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**BONAIRE** August 8-22, 2008; Volume 15, Issue 16  
**The REPORTER**

*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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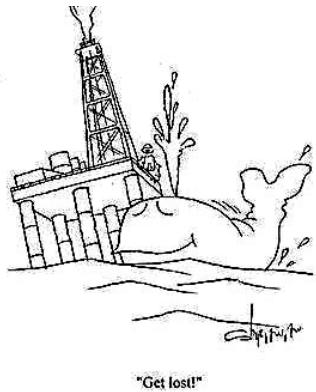
Since 1994

Bonaire's Latinos  
Celebrate  
Page 15



Photo: Wilna Groenenboom

**INSIDE: SOS For Bonaire Reefs, ProKids Windsurfing, Grads to Holland, Parrot Fledging and much more**



The analysis of the results of the University of Texas' seismological inquiry into possible presence of oil and natural gas in the Antillean waters are positive, indicated Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage during her weekly press conference last week. This reopens the possibility of offshore drilling in Antillean territorial waters.

The premier didn't want to go into details on the results of the analysis. She said that before she brings the results into the open, she wants to discuss the information with Parliament.

**► This December Delta Airlines will begin flying to Bonaire from NY every Saturday:** DL 553 departs New York-JFK at 10:35 am arriving in Bonaire at 4:25 pm. Returning DL 554 leaves Bonaire at 5:15 pm, arriving in New York-JFK at 9:05 pm. Delta concurrently announced an introductory Internet fare of \$239. This will be Delta's second weekly Bonaire flight.

**► Delta Air Lines reported a \$137 million profit,** excluding special charges for the second quarter of 2008, despite unprecedented fuel prices that increased costs by more than \$1 billion. Including special charges of \$1.2 billion, Delta's reported net loss for the June 2008 quarter was \$1 billion.

**► Continental Airlines Inc. has been named the best domestic airline,** best airline for customer service and best airline for flights to Mexico *Executive Travel Magazine's* 2008 Leading Edge

Awards. The award winners were selected by a survey of the magazine's readers. Continental flies twice weekly to Bonaire.

**► Internet police are coming** to the Antilles. Telecom-Minister Maurice Adriaens (FOL) has ordered the Bureau Telecommunication and Post (BTP) to establish an institution to supervise and control the internet in the Antilles. The establishment of an internet police for the Antilles is the result of two international conferences on internet communication technology that took place in Curaçao last week. According to Adriaens, apart from the innumerable developments that internet has to offer, there are also several negative developments, among others spam (unsolicited advertisement sent by email) and spyware (computer programs that gather information about a user).

**► State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten has offered a package of draft laws regulating the transition of the BES islands** (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) into The Netherlands for review by the Dutch Council of Ministers.

**The State Secretary also wants to present the laws to the general public.** She has invited suggestions for improvements to the rules. The basic package of legislation comprises the "Law on Public Entities BES islands (WolBES)," the "Introductory Law" and the "Law on Financial Relations BES islands," as well as an amendment of the Electoral Law.

Once the recommendations have been submitted, the package of legislation will be forwarded to the Dutch Legislature (Second Chamber). Once approved, the draft laws will be made public and will be published along with the suggestions. However, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations said it would not be able to respond to individual reactions. **Suggestions can be submitted on [www.minbzk.nl/internetconsultatie](http://www.minbzk.nl/internetconsultatie)** until October .

## EDITORIAL:

### Save the Reef Now

**B**onaire's resorts have been given an opportunity to return some of the benefits they get from having the Caribbean's

best coral reefs on their doorstep and benefit their own interests as well. On August 1, Ramon de Leon, the respected Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park, sent a message expressing his concern for the viability of Bonaire's reefs to Bonaire's resorts and tourism associations (see page 7). It is based on undisputable scientific and anecdotal evidence that there are too many nutrients ("plant food") in the coastal waters of Bonaire for coral to continue to thrive. The nutrients, for the most part, come from human waste (feces) discharging from hotels, apartments and homes near the shoreline. De Leon states that none provide adequate treatment of their wastewater to remove the nutrients. As a result Bonaire's coral reef is diminishing and de Leon fears that avalanche effect will hasten its demise.

Ironically, the commercial success of Bonaire's tourism is responsible for turning a sustainable method of waste disposal into a threatening one. **The Reporter suggests resorts "pay back" nature and the Marine Park for the recreational opportunities they have been getting for free by helping to heal the reef.** It is to their own self-interest to preserve the asset that provides the motivation for many of their guests to visit the island. Ultimately it will improve their "bottom line"-profitability.

**The shorefront resorts and property owners can begin immediately by eliminating their discharge of wastewater into the ground and the sea and taking additional steps:** use only phosphate free detergents, eliminate water-loving landscaping and practice even better water conservation. At first they must store and then truck away the wastewater, then perhaps install compact wastewater treatment plants. Off-the-shelf units are available. The earliest date for the operation of Bonaire's shorefront municipal sewage system is 2011. **That is too late.**

**Government can help** by requesting the EU funding agencies to complete sewage system's inland tertiary wastewater treatment plant as soon as possible to treat the trucked-in waste. Government can provide tax incentives for the resorts to install storage tanks and treatment plants. The TCB believes **"it is important to encourage the private sector to start working on improvements soon/now, in line with what will be required as part of the new legislation/system...instead of waiting for the new system to be installed."** ■ G.D.

**► The Antilles Court of First Instance ruled on August 1 that gay and lesbian couples have the same rights and obligations in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba as they have in the Netherlands.**

The Court in Willemstad added that all marriages entered into in the Kingdom of the Netherlands had identical legal weight and must be treated equally. The case was presented to court by a

(Continued on page 4)



C. Salisbury photo

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# Off to School in Holland

A mixture of joy and sadness took over the departure lounge at Flamingo airport last week as scores of parents, friends and relatives said their goodbyes to 20 students leaving Bonaire to pursue advanced education or university studies across the Netherlands. The crowd expressed their emotions with hugs, kisses tears and joking. It was inspirational. ■

Wilna Groenenboom/G.D.



Departing students and chaperones

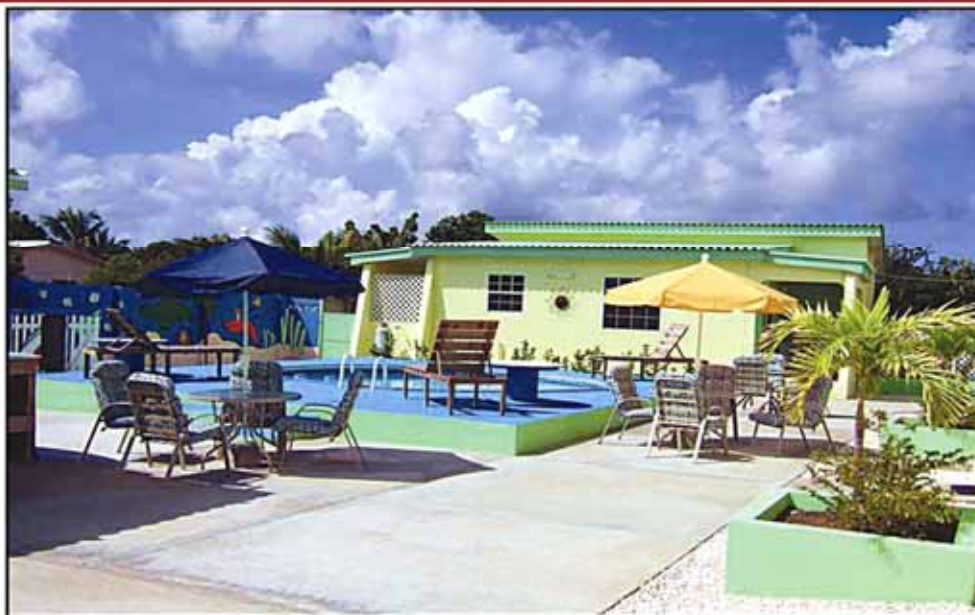
Photos: Wilna Groenenboom



Alexandra Mendoza-Rojas (above at right) was the sole student heading for a university. She completed two additional years of high school (VWO) in Curaçao to qualify. She is joined at the airport by (from left to right) her cousin, mother and brother.

	Naam S	Voornaam S	Studierichting S	Opleidingsinstituut	Studieplaats-Studiestad
1	Alberto	Amy Dionne Lu-Ann	B. Opleiding voor Logopedie	Hogeschool Rotterdam	Nederland - Rotterdam
2	Bregitha	Saïdjah Indra Karida	B. HBO-Rechten	Stichting Hogeschool Leiden	Nederland - Leiden
3	Clarenda	Julianka Jordana Nephtery	B. Management Economie en Recht	Hogeschool van Amsterdam	Nederland - Amsterdam
4	Decaster	Stephan Ryan	B. Biologie en Medisch Laboratoriumonderzoek	Hogeschool Inholland	Nederland - Amsterdam
5	Emerenciana	Sherlinda Christina Pina	B. Sociaal Pedagogisch Hulpverlener	Stichting Hogeschool Leiden	Nederland - Leiden
6	Figaroa	Andreina Vikyana Genesis	Mhbo- Management Economie en Recht	ROC van Amsterdam	Nederland - Amsterdam
7	Frans	Reginaldo Raymond	Vliegtuigonderhoustechnicus	ROC Midden Brabant	Nederland - Tilburg
8	Hayden	Myles Albert	Artiest - Muziekvakopleiding	Friesland College Techno Lyceum	Nederland - Leeuwarden
9	Makaai	Humphrey Jermaine	B. Docent Beeldende Kunst en Vormgeving	Hogeschool Rotterdam	Nederland - Rotterdam
10	Marchena	Gennory Marcus	B. Technische Informatica	Haagse Hogeschool	Nederland - Rijswijk
11	Martinus	Ricky Lionel	B. Opleiding tot leraar vo van de 2e graad in Engels	Hogeschool Rotterdam	Nederland - Rotterdam
12	Mendoza Rojas	Alexandra	B. Geneeskunde	Universiteit Leiden	Nederland - Leiden
13	Morillo	Daniel Damian Mathias	B. Elektrotechniek	Haagse Hogeschool	Nederland - Den Haag
14	Oleana	Marjolein Laurensia	Mode & Commercie	Vitalis College	Nederland - Breda
15	Pourier	Raymond Hyacintho	B. International Business and Languages	Hanzehogeschool Groningen	Nederland - Groningen
16	Ricardo	Judeska Maria	B. HBO-Rechten	Hogeschool Inholland	Nederland - Rotterdam
17	Rombley	Kristyl Jeanally Sunylla	B. Commerciële Economie	Hogeschool Inholland	Nederland - Den Haag
18	Sánchez Castillo	Ana Maria de Jesús	B. Biologie en Medisch Laboratoriumonderzoek	Stichting Hogeschool Leiden	Nederland - Leiden
19	Schoop	Reydlan Jermamy	B. Elektrotechniek	Hogeschool van Utrecht	Nederland - Amersfoort
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*Flotsam and Jetsam... Continued from page 2*

woman who wanted to include her partner and one of her children in her health insurance policy. The Bureau of Health Insurance (BZV) in Curaçao had turned down her request. Conducting gay marriages and their legal status is a key issue in the integration of the BES islands into The Netherlands.

► **The eligible age to start receiving AOV old age pension will rise from 60 to 62 years.** Within a week the Social Security Bank SVB will present a draft law amendment to Health Minister Omayra Leeflang proposing the age increase. The intention is to further increase the eligible age to 65 years in the future in line with an increasing international trend to up retirement age to avoid bankrupting the retirement systems. AOV payments have been rising yearly. The maximum AOV payment increased by NAf 100 to NAf 654 on January 1, 2007. The phased increase of the premium (+1.5% per January 1, 2007 and another +1.5% per January 1, 2008) and an increase of the premium wage limit to NAf 72.000 on January 1, 2008, were not able to prevent the AOV/AWW fund from declining by NAf 3.8.

► The total consolidated public debt of the Netherlands Antilles grew by NAf 427.4 million (8.4%) to NAf 5.5 billion (84.7% of Gross Domestic Product) in 2007. This higher debt was the

result of gains in the consolidated domestic debt (NAf 349 million) and in the foreign debt (NAf 78.4 million), the Central Bank stated in its 2007 annual report.

► **Four out of 10 babies born last year in The Netherlands had parents who were not married compared to one out of 10 a decade ago,** the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) reported Monday. The increase is largely due to an increase in the number of people who live together but are not married, says the CBS. An increasing number of these couples continue to live together after the birth of their children, the organization says. Some 90% of first time mothers under the age of 20 are unmarried, says the CBS. Just over 50% of women who are older than 35 are unmarried when they are having their first baby.



► **Wonder what happened to the glass bottom sailboat Aquaspace?** She's been getting a refit in a Curaçao dockyard. Work is finishing up and the owners hope to have her back home by the end of

August and to be fully operational a few weeks later. A new highlight: on each side of the ship are four LED lights. It will be a spectacular sight in the evenings both from the Playa shoreline and from the underwater observation deck.

► **Even Curaçao is installing dive moorings to protect its endangered reefs.** With NAf10.000 from DVB Bank America in November for the Curaçao Marine Park (CMP), Carmabi has acquired 25 anchor buoys with accessories. Budget Marine supplied the attachment material for the buoys at cost price.

► Thanks to funding from the *Stichting Dierenhulp* in Holland there is **free dog sterilization** going on right now on Bonaire. The program started at the beginning of July as a result of an incident where a dog injured a person. The program is in lieu of a governmental campaign to shoot stray dogs. So far there have been 20 to 25 dogs sterilized by Nikiboko vet, Jan Laarakker. See the ad on page 13. Please spread the word and inform your friends and neighbors who may not be able to afford the cost of sterilization for their pets.

► **F&B maven Kirk Gosden seems to be on his way to becoming the "Czar of Waterside Restaurants."** The Lion's Den, opened in April, 2001, was step one, with a faithful staff and clien-



2007 tour guide graduating class, Sue Felix at lower left.

► **Sue Felix is organizing another of her popular tour guide courses in preparation for the coming cruise ship season.** Don't miss this chance to learn more about Bonaire. Special attention will be given to the information needed by the auxiliary, AB, and taxi drivers and new tour guides. If you love Bonaire, want to learn more about it and how to share that information, take this course. Go to the first meeting at **Scout Building--Kaya Nikiboko Nord (across from Caribbean Fasteners) at 7 pm on Monday, August 11.** See the ad in on page 8 for more information.

tele. Now he's just opened his second, the **Sunset Bar and Grill on the seaside at the Den Laman Apartments.** This spectacular site is where it's happening, Gosden says. "We've been booked solid since we opened on August 1." At this point Sunset is open only for dinner, "But that's just for now," Gosden, one of the top chefs on the island, says.

► **Wilna Groenenboom, the past Art Editor of The Bonaire Re-**

**porter, took many of the photos in this issue,** including the spectacular cover shot. Groenenboom returned to Holland last year and is currently back on the island for a month, taking photos to finish her planned book on Bonaire.

► **Thanks to all who read and those who support The Reporter.** Please patronize the advertisers and tell them you saw their ad in *The Reporter*. It is they who keep it free. ■ G./L.D.

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# Profiles: Ruud and Ruth Snelder, Pioneers in Making Ideals Work

Ruud and Ruth Snelder are newcomers to the island, nevertheless, they are already involved in their first volunteer project on Bonaire. They are funding the creation of a full time professional day care and pre-school center in Rincon.

To understand their ideals and motives it is necessary to go back in time. Achieving their ideals—contributing to those less privileged—has been a way of life for them, and as life turned out, this is what they do best.

In the 60s, Ruud started to make jewelry; within a short time he had friends working for him. He set up a hippie commune in Friesland, in the northern part of Holland. Farms were cheap, and the spirit of those times allowed him to put his ideals (“We share what we have and produce.”) into practice. He started to grow organic produce and the commune became self-supporting and quite successful.

When problems arose in his love life he decided to start something new on the other side of the world, which happened to be Brazil. His Portuguese was non-existent in the beginning, forcing him to observe more than participate in daily life. He became aware of the enormous needs of the poor and especially the children in the barrios. This led to involvement in volunteer work and charity projects. A year and a half later he met his future wife, Ruth, who’d come to Brazil from her native country, Chile, to visit her brother who was working with Ruud in various projects. Five years later Ruud and Ruth had five children of their own and were live-in caretakers of numerous houses owned by influential people in

Brazil. This enabled Ruud and Ruth to earn enough money to fund their charity work. With local support many of their projects to help poor children were accomplished.

After five years in Brazil, they traveled by bus to Chile with their children. They lived there for two years and Ruud again got involved in volunteer work. Life in Chile during those years (last years of the Pinochet dictatorship) was much more harsh than in Brazil. Chile was gloomy and the general atmosphere was one of fear and suspicion. Ruud gave music lessons in schools and volunteered in various barrios. It was a struggle to make a living.

**“Driving through Rincon they almost felt transported back in time to Brazil. The atmosphere, the quietness and the laid back feeling were very similar”**

After being abroad for 10 years Ruud decided it was time to visit his mother in Holland and introduce her to his wife and children. Once in Holland, Ruth refused to return to Chile. She wanted the children to have a good education, and she persuaded Ruud to stay. During the first months they lived in a mobile home. Ruth was very happy and at home in Holland. Ruud managed to earn a living with his creative skills.

He’d had extensive experience working with children by now, so he advertised him-

self as a day care giver in homes where parents were working during the day. After some initial barriers were overcome (Ruud being a man) clients were soon referring him to their friends, and he had to hire other professionals to meet the increasing demand for home day care. The biggest challenge for Ruud was to find the perfect match between his staff and the employer families. He personally trained his staff in methods he had developed over the years in his work with children. He created a step-by-step methodology to work with the children, and the results were so positive that his business expanded to 15 branches in several other cities. Financially he did well, and he decided to add 1 Euro to every client’s bill to fund his next charity project: the pre-school in Bonaire. He founded the *Welfare Stichting Casa de Kinop* about a year and a half ago.

Ruth in the meantime had set up her own day care center in Nijmegen (in the South of Holland) in a problem area where many ethnic minorities live. Because Holland isn’t Ruth’s homeland either it was natural for her to relate to the specific problems of these parents and their kids. She worked with small groups and provided a huge space for them both inside and outside by



Louise Rood photo

Ruth and Ruud Snelder

renting a beautiful old vicarage.

Considering their backgrounds, it certainly isn’t surprising that after coming to Bonaire their interest was in day care centers on the island. Driving through Rincon they almost felt transported back in time to Brazil. The atmosphere, the quietness and the laid back feeling were very similar; when they visited the day care center they knew right away what their next project would be.

“Rincon feels like a forgotten corner of Bonaire,” Ruth says, “although it was here that people first lived on the island.” The existing day care center needs work. The building is in very bad condition, inside as well as out. There are hardly any indoor facilities for the kids, and the outside area

(Continued on page 9)



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# Bubbles from the Biologist

## Did You Know..

When in search of strange behaviors on the reef, there is no better time to experience the exhilarating spectacle of mating fish than at dusk. Many divers are not aware of this and have already dried off and rinsed their gear clean. During that hour before sunset various species of reef fish release numerous free floating gametes that become entwined and disperse through the currents. This type of reproductive strategy is referred to as broadcast spawning in which male-female pairs spawn in massive groups that can sometimes reach the thousands. To someone less familiar courtship may seem like nothing more than fish hovering near the bottom or darting swiftly to the surface. But upon careful observation many of the subtle patterns will be easily recognized. Some things to look for may include coloration changes, male rapidly swimming back and forth, females suspended in mid-waters, and displays of dominance of competitors. *Sparisoma aurofrenatum*, more commonly known as the Redband parrot fish, is a good example of a species that undergoes daily spawning patterns. Although many species spawn close to dusk the exact time is different for the various regions of the Caribbean. So next time you go out for a long dive at dusk and begin to paddle back to shore before it gets too dark, take some time to look around and observe the subtle marine behaviors that are all around. ■



Redband parrotfish

SMS photo

Minna Abdel-Wahab

Abdel-Wahab, is originally from Oahu, Hawaii, but has been living in California for the last three years attending the University of San Francisco studying Biology and Chemistry. She enjoys traveling and meeting new people, and has thus far fallen in love with the rich culture and beautiful surroundings of Bonaire. She studied at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire in June of 2008.



## Stop Our Sewage Campaign To Save Bonaire's Reefs!

Attention Divers, Snorkelers, Visitors, and Residents: Bonaire's Reefs Will Die Soon If We Don't Act To Stop All the Sewage Leaking and Spewing Into the Sea!  
Take Action Now

E-mail and/or call the following officials to lobby for an immediate halt to all the sewage spilling into the sea from waterfront hotels, resorts, restaurants, and homes:

**Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands** website [www.koninklijkhuis.nl/english/content.jsp?objectid=13874](http://www.koninklijkhuis.nl/english/content.jsp?objectid=13874) has contact details

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**Lt. Governor of Bonaire, Hubert Domacassé** email- [gezag@bonairelive.com](mailto:gezag@bonairelive.com)  
**Bonaire Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas**, phone: (599) 785-3652

2. Do not patronize a waterfront hotel, restaurant, resort, property, etc. that is continuing to pollute the reef: (For information on polluters, contact the Bonaire Marine Park at 717-8444)

Get others involved. If Bonaire's reefs die, so too will tourism and the economy. Spread the word to all those who love Bonaire's reefs that urgent action is required NOW

### Here Are the Facts:

"Wastewater Statement," Ramon de Leon, Manager, Bonaire National Marine Park, August 1, 2008

\*A large amount of wastewater from tourist accommodations and other properties on the shoreline is being leached from septic tanks directly into the sea.

\*The Nitrogen loads in the sea have doubled since the seventies, and every year indications of eutrophication on the reef grow stronger. Macroalgae has increased 3% in the last 2 years. Finally studies confirm that the level of Nitrogen is too high to be sustainable.

\*The three-stage sewage plant will not be operational until 2011. If we calculate the sewage water leaching to the sea now until 2011, the sewage plant will come too late to save our coral reef.

\*We are on the verge of a serious problem. The reefs of Bonaire do not have the luxury to wait for the sewage treatment plant to be finalized. Don't be fooled by the fact that we have the best coral reef in the Caribbean. This can change rapidly, from a coral-dominated reef to an algae-dominated reef.

\*Action needs to be taken now! Our wastewater management practice is no longer sustainable. This practice is killing our reefs!

**Together We Can Stop the Death of Bonaire's Reefs!**

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**Bonaire National Marine Park  
Bonaire August 1st, 2008.**

TO: Bonaire Resort and Dive Operators

For the past 20 to 30 years concerns have been voiced for the declining trend of coral reef conditions in Bonaire. Several factors affect the condition of coral reef; coastal construction, over-fishing, hurricanes, recreational use and water pollution, mostly due to sewage.

Bonaire will have a wastewater treatment plant, project "Sewage and Sanitation Plan Bonaire", which will be operational, hopefully, within two to three years. This project will focus on the sensitive zone; along the shore between Punt Vierkant and Hato extending to 200m inland. The objective of the project is to reduce nutrient loads on the reefs and to improve public hygiene. All properties in the sensitive zone will be hooked to the sewage plant when this becomes operational.

The Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP), together with DROB-MNB (nature management department of the Island government), MINA (department of environment and nature the Central Government) and Harbour Branch Oceanographic Institute (U.S.A.), have conducted a nutrient monitoring study program for Bonaire and Curaçao. Results of this two year long nutrient study shows that the actual levels of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) are higher than the value considered safe

for coral reef environment. Values higher than this threshold (1 micro-mole/liter) have destroyed reefs in different areas of Hawaii and Bahamas. For the results of this study visit; <http://www.bmp.org/pdfs/Results-nutrient-monitoring.pdf>. Since the BNMP started reporting results of the Nutrient Monitoring study, questioning if raw sewage is being discharged to the sea have been raised.

Sewage can reach the ocean through different mechanisms. The most common ways here on Bonaire are leaching holes and bad irrigation practices. Leaching holes are perforations made next to the septic tank into which the wastewater will overflow once the tank is full. Another variation of this practice is such perforation in the bottom of the septic tank.

Currently, properties in the sensitive zone that have full operational septic systems or even treatment plants still dump excess (waste) water in their gardens.

From an ecological point of view, raw wastewater or treated wastewater going directly to the sea, are both damaging to the reef.

The level of Nitrogen in a septic tank is between 100 to 120 mg/l and for the best operating treatment plant in the hotels this is close to 70 mg/l.

The consultant leading the Sewage Treatment Plant project, Dorsch Consult, in their feasibility study proposes 28 mg/l of Nitrogen for irrigation. We found that this was way too high. Many studies have

been conducted to demonstrate that 28mg/l of Nitrogen is bad for the coral reef.

After considering the recommendations from the consultants the government accepted the proposal of 5 mg/l of Nitrogen to be the standard for Bonaire.

So, you can easily conclude that the water which is currently being leached to the sea is bad for the corals; way above the agreed standard of 5 mg/l. Gardens can take a big deal off this load, but by no means can they absorb all this Nitrogen. To be able to conduct further discussions on this topic, we did a "water balance" calculation for the accommodations on the shore-line. The purpose of this calculation is to indicate how water is being managed. We chose the accommodations since they have the largest number of bodies and therefore their water consumption is higher. The fact that we did this calculation only for tourist accommodations should by no means imply that they are sole responsible for this situation. Every property in the sensitive area is responsible.

The method used to get the "water balance" is the following: We received information on the amount of water that the properties use (what goes in) and we have information on how much is being trucked away (what goes out). We subtracted what goes out from what goes in.

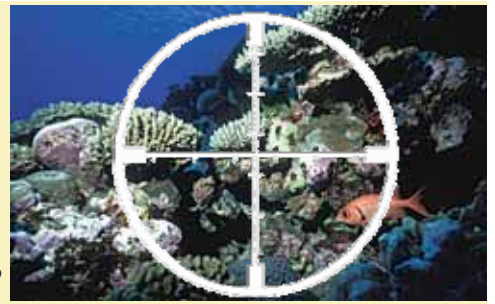
The results of the calculation show that the average value of water trucked-away is between 14 and 18%. That means that 86% to 82% of the total water consumption goes somewhere. From this 86% to 82%

one can discount evaporation of the swimming pools, leaking water lines, rinsing tanks, showers in the diver's lockers areas, as well as WEB water used for irrigation. The fact remains that it is impossible that 82% of water just disappears. We dare to draw the conclusion that a large amount of water is being leached from the septic tanks of the accommodations into the sea. We draw this conclusion based on our knowledge of the existence of leaching holes and bad irrigation practices.

The reef surrounding Bonaire is a very delicate natural resource, and is very sensitive to even the lowest level of dissolved Nitrogen. We have confirmation that level of dissolved Nitrogen is too high to be called sustainable.

Eventually, we will have a third degree sewage treatment plant; it will take 2-3 years before this becomes operational though. Assuming that the project will be executed without delays, the official inauguration will happen sometime in 2011. At this point there will be no sewage water going into the sea anymore from the sensitive zone. Although it will take some additional years before the nutrients that have been accumulating in the soil due to irrigation, and which will remain in the abandoned septic tanks to stop being released to the sea.

If we calculate the sewage water leaching to the sea now until 2011 and the additional years of nutrients leaching after the sewage plant has become operational, because of the



ecological characteristics of our reefs, we are afraid that the sewage plant will come too late to save our coral reef.

**We would like to express to you a sense of urgency.** Don't be fooled by the fact we still have the best coral reef of the Caribbean, this can change rapidly. The shift from a coral dominated reef to an algae dominated reef doesn't take long. The Nitrogen loads to the sea have doubled since the seventies. Every year indications of eutrophication on the reefs grow stronger. Macroalgae coverage has increased 3% in the last 2 years. We are on the verge of a serious problem. The reefs of Bonaire do not have the luxury to wait for the Sewage Treatment Plant to be finalized. Action needs to be taken now!

As Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park, it will be irresponsible if I do not warn you: "our wastewater management practice is no longer sustainable. This practice is killing our reef".

We need to buy time; my suggestion is to truck more sewage water away from the shore-line. We have to start today!"

*Ramon de Leon, Manager.  
Bonaire National Marine Park*

			
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# BONAIREAN VOICES

## GOVERNMENT Part IV

Continuing interviews so you can understand some of the concerns of the Bonairean people.

The leader and member (48) of the PRO DESAROYO BONEIRU (Pro Bonaire Development) and member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bonaire said, "When it comes to election time people follow political traditions. Their forefathers use to vote for a certain party and they grow up doing the same thing without realizing the consequences. They don't see whether the party has a governing program where all Bonaireans can fit. Some vote for personal benefit that they can get out of the party. People sell their votes for what the party has promised to give them. That's why you find that during election time the big parties get more and more votes and win the elections. The government, when it assumes power, has a duty is to represent the Bonairean people, not just a group that gets personal and financial benefits from the government; everyone must have the same rights. They must accomplish their governing program, and if not, they have to explain why.

Our government needs to see how to negotiate with Holland about being a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Martinique, as an example, was an independent colony which decided to be a country within the Kingdom of France. They are being helped 60% financially, but because of the European Union and the agreement with France they can import only 1% from other countries; all other products must be imported from France or countries in the European Union. The prices are going up and the commerce is not doing well.

I know we are in financial debt because of our own government and Holland has to establish a commission (the CFT) to control the financial problem here in Bonaire, which I agree must be done. But if Holland assumes its responsibility for helping us stand on our own feet we can do a lot for our own country. Bonaire needs a plan for its economy, not only based only on tourism, but we what we can make use of with our own companies like the water, salt, chicken and fish - to export these products. Big supermarkets like Albert Hein can join other supermarkets here on Bonaire to lower the prices. As part of a political party I give my support to the organization, AWOR T'E ORA (Now is the Time) that gives information to the citizens, that we can do much better if the government takes some action to reduce the pressure that is on our people today. For instance: charge transit taxes for transit tourists at the airport. In everything we sell we have



taxes, but we can make a difference in the taxes of very expensive products like for someone who buys a Hummer or a six-door refrigerator as opposed to other less expensive products. We need to control our import rights for some products here on Bonaire. We will continue to give Bonaireans more information. If a country like Puerto Rico can have the freedom of auto determination and be a part of the US, we can too."

The leader (56) of the organization, AWOR T'E ORA (Now is the Time), said, "The people elect on emotion, with no consideration of the government plan. We, as part of this movement, are giving the people information to open their eyes, to help them become wiser about their own rights. During the Referendum election 16-year-old schoolchildren and Hispanic people who have been living here for five years or more and who earn NAf 35.000 a year had the right to vote too. They had been promised the same rights as in Holland when we become a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The majority of these people voted for the party that was in charge.

In my opinion the level of our government is very low in the sense that they not talking about issues but about things. They don't talk about plans but about people. A certain group gets everything. The party gets sponsorship and they don't record how much money they get. This is an act that should be prosecuted. A law for sponsorship needs to be introduced. The government has to know how many of the developments happening on this island include Bonaireans themselves and whether Bonaireans are benefiting from some of the income these developments are making. People subsidized by the government can be sent to courses to learn how to become handymen for our community. The Bonairean needs to identify himself with the development on our island. If that doesn't happened the Bonairean could feel disappointment, get angry and could hate everything that has to do with development. You know what could happen next: all the developments will be in danger and all the investors will no longer

come.

The people need to be taught how they can do it themselves. Holland can be a great help in this but still we have to keep our dignity. A country with its own dignity works to get everything it has. Holland as our motherland has the responsibility and obligation to help Bonaire. A small state in Holland like Huft with 8,000 people without sufficient economic activity has the same rights as a big state in Holland itself.

The information that Bonaireans need is in connection with their new status in a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. That's why we will have an information night on the 8 and 9 of August at Wilhelmina Park. We want to show our concern and disappointment for the negotiations that had been done with Holland."

■ Siomara E. Albertus

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



## DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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 9.** Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney



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# The Bonaire Animal Shelter - 25 Years Ago

In 1983 Rini and Peter Kamp and Ike Faber founded the Bonaire Animal Shelter when they built three kennels on their kunuku property. But limited space and lack of visibility made it hard to find and run.

The opening of the Bonaire Animal shelter at its present location was a pure necessity, not only for the island itself, but for me personally as well. We had started to build Sorobon Beach Resort in 1982, and from the first day on we discovered that this corner of the island was a popular spot to drop off unwanted dogs and cats.

That first year we adopted about 20 dogs and numerous kittens. When we opened our resort nine months later we boarded more animals than guests! This got even worse once more and more people knew that the animals would be taken in. We sometimes even found pregnant female dogs tied outside the fence. It also became my habit to pick up stray dogs along the Sorobon Road. It became obvious that we had to choose between a hotel for dogs or a resort for people.

The government at that time acknowledged our problem and generously donated a big piece of land along Kaminda Lagun. Together with Barbara Roswell, who was already a volunteer assisting with basic medical help to dogs and cats, we established the Animal Shelter Foundation and organized our first fancy fair shortly after. We received some donations, but the NAfl10.000 donation from an English couple made it possible to have a fence built around the site and we could order our first kennels. The guests at our hotel, confronted with the abundance of dogs, were very generous with their financial support to help expand the shelter.

We had a small office built. Anton Sieverding donated much of the labor, and I remember vividly that the toilet was donated by INPO (Ike Faber). When the government saw that we were seriously trying to do something constructive they agreed to pay the salary of Ruthmilda who lived across the street from the shelter and who was a tremendous help in taking care of the dogs and cats.

We all had to learn a lot: how to separate fighting dogs, where to get the best deal on food, how to get rid of the fleas, what to do with animals in bad condition, how to treat abused animals etc. etc. Barbara and I went to the animal shelter in Curaçao to learn and get instructions on how to put animals to sleep that were beyond help. Just remember that there was no vet on Bonaire. We had to wait for a vet from Curaçao who came once every two months for a couple of days.

One of the Sorobon hotel guests put me in contact with *De Stichting Buitenlandse Asielen* in Holland, and two board members even came down to evaluate the situation at the shelter and the animal situation on the island. This again resulted in on going help, up until today. They provided us with some new kennels, medicines, food, money to build the cat shelter, and even a veterinarian who stayed for two weeks to do free sterilizations and consulting. More volunteers joined us: Theresia Koppers, Lynn Tijssen and many more dedicated people helped out. We organized a flea market in order to raise more money.

But we had to overcome a lot



Circa 1985 - A vet from Holland, courtesy of De Stichting Buitenlandse Asielen, sterilizes a dog. Louise Rood (right) assisting; Barbara Roswell (left)



Circa 1985: Volunteers pose at the Shelter's first "Fancy Fair" (flea market) (back, left to right) Connie Griessert, Lynn Tijssen, Helma Hilgers, Marisela Croes. (front, left to right) Luz Maria Gavira, Louise Rood, Julia Gerharts

of misconceptions in the beginning. Many people were opposed to the fact that we had to put down numerous animals. But instead of having the animals die a slow and painful death out on the street we hoped to be more humane. We always kept animals that were picked up or brought in for at least three days in order to give them the love, food and attention they'd often lacked. We felt that they would leave this world with at least some experience of kindness.

Gradually the capacity of the shelter grew. We had our share of ups and downs; we learned to repair roofs and fences; we had our first adoptions and learned how to vaccinate. After eight years Elly Albers took over and the shelter developed even

further.

Today, 25 years later, the continuation of the animal shelter isn't only a celebration of these first years of pioneering, but a tribute to all those volunteers and dedicated animal lovers who make Bonaire a better place for animals. ■

Louise Rood

Photos courtesy of Louise Rood



Profiles (Continued from page 5)

has no shade or safe area for children to play. There are some very nice women who volunteer there, but there are no professional educational materials and the kids are merely "kept busy."

During the first four years of a child's life they learn rapidly and the foundation is established for their future mental development. They will benefit for the rest of their lives from a professional pre-school system. The funds that Ruud and Ruth have raised are dedicated to rebuilding the day care center in Rincon, and they're in the process of hiring a professional pre-school teacher. Tables and chairs, playground facilities, educational tools and toys have been ordered. The outside area will be safe, clean and shady.

The Snelders' first project on Bonaire is becoming a reality. They are committed to establishing the center, giving the children and the staff the chance to bloom into a professional pre-school educational center that will match any pre-school anywhere in the world. Children in Rincon will have the best and they deserve it. ■ Story & photo by Louise Rood



## SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 8

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

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# Caribbean Little League Championships

For the sixth consecutive year, the Pabao Little League from Willemstad, Curaçao, will represent the Caribbean Region at the Little League Baseball World Series during the recently completed Caribbean Region championship held in Bonaire.

The Pabao Little League squeezed past the Juan Antonio Bibiloni Little League team from Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, 1-0 in the final game. Pabao Little League finished the nine-team tournament



the top US teams in the World Series on August 24. Nine teams competed in the Caribbean championship in Bonaire, which was divided into two pools. St. Maarten was in Pool A along with

with a 5-0 record to qualify for the 62nd Little League Baseball World Series for 11-12-year-olds in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, beginning August 15. The winner of the international competition will face

Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. In Pool B were US Virgin Islands, Aruba, Curaçao and host Bonaire.

The tournament started with a blow out

Sunday, July 20 as Puerto Rico clobbered Bermuda 37-0. In the second game, St. Maarten smashed Jamaica 18-2. The third game of the competition turned out to be a real nail biter as the Dominican Republic faced Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico won 3-2. Next up was Aruba. They defeated the Virgin Islands 3-0. St. Maarten won its second game with a 14-4 win over Bermuda. The final game of the day, Monday, July 21, pitted Curaçao against host Bonaire. Before a capacity crowd, Curaçao bested Bonaire 10-0.

The games were well organized and enjoyed by capacity crowds in both Kralendijk Stadium and Sonrisa ballpark. ■

G.D. -photos by Wilna Groenenboom

## Pet of The Week



“Poppy,” our pet this week, is a “special needs” kitty. She was hit by a car when she was just a young kitten and her leg was hurt. But she has nearly recovered and just has a slight limp. Now she’s about three months old and is a darling. She has a big heart and loves people. Because of her accident and recovery she seems to appreciate life more than the usual cat. Poppy now needs a loving

owner who appreciates her fine qualities and character. As are all the other adoptees at the Shelter Poppy is in perfect health. She has had her test for feline leukemia, worming, shots and will be sterilized when she’s old enough.

You may see her at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel.717-4989. ■ L.D.

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## Parrot Watch

### FLEDGING REPORT

What a busy and emotional two weeks it has been for the parrot team! At the time of writing seven chicks have fledged and by the time you read this an eighth should have joined them in the wild too. In the nests that we are monitoring a further 14 grumpy chicks are getting ready to go. About two weeks prior to fledging the chicks actually weigh more than their parents but then they lose weight as the parents basically starve them in order to encourage them to leave their cozy nests and jump into the big wide world. So when we go to conduct a nest inspection the chicks are more cantankerous than ever.

The number of nests we are monitoring has gone up since last week as we found a couple more nests sites while out working. Rowan (Martin) actually got suspicious of some parrots while out running, and with a minor diversion added another nest to the list. The parrot team's work never stops!

Yet more parrot chicks have been lost, but the relatively good news is that this was not due to people stealing them from their nest. The sad news comes from a cliff nest high up on a 20m. rock wall. This is always an exciting nest to inspect. You would have to hang on the rope with a good 12-14m of air below you while you checked the progress inside the dark cavity.

My colleagues Rowan Martin and Rhian Evans had noticed an increasing number of bees visiting the nest over the previous week and so when it came to be my turn to check the nest it was with great trepidation that I descended down the cliff.

The honey bees we find around the cliffs are not native to Bonaire; they were introduced from Europe. Thankfully, they are not the aggressive Africanized bee. This was little consolation when as soon as I saw the nest entrance I could see plenty of bees. I approached slowly but as I drew closer the bees were clearly getting upset. We know these cues pretty well by now and the parrot team have had more than their share of stings. Being stuck on a rope is not a nice feeling when bees start bumping into your head, to suggest you leave the area.

I was desperate to find out if the chicks were still alive although I knew there was little I could do to help them. The bees were getting agitated and so I just released my descending device fully and instantly dropped down the rope, my heart in my mouth. All I saw as I plummeted past the nest were two parrot chicks lying face down, dead.

The bees flared up, but luckily for me, they drew off their chase about three meters from the ground and I escaped without



a  
a

single sting. That was little comfort for the loss of parrot chicks that were otherwise going to fledge within a week. We had known them since they were eggs. We had delicately handled and measured them since they were pink bundles of joy weighing little more than a five-guilder coin. It was heart breaking and we were not even the parents. ■ Sam Williams

Williams is in his third year of studying Bonaire's endangered parrot, the Lora.



Bees surround the climbing line

Sam Williams photos

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## PINK COCKATOO MARRIAGE

How to deal with Holland's acceptance of homosexual marriage is a question when Bonaire becomes integrated into The Netherlands. Mary Ann Koops offers her perspective in this article.

**M**arriage is an institution in which interpersonal relationships (usually intimate and sexual) are acknowledged by the state or by a religious authority. It is often viewed as a contract. (Source: Wikipedia). If recognized by the state, by the religion(s) to which the parties belong or by society in general, the act of marriage changes the personal and social status of the individuals who enter into it.



Photo Barrie Jamieson

Two people promise to take care of each other emotionally and financially, and they let everybody know they want to do so. Some people state that a marriage can only be between a man and a woman, maybe because that is the only union that can produce children. So in fact they may see a marriage as an institution in which to have children and to protect them. They may mean it, but they are not saying it. They are saying that a marriage between two people of the same sex is as abominable as a polygamous marriage and which therefore is banned on the Antilles.

Let us take a closer look at what polygamy is. Polygamy is, in almost all cases polygyny, a man is married to more than one woman. The other form, polyandry, is very rare (only in some parts of Tibet is this form practiced) and usually a woman marries a man and his brothers at the same time. Polygamy is practiced in highly patriarchal societies where children are seen as wealth. What better way to have a lot of children than to have a lot of women? But in this way women are reduced to something you can bargain with. Because the more women you have, the more children you will have, the wealthier you will be; like having a big house or a fancy car. The man has the advantage of having a high standing, but what do the women get, except for having to bear children? It is no surprise that this kind of marriage is now forbidden in most countries. This is not an equal marriage. You want to compare this to a homosexual marriage?

A homosexual marriage is a marriage between two people. So, why don't we look at marriages, which are or were forbidden between two people, and compare those with a homosexual marriage? A marriage in which two

(or one of the two) people are (is) younger than 18 is forbidden. Why? That is simple: we (society) find (with good reason) that teenagers are not yet equipped to make those kinds of decisions. Also, we want to protect the young from those who want to take advantage of another. It seems that an "under aged" marriage is banned for good reason, but what are the reasons to ban a homosexual marriage? Are those two people (above 18 years of age) not capable of making the right decision, or is one person taking advantage of the other? The answer is no, so those are not good reasons to ban homosexual marriages.

Until June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1967, a black man could not marry a white woman (and the other way around) in the US. An interracial marriage was forbidden by law, as it was in South Africa (until 1968) and Germany (in the Nazi period). These marriages were banned because of eugenics programs. People in those days thought that the genes of an "inferior" race should not mix with the "superior" one. That should bring chills down your spine. What these laws proclaim is hate. You are not allowed to marry each other because you are supposed to hate one another. These laws were banned because the freedom of choice and laws against racism. People have a right to make their own decisions about who they want to marry, and rightfully so. Do the two people of the same sex who want to marry each other make a free choice? Yes, of course they do. Denying them to make a free choice would be just as discriminating as forbidding interracial marriage.

What seems to be the problem? They are not hurting anybody. Ah, it must be the one reason people who are against homosexuality in general always come up with: it is unnatural! Because only a woman and a man can make babies, all the other sexual relationships between (non-related) two adults are unnatural.

However, there are a lot of examples in nature of homosexual-

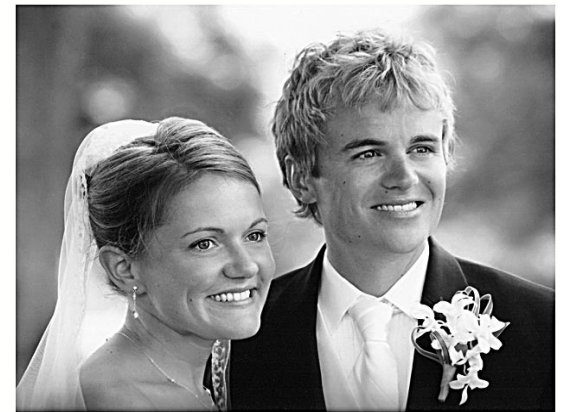
## Picture Yourself With The Reporter Missouri Wedding



**R**ichard and Shelly Craig, part-time Bonaire residents since 1995, celebrated the marriage of their daughter Courtney to Carson Menges.

Forty of the wedding guests who've been to Bonaire were invited to pose for this photo with *The Bonaire Reporter*. The bride and groom are holding *The Reporter* edition that featured the photo of Jake Barlass's wedding in Minnesota.

The bride and groom reside in St. Louis, MO. Both are avid sailors and scuba divers. Carson is a defense attorney for the firm of Freeark, Harvey, Mendillo, Dennis, Wuller, Cain & Murphy. Courtney is a corporate attorney for Macy's. Both will be on Bonaire for the holidays. ■



Bride and groom Courtney and Carson Menges

**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).

## Jong Bonaire Cuts Fees

**S**entro pa Hubentut Jong Bonaire announced that it is reducing its membership fees for teens and their families starting in August 2008. "In view of the enormous increases in the cost of food, gasoline, water and electricity, our board has decided to reduce our fees this year to help Bonairean families cope with this economic crisis," said Rene Hakkenberg, President of the Jong Bonaire Foundation.

Instead of monthly payments, members this year will have to pay dues only twice, once at the start of the year and again in January. So instead of paying 11 times a year, they will need to pay only twice.

There are several payment categories, depending on family income. For the lowest income fami-



Rollerblading at Jong Bonaire

lies, the cost of having a child attend Jong Bonaire for the coming school year will be Naf 10 in August and NAF 10 in January, or just Naf 20 for the entire year.

However, there is an additional requirement for parents, says Jong Bonaire's new manager, Jona Chirino. "We are reducing the financial cost to families, but we are asking parents to increase their investment of time. We are asking parents to attend at least two of the four workshops planned for par-

ents from September to December."

Jong Bonaire also hopes to have increased income from the sale of the Papiamentu-English Dictionary that was reprinted this summer. Companies and individuals can learn more about the dictionary for schools program at [www.papiamentudictionary.com](http://www.papiamentudictionary.com) or can contact Jong Bonaire at 717-4303 ext 12, or e-mail to [schools@papiamentudictionary.com](mailto:schools@papiamentudictionary.com) ■ Alan Gross

ity. In the approximately 2,000 species of animals whose behavior has been well researched and described in the literature, approximately 450 have been shown to have clear homosexual relations (check out [www.nuvideo.nl-nu.tv/Roze\\_kaketoe\\_is\\_vaak\\_homoseksueel](http://www.nuvideo.nl-nu.tv/Roze_kaketoe_is_vaak_homoseksueel)).

Can two male swans, or two female bonobos in a sexual relationship be unnatural? Can two male pink cockatoos make the conscious choice some people accuse homosexuals of making? And we are part of nature too; the

human species, *Homo sapiens*, belongs to the animal kingdom.

If you say a homosexual marriage should be forbidden, you are saying that homosexuals themselves should be forbidden. You deny them the same rights you give to heterosexuals, perhaps the most important one being: freedom of choice. A law that prohibits same sex marriage proclaims hate, which, in itself is forbidden by laws against racism and discrimination.

Marriage is not about two people being able to have children. Mar-

riage is a contract between two adults promising to take care of each other financially and emotionally and to treat each other as equals. Two women or two men are just as capable of living up to this contract as a woman and a man (and they are even more their equals! ;>)).

■ Mary Ann Koops

Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.



## Letters to the Editor

Air Travel



### Thanks for the News

Dear Editor:  
We subscribe to printed edition of *The Reporter*. I read in the most recent ones we got that AA was cutting back on flights from San Juan to Bonaire and we were impacted. I called AA regarding our reservations and she asked what the issue was!! I queried, "Are all our flights still valid?"

After hearing lots of key strokes, she came back with the news I had already known from your paper!!

I feel quite fortunate to have found this out from you folks

and we were able to make alternate reservations to our satisfaction before the crowds found out!!

This was the second time we have found out about flight issues for our upcoming November trip from you guys.

And now I shall follow the car rental issue at the airport.

I am certain our subscription is about to expire. Can you please check?

Thanks again.

Peg Hart

## Keep Bonaire Green

Bonairean Edshel "Echi" Martha wants to help to maintain the island's culture and to keep Bonaire green. He's a familiar face for tourists too as he worked for a number of years at the Divi Flamingo Beach resort.

He has an established *Stichting Manene nos Cultura cenna Bida* (foundation to maintain our culture and life) and has opened a nursery selling local fruit trees and plants. Nearly everything is native and easy to grow and Echi can tell you what each plant is good for – even what part of your body it can help. He's a walking encyclopedia of what grows on Bonaire.

Echi explains about his foundation: "I want to try to help people on the island understand our plants and trees and what they can do for us. If everyone plants a tree we can make Bonaire green. It's good for



us and it's good for the island. I want to help people to make a garden in their front yard or their back yard," he says. "They just have to come to see me." He has a sign across from the LVV (agriculture department) on the Lagoen Road, saying, "*Mantene Nos Cultura – Aki ta Bende Mata di Fruta I Yerba*" (fruit trees and plants for sale). Follow the signs to his nursery. His address is Mexico 54. Telephone 786-2534. ■ L.D.

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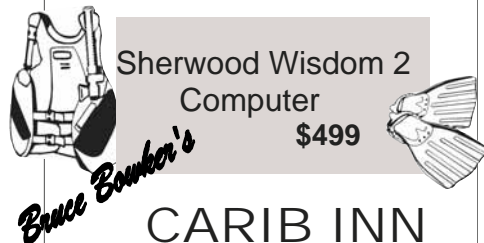


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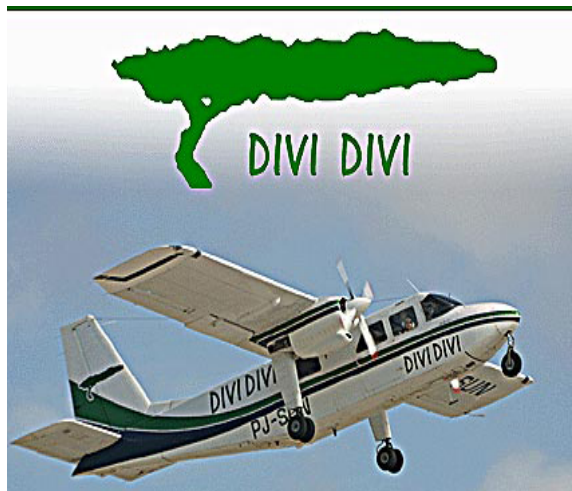
## KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
8-08	4:41	1.0FT.	19:40	1.8FT.					46
8-09	5:31	0.9FT.	20:13	1.9FT.					36
8-10	6:10	0.8FT.	20:46	2.0FT.					32
8-11	6:40	0.8FT.	21:23	2.0FT.					34
8-12	7:16	0.8FT.	21:56	2.0FT.					40
8-13	7:49	0.8FT.	22:27	2.0FT.					49
8-14	8:15	0.9FT.	23:00	2.0FT.					59
8-15	8:41	0.9FT.	23:39	1.9FT.					69
8-16	0:12	1.8FT.	9:07	1.0FT.					77
8-17	0:51	1.7FT.	9:21	1.0FT.	14:31	1.2FT.	15:54	1.2FT.	84
8-18	1:32	1.6FT.	9:16	1.1FT.	14:46	1.3FT.	17:53	1.2FT.	89
8-19	2:22	1.5FT.	8:50	1.2FT.	15:29	1.4FT.	20:08	1.3FT.	90
8-20	3:36	1.3FT.	8:19	1.2FT.	16:08	1.5FT.			88
8-21	2:06	1.1FT.	5:50	1.2FT.	7:36	1.1FT.	16:59	1.6FT.	83
8-22	3:10	1.0FT.	17:52	1.8FT.					75

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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>Authentic 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 in-town hot spot</b> Best waterfront/harbor view combined with an inspired Menu, skillful staff and superb chef
<b>Sunset Bar &amp; Grill</b> At the Traffic Circle, Seaside, at Den Laman Apartments 788-2698	Moderate, Dinner, Bar Menu Closed Monday	<b>Magnificent Seaside Views</b> Seafood, steaks, vegetarian and more. Hot and cold snack menu at the bar
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 780-1111
<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>

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# Bonaire's Latinos Celebrate Their Heritage

During the month of July many countries in the Americas, like Colombia, Peru, Venezuela and the United States, celebrate their independence from their colonial past. In Bonaire the Latinos do it in style. The focus of the formal ceremony is the statue of Simon Bolivar in downtown Kralendijk.

But the real celebrations are the parties that follow. The contribution of these immigrants, many of whom are naturalized Dutch citizens, is appreciated, especially by leaders of the current government who participated in the events. ■ G.D. -Photos by Wilna Groenenboom



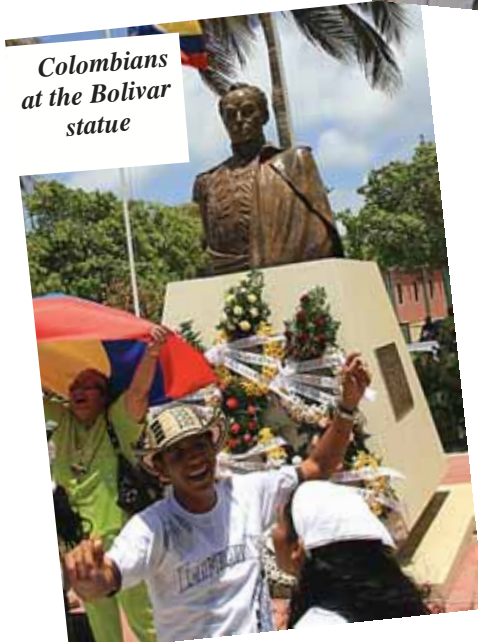
Authentic costumes and dancing were the order of the day



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Pepe Sanchez, leader of the 700 Peruvians on Bonaire, and top Bonaire officials Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas and Senator Ramonsito Booi receive a traditional honor.



Colombians at the Bolivar statue

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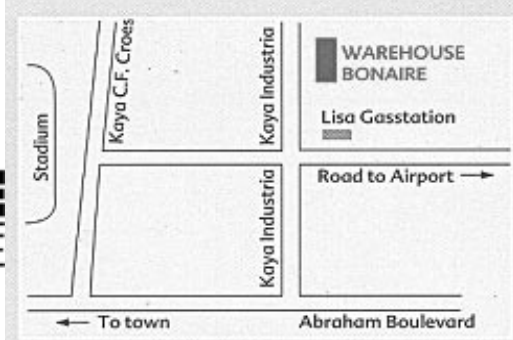
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24 uur per dag bereikbaar, ook in het weekend: Tel. 790-6001



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

\*\*\*\*\*

**August 9-16, 16-23: Fish ID Challenge – First Annual Fish ID Challenge.** For more information call 800-288-4773 or email [usreservations@sanddollarbonaire.com](mailto:usreservations@sanddollarbonaire.com)

**Friday, Saturday, August 8,9—Awo T'E Ora Info night, Wilhelmina Park**

**Monday, August 11—Tour Guide Class begins, Scout Bldg. across from Caribbean Fasteners, 7 pm (more on pg. 8)**

**Saturday, August 16 – Full Moon**

**September 1-30: Buddy Dive Welcomes Ned & Anna DeLoach – Join Ned & Anna all month long at Buddy Dive giving presentations on marine life, leading boat dives and giving snorkeling tours in the mangroves.**

**September 6: Bonaire Day (Dia di Bonaire) – Legal Holiday commemorating Amerigo Vespucci's arrival in Bonaire in 1499. Host bario-Antriol**

**September 19: A Taste of Bonaire – Experience food, culture, local handicrafts and all things Bonairean at this festival located in the center of town at Wilhelmina Park from 6-9 p.m.**

**September 20-27: Love Our Planet Week**

**September 20: Underwater Clean-Up**

## REGULAR EVENTS

- 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 Alexander drit # 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:  
**The Bonaire Reporter**  
[Email\\_reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:Email_reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125  
or 790-8988

# 15th Turtle Tagged



It seems that whenever *The Bonaire Reporter* is going to come out, the signal from radio-tagged turtle "Wiske" disappears. But not to worry. After her radio snapped back to life a couple of weeks ago she's traveled to the Nicaragua coastline which has proven in the past to be a productive feeding ground for Bonaire's nesting turtles.

In the last radio tagging of the season an STCB team affixed a transmitter to another turtle last Friday night.

The female loggerhead, "Greggy Girl," is the second turtle to be tracked in Bonaire's 2008 nesting season. Following her nesting on Klein Bonaire she was fitted with a satellite transmitter. She's the 15<sup>th</sup> turtle since Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) started the tracking program in 2003.

Based on the pattern of turtle nesting activity observed on Klein Bonaire during the last few weeks, STCB staff predicted the possible return of a loggerhead turtle to the beach for Friday night. A field team consisting of STCB's staff and volunteers set out at night to monitor the beach on Klein Bonaire for nesting activity. Around 9pm a large loggerhead was found up on a sand dune and busy digging a hole for placing her nest, and she soon began laying eggs. An hour later, after she covered her nesting area extensively with sand, the approximately 120 kg animal was intercepted by the team on her way towards the sea and a transmitter applied to the top of her carapace. At 12:26am the loggerhead turtle was released and she quickly departed into the sea.



Greggy Girl' returns to the sea

The female loggerhead has a shell length of 96.7 cm and is estimated to weigh about 120 kg. Adult loggerhead turtles come to Bonaire to breed from May through July. The turtle is expected to remain in the area and lay at least one more nest before departing to her home feeding grounds.

Tracking "Greggy Girl" is being made possible by a full sponsorship provided by Houston, Texas-based children's wear company, JMFA-Greggy Girl, Inc.

For more information contact: Mabel Nava, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, telephone 599 717 2225 and 780 0433, e-mail

# ProKids World Class Windsurfing



On the final day of the Starboard IFCA Freestyle ProKids competition Mother Nature sent the Pro Kids a healthy dose of wind with some heavy gusts over 20 knots. The schedule of the day was tie-breakers, fun slalom, classic freestyle, expression sessions and the much loved Baby Class. The judges had enough results from three days of heats so the day was marked for fun. There were several music groups, a fashion show with lovely clothes from the Bonaire Windsurf Place boutique, food, drink and even an old fashioned hot dog eating contest.

The event began on August 27 and ran for the next six days in a

variety of wind conditions.

Two winners were crowned.

Bonaire's **Kiri Thode** was crowned Under 20 World Champion. Kiri just flew home from the PWA World Tour Thursday in time to compete. This top honor is well deserved. Another wonderful win was earned by Team Estonia's **Christofer Kalke** who was crowned Under 17 World Champion. Chris won the qualifier in his home and flew all the way to Bonaire to compete. Chris trains several months a year in the Baltic Sea. Congratulations to both winners.

2008 was the first IFCA sanctioned event for Bonaire. This is a top honor and privilege to have

IFCA and IFA sanction and support our event.

A special thanks to all the youngsters, adults and families who attended the event.

The hard efforts of all the many volunteers, sponsors and community members is much appreciated. Without all of this support, such an event cannot happen. A big thank you to all involved on the organizational level as well as to the competitors.

For a list of all the results, more photos and on the scene daily reports, click on [www.prokidsfreestyle.com](http://www.prokidsfreestyle.com) ■ Ann Phelan/G.D.

Wilna Groenenboom photos



Freestyle Antics



MCB's Evert Piar congratulates Kiri



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\*to find it... just look up

## The Perseid Meteors and the Two Comets that Never Were"

Next Tuesday, August 12th, will be one of the best for viewing the meteors from the annual **Perseid meteor shower**.

Now although meteors are often called and look like shooting stars they are not. In fact meteors are simply tiny specks of comet debris slamming into our Earth's atmosphere at high speed. And this year it should be a pretty good show because the Moon will set around 1:30am so there will be no bright moonlight to wipe out the faintest meteors during the

**best viewing time which will be between 1:30 am and dawn on Tuesday the 12th.** To see them get as far away from city lights as possible and have clear and very dark skies. Then simply lay back on a lawn chair or sleeping bag facing northeast. To see the most meteors you should stay up until dawn. No binoculars or telescopes are needed. Simply slowly scan the skies back and forth and up and down and you should see a couple dozen Perseid meteors per hour.



M-7 via telescope.

If you begin viewing in early evening if you simply look south and up you will see a fish-hook-shaped group of stars which is called **Scorpius the Scorpion**, which is one of the few star patterns which actually looks like its name. In fact it even has a bright red star right where its heart should be. But if you follow the scorpion's body down around its tail up to its stinger you'll be able to see two tiny fuzzy clouds, which look exactly like the heads of **comets** when they're far away and on their approach to Earth. In fact most comets as they make their journey toward Earth and our **Sun** always look like tiny Q-tips nestled among the stars. But Q-tips which move from night to night and get bigger and bigger as they get closer and closer and eventually develop incredibly beautiful gas and dust tails.

But not these two tiny fuzzy clouds because unlike comets these two will never develop tails and they will never move in relationship to the stars and they'll never get any bigger or brighter. They'll always be in the same place and look the same. And although they have been seen for thousands of years they weren't officially named until the 18<sup>th</sup> century when an astronomer named Charles Messier who made it part of his life's work to make a list of fuzzy cloud-like objects in the heavens so that he and other astronomers would not get confused when they went comet hunting. They're objects number 6 and 7 on his fuzzy cosmic cloud, not to be confused with comets, list. And today we use the first letter of Messier's last name when we refer to objects 6 and 7 and they are now called **M-6** and **M-7** for Messier, not to be confused with the word messier even though Messier did make the sky a lot less messier by identifying such objects.

At any rate, although they really do look like decapitated comet heads as seen with the naked eye, through a pair of binoculars they reveal themselves to be much different. Because they are even more grand than comets, cosmically speaking. Indeed each tiny cloud is a great cluster of stars, other suns far, far away. The one closest to the stinger M-7 is a cluster of about 80 stars and is 800 light years away. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
For August 2008

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You will have difficulties spreading yourself between your work and your home. Take matters in hand when it comes to dealing with clients or colleagues. You're in need of love. Be on your best behavior. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Try to make your lover understand that you need to do things with your friends. Your best efforts will come through hard work. You can come into money that you don't necessarily work for. Personal alterations will be in your best interest. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Expect to experience a sudden reversal of fortune. Tempers will mount if you're too pushy at work or at home. Uncertainties regarding relatives will make situations uncomfortable if you attend a family function. Set aside any decisions regarding your personal life this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Don't jump as quickly as you usually do. You've been in a rut and you need to do something that will help you break the pattern you've fallen into. Don't try to twist things around so that they sound more enticing. Offer love and affection instead of conflict and rejection. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been feeling up to par. Don't bother trying to make someone you live with see your point of view. Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do. Don't let any money slip through your fingers this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. You have done all you can to sort things out a personal level. Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. You may find a rare antique this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Try not to let relatives or friends cause any friction with your mate. Pleasure trips will ease the tension between you and your mate. Arguing won't help. Changes in your domestic scene are evident. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Sudden changes regarding work and colleagues are apparent. Don't be too hard on your mate. Be careful how you handle friends and relatives, they may take things the wrong way. You can help them with difficult projects. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you. You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress. You need to be inspired and have your spirits lifted. Secret activity is evident. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Friends may not understand your situation. You just hate waste, and when someone else costs you dearly you see red. You will be able to find the perfect outfit, and the greatest new accessory for your house. Social activity should be on your agenda. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can pick up wonderful buys if you really look hard this month. You may want to talk to your boss about your future goals. Your attitudes are changing rapidly. Satisfy your passionate mood. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Take the time to do your job correctly or you may find yourself looking for a new one. You should be traveling to that exotic destination you've been dreaming about. Plan to get out and do a bit of travel. Organize your house and be sure to include the whole family in the projects you have set out to do. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday. ■

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