wier, Anja Romeijnders, Erika Sanders, Annouck Loos. Sitting, from left to right: Isaira Peters, Corine van der Hout and Femke Geurts.**

On July 4th, Sunbelt Realty opened its new rental office location with a big party which simultaneously celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the opening of its new rental location at the site of the old Rendez-vous Restaurant at Kaya Gerharts 3, across the street from its real estate sales office. Most interestingly, the office includes a fully equipped bar, a legacy of the building's restaurant days.

Owner Corine van der Hout announced that for all properties listed with Sunbelt between July 4 and December 31st, 2008, 10% of the sales commission will be donated to a Bonairean charitable cause designated by the seller. During the party members of the Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation gave a sparkling presentation about the goals of their foundation and the ways the NAf12.500 Sunbelt Realty donated to them two years ago were used to repair the homes of needy people. For further information contact Corine van der Hout at Sunbelt Realty NV, Tel: 717-65 60, Fax: 717-6570, Email: info@sunbelt.an. ■ *Press release*

## Bonaire Sunshine Homes

The newest realtor in town, Bonaire Sunshine Homes, has the newest concept: a local touch with co-owner, James Finies, a Bonairean born and raised. "People like to hear a Bonairean voice speaking Papiamentu on the telephone when they call," says James' partner, Vicky Bissessar.

"We saw a gap in the market, dealing with Bonaireans and people from the other Antillean islands and we try to offer them a more local touch. James explains, "We have no charge for consulting and our contracts are flexible. There's



**Vicky Bissessar and James Finies**

no exclusivity and our commission is only 3%." Vicky adds, "Most of our buyers are from the US and Holland and we have been very successful with record breaking sales for only one year in the business. About 90% of our clients

who inquire about buying a house purchase from us.

James and Vicky are well known on the island as the creators of the children's Parke Publiko Boneriano. James was in commercial banking for over 20 years and Vicky's specialty has always been sales.

Sunshine Realty also handles vacation and long term rentals and property management. "We offer that, especially to our customers who buy a home and live somewhere else," Vicky says. "Service to our clients comes first. We want to build the trust of the client – service and trust, those are our bywords."

The Bonaire Sunshine Homes office is on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar #26, near the church in Playa and across from Scarlet's Flower Shop. Telephone is 717-4992, Fax 717-4972. Website: [WWW.BonaireSunshineHomes.com](http://WWW.BonaireSunshineHomes.com). Email: [info@BonaireSunshineHomes.com](mailto:info@BonaireSunshineHomes.com) ■ *L.D.*

### Caribbean Homes- Advertising Innovators

When is a billboard not an eyesore? When Caribbean Homes takes landscape blot like a shipping container and makes it a colorful sales

office near the airport. Or when they put a giant sandwich sign on a flatbed truck and park it at high visibility events. ■ *G.D.*



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# Animal Friends Kunuku



Animal Friends founders Jose Cieremans (above) and Gielmon 'Funchi' Egbrecht (right ▶)



Bonaire has a new attraction that focuses on Bonaire's rural heritage. It's the "Animal Friends Kunuku," a mini-farm with horses, donkeys, a cow, pigs, sheep, goats, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, chickens, lots and lots of little chicks. And of course dogs and kittens.

Its purpose is to reunite the children of Bonaire with the animals that were once a big part of life on the island. As Jose Cieremans, one of the co-founders along with Gielmon 'Funchi' Egbrecht, says, "Not often do we have the opportunity to touch and interact with animals here. It's has been our goal to integrate all of our children with these lovely animals. Bunnies and hamsters are still on our wish list and Funchi would love a dwarf goat. My personal wish would be ponies.

We are striving to enrich the traditional knowledge of farming and fishing of all the children on the island with personal interaction with the animals and farm products: seeing, touching, feeling, tasting and smelling. This is the purpose of our *Knoek* Animal Friends

We are fortunate to still have a lot of kunukeros (farmers) in our area who have played a key role, in teaching us and the children everything there can be learned on a farm. In these days we have to focus on our Bonaire traditions. If we do not they will disappear.

In the old days we lived in the *Knoek* out in the country only to travel to the city during the weekend to play Dominos. Nowadays things are reversed. There is a very large group of children who have never seen a cow. Think about it: milk a cow with your own hands, trim a sheep, pick a papaya, feed the animals. The opportunity to do this should be experienced by every child on the island.

There's a lot to learn. Did you know that melons seeded three days after a full moon do not require pesticides? Cows moo to identify themselves? That chickens, geese and doves have no difficulty at all recognizing their own young even though they all look alike?

With this we extend an invitation to all of you to come by and to take a close look yourself. And donations in any form are most welcome: to feed the animals old bread and vegetables are much appreciated. You might also want to make cash donation. Anything is much appreciated. Take a look at our wish list.

On top of all this we have even provided a small area for after school care, children's parties, field trips and a vacation camp.

The Reporter plans a follow-up story to tell you more about what is to become Bonaire's first public farm, but in the meantime if you want to learn more you can contact Gielmon 'Funchi' Egbreghts (phone 780-1225) or Jose Cieremans (phone 796-7303).

■ Jose Cieremans Press release

## Pet of The Week

Visitor to the island, Michelle Sellars, cuddles up with puppy "Isabel" at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Michelle is a volunteer at a Shelter in the Los Angeles area and she had to come and see this very well run one here on Bonaire. According to the Shelter managers visitors are always welcome at the Shelter to pet the dogs and cats and play with them. It's fun for the people and the animals love it.



Bonaire visitor Michelle with brindle pup "Isabel"

Little Isabel is only about three and a half months old. She was brought in with her sister who has already been adopted. Isabel is a lovely brindle-gray and brown-with longish hair and a short tail. She'll remain small, a lap-lover size, and is very affectionate, as you can tell from the photo. She's not a dominant sort, more of an easy going, life loving kind of girl. She's been examined by the vet and declared

healthy, has had her tests, worming, shots and will be sterilized when she's old enough. All this is included in the dog adoption fee of NAF105! Now all she needs is a loving owner who will appreciate her special qualities.

The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989. Visit them on the web: [www. BonaireAnimalShelter.org](http://www.BonaireAnimalShelter.org). ■ L.D.

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# Dia di Arte

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dia di Arte last Sunday, July 6, was stupendous from its start at 10 am until late evening. It brought together artists, musicians, craftsmen and top notch local foods and drinks. Emma St. Jago (on the cover) and her Foundation for Bonairean Art and Culture organized the event that was visited by thousands of Bonaireans and tourists. Enjoy the photos and meet some of the artists. □ L./G. D.



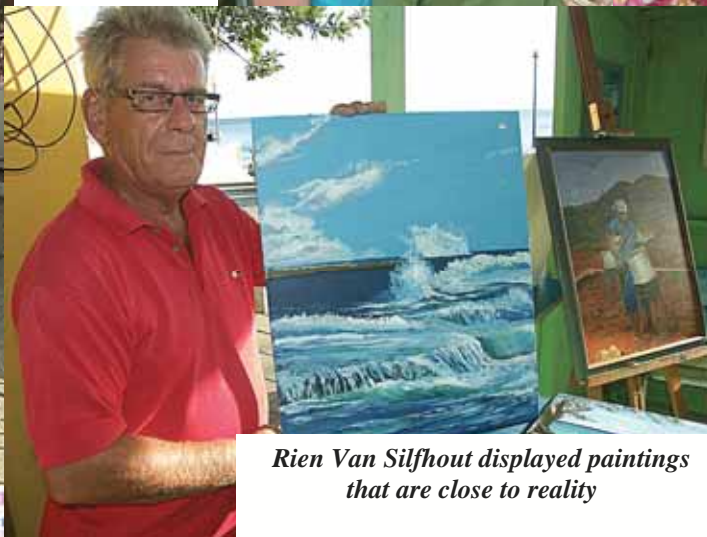
Artists Linda Richter and daughter Yana



The legendary group from Rincon, "Nos Kosecha," performed



Artist Olivia Janga was invited to exhibit at Dia di Arte for the first time.



Rien Van Silfhout displayed paintings that are close to reality



Janice Huckaby with some of her classics



Diane Winklaar shows off her jewelry



Bubble blowing as an art form



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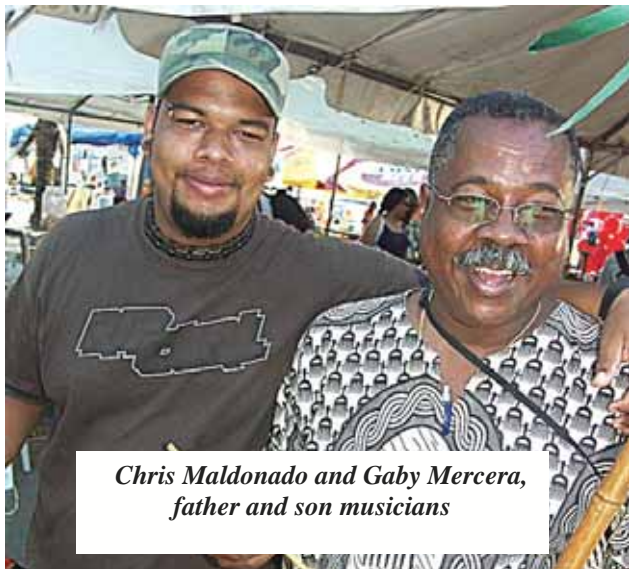
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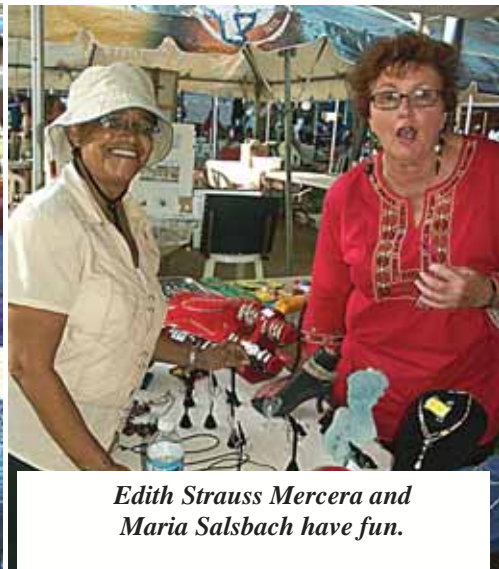
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Chris Maldonado and Gaby Mercera, father and son musicians



The art of quilting mastered by Marcia Hu-A-Ng (for more information ask Florecita at Caribbean Laundry)



Edith Strauss Mercera and Maria Salsbach have fun.



Henk Roozendaal with one of his new series of paintings: "Indians of Bonaire" Painting left on facing page is Englishman Sean Peyton the model for a Bonaire Indian.



For the best in goat skin art - Thelma de Palm



Jan Art Winning artist Shuemeenely

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# DINING GUIDE

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	<b>On the beach ambiance</b> 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>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 NAf 28,50 or \$16.
<b>Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant</b> One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	<b>Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian</b> Bonaire's first Argentine grill 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>It Rains Fishes</b> A Bonaire "Must" -On the oceanfront on the Boulevard at the Club Nautico Marina pier—717-8780	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. Closed Sunday	<b>Bonaire's latest hot spot</b> Best waterfront/harbor view combined with an inspired Menu, skillful staff and superb chef
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. <b>780-1111</b>	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. <b>The 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
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# SHOPPING GUIDE

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## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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**WannaDive** - They make diving fun. In town at City Café, at Eden Beach and Windsock Apartments .

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**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.

**Sunshine Homes** is the realtor with a local touch. Ask them to show you the good value homes they list. Call them if you are thinking of selling your home.

## 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

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**Best Buddies and Pearls**—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Wonderful service, free gift wrap.

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## Spas

**Intermezzo Spa-** at Capt. Don's Habitat, offers perfect ambiance of tranquility and serenity. Massages, facials, waxing and other body treatments. Specially priced packages, some just for residents.

## SUPERMARKETS

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

## WATER TAXI

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# Letters to the Editor

Say No to Holland



## JUST SAY NO TO HOLLAND

Dear Editor,

Like so many folks, I enjoy reading *The Reporter*. However, lately I am worried, and perhaps even scared of the contents pertaining to the upcoming Dutch ties.

Not being a native, I understand that I have no real say in these political affairs, but I wonder if folks here have really thought this through? Moreover, realize that a significant period of time has lapsed since the first winds of this several years ago, the direction and balance of the proposals have shifted seemingly

in favor of Holland, not Bonaire.

I believe it would be more than naive for anyone to think that Bonaire would benefit the most. Perhaps the leaders here are fooled by Holland's big money to improve the infrastructure, and consequently life on the island. Wake up, they are not going to give Bonaire the cash and not expect anything back. A recent article in *The Reporter* claimed that it would cost €5 million to set up tax offices on the BES islands. (I am sure that anyone else could do the same for a fraction of that price). €5 million. WOW! Are they doing that to be nice to us?

Nope. They plan on getting it ALL back, then lots more, and wake up folks, not from the tourism industry in Pyongyang, but from those of us living on the islands. Yep, you and me,- VAT, income tax, this tax, that tax, just like in Holland. Those of you that have been to Holland, ask yourselves if you think you could afford to live there?  
... on your salary?

Ask yourselves as well why Bonaire would not be able to ditch Holland and the Antilles and go independent? Look around at the revenue the tourism industry provides, the millions dropped here annually on goods and services, room taxes, think of the *Douane*, and all the cash raked in on duties, all the OB paid by you for everything you buy, property taxes, gas taxes,

vehicle registrations (do you think it costs them NAf340 to manufacture two metal license plates and two stickers?) and the list goes on...

Even the airport departure taxes, future parking fees, landing costs, fuel sales, etc. should be able to make Flamingo Airport self sustaining, and if it can't, someone is scamming or embezzling whole bunches of cash.

I know, someone is going to say that we need the military security of Holland, or the EU, should Bonaire be attacked. Not to worry, the US, as it has already been proven to do around the world, will decide on their own to attack and repel the invaders, so no need to worry.

Then, as an added benefit, they will provide millions of dollars free to rebuild Bonaire. (Better

than Holland, which wants it all back PLUS interest and profit) Unless you are rich, just say "No" to Holland and Curaçao. Bonaire can stand up on its own. Why hasn't it sooner? Bonaire should have the cash (unless someone has absconded with it all), the human resources (from positive leaders to productive workers and citizens), the lure (tourism), the business (production for export or domestic uses), and much more.

I say, give Holland back their cash and cut the rope. We can send them salt, and they can send us tulips. The days of the Europeans conquering other countries have been over for centuries. It failed, so why should anyone want to repeat history knowing this?

JP Richau

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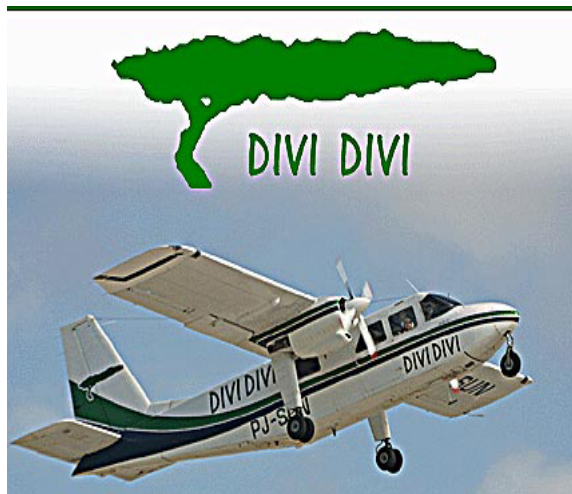
## KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
7-11	6:08	1.0FT.	20:56	1.9FT.					37
7-12	6:50	0.9FT.	21:28	2.0FT.					36
7-13	7:39	0.8FT.	21:58	2.0FT.					41
7-14	8:16	0.8FT.	22:26	2.1FT.					48
7-15	8:48	0.7FT.	22:56	2.1FT.					56
7-16	9:27	0.7FT.	23:30	2.1FT.					64
7-17	10:00	0.8FT.							71
7-18	0:33	2.0FT.	10:28	0.8FT.					77
7-19	1:06	1.9FT.	10:57	0.8FT.					82
7-20	1:39	1.8FT.	11:21	0.9FT.					84
7-21	2:15	1.7FT.	11:29	1.0FT.					84
7-22	2:58	1.5FT.	11:17	1.1FT.					81
7-23	2:06	1.3FT.	3:36	1.4FT.	10:46	1.1FT.	18:34	1.5FT.	75
7-24	4:05	1.2FT.	5:19	1.2FT.	10:18	1.1FT.	18:52	1.6FT.	68
7-25	4:40	1.0FT.	7:31	1.1FT.	9:53	1.0FT.	19:29	1.8FT.	60

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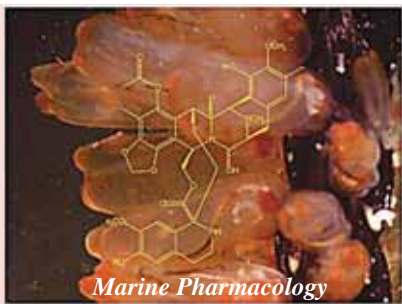
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# Bubbles from the Biologist

## Did You Know

.... That Ara-C, a chemotherapy agent used in the treatment of leukemia, was derived from a sponge in the Caribbean? In the early 1950s, a professor at Yale University discovered that a species of sponge, *Tectitethya crypta*, contained unique nucleosides never before isolated. Nucleosides are subunits of nucleic acids, the heredity-controlling components of all living cells. Fifteen years after this discovery, Ara-C and Ara-A, an antiviral drug, were developed. This was the beginning of an era of marine pharmacology which, over the past 30 years, has seen the isolation of greater than 10,000 unique compounds. From this, more than 30 marine natural products and derivatives have undergone clinical trials. Among these numerous products is another antitumoral agent, ecteinascidin 743, derived from the tunicate *Ecteinascidia turbinata*, which grows on the roots of mangroves throughout the Caribbean. Unfortunately, this animal species is very small and lacks the biomass to be a sustainable resource. For this reason, various mariculture initiatives have recently been launched. Individual examples such as those above underline the importance and value of marine biotechnology, not to mention the utility of coral reefs at large. Before all else, we must ensure that the policies and regulations are in place to conserve and protect a decaying coral reef system. Only then can humankind capitalize on what many consider to be our medicine cabinet of the future. ■ *Story & photo by Spencer Trooboff*



Spencer is a Junior at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California, where he majors in Science and Management. He lives in Franconia, New Hampshire, and attended Tropical Marine Biology and Scientific Diving courses at CIEE Research Station Bonaire this summer.



# Picture Yourself With The Reporter City of Medina, Malta



Here is long-time Bonaire resident, Therese Rosier, in a bind with *The Reporter* in the City of Medina, Malta. She writes, "I was on vacation with my mother and sister. Enjoyed it very much. I would like to write an article on Malta comparing it to Bonaire. It is a little smaller than Bonaire, and has 400,000 inhabitants. They have plenty of agriculture! They export food. All on that tiny island. And it is also a limestone island. It is also dry and they also desalinate seawater for

agriculture. They have a 7000-year-old history there. The oldest temples in the world.

With the high oil prices I am worried about food here. We import everything. Of course wealthy people will be able to keep themselves alive, but what about the other people? We need to develop agriculture here. In the States on TV I see people talking about eating what is around you, so you do not have to pay the high transport costs on top of your food. That is what we should do in Bonaire!" ■

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

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, July 12 – Underwater cleanup at Town Pier. Meet at the Dive Friends' Dive Inn location at 1pm. BBQ will follow in the late afternoon. (page 4)**

**Sunday July 13 -Flamingo Rockers Rock and Roll Sunday parties resume at Sunrise (soon to be renamed Eddie's). Thereafter every first Sunday of the month, from 4 -7pm. Drink specials and good food.**

**Wednesday July 16th - "World Bank Project", at 7 pm at CIEE headquarters, Helping people globally manage reefs for sustainable economic use, delivery of ecosystem services and conservation values.**

The talk will detail the building management and decision support tools for stakeholders and explain how this new approach is starting to yield interesting results.

The full project is the World Bank Coral Reef Targeted Research Project ([www.gefcoral.org](http://www.gefcoral.org)) and their working group is the Modeling and Decision Support Working Group.

## REGULAR EVENTS

- The popular SGB High School restaurant, **Chez Nous**, is 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](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon).

- All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

- Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

- Mountain Bike Training for riders of all levels (also Tuesday)** at 5pm. Bonaire Wellness Connexions, Eden Beach, 785-0767, email [info@bonairewellness.com](mailto:info@bonairewellness.com)

## Sundays

- Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical 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 pm

## Fridays

- 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**

## 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 7pm; every Sunday at 5pm. 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 Saliña**, 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.

**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.

**Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church** located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republik. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm.

Contact: 717-3322

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:** Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

**Send event info to:**  
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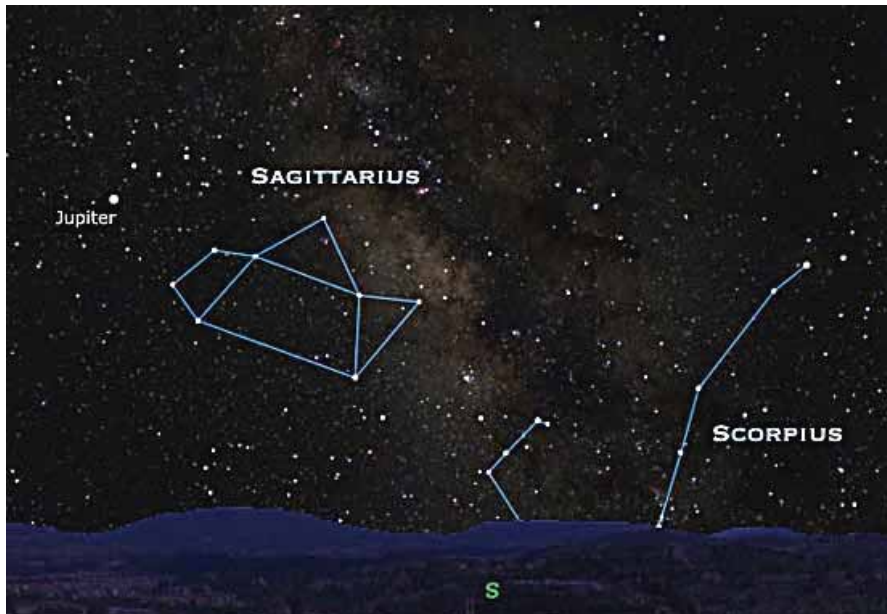




# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

**This Week Jupiter is at its Closest, Biggest and Brightest for 2008!**



*Late in the evening toward midnight Jupiter will be climbing in an arc over the southern horizon along with the teapot asterism of Sagittarius.*

This week the largest planet in our solar system, **Jupiter**, is at its closest, biggest and brightest for the entire year and will be fabulous for viewing all month long. Plus it's located in one of my favorite constellations, **Sagittarius**.

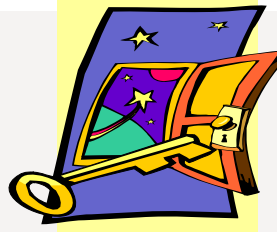
Start looking around sunset any night this week. Now whenever Jupiter is at its closest and biggest and brightest it is always at what astronomers call 'opposition' which means that it is directly opposite the **Sun** as seen from **Earth**, which means that it will be visible in the sky all the hours the Sun is not, all night long. So as the Sun sets in the northwest Jupiter will appear on the horizon in the southeast. After which it will slowly climb higher and higher, hour after hour, until it reaches its highest point when it will be due south around 1 am. After which it will slowly descend and will set in the southwest as the Sun rises in the northeast.

Now I strongly suggest you go out between midnight and 1 am and look due south when Jupiter will be at its highest directly in front of you. It will be situated just to the left of the stars which make up the teapot-shaped portion of Sagittarius, right behind the teapot's handle. And the reason I suggest looking around midnight is because, like all planets, Jupiter is at its best for viewing through a telescope when it is highest above the horizon because then you don't have to look at it through the turbulent, wavy layers of air which are always close to our Earth's horizon and which distort telescopic images. Even through the smallest department store telescope you should be able to see a lot of detail plus four of Jupiter's largest moons, which will look like pinpoints of light which constantly change their positions as they waltz in orbit around the king.

And here's some cosmic math for you. If Jupiter is 88,000 miles wide and our Earth is only 8,000 miles wide, how many Earths could we line up across Jupiter's middle? Eleven! Which puts Jupiter's size in real perspective.

So get out and spend a night with the king because this week it will be at its very closest for the entire year- only 387 million miles away which is over 200 million miles closer than its maximum distance, by Jove! ■

*Jack Horkheimer*



## THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
For July 2008

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Much knowledge can be obtained through the experiences you have. Pleasure trips will turn out to be better than anticipated. Try to calm down emotionally about personal financial matters. Don't exhaust yourself or minor health problems will set in. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You will meet new and exciting people if you attend social activities or sporting events. Your home may be in an uproar and you are best to stay out of the line of fire if at all possible. Travel will be fun, but expect it to cost you. You need to do something that will make you feel better about yourself. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You may find yourself a bit frazzled if you allow someone to goad you into an unsavory debate. Try to slow down, and take another look. You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. Try not to push your philosophies on others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You may find that depression is causing you to feel lonely and insecure. If you can get away for a vacation, do so. Don't donate more than you can afford in order to impress others. You should sit down with someone you trust and work out a budget that will enable you to save a little extra. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Club memberships or donations could be expensive and prove unnecessary. Try not to be overly generous. You can help a close friend find solutions to personal problems. Authority figures may be less than accommodating if you have done something deceitful. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Social activity with friends and relatives will be most successful. Pleasure trips will promote new romantic encounters. Try to enlist the support of your coworkers first. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) So smile! Do not let others exhaust you financially. You will have a tendency to exaggerate, which will lead to major confrontations with loved ones. You can bet that situations will get out of hand if you allow others to interfere. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You must steer clear of overindulgent individuals. Relatives may play an important role in your personal life. Romantic encounters will be full of excitement. Nothing can be resolved if you don't want to talk about it. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be sure to catch up on overdue correspondence and help those you love find solutions to their dilemmas. Don't expect others to live up to their promises and you won't be disappointed or find yourself stuck with delays. Try and avoid getting involved in idle chatter or gossip that might get you in trouble. Don't let anyone take credit for a job you did. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Entertainment should include your whole family. Family trips or projects should be on your mind. Get back down to earth and to basics. Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable and confused. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can expect the fur to fly on the home front. Don't let others make you feel guilty or insecure. Do not overspend on entertainment. You could find that children will be a handful. Try to visit a country that excites you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Romance will develop through work related activities. You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better. You may need to make a choice. Depression may put a damper on your day. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday. ■

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# BONAIRE ON WHEELS

## Robby's Take Away "Grill & Creole"

The 34<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/Bonaire – In April this year Robert and Jessica Stadius started their take-away enterprise from a truck, situated along Kaya John E. Nicolaas. The vehicle is permanently parked in front of their ice-blue-painted and nicely maintained house in Playa. You can find the *truk i pan* (Papiamentu for: more or less movable restaurant on wheels/jb) somewhere between the parking lot of the hospital and the Napa Auto Supply. Just give it a try. The tiny outdoor restaurant is only open during the evenings, but it's definitely worth trying.

Originally Robert Stadius was from the independent island of Aruba. He was born on this beachy island on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1967, so he's 41 now. His mother was born on Aruba but his father is from the tiny island of Bonaire. When Robert was only eight, his parents decided to move to Bonaire. And indeed, Robert is a real Bonairean, heart and soul.

One day Robert's eye fell on a white Ford truck parked somewhere, a bit neglected, almost forgotten, with a homemade kind of living room built on top of it. A kind of a trailer. Robert decided to buy the still running vehicle and parked it in front of his house in Kralendijk. Then an impressive amount of work had to be done. Robert painted the outside of the unique creature the same color as his house: ice blue (a color somewhere between blue and green and quite unique on our island/jb). He constructed a counter. He started to install a complete kitchen in the vehicle. After months and months of hard work the job was finished. A real kitchen with electricity, running water and propane gas! The nice and neat kitchen is equipped with no less than three deep frying pans, a plate for



frying hamburgers and eggs, and a stove, all running on propane gas. There are also a sink with running water, a deep freezer and a fridge. And of course there is the counter - the connection from the kitchen to the hungry public.

"My wife and I prepare a lot of food ourselves during the day," Robert explains. "The French fries are home made. We also prepare our own garlic sauce, peanut sauce and coleslaw. And don't forget our 'pika' (a kind of quite spicy pepper sauce/jb.) Our hamburgers are also homemade." Then the phone rings again. Remember, this is also a take-away restaurant. Robert yells some instructions to his colleague, Harry. Harry takes care of the grill department of the enterprise. Robert is responsible for the creole kitchen.

"Yes, we have just bought a brand new American made grill," Harry says. "It, as well as the other burners in the kitchen, uses propane gas. Grilling is my specialty. Robert works in the kitchen of the *truk i pan* and I prefer to

stay outside, preparing fish and chicken and pork and beef on my new grill!"

Then Jessica Stadius joins us. "We also serve stewed goat, chicken, beef and conch," she says. "We offer shrimp soup and clam chowder. And no, we do not serve alcoholic drinks. Prices for the plates are from NAf10 to NAf20."

Robert continues, "We have our official licenses from the government. We shall buy some more chairs and little tables in the future and one or two umbrellas. We really enjoy our little restaurant along the road. It is fun to please the people and make a living out of it!"

Then I sit down for a moment, enjoying the evening. People come and people go. The food smells good. Everybody is happy. No dirt, no noise, just another nice example of a typical Bonairean little restaurant! ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



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## First Level 4 SBO Graduates

For the first time SBO level 4 students graduated in Bonaire. Diplomas were awarded at the ABVO building. They can continue their study at UNA or go to Holland. Pictured are 1 to 8: Herman van Leeuwen, instructor, (top left), Eufrecia, Jasmila, Elsmarie, Rohainy, Adrian, Julius, Ovaris and Angelo. ■ *Johannetta Gordijn*



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## FALSE TEETH

I could not have been more than four years old when I witnessed my aunt taking out her teeth. For weeks after that I tried to take mine out as well, but what to my surprise did not happen as efficiently as it did in my aunt's case. It was a mystery for my four-year-old brain. Why was my aunt able to remove her teeth at will and I was not? But as I grew older I came to understand that my aunt was not taking out her own teeth but her false teeth that had replaced them.



When you are young a lot of things are mysteries, but you never doubt for one moment that you will be able to solve these riddles at a later date. So you just store these events in the big database that is your memory. And when the situation arises that you witness an explanation, you link problem and solution together in your head. Voilà, you have learned, and maybe even become a little bit wiser.

Your head is full of enigmas awaiting their unlocking. But there are some mysteries that I suspect will never have a satisfying explanation. No matter how old I will become, no matter how many things I will witness, I will never be able to understand these riddles.

There is the simple fact that boys will wear their pants not over but rather under their buttocks. This leaves us with the sight of their underpants which now should be called the plain-insight-pants. When they have to run they look like 17-century girls holding up their hoop skirts walking in a muddy street. This must take a lot of speed out of them, holding on to their crotch so they will not trip over the legs as their pants slip even further down, don't you think?

The position some drivers will put themselves in, also is one of those strange riddles. The backs of their seats are tilted all the way back. When they drive you can scarcely see their heads. They are nearly lying down with their arms completely stretched to reach the steering wheel. They are supposed to be the very example of cool relaxation, but they look so uncomfortable doing it. Just hope you never meet them when they have to make an emergency stop. They do not have the power to hit the brakes in an efficient way. Using your brakes in a forward movement (as you would do in the almost-lying-down position) has a lot less force than the downward movement (as you can do in sitting position). In other words: it takes the car longer to stop when the driver is almost lying down. Nepotism still occurs on this

island. Why? The person who has the answer to that question would also be able to come up with the antidote to this problem. For the development of Bonaire it is no longer sufficient to have the cousin, brother, friend, neighbor of "important persons" on crucial positions. Nepotism is a form of corruption. And corruption never advanced a country in any way.

But the greatest and most disturbing mystery of all is why people treat nature as if it is something they own. They take from it like there is no tomorrow, dump trash in it and pollute it. Nature is not something outside of ourselves; we are a part of it. Alternative energy resources, recycling and changing our current way of life is not something some scientists just cooked up for their pleasure. When people are seeking a way to recycle paper, they are not doing it to save the rainforest because trees look nice; they do it because trees produce oxygen and we need oxygen to live. We need these ideas of scientists to survive. If we keep on taking, dumping and polluting, we will cease to exist because it affects us, above all. With us gone, nature will not cease to exist. There will be numerous bacteria, fungi, plants and other animals which will happily continue to live without our meddling in their existence.

Maybe when we as a species get older we will get the same epiphany as I had when I finally realized the mystery of my aunt's false teeth. It might become clear why we treat nature in such a way. But we have to "grow up" quickly! Then, with the solution and problem finally joined together in our heads, we will have learned, we will have become wiser. We could even use our new knowledge to committing ourselves to our own survival. The other minor mysteries I would gladly leave as such if only this last vital mystery could be solved.

■ Mary Ann Koops

Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.



# What's Coming Our Way?

## Plaza Resort Marina



Marcel Leurs photo

We mentioned earlier that the Plaza Resort Marina is now under new management that has ambitious plans. So this time, let's continue right here and find out about the "who-why-what-when-where" about it.

The marina has always been managed by the Plaza Resort itself, until last February when the new party came in. The driving force behind it is Gerard van Erp, initiator of various projects on-island like the Mangrove Center, the Butterfly Farm and the Country House (a management training center) that is currently being constructed at Kaminda Sorobon. We wrote about this last one some months ago.

What's with the marina? The new party wants to make the place over time into a "Green Marina." This status, which no other marina in the region has yet acquired, requires a comprehensive commitment to promote clean waters, protection and conservation of natural resources as well as boater education, and is not a status one gets for free. Knowing that marinas by nature have a tendency to pollute surroundings, the initiative is a good one in the fragile eco-system of Bonaire (*Nos ta biba di naturaleza*, right?).

Changes in the marina will take place over time, and they aim for a win-win situation for both the marina management and the Plaza Resort.

In the next couple of months we will see the addition of 40 docks for smaller local boats. This will be at the end (or beginning, if you will) of the marina opposite Toucan Diving, near the Plaza Resort lobby.

At a later stage there are plans to develop new docks in the waters opposite Port Bonaire Resort for bigger sailing yachts that are cruising the Caribbean. Possibly a storm surge barrier will be added at the entrance of the marina from the sea, making this the first very marina in the region to have one. If that is going to happen indeed, it will definitely be peak season here when a hurricane may possibly be "coming our way."

However, it must be emphasized that negotiations about the master plan between the developer and the government are ongoing, and permission still needs to be granted.

The Plaza Resort's former "Aquakids" playground now serves as the marina office and daily operations are in the hands of Walter and Liezeth Kwakkenbos, whom we know from running the *Bowalje* sailing charter boat. Their boat and business are for sale now since they decided to become partners in the marina project. The rest of the team consists of Bert van Gent and Ton Wouters, the guys with the golden hands that you need in a marina.

Within weeks they will start operating a water-taxi to Klein Bonaire from the center of the marina, making this an easy trip for guests staying at the resort and surrounding places, offering a once-a-day trip at convenient hours for a family visit.

They will also start renting out a small number of motorboats, which are more of a family kind of boat (a 10-seater) than the waterskiing rental boats already on the water. If one likes they can include a captain as well. Yacht management (regular service to boats owned by people who are not on-island) will be part of their business, too.

Further long-term plans of the marina may also include management of the waters behind it (around Caribbean Court, Waterlands Village, Bahia and Azul) and yacht realty.

Although it may appear so, the land bordering the marina close to the airport (where some boats are on shore for maintenance) is not part of the marina itself.

One question was on our mind from the very beginning: why is one of the decks in the marina named "Poop deck?" It always sounded somewhat odd. There is an explanation though! The boats that are docked here all face the deck with their bottoms. Of course, that's it! ■ Marcel Leurs



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