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BONAIRE

Aug. 22-Sept. 5, 2008; Volume 15, Issue 17

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

Washikemba Walk
with Boi Antoin
Page 8



INSIDE: Bonaire Reef Watch, New Artists, Parrot Fledging and much more

The Tourism Corporation Bonaire recently released the tourist visitor figures for the first quarter of 2008 which showed an increase of 5.1% compared to the same period last year. This is especially significant since tourism overall grew by 17% in 2007. A total of 20,834 visitors were recorded.

The increase was led by the US and Canada which sent 11.6% more tourists. The addition of scheduled weekly air service by Delta from Atlanta and a second Continental Houston flight during peak periods were major factors.

European visitors dropped 3.8% following record arrivals in 2007. However, In October the charter airline, Arkefly, will add a second flight to complement KLM's service.

South American tourism climbed 22.23% but in absolute numbers is small compared to North America and Europe. For more information and other market results contact Rose-Anne Rollan at 717-8322 / email: asstdirector@tourismonaire.com.

► **Air France-KLM reported that its July traffic rose by 1.8%** with capacity up 3.9%. The load factor stood at 84.4%, down 1.8 points. Air France-KLM recorded good progress in yield and unit revenue excluding currency impact, driven by business traffic. KLM is Bonaire's prime link to Europe

► **AirOne Ventures Limited, which bills its yet-to-be-named airline as the Caribbean's first low-budget carrier, says that it will begin service to nine regional and US destinations from its hub in Barbados between March and April 2009.** Some look on it as a replacement for the foundering Air Jamaica. Curaçao, but not Bonaire, was named as a potential destination. Fares are on average 40-70% cheaper than exist-

ing airlines, said AirOne Commercial Director Tara Playfair during an interview with the *Jamaica Business Observer*.

► **The cost of airplane tickets in Holland has gone up by 25.4% over the past year,** according to new calculations from the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS). The bulk of the increase is due to fuel surcharges, the CBS says. According to a story in the *Telegraaf* newspaper last week, fuel surcharges on a KLM European flight now amount to €41 (\$61), soaring to €147 (\$219) for flights longer than nine hours.

► **The fate of the Ft. Oranje Museum at the Courthouse is still in jeopardy** as the Attorney General in Curacao has asked to take it over as the place for storing their archives. According to some members of the Island Council and others the museum, set up by the Bonai group, should remain at the Fort where its artifacts were found in the first place. The Bonaire island government owns the property. Discussions are continuing.



► **The ABC islands are 'hot' was a frequent comment at a pre-show press conference last week in Holland.** Lots of interest is anticipated at the 24th edition of the Second Home International exhibition in the Trade Fair Center in Utrecht from October 10-12. The B (Bonaire) and the C (Curaçao) are favorite destinations for a second home.

Several well-known Dutch people, like interior and furniture designer Jan des Bouvrie, TV personality Henny Huisman and designer Piet Boon have homes there. Boon wrote in his new book, *Piet Boon /2*, "Bonaire is so wonderful, because on that island you can be

► On Wednesday August 6th JCI held its general membership meeting at the ABVO building on Kaminda Jato Bacó. Junior Chamber International Bonaire is part of the worldwide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs with organizations in more than 50 different countries all over the world.



JCI's Jennifer Martis and Gov. Domacassé

President Jennifer Martis opened the meeting at 19.30 hours. The special guest was Lt. Governor Domacassé. He gave an inspired motivational speech to the membership which included a lot of new faces, mostly students from the SGB high school. Domacassé himself was once a member of the JCI but had to leave, with regret, at the age of 40 years, like everyone else. At JCI he learned that everyone is a born leader but that you must learn to become a true leader. He is a walking example of where learning and training can lead to.

JCI is a growing organization with good contacts in the region. The National Convention 2009 is going to be held on Bonaire. JCI Bonaire needs money for that and has launched a Sticker Campaign. By buying a sticker (below) from a JCI member for Naf 1 you can help the young new leaders to reach their goal.

The present board of directors includes: President, Jennifer Martis; IPP, Claire Sealy; VP, Ann Thielman; Treasurer, Mien Alee; Secretary, Amelie Saleh; and Senator, Rignald Marchena. ■ *Story & photo by Wilna Groenenboom*



anonymous and enjoy life undisturbed. ..." His unconventional beach house is next to Bachelor's Beach.

► **The healthcare insurance plan for Dutch retirees who come to live in the Antilles will most probably die a premature death** because of a conflict between the Dutch, who want it to be mandatory, and the Antilleans who feel it should be voluntary. Antillean Public health

Minister Omayra Leeflang has come up with another plan: "For 10% of their income, retired persons in the Netherlands as well as the 60-plussers in the Antilles can get medical insurance at SVB. The basic package is for third class coverage, but supplemental insurance is possible. Thus the problem is solved." That plan has been presented to the Advisory Council and will go on to Parliament.

(Continued on page 4)

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Ayo, Mangrove Village

The Mangrove Village project at Lac Bay near Sorobon is no more. Construction was begun very soon after a permit was granted by the Executive Council of Bonaire. However, the permit was annulled by Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag shortly thereafter following complaints by STINAPA and private citizens that the required environmental study to build on protected

wetlands was not done. The land in question is close to the Lac lagoon which is protected by the Treaty of Ramsar (Iran, 1971).

The abandoned construction was a target for anti-development graffiti. Last week a large machine demolished the walls and foundations which were trucked away while lawsuits are pending. ■

Story by G.D. / Photos by Herman van Leeuwen



Early construction at Mangrove Village



Mangrove Village Graffiti



Going!



Going!



Going!



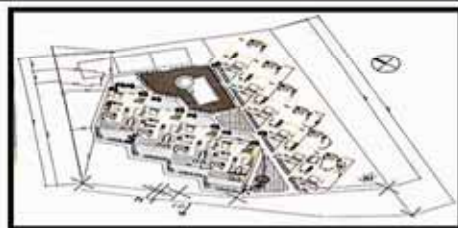
Gone!



August 8, 2008 (08/08/08) was considered an auspicious day to marry and five weddings were held that day on Bonaire. The most spectacular ceremony and following reception was the marriage of Evelina Maria de Jongh (of the Don Andres Shipping family) and Mouro Alvares Cicilia (La Portuguesa family). Congratulations and wishes for a long and happy life together. ■

Story & photo by Wilna Groenenboom

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► **The Central Government has decided to continue looking for oil and gas in Antillean territorial waters**, Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage (PAR) announced during her weekly press conference. More than NAf315 million has been paid for past and ongoing research by the University of Texas for the first phase of the search. Participation in the phase that runs until 2011 will cost another NAf315 million.

► **US oil demand during the first half of 2008 fell by an average of 800,000 barrels per day** compared with the same period a year ago, the biggest volume decline in 26 years, the US Energy Information Administration said last Tuesday. As a result worldwide oil prices have dropped from near \$150 to \$110 a barrel.

► Antillean State Secretary Alex Rosaria urged the Taxation and Customs Union Directorate-General of the European Union to **take the Antilles off the list**

of tax havens as soon as possible. Rosaria considers it incorrect that EU countries Poland, Italy, Portugal, and Greece still have the Antilles on their black lists.

► **Prostitution is legal in Bonaire provided it is licensed by the government** and the place of

business observes strict behavior and health regulations.

Pachi's Place off the Nikiboko North road is currently the only permitted establishment. However, there may soon be a second. The company, Bonaire Paradise, NV, has submitted an application to do business. Whether to permit it or not has raised concerns. There have been published reports of prostitutes operating out of late night bars in the Kralendijk suburbs.

► On August 4 the *Fundashon Tienda pa Konsumidó (Consumer Store Foundation)* opened its office to the public after receiving the necessary funding. The office is open Monday through Friday 9 am to noon, 2 to 5 pm. The foundation's goal is consumer welfare and information, especially price



and quality of products and services.

Anyone with a question may contact the Foundation at Kaya Korona #5 in the Fundashon Cas Boneriano building. Tel: 717-3569. Fax: 717-3529. E-mail: tkbon1@telbonet.an. Directors of the Foundation are: President.

Frensel Janga, Treasurer Remy Djojopawiro, Secretary Solange Bomberg.

There are openings for two more members. Those interested may contact Frensel Janga at 786-2155, e-mail

frensel_janga2@yahoo.com, or Solange Bomberg at 700-0225, e-mail solange-bomberg@bonaireeconomy.org.



► **Be prepared for a significant detour if traveling on the Kaya Korona/Kaya Guburubu road to Rincon over the next weeks.**

Extensive repairs are underway to repair the catch basins and roadside culverts in the Mentor area. Follow the signs and save time.

► **Kirk Gosden's newly opened Sunset Bar & Grill is a hit!**

Kirk has added a twist to the successful formula of his other restaurant, Lion's Den at Buddy Dive, to Den Laman's panoramic terrace where food and service continue foremost. For one thing the bar offers a comprehensive snack menu and is a perfect place for sundowners. For another, you can choose the side dishes that come with the main course. Food and drinks? Goes without saying as it comes from a chef who's competed in the big time and has opened new eateries all over the globe. Sunset Bar & Grill is open every day except Monday for dinner, from 5 to 10 pm. Tel. 788-2698. Go, Kirk!

► **Outlet Mol, Bonaire's bikini shop is moving!**

Outlet Mol will open on Tuesday, August 26, at Les Galeries Shopping Mall, located next to Paradise Photo, bordering the downtown parking lot. Molly Bartikoski, Outlet Mol's Director, promises hundreds of bikinis to choose from, with the mix and match concept: pick a top, pick a bottom, any size, any color combination. But she didn't

neglect the guys. They will have board shorts and t-shirts to choose from, including surf brands like Billabong, Quiksilver and more.

Shop early, as many items are one of a kind! Outlet Mol is open Monday - Saturday 10-1, 3-6.

► **Correction: The photo on page 2 of our last issue, should have been credited to Dee Scarr.**

The diver is Bonaire resident, Donna Gassert. The reef is off Richard's Restaurant. She's in the "Reef Angel" position. The reason it's called the Reef Angel position is because it keeps fins away from the reef.

► **Jong Bonaire has to sell a few more Papiamentu-English Dictionary copies to companies to donate to schools to qualify for a \$20,000 matching grant from an anonymous donor.**

Jong Bonaire Treasurer Alan Gross said, "So we ask all companies and individuals who can help donate books to schools to please contact us so we can receive this grant."

Companies and individuals can learn more about the dictionary for schools program at www.papiamentudictionary.com or can contact **Jong Bonaire at 717-4303 ext 12, or e-mail to schools@papiamentudictionary.com**.

G./L.D

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Dee Scarr Awarded the NOGI

Bonaire dive guide, lecturer and writer, Dee Scarr is this year's winner of The Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences NOGI*, the dive industry's "Oscar."

Dee first came to Bonaire in 1980 and began the Touch the Sea experience in 1982. Since then she's logged thousands of dives and introduced hundreds of divers to dozens of marine animals. To dive with her is to forever change your underwater point of view. Once introduced to Scarr's very personal perspective on marine animals, divers feel a sense of belonging in the sea rather than simply visiting it. Their instinct to protect marine ecosystems is enhanced. Her current project is Action in Behalf of Coral. In 2005 she realized that dive training agencies don't provide critical information about living coral to their students: the information that explains why coral is fragile. Dee's website, www.touchthesea.com, provides more information about the ABC Project, as well as the Living with a Razor Sharp Skeleton sticker and Coral Glimpses.

Between 1988 and 1991, Scarr and her buddies tied more than 600 sponges back onto pilings beneath Bonaire's Town Pier in Touch the Sea's Sponge Reattachment Project. In the mid-90s she was the first to realize the danger to the environment if Klein Bonaire was developed and was part of the team that eventually got Klein



File photo

Dee and friends

Bonaire designated a forever wildlife preserve.

Dee has written three books: *Touch the Sea*, about interactions with marine animals, *The Gentle Sea*, a personalized look at the undersea creatures divers are likely to encounter, and a children's book, *Coral's Reef*, about two children and what they learn from snorkeling – and from an octopus named Oliver. Dee wrote monthly about marine animals and their behaviors for *Dive Training* magazine for more than a decade, and currently writes about marine animals for *The Bonaire Reporter*. Dee was the photographer for the original *Guide to the Bonaire Marine Park* and contributed to the second edition of the Guide. Her work has appeared in numerous publications.

The first major recognition of Dee's work was in 1991, when she was the second

recipient (after Jacques Yves Cousteau) of the PADI/SeaSpace Environmental Awareness Award. The NOGI from the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences for Distinguished Service is her most recent recognition award. She's received the Boston Sea Rovers Diver of the Year Award, the Beneath the Sea Diver of the Year Award, and the Underwater Club of Boston's Paul Revere Spike (2007). Dee was an inaugural member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame and SSI's Platinum Pro Divers (those with more than 5,000 dives; Scarr has logged over 7,000 dives). She received Captain Don Stewart's Accolade Award in 2006 for "making knowledge of the sea fun and spreading desire in others to learn and become themselves part of our sea." Scarr received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English and Rhetoric and Pub-



The NOGI statuette

lic Address from the University of Florida. She taught high school English, public speaking, and debate before beginning her diving career on the Bahamian island of San Salvador. Dee became a SCUBA instructor in 1974. In 1985, she married David Batafsky; they adopted Sweetie Pie, a very special Bichon Frise, in 2005. Her award will be presented at this year's DEMA show in October. ■

Story & photo AUAS/G.D.

*The NOGI is the oldest and most prestigious award in the diving industry, dating back to 1960. The NOGI statuette was modified from an award formerly bestowed at the renowned New Orleans Grand Isle Fishing Tournament which had an underwater division.

In 1993, The Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences (AUAS) was incorporated by the recipients of the past 33 years. AUAS took over administration of the NOGI Award, which continues to be presented annually, with ongoing sanction and support from the Underwater Society of America.

The roster of NOGI recipients is a "Who's Who in the Ocean World," with such legends as Capt. Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Dr. Robert Ballard, Capt. Albert Behnke, Dr. Sylvia Earle, Lloyd Bridges and Zale Parry.

Each year, AUAS invites Academy fellows to recommend nominees for the NOGI Awards. To recommend future NOGI recipients, please consult the roster of NOGI Fellows to determine a contact person. ■




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Bubbles from the Biologist

Artists in Bloom

Did You Know..

That Dori from the movie, "Finding Nemo," can be found swimming among the reefs of Bonaire? Ok, well, not this specific Disney fish, but Dori is a Blue Tang, and thousands of these fish inhabit the island's reefs.

Blue tangs are categorized as surgeonfish due to the sharp spine they have on each side of their tail that resembles a surgeon's scalpel. A variety of Blue tang exist throughout the world, but the species specific to the Caribbean is *Acanthurus coeruleus*. The body is flat along its vertical axis and a somewhat circular shape. When it's an adult the dorsal, pelvic and anal fins are a beautiful blue color and the spine is a contrasting bright yellow. During the day the body appears to be a solid dark blue/black color, but at night white stripes appear on the body. As any other fish, the Blue tang goes through different stages as it grows into an adult. However, one may not know when they are looking at a Blue tang because during the juvenile stage the fish's entire body, with the exception of the tips of the fins which are blue, is a bright yellow. The drastic change in color signals that the fish has reached sexual maturity.

Due to their eating habits, Blue tangs are imperative to the reef ecosystem. These fish are herbivorous creatures and feed solely on algae making them vital to the reef system of Bonaire. Without these magnificent animals our reefs would become over populated with algae that overgrow existing corals and make it difficult for coral larvae to settle and grow. ■ Halley Cazort

The author is a rising senior studying Biology and Hispanic Studies at Rice University in the US. She was a student studying marine biology and ecology as part of the CIEE Summer Bonaire 2008.



Extra photo

Adi Figaroa's young students show their work: Romy Marin, Tatiana Nicolaas, Georgina Sanchez and Kendra Domacasse

One of Bonaire's best artists, Adi Figaroa, has been teaching youngsters lately at the Kas di Arte, at the Papa Cornes and the Reina Beatrix schools. "You'd be surprised at what these young kids can do," he says. "I want to teach them not how to draw an apple but to awaken in them the spirit of art." Figaroa supplies his students with brushes and acrylic paints from Kooyman and sets them off. "After I'm dead and gone, I want them to be able to say, 'That man was my master.'" Figaroa was also asked to teach the Bonai group of teens. "Those kids are on the science trail; I'm not a scientist, but I can teach them art," he declares.

The youngsters in the photo above are 9 and 10 years old and have been studying with Adi once or twice a week for two months.

Note: Georgina "Gina" Sanchez in the photo above helps her grandmother, Elisabeth Silberie, deliver *The Bonaire Reporters* twice a month. We are very proud of her! ■ L.D.

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Lt. Governor of Bonaire, Hubert Domacassé email- gezag@bonairelive.com
Bonaire Environment Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas, phone: (599) 785-3652
Email: anicolaas@bonairegov.com
- 2.- Investigate whether or not the waterfront hotels, resorts, restaurants, properties that you patronize are polluting the reef. If so, pressure them to stop it immediately and work with the government to truck the sewage away from the shoreline and to implement a sustainable sewage management project THIS YEAR!
- 3.- Get others involved. If Bonaire's reefs die, so too will tourism and the economy. Spread the word to all those who love and value Bonaire's reefs that urgent action is required now or THE REEFS MAY DIE IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS!

Highlights from "Wastewater Statement," issued by Ramon de Leon, Manager, Bonaire National Marine Park, August 1, 2008:

1. Wastewater from tourist accommodations and other properties on the shoreline is being leached from septic tanks directly into the sea, causing nitrogen loads to double and macroalgae to increase every year.
2. Studies confirm that the reefs of Bonaire are in a serious decline and can not wait for the sewage plant of 2011 to be built.
3. Action needs to be taken now! Bonaire's wastewater management practices are no longer sustainable; they are killing the reef!

The Bonaire National Marine Park, 717-8444, email- marinepark@stinapa.org, website: www.bmp.org The Park is the repository of the latest facts, scientific studies, and expert analysis. Contact them for this type of information.

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BONAIREAN VOICES



Wilna Gronenboom photo

DEMONSTRATION

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

About 2,300 Bonaireans came forward to show their discontentment on Saturday, August 9. They showed their fear, anger, disappointment and disagreement in a non-political march for peace and freedom. The demonstration brought forward many of the problems that concern Bonaireans. People from different races, cultures and social backgrounds marched on the roads of Kralendijk.

The demonstration provided evidence for a change as seen by the different placards people carried.

That night I spoke with many participants who voiced their concerns. A middle aged man said how he loves Bonaire and hopes that the future will not have a negative impression on his children. A courageous older lady stood up and spoke to the audience in Wilhelmina Park. She talked about our norms, dignity and values. And what will happen in the coming years with the Bonaire she knows so well and loves? Will the pension money be improved or will it stay the same as the living costs go higher and higher?

Government employees such as school teachers are disappointed with all the promises that have been made but none of them have been fulfilled. How much longer must they wait? Young mothers who got pregnant and had to leave school are waiting for a better educational system to upgrade themselves so they can fit in the new Bonaire.

Immigrants who are contributing to the development of Bonaire asked if they will fit into the new Bonaire. What will be bet-

ter - for them to stay in a country where they can help their family to grow safe and sound or go back to their country of poverty where the economic and government system is unstable?

The leader of the march, Johan "Jopie" Giskus, said they collected more than 2,000 signatures before the night of the march and during the night of August 9, they collected hundred more signature from people showing their concern for the future of this little island.

There were two pastors from different churches present. Pastor Ramiro talked about the law of justice and righteousness in the book of Isaiah. He urges the government to be as the prophet Isaiah, to fight for what is good for Bonaire and its people. And Pastor Cijntje said to pray for God to enlighten us all to work for a better Bonaire.

This was a quick review of what happened at the August 9 demonstration. If you remember in our past articles about the government and what has to be done the political parties had different points of view about the situation in Bonaire. So let's do whatever is good for Bonaire. We look forward to more sessions like a forum where the people of Bonaire's questions can be answered.

To those in charge of this small community: Don't pursue riches or development as your main goal. Let the people of Bonaire be your main concern.

The people will continue expressing themselves in the following articles of the "Bonairean Voices."

■ Siomara E. Albertus

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



Reef Watch Followup

During the past two weeks *The Reporter* has spoken with visiting on-island ocean scientists, BMP/STINAPA, local government officials-DROB and Justice, numerous hotel managers, residents and tourists to track developments following the Bonaire National Marine Park Manager's letter to many of Bonaire's coastal resorts. Here's what we uncovered.

Ramon de Leon's August 1 letter expressed his concern for the viability of Bonaire's reefs if sewage continued to be dumped into "leach holes" on the coast. It was based on undisputable scientific and visual evidence. Leach-hole disposal of wastewater is no longer sustainable in the light of the increased algal reef growth.

The letter, leaked to the Internet, had a major impact on Bonaire's reef preservation activists, who believe that the island's reefs are an economic and ecological asset, that they, along with Captain Don Stewart, briefly considered the idea of boycotting resorts on Bonaire that do not take major steps to stop their polluting ways. They have since moderated their approach. (See the SOS advertisement in this issue on page 6.)

Our conversations with some individuals indicated that they felt that DeLeon had not gone far enough. All coastal businesses and property owners should be required to pump out as well. There was grave concern about the new waste coming from the numerous new apartment buildings soon to be occupied.

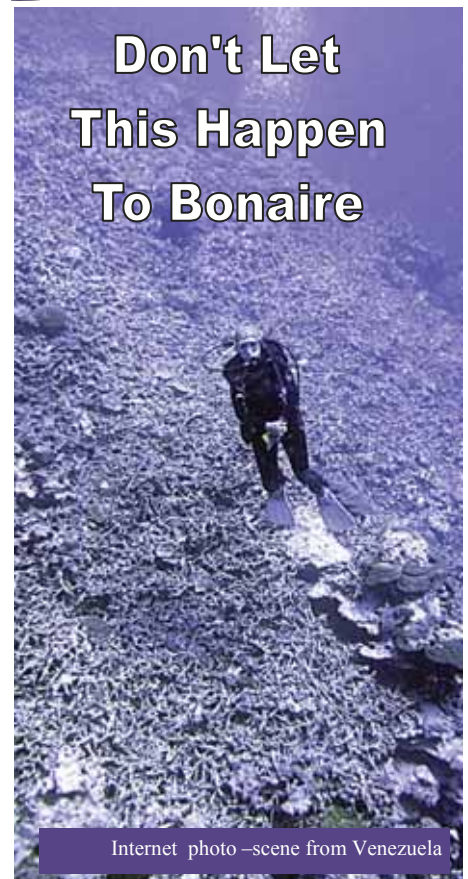
We were encouraged by the actions Government already had underway: requesting subsidies for sewage removal and modifications to the sewage sumps at LVV to process the waste from USONA, personal underwater inspection by the environmental commissioner, the start of the next phase of the sewage treatment and removal plant, and the reaction of the Justice department about new and existing environmental laws.

We were disappointed by the reactions of the resort managers. The resorts are stonewalling real action unless ALL polluters are forced to take action and/or the government forces them. Some pleaded ignorance, however, that is not valid. The 2007 Commissie Marien Milieu Report sent to the resort association, BONHATA, gives a warning about the state of the reef.

Two resorts said they had already taken steps: Captain Don's Habitat processes some of its waste on-site in an innovative treatment system and Divi Flamingo adds nitrogen-destroying bacteria to its waste.

Park Manager DeLeon has a plan to meet with the resorts and obtain their cooperation to truck away all their wastewater if appropriate. His target is before

Don't Let This Happen To Bonaire



Internet photo - scene from Venezuela

the end of the month. If, after agreements are reached, they do not comply, he will consider punitive action. However, the STINAPA Director's letter (see page 16) to *The Reporter*, disavowing the SOS approach was a disappointment.

Dr Burt Jones, now on Bonaire, said "It's not too late to save the reefs." Jones is a respected oceanographer with wide experience and excellent credentials concerning the effect of sewage in the sea. We will have the details of our interview with him and Tom Reynolds in our next edition. ■ G.D.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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 8.** Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney

Snorkeler's Notebook: "In the Mask of the Beholder"

Last week I was sunning myself on a rock at Witches Hut after a delicious snorkel when three divers emerged from the deep. Their first words to one another were, "Did you see anything good? Did you see anything big?" One responded, "Nah, just the same old stuff." Hmm, I thought to myself, what did he mean "the same old stuff?" Before I got on my "high and mighty horse," I had to laugh because I have also felt the same sense of disappointment, the same sense of "I have seen this all before."

On every snorkel I count off the typical sea creatures for Bonaire's reefs: the chromis, the damselfish, the blue tang, the grunts, the snappers, the parrotfish, the bar jacks, etc. If it is my first snorkel after a long absence, I regard them like old friends: "Hey so good to see you again!" But if it is my 30th snorkel after a month of snorkels, I might think, "Oh you again; isn't there anyone else?" I long for the surprise large shape drifting into my peripheral vision—maybe a tarpon, a tiger grouper, or a Cubera snapper. I pine for something out of the ordinary: a hogfish not just a Spanish hogfish, a Midnight Blue parrotfish not just a Stoplight parrotfish, a Fairy basslet not just a wrasse.

I guess it is all about expectations and desires—what we expect to see vs. what we fantasize seeing. Ironically it is usually when I head out for what I expect will be an ordinary snorkel that I am treated to the fantastic. For example, just a few days ago, I ran into Bachelor's Beach to escape my crashed lap-top computer; not caring who or what I saw, I just wanted to snorkel off some computer tension. And then there she was—a young Hawksbill grazing the bottom at the drop-off. I stayed with her as she slowly rose to the top to breathe and to float on the surface for at



least 10 minutes. I floated with her, hypnotized by the sun glinting off her mottled shell and thrilled to the tips of my toes. Then she was gone, diving fast for the deep, and I had forgotten all about my computer. "You just never know," I reminded myself.

For some reason, 1000 Steps and Ol'Blue always stimulate my fantasies: I am always dreaming of the Whale Shark or the Manta Ray as I pull on my flippers. After 15 years, they still have yet to appear in the frame of my mask. Still I believe they are out there and some day I will glimpse them. Something about the fantasy itself adds electricity, and even though I am seeing the "same old stuff" for 1000 Steps and Ol'Blue, I feel strangely exhilarated after every snorkel.

To tweak the saying, "A good snorkel (or dive) is all in the mask of the beholder." ■

Pauline
Kayes



Sea Monitor Anniversary



The cover date of this issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* marks the first anniversary of the LMSP (Light and Motion Sensor Project) headed by Professor Burt Jones, PhD and Tom Reynolds of the University of California (USC) under the auspices of Bonaire's Parks Foundation, STINAPA. Phase #1 started last year when miniature arrays comprised of three "Rainbow Sensors," at depths of five, 12 and 20 meters, were placed at intervals along Bonaire's east coast from Lighthouse Point to 1000 Steps on independent underwater mooring lines. The sensors use a low cost on-site sensor technology to monitor the seawater. Readings are continuously recorded by each sensor. Their data is collected weekly by volunteer divers and processed by computers at USC with sophisticated software.

This technique keeps the monitoring cost effective and manageable using available resources. The funding for the start of the program has been entirely provided by donations. The raw data is analyzed, returned and then posted on the STINAPA website as public information.

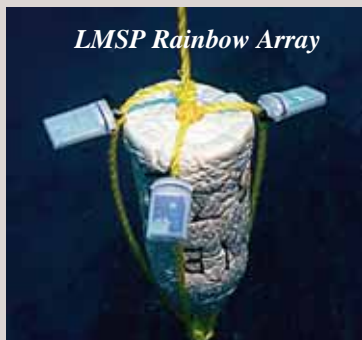
Recently Dr. Burt Jones presented the Light and Motion Sensor Program at the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium. This is an important annual event dealing with all aspect of coral reefs. The presen-

tation impressed the audience for its innovation and results.

In his presentation Dr. Jones reviewed almost a year's experience with the project that showed that the LMSP approach is scientifically sound and manageable. There is no other program like the Bonaire National Marine Park/USC LMSP that collects relevant information and management indicators in all three areas- mechanical, fish population and water quality. It was also apparent to the audience that the Bonaire Marine Park has the best volunteer team on the planet. They helped make the project a success as well. LMSP provides Bonaire the ability to ensure the quality of the water surrounding its economically most important asset—its reefs.

The LMSP project plans a Phase #2 to expand sensor sites, provide finer details of water quality and add new types of sensors.

To continue the deployment of the sensor arrays, LMSP needs additional volunteers and donations. For specific information and to make a donation contact Ramon de Leon at the Bonaire National Marine Park (717-8444) or Albert Bianculli at: directab@gmail.com. ■ G.D.



Washikemba Walk

Cover
Story



Roi near Boca Washikemba

Last Sunday Top Health Fitness Center sponsored a fun and educational walk led by historian and journalist, Bòi Antoin. Over 40 walkers joined the two-hour trip. The route started at Lagun, wound around the bay below the Landfill. What must have been a surreal spot during the time of the Indians is now rimmed with garbage having come in from the sea. "Hecho en Venezuela," Bòi said.

Climbing out of a roi we emerged on to the coastline of Washikemba—a very African scene with grazing goats and donkeys. Bòi pointed out a natural bridge with spectacular wave action and large coral rocks thrown up onto the land by a tsunami. Passing the "ghost house" we traipsed through the Landfill where more goats grazed. Tired but exhilarated all of us walkers were treated to a hot and tasty homemade chicken soup. ■ L.D.

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SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 7

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Free Animal Sterilization Campaign

Preventing Future Overpopulation Problems

That Bonaire is a great place to spend some time and to relax is well known. But to make sure that Bonaire stays like that needs work and cooperation. Both humans and animals have a right to live. Both humans and animals also have a right to a living space. Sometimes people point fingers at animals, saying they cause many problems. But is this true?

When someone owns an animal he or she has the responsibility for this living creature. And having an animal for safety around the house must be worth something. Therefore it's important that both humans and animals work together.

Many times we hear about new litters being born, creating extra mouths to feed. In most cases the owner doesn't want any more animals around the house. They have enough problems with those that they have. But the answer to this problem is easy. All one needs to do is take some action, action like neutering the animal so no more future animals are born. It's that easy.

And to make it even easier, from now on this surgery is totally free! The Dutch foundation, *Dierenhulp Venezuela*, is paying for the cost of this surgery done by a professional vet. All that the owner needs to do is make a phone call to 788-2949. Make an appointment for the surgery and help your own animal in a correct way.



Stichting Dierenhulp Venezuela photo

Vet Jan Laarakker ready to perform a sterilization operation at his clinic in Nikiboko

The payment will be taken care of by the Dutch foundation.

The sterilization campaign will prevent a lot of future problems as well as preventing animals from roaming the streets and into the kunukus. It's proven to be working as the foundation has been doing this work for more than 12 years in Venezuela.

Help your animal and also your island by neutering your animal. This way the people of Bonaire show the rest of the world that they do care for their animals and their island. Call today and let's make things better. ■ Mark E. Vos, chairman and founder

Stichting Dierenhulp Venezuela www.dierenhulp.nl

Note: More than 30 animals have been sterilized here in Bonaire.

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Pet of The Week

"Help, Help," cries the newest dog in the Shelter's puppy compound, "Sage." She's the taller, pretty black and tan dog in the foreground, begging to be petted. Sage was just put in with the other pups the day I came to take the photo and she was getting her "education" from the other residents who were not necessarily more



Sage

dominant but who were exercising their authority because they'd been there longer. But Sage took things with a good attitude although she's chomping at the bit to be adopted and have her very own family. Sage was found all alone, wandering around Antroil and was brought into the Shelter by a good Samaritan who wanted to give her a chance at life. She's about two months old and has been checked out by the vet, given

her tests, worming, shots and will be sterilized when she's old enough.

You may see Sage and the other healthy, social and well adjusted dogs at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

The Shelter has a new address for their website: WWW.AnimalShelterBonaire.com. ■ L.D.

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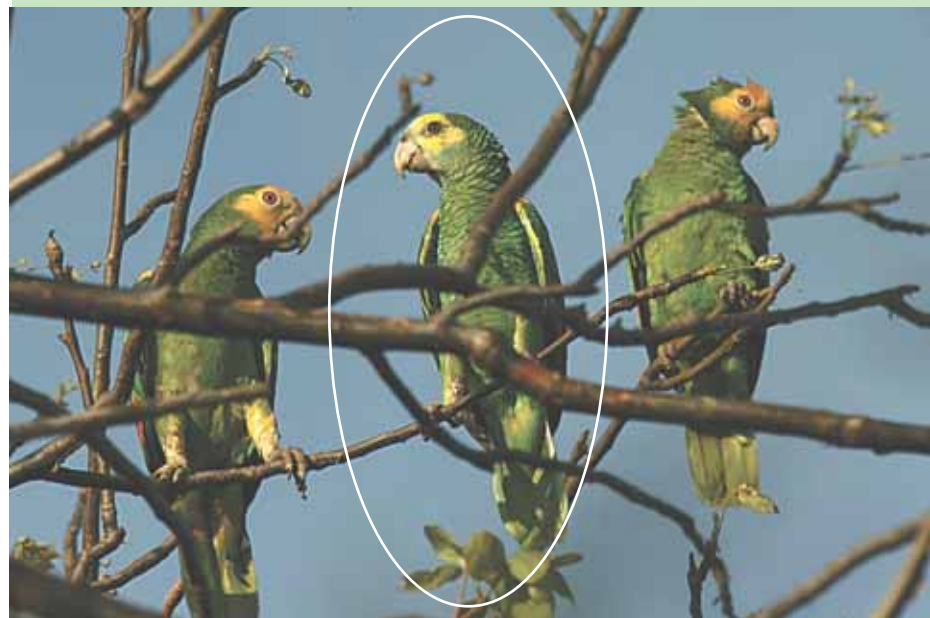
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FLEDGING REPORT

There are now only a few crabby young parrots left in their nests. Many have fledged and joined the free flying Loras in the Bonairean wilderness. Sadly some have been stolen from their families and now face a life in captivity.

Those youngsters who have so far refused to jump from their cosy homes to face the big wide world are getting crabby because they are hungry. Approximately two weeks prior to fledging, the young

parrots are at their heaviest, possibly reaching a "big boned" 350g. At this point the chicks weigh more than their parents, who themselves weigh an "Olympic" 310g.

Mr. and Mrs. Lora refuse to feed their chick during this time in an attempt to encourage him (or her) from the nest. They will often spend time around their fragrant home, basically teasing the chick with the promise of a delicious feast once they make the jump. The poor chick endures a period of inner turmoil whilst processing

the difficult decision of whether to starve or grasp the new challenges that lay ahead. Eventually this young parrot, having dropped to a positively "catwalk-ready" 250g, can bear it no longer and will fly in a far-from-glamorous fashion only to crash land on the nearest tree branch. Mr. and Mrs. Lora are quick to the scene and generously offer much regurgitated food in reward for the little daredevil's bravery. The next few weeks and indeed the coming years will be a journey of exploration for this bird.

Unfortunately some baby Loras do not get to experience the inner turmoil that is fledging. They do not get to taste Kadushi fruit or Wabi pods. Nor will they ever get to stretch their wings and soar over a cliff top. These poor youngsters face a life relatively absent of physical activity, dietary interest or social interaction. It is of course illegal to take Loras from the wild but sadly a considerable number of birds are stolen in this way.

Find out exactly how significant the loss of baby Loras is for the parrot population of Bonaire in the next ParrotWatch article. And don't forget you can see some amazing movies of wild loras at www.parrotwtach.org. ■ Photo & story by Sam Williams

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



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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The Silver- Sprayed Jeep CJ-7 Wrangler With Girl-Power Steering

The 35th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."



Bonaire –
One day in July I was hitting the unpaved roads of the north side of our island. My 600 cc single-cylinder off-road motorcycle and I really like to go off the tarmac. On the back of the bike Nicolien Bout, also a reporter, enjoyed the trip. Then the face of a classic Jeep CJ7 Wrangler, right in front of us, was growing bigger and bigger. The car was parked in the middle of the road. A tourist? Problems with the car? A blond female appeared to take some pictures of the environment. Blond? Jeep? I tried to think on a slightly higher level: This was Wilna!

In the months of July and August a classic silver sprayed Jeep CJ7 Wrangler, built in 1981, was bouncing around the island of Bonaire. Behind the girl-powered steering wheel was Wilna Groenenboom: tough, blond, shorts, sunglasses, smile. Wilna was connected to *The Bonaire Reporter* for some years as Art Director. After a long stay of more than seven years on the island she left for the Old World in July 2007. Now the power girl was back: taking pictures and getting more information because of a new book: *Document Bonaire*, with photographs by Wilna Groenenboom, Anne-Marie Steijl and Frodo Weidema. The book will be released in 2009 and will be available in the Netherlands and on the five islands of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. You will find more information about the book on the web side: www.bonaireboek.nl ("boek" is Dutch for "book." Weird people, those Dutch./jb)

So this blond chick was on the island, flashing around in the staff car of *The Bonaire Reporter*, powered by a long stroke, six-cylinder cast iron 5.8 liters old fashioned push rod engine.

The car, built in 1981 according to the serial number, was manufactured in Dayton, Ohio, USA. The vehicle was brought to Bonaire from Curaçao by Rob van den Burg, those days the manager of Rum Runners. One day George DeSalvo noticed the car in the parking lot of Captain Don's Habitat. He had to have it so, luckily, he was able to buy the car. That was in the year 1996.

George: "I immediately liked the car. Open air, fun to drive, no doors, just a windshield. The perfect car for Bonaire! I bought it and I kept it!" Laura, his wife: "We've had that car for 12 years?" George continues: "We got this car completely rebuilt. The late Jan Mestrum, a former Triple A road assistant from the Netherlands, and Allen St. Jago, who ran a garage next to Flamingo Television, did a very good job. The car was taken apart, new metal was used for replacement and reinforcement. Then they re-sprayed the vehicle and protected it against the influences of the weather and the climate and look: this car is still going strong! Built on a chassis, built in 1981! This is one of the rare models with the classic round head lights in the front!"

When I start the vehicle and push the pedal the Jeep CJ-7 Wrangler runs like hell, thanks to the impressive size of the

engine and the long stroke. Low revs, high torque. Wilna is one of the few persons who is able to drive this car. George: "The gearshift has always been a problem. You just have to fiddle around a little with the shift. The box really has four different gears! A very small part is missing and a Bonairean mechanic made a conversion of a stainless steel Allen bolt. No worry. We never found the part in the States, but they are able to make it on our island. It just gives this car a mystique shift. No burglar alarm needed!"

Laura and I have owned this car for some 12 years now and we were often asked to sell the Jeep. Now and then I've had my hesitations and insecurities, but a friend of us convinced us. He said: 'Just buy the insurance and pay the road tax for your beloved vehicle. Do not park it behind the last barn! The first flat tire will be followed by the second and that is the beginning of the end of this rural classic. Just keep it rolling. Top it up with cooling fluid, brake fluid, check the gearbox and the transmission for leaks, blow some wind in the five tires and burn that single straight 50 engine oil. Keep the darned thing rolling!' And he convinced me. And Wilna enjoyed the gas guzzling car, checking the fluids every day."

An older car is like a relationship: you have to maintain it and take care of it! ■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



Picture Yourself With The Reporter Grossvenediger, Austria



Eva Graf and Matthias Brandl from Vienna, Austria, write, "After returning home in April from our second Bonaire trip, we decided to take this issue of *The Reporter* to the Austrian alps. The picture was made on the summit of Austria's fourth highest mountain, Grossvenediger (3.674 meters; 12,054 feet). Hope to be back to Bonaire soon."

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.

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Letters to the Editor

**More Than Poo-poo
Ease Up
Can I Help?
STINAPA Disclaimer
Roadside Trash**

MORE THAN POO-POO

Dear Editor,

I am for the moment very confused. I don't know what to think anymore after reading *The Reporter*, Issue 15. One concern is about the governing people's mathematics skills.

On one hand is my conclusion that my six year old daughter is better skilled than those mentioned. When I ask her how much poo-poo comes each day from 250 waterfront condos, if 500 people live there, she says 500.

It was to difficult for her to count out the difference of poo-

poo between the 250 condos and the fact that in the past (just a few years ago) on those water front lots there were just around 28 low consuming local family homes.

I cannot understand that a government cannot see that this additional poo-poo won't affect the coral reef, so for a moment it was definitely clear for me that if now some of our governing people in the past were teachers, than could it not be in mathematics?

But wait a minute, I just turned the page in the paper and can see that the same people can easily count- 700 Peruvians,

must number about 400-500 votes in the next elections.

About the condos:

Those condo complexes also have huge swimming pools and daily cleaning service, items which definitely are not on Ramon's (Marine Park Manager) favorite list.

I hope the methods of constructing swimming pools is better developed than the methods of making normal house walls, where most walls will crack sooner or later, but **"PROBABLY"** not those walls in the swimming pools, holding thousands of liters of chlorine polluted water. Set me right if I am wrong.

When looking at cracking house walls, I am not so sure that those swimming pools are not leaking chlorine polluted water right on the waterfront.

Thirteen years ago I had a conversation with a condo owner at Hamlet. I was standing on a high ladder fixing his third floor window, and we were talking about pollution etc.

I told him that I found it strange that all the cleaning services, every day at diving locations, are using chlorine (bleach) in their cleaning water.

He said to me with confidence, "No no, it's not possible that people still (1995) are using chlorine when doing normal cleaning."

Well I think that still in 2008 most cleaning is still done with cleaning aids containing chlorine.

I would like the Marine Park and nature organizations to make a list and publish what cleaning products are all right to use, and which products contain chlorine and actually should be forbidden

to use in daily cleaning.

It's not always easy to read the smallest letters on all products, but try to read this: "content chlorine."

To inform the public about products would be an easy step for the government for to try to lower the amount of pollution in to the sea, but maybe that comes under a famous Bonairean saying, "We cannot always think of nature." The rest of this saying: "We also have to think about the progress."

Please can somebody help me in my confusion and tell me the definition of progress?

Is that ten more years with corals, or five, or forever? Please help.

Lelle

(Continued on page 14)

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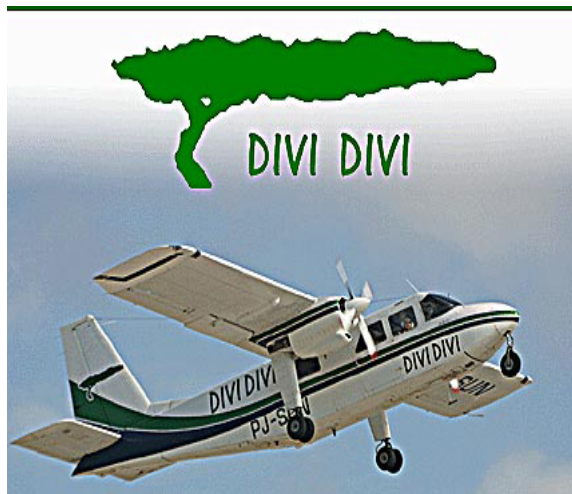
KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
8-22	3:10	1.0FT.	17:52	1.8FT.					75
8-23	4:02	0.9FT.	18:42	1.9FT.					66
8-24	4:43	0.8FT.	19:38	2.0FT.					59
8-25	5:31	0.8FT.	20:24	2.0FT.					56
8-26	6:08	0.8FT.	21:19	2.1FT.					59
8-27	6:43	0.8FT.	22:07	2.1FT.					67
8-28	7:22	0.9FT.	12:33	1.1FT.	13:39	1.1FT.	22:53	2.0FT.	77
8-29	7:50	0.9FT.	12:32	1.2FT.	15:26	1.1FT.	23:44	1.9FT.	86
8-30	0:26	1.8FT.	8:11	1.0FT.	12:59	1.3FT.	16:49	1.1FT.	92
8-31	1:17	1.6FT.	8:25	1.1FT.	13:40	1.4FT.	18:24	1.2FT.	94
9-01	2:10	1.5FT.	8:24	1.2FT.	14:18	1.5FT.	20:24	1.2FT.	93
9-02	3:24	1.3FT.	7:44	1.2FT.	15:12	1.5FT.	22:51	1.2FT.	88
9-03	0:51	1.1FT.	16:04	1.6FT.					81
9-04	2:20	1.0FT.	16:57	1.7FT.					71
9-05	3:14	0.9FT.	17:50	1.8FT.					60

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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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1999 Ford F150 pickup. 4 door back seat model. Very good condition, well maintained. NAF 21,000. 796-5352.

Letters (Continued from page 13)

EASE UP

Dear Editor,

It was with great concern and annoyance that I read the ad in *The Reporter* issue, NR. 16 about the SOS campaign to save Bonaire's Reef.

I completely agree with the Bonaire Marine Park Manager, Mr. Ramon de Leon, that something needs to be done about wastewater management and something needs to be done soon.

But to go as far as to ask people to stop patronizing waterfront businesses I think is very extreme.

Have the "Friends" of Bonaire thought about what will happen if people stop going to our businesses on the waterfront? Apparently not.....The local working population will be out of work, our economy in shambles. Is this what the "Friends" of Bonaire would like to see happen to Bonaire????

It is these kinds of attitudes that create resentment by the local population against these types of organizations. It is this attitude that has made the world we live in like it is at this moment in time. Everything has to be aggressive and extreme.

It is very nice that we have people that are concerned about the reef and the island. But we do not need these kinds of extremist views. If you have "friends" like this, who needs enemies?

Why not come up with real solutions, acknowledging the task to transform existing setups and proposing to work with these facilities together with government and other environmental agencies to make necessary adjustment and/or change.

Diana Sint Jago.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Dear Editor,

This is the reaction of a reader of *The Reporter* and a Bonaire devotee. This is my third year on Bonaire (for holiday) and I enjoy the underwater world here. Now I read an alarming bit concerning water quality and the damage which that possibly does to the reef. As a tourist I feel it is proper to report on the sewerage problem that I even I add to in a small way. Indeed I get so much pleasure here, but I am worried about the terrible state in which the reef is going that I find that I

would like to return something. On Tuesday we fly back to the Netherlands. I want to come back again. How can I support your action? Success to Mayday Bonaire!!!

A concerned tourist,
Marit Otto

MORE THAN RESORTS

To The Editor:

I share your concern over Bonaire's reef as part of the overall Ocean Pollution but I found your recent editorial (August 8) on the matter to have a narrow focus. From what I have read in your paper, there has been entirely TOO much focus on the waterfront resorts. This has contributed to an environment where groups are advertising in your paper for boycotts. Exactly what have these resorts done wrong? Did they not follow existing practices and regulations during their construction? Are their systems any less effective than those used by the rest of the island? What will these boycotts do except hurt the people who are employed there. The pollution situation is an ISLAND issue not just a resort issue. I am not a scientist but I cannot believe that the bio mass represented by the land fill, which is within a stone throw of a lagoon, has no impact on water quality. Exactly where does this waste water go that is being trucked off? All waste water dumped on this porous limestone island will eventually leach into the ocean. I feel the island's focus should NOT be on resort bashing but on the development of mandatory minimal requirements for waste treatment for all construction, new or modification/addition. Practices should be developed to ensure that ALL new construction or conversion complies to eco-friendly standards for all outflow. Waste treatment plans should be a mandatory part of applications to do business or for the construction of ALL new buildings, or the conversion of existing buildings through out ALL the island INCLUDING water front properties, regardless of their end use.

Your editorial and the STINAPA report seems to indicate Septic Systems when functioning properly have zero outflow. Simple research online will show that this is simply not the case. ALL such systems leech. That is how they

work unless they are a sealed holding tank system. In the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the United States, what this has done to the water quality has been documented on the Internet.

If your paper wants to sponsor a rally, I would suggest it be a call for an Island wide waste AND trash management plan, as we all gather benefits from the reef not just the resorts. If there was not a reef out there would there be a Bonaire Reporter?

Jason Hirsh
Editor's note: *The Bonaire Reporter* began as a yacht visitor's newssheet, *Port Call*, not as an underwater newspaper.

DISCLAIMER
Dear Readers,
In the *Bonaire Reporter* of August 8-22, volume 15 on page 6 appeared an advertisement with the heading: 'Stop Our Sewage, campaign to save Bonaire's reef'. STINAPA/Bonaire National Marine Park hereby states that our office in no way contributed to or paid to have this advertisement published in any periodical. Furthermore, the group who placed it, used the telephone number of our office without our authorization.

STINAPA Bonaire,
C. Elsmarie F.
Beukenboom, Director

The Reporter has received additional letters on the subject of reef protection since the publication of the last edition. We hope to be able to include them in upcoming issues

ROADSIDE TRASH
Dear Editor:
I can't help but notice the growing accumulation of trash along the side of the main road from Playa to Rincon.

It really distracts from the beauty of the ride up north and undermines Bonaire's reputation as the Caribbean's cleanest island.

Will the careless people who throw trash from their cars please stop it and will SELIBON please check and clean the roadside more often.

I'd do it myself but am afraid of being hit by a car as most of the sushi is on a blind turn and the autos really speed through the area.

Thanks.
Neatnik

Artist – Anita Vader

Anita Vader is what is known as a "Patchwork" artist. Trained as an illustrator at art school the artist did woodcuts, etchings and "was drawing always," she says. Her artistic talent brings another dimension to her manipulation with fabrics, using them like they were paint. Vader admits that she's "hooked on this work."

She and her art were brought to our attention when she made the winning entry in the Lora Foundation's Art Competition. Her home here in Bonaire is filled with her quilts and wall hangings that are just too special to be put on a bed. Her house in Holland houses even more.

"I think it's wonderful," she explains that in the US this art is passed down in families. In Holland, I'm alone; the first one in my family to pursue this." Vader communicates via the Internet with a number of fellow patchwork artists in the US and around the world, and they trade ideas, fabrics and even their own work that might be incorporated into another's work.

"I love a challenge," she admits, and has garnered a number of prizes from the Dutch Quilters Guild, from fabric companies and from the Bernina sewing machine company. She's been in the Open European Quilt Championship Show (OEQC) which this year had 140 competitors.

One particular challenge where she was a prize winner had as the theme, "growth." She portrayed a Dutch water bird from infancy to adulthood in its



Anita at work



Bonaire reef and fish

natural water environment. She's won other prizes for a "water" theme (depicting a reef and fish as seen in Bonaire). Another theme might be cows, or bowties or baskets, even apple cores. What can be done by painting or other mediums, Vader can accomplish in patchwork.

"In Holland the fabrics are so expensive," Anita says, "and most of them are imported from the US. So when I had an opportunity to shop for fabrics in the States you can imagine my delight. I came back with suitcases loaded!"

This very talented artist should exhibit her work so that people may see, enjoy and marvel over what can be done with a palette of fabrics. ■ L.D.



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DINING GUIDE

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Authentic on the beach ambiance Extensive snack/salad/burger menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant, Buddy's Pool Bar 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	Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights: 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)
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28,50 or \$16.
Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian Bonaire's first Argentine grill Great value anytime.
Hilltop Restaurant At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
It Rains Fishes A Bonaire "Must" -On the oceanfront on the Boulevard at the Club Nautico Marina pier—717-8780	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. Closed Sunday	Bonaire's in-town hot spot Best waterfront/harbor view combined with an inspired Menu, skillful staff and superb chef
Sunset Bar & Grill At the Traffic Circle, Seaside, at Den Laman Apartments 788-2698	Moderate, Dinner, Bar Menu Closed Monday	Magnificent Seaside Views Seafood, steaks, vegetarian and more. Hot and cold snack menu at the bar
Pasa Bon Pizza 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 Real Thing! 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
Philips Cooking and Organizing www.philipscooking.com 701-1100	Personal Chef	For Private Dinners, Catering, Party Snacks and Wedding Services Let Philip do it all

SHOPPING GUIDE

AIRLINES

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

EZ Air – Daily flights between Bonaire and Curaçao, headed by experienced pilot. Round trip only NAf140 Eight flights a day. From 7:30am to 6 pm.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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

BANKS

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

BEAUTY PARLOR

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

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

CELLULAR SERVICE

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

DIVING

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

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

ScubaVision - Document your Bonaire vacation above and below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer

FITNESS

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

Top Health Bonaire Fitness and Health Center

Modern workout rooms and machines, professional trainers and low prices make it easy to lose weight and get fit.

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

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

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

PHOTO FINISHING

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

PHOTO SERVICES

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

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

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

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

Bonaire 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

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

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

SALT

The **Salt Shop** offers uniquely special Bonaire sea-salt crystals at its shop in The Rochaline and also at Best Buddies and the airport shop.

SECURITY

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

SHIPPING

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

SUPERMARKETS

The Island Supplier (TIS)—Enjoy shopping the "Caribbean Way" – fresh, open air feeling with reasonably priced produce, frozen meats, canned goods, wide selection of beverages and juices.

Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—

Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

WATER TAXI

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

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Monday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.

Fortnightly Advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter are included in the guides. Free!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

August 8 – 31 : Bonaire Dive into Summer – lots of activities at local dive shops

Friday -August 22: Flamingo Rockers will be appearing at It Rains Fishes

Sunday, August 31 – 17th Annual Local Fishing Tournament – Bonaire registered boats only. Prizes for most kilos, biggest fish and number of fish. Fishermen leave at midnight and return at 5 pm. At the home of Doei Diaz (next to Richard's Restaurant). Everyone invited to see the catches brought in. Live local music all day. Tel. 717-8365

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

Sunday September 7 - Flamingo rockers play at Sunrise Bar and Grill, 4pm - 7pm.

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.

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

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

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

Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm.

Mondays

- **"Dive & Dine" Buddy Dive Resort**, 6:30 –9:30 pm
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- **Margarita & Taco Tuesdays!** With \$2.50 Margaritas and a Taco bar! Plus Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 6-8pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**

Wednesdays

- **"Live Cooking by the Chefs"** with live music by the Flamingo Rockers Unplugged - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10 pm

Thursdays

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

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7-10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225
- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30-6:30 pm) with Moogie Nation, followed by all-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday– Creature Feature– John

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

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

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

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

Wednesday– Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819) at 7pm.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Kriyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9 –12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday at 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 2nd and 4th 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, Republiek. 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
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125
or 790-8988

What's Coming Our Way?

In the last couple of months we wrote about quite some developments "coming our way," and we're not even close to having seen all of 'em. We will continue, but still.. let's just hold here for a while.

Some of the developments we wrote about (Bamboo Bali, Country House, Jibe City Shop, Flamingo Airport parking, Plaza Resort Marina, Solymar Earthships and the Tourism Awareness Project) are obviously not second home developments, but Bona Bista, Elegancia del Caribe, El Pueblo, Regatta Residence, The Resort project near Hato and Waterlands Village are!

A quick calculation shows that these projects already account for over 300 homes and condos that are intended to be sold (or already have been sold) someday to a new owner. That's where (in many cases) the island's realtors come in. It's an understatement to say that it's getting harder not to note their sales signs and ads while driving around the island.

Until the 80s there was no real estate agency on the island. What would you need it for back then? There was virtually no market for second homes, and locals who wanted to sell their place would just tell it in the streets and in the snackies. Norman Evertsz (Taxabon) appeared to be the first official realtor on-island until Hugo Gerharts opened Sunbelt Realty followed by Wim Hendriks who opened Harbourtown Real Estate. Over time and as the market grew, new realtors like Bonaire Realty, Caribbean Homes, RE/

MAX, Sun Rentals, and Sunshine Homes appeared on island. Other agencies opened up also, but aren't there anymore; Holland Realty, Home Sweet Home, Inproject and Bonaire Partners Realty amongst them.

It seems we are heading into the next phase of the Bonairean real estate business as we speak. Many of the current realtors are growing: Sunbelt opened an additional office across the street (in the former "Rendez Vous" Restaurant location) from where they handle rental-related business.

RE/MAX moved from the Royal Palm Gallery to a brand new office building on Kaya Grandi next to Digicel. Caribbean Homes is currently creating a new and larger office space above the Capriccio Restaurant and has also entered the market of yacht brokerage.

Bonaire Sunshine Homes moved to larger office space in the former Xavier Medical School canteen. Harbourtown has given a new look to its office and now manages the rental pool of Waterlands Village Resort as well.

These realtors would definitely not invest if they believed that the end of a good real estate market would be in sight somewhere.

The market is obviously not as booming now as it has been during the last two to three years. This may be due to international economic factors like the slower growth of both American and European economies. Still, it doesn't seem to mean that things will slow down in the long

Realtors



run.

We also heard about the opening of an agency – planned later this year – entering the Bonairean real estate market that will focus specifically on serving the buyer's interests, as a logic reaction to the idea that the traditional realtors would have a tendency to first serve the seller's interests.

Knowing all this, you might want to have another good look at Bonaire as it is right now (or as it was in previous days): surroundings may and probably will change.

It's basically that one certainty we all have in life: the globe (and Bonaire therefore) will continue to change. Let's just add that it's hopefully in the direction you and me wanna see it! ■

Story & Photo by Marcel Leurs



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*to find it... just look up

Next Week is the Perfect Time to See the Milky Way in All its Wonder

Everyone has heard of the Milky Way but most people who live in brightly lit

up urban areas have seldom seen it. So I'm suggesting that next week when there will be no bright moonlight out that you head out far from city lights where it's good and dark out in early evening to show your kids and yourself this wonderful ribbon of light that has fascinated millions of human beings for thousands of years.

On a clear night next week far from lights between 9 and 10 pm, face north where you'll see five bright stars, which if we connect with lines, trace out a squashed out capital letter "w" or "m" on its side. This is the constellation **Cassiopeia** named for an ancient Ethiopian queen. And next week you'll have no trouble seeing what looks like a faint milky white cloud behind Cassiopeia. But this cloud is different because if you look at it carefully you will notice that it continues up beyond Cassiopeia to overhead where you'll see three much brighter stars, two in front of the cloud and one just off to the side. **Vega, Deneb** and **Altair**. And if we connect them with lines we trace out a great triangle, which is called the **Summer Triangle**. And between 9 and 10 pm next week it will be almost directly overhead, celebrating late summer.

Next, turn yourselves around so that you're facing south and you'll notice that after this milky cloud arches across the top of the sky it continues downward toward the southern horizon. And close to the southern horizon you'll notice that it gets much thicker and wider. And several bright stars, which if connected by lines make up the teapot portion of **Sagittarius**, are directly in front of this cloud. You'll also see several more stars, which trace out the fish hook-shaped constellation, **Scorpius the scorpion**. And his tail and stinger are also embedded within this cloud. And it is this great cloud arching across the heavens from north to south that is the fabled Milky Way.

But now that you know how to find it, do you know what it actually is? Well, if you look at it closely with binoculars you will see thousands of tiny pinpoints of light, each of which is a star so far away that their combined light fuzzes together into this milky blur. Thus the name, the Milky Way, which many ancient peoples believed was the heavenly pathway to the afterlife.

Today we know that when we look at the Milky Way we are looking at the plane of our galaxy, the family of stars to which our **Sun** belongs, a family of over 200 billion stars, of which our Sun is just one. We are located about two-thirds of the way out from the bulging center. And when we look at Sagittarius and Scorpius we are actually looking toward the bulging center, which is why the Milky Way looks wider here. Conversely, when we look toward Cassiopeia we are looking out toward our galaxy's thinner edge. So see this wonder of the universe yourself as it stretches from Cassiopeia up through the Summer Triangle then down through Sagittarius and Scorpius.. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



Milky Way

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StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

August (end) 2008

ARIES: *March 20th - April 20th* This month's solar eclipse sent an SOS to Chiron the wounded healer, while your ruler Mars gets busy in your house of work. Even though you have a million things to do, investing some time and energy enhancing your health would be your best bet now!

TAURUS: *April 20th - May 21st* Powerful emotions could sweep you away while your ruler Venus receives Pluto and Neptune. Whatever you're feeling right now is a bit intense. Try to put off social and romantic commitments until after the Lunar eclipse mid month. Right now you're a bit whimsical and under the influence of some fairy dust!

GEMINI: *May 21st - June 21st* Your thoughts about your current situation seem to be right on. Although, once your ruler Mercury enters the critical sign of Virgo mid month and hooks up with stern Saturn you'll be the first to see the flaws of your intentions. Use this month to map out Plan B and C so you won't waste any time doubting yourself if things don't work out the way you thought they would.

CANCER: *June 21st - July 22nd* While you are totally focused on finances now, this month could really shake things up! You'll need to be more creative than usual to manage your cash flow. However, you could also come up with great ideas about how to make more. You can't afford to rely on promising others because ultimately they will fail you. This is a good time to envision and plan new ventures.

LEO: *July 22nd - August 23rd* This month promises to be a rocking marker in your road! With two eclipses in your sign, it starts with a big bang and then fizzles like a 4th of July sparkler. But don't give up hope as you are being given a glimpse of your finest future. Whatever shocks you, delights or inspires you now is certain to be a part of your future. Engage yourself, but realize it may take sometime before your dreams manifest.

VIRGO: *August 23rd - September 22nd* You are having a rough time, I know. With Saturn in your sign conspiring with your ruler Mercury you might even feel cursed! Add on two eclipses this month in your 12th house of reflecting: you may spend lots of time wondering how you can escape your seemingly miserable karma. It's hard to ask a Virgo not to fret; however, your mission is to challenge your discomfort into something wonderful. Do this by channeling your current thoughts!

LIBRA: *September 23rd - October 23rd* The solar eclipse in your house of friendships and future goals could have your world spinning! Suddenly it seems that every part of your life is up for change. This includes, people, friends, intentions and dreams. Prepare yourself to release lots and go with the flow.

SCORPIO: *October 23rd - November 22nd* Expect some change in your social status! This month's solar and lunar eclipses will lead you closer to your goals and dreams. With your ruler Mars activating your networking house, you'll find others that can assist you. Success comes from embracing transformation.

SAGITTARIUS: *November 22nd - December 21st* Your ruler Jupiter (in favorable aspect to steady Saturn in your house of honors) will allow you new opportunities. If you're already comfortable this could be a great month to travel. However, if you are still climbing the ladder, this is a perfect time to go back to school to prepare for career changes. If single; you'll meet someone delightful at a study course or on the road!

CAPRICORN: *December 21st - January 20th* With lucky Jupiter in your sign and a solar eclipse in your house of support you'll find benefits come easily now. This is a time when the universe can easily underwrite your efforts. Loans, grants or even benefactors will be willing to assist you once you ask!

AQUARIUS: *January 20th - February 19th* A solar eclipse in your house of partners was a sure sign that someone new is about to enter your life. They could be quite unusual or highly charismatic! The only snag this month is Mars opposing your ruler in the house of money. Looks like someone needs yours or wants to tell you how to spend it!

PISCES: *February 19th - March 20th* You'll be doing some of your best work this month, as the solar eclipse pushes you towards greatness. A couple of things could happen here. You could become healthier than ever, take on a leadership role at work or simply enjoy watching the summer Olympics. This eclipse takes place in your house of wellness, work and sports! ■

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