

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE

September 5-19, 2008; Volume 15, Issue 18

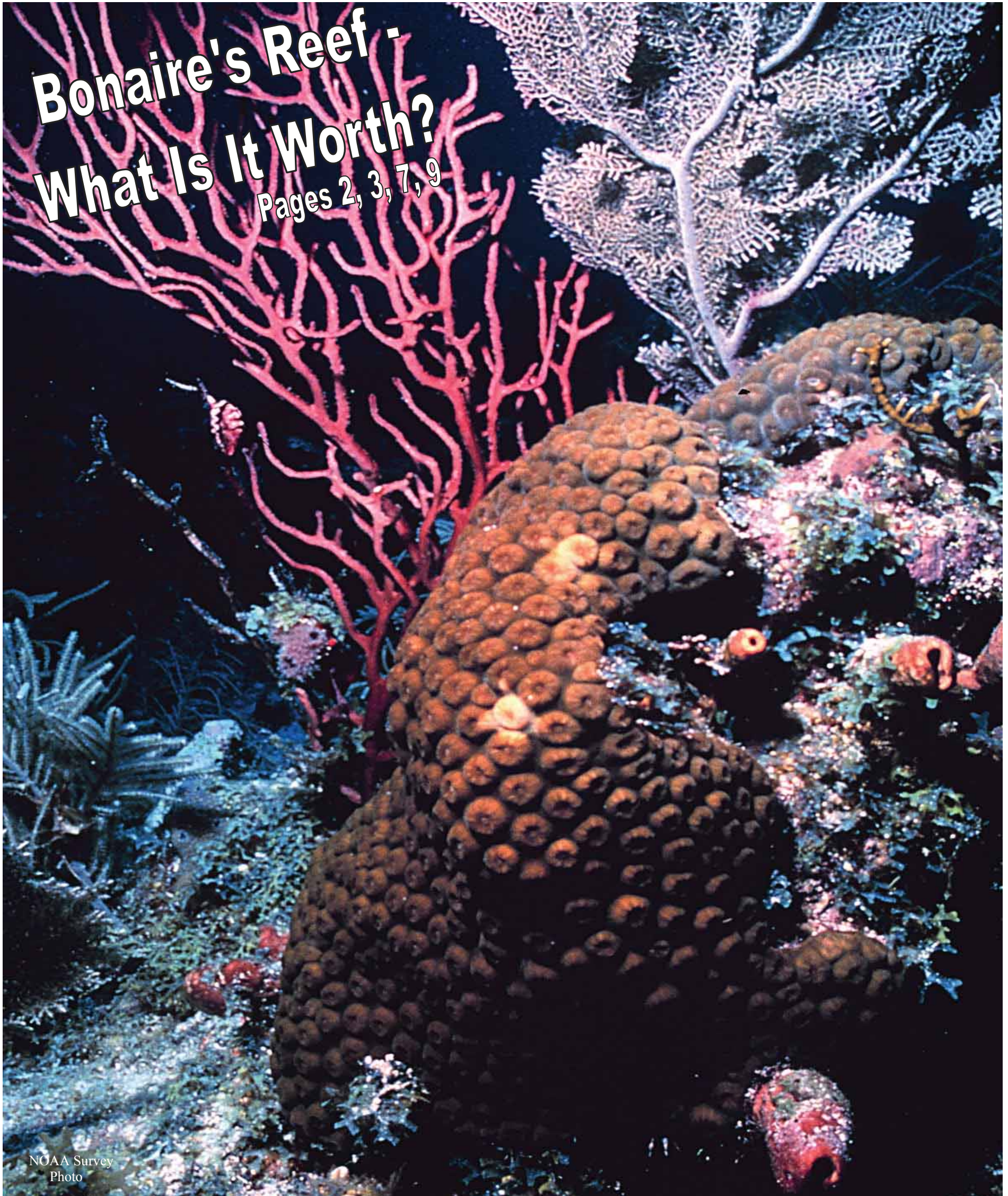
The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Since 1994

**Bonaire's Reef -
What Is It Worth?**
Pages 2, 3, 7, 9



NOAA Survey
Photo

The Bonaire Island Council has proposed a wide sweeping Ordinance for nature conservation. It expands the current Marine Protection Ordinance and adds specific protection to terrestrial areas. The new local law compliments the various international treaties (CITES, Ramsar, Turtle Treaty) which already protect the environment. From a practical point of view little will change, but a Nature Management Commission will be named to oversee the new regulations. The Ordinance will be circulated for comment in the coming weeks before final approval.

Parliament unanimously approved the law on self-defense last month. The Members of Parliament also passed a motion urging Government to start an information campaign about the law and to evaluate the law's effectiveness after one year. The law on self-defense is an amendment of the Penal Code giving citizens more right to self-defense. They would not have to justify an act of self-defense in their house or business and the onus of proof lies with the Prosecutor's Office. The law currently states that citizens have to prove that they acted in self-defense which in practice is usually a difficult task. **Now when a citizen attacks a criminal who is in his or her house, yard or an enclosed area, it will automatically be considered self-defense.** Justice Minister David Dick said an instruction has been sent already to the Prosecutor's Office indicating that it should start taking into consideration that Parliament had passed the law. For the law to be enacted, it has to be published. However, before publishing the law, Government has to inform the public about the consequences. "It's not the same as the American law where a man's house is his castle and we can start shooting at anyone who is on our property," Parliamentarian Faroe Metry stated. In the motion passed by Parliament, Government is urged to carry out the information campaign in the three official languages in the Netherlands Antil-

les: Dutch, English and Papiamentu.

Bonaire's newly named Deputy Lt. Governor, Eugène Abdul, stepped down during an Island Council meeting last month because he felt the Island Council was acting undemocratically. At issue was his decision to drop four points that were to consider constitutional affairs from the agenda of the public meeting of the Island Council. When it was challenged, he decided to resign. That postponement was requested by the opposition party *Aliansa Demokratiko Boneriano* (ADB-Red), unanimously approved by all parties, but later was disavowed by members of the ruling *Union Patriotiko Boneriano* (UPB-Green). The ADB had proposed that the points in question should first be handled in committee. Abdul then suspended the public meeting on the subject until October 24. Eugène Abdul, had previously been Lt. Governor of Saint Eustatius for six years. Abdul announced his resignation while opening the public meeting of the Island Council. Bonaire's Customs Chief, Eddy Thielman, replaced Abdul, who took the oath of office on April 2 of this year.



Burney el Hage, Bonaire's Commissioner for Economic Affairs, said that inflation on Bonaire is lower than on the other islands of the Netherlands Antilles, including Aruba. He believed the Consumer Affairs Foundation, the *Fundashon Konsumidó*, recently revitalized, can keep it that way. Following a meeting between his department and the island's supermarkets a plan is to be developed to help control prices. One of Bonaire's problems is that most items have to be imported "twice." First to Curaçao, then to Bonaire.

Antillean judges are again allowed to confiscate the Dutch

Reporter Contest

From the latest progress report released by the State Secretary of Kingdom Relations, Ank Bijleveld, it appears that most of legislation needed to administratively make Bonaire a Dutch municipality will be completed this year. That means that The Netherlands will take over tasks of the Antillean government at that time for a large number of essential functions. This is the first time the Dutch, or the Antilles for that matter, have tried to integrate dissimilar cultures. However dissimilar, we believe there are many similarities between Bonaire and Dutch Villages. Understanding will assist the transition.

We would like to challenge our readers to come up with a list of these similarities. The best "similarities," as judged by our editorial staff, will win dinners for two at a popular Bonaire restaurant.

The contest begins in this issue and will run through September. Entries can be emailed to reporter@bonairenews.com or mailed to Reporter, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN).

passports of convicted drug couriers for up to three years.

They are sentenced to a conditional punishment and can only travel between the Antillean islands using their ID card. The court says that a travel ban between the Netherlands and the Antilles is not enough.

Following the Dutch High Court's judgment last year that

Shopping Street—Bonaire



Shopping Street—Amsterdam



ruled that confiscating the passports violates the human rights on free traveling, the travel documents were then no longer confiscated. Felons were banned from traveling between the Antilles and the Netherlands. But these people could still travel around the world if they if wanted. The travel ban has been introduced again. This is necessary because there is also no room in jail for all those couriers.

(Continued on page 3)

Table of Contents

This Week's Stories

Reporter Village Contest	2
Coral Spawning Dates	3
Secret to His Success (Gov. Domacasse)	5
Letters: (BonaireVoices, Reporter Praise, Reef Discussion, Crazy Motorcycles)	7
Fundashon Verriet Visit	8
Turtle Gregory Girl	10
Bonai visits SIMARC	11
Rotary Donation to SGB	12
Coral Spawning Schedule	13
10 th Bonaire Bikers Event	14
Boi Antoin Lectures	14
Nederlands Blazers Concert	15
Klein Bonaire Cleanup	18

Weekly Features

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Profiles- Aletta van Beeck	4
Bonairean Voices (Senior Citizens)	8
Bubbles/Did You Know (Turtles)	6
Pet of the Week (Kevin)	6
Sudoku	7
Sudoku answer	8
Picture Yourself (Olympics, Beijing)	10
Island View—Oil	12
Reporter Masthead	13
Tide Table	13
Classifieds	14
Dining, Shopping Guides	16
What's Happening	17
Coming Our Way (Cars, Cars, Cars)	18
Sky Park (Mars, Venus Uranus)	19
Stars Have It (Astrology)	19

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Flotsam (Continued from page 2)



► Antilleans rejoiced when their track star, **Churandy Martina**, crossed the finish line in second place during the 200-meter final Olympic competition in China. They despaired hours later when he was disqualified. Now the Netherlands Antilles appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport over the ruling. Antillean officials insist that the official films do not show him stepping out of lane as alleged by the judges.

The Netherlands Antilles is arguing that the protest against Martina was filed well beyond the 30-minute deadline set by the international track federation and they say they have video showing he stayed in his lane the entire time. William Millerson, president of the Antilles Olympic committee, said this also is about a small country standing up to the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF), and the US Olympic Committee (USOC). A decision is expected soon to decide if his Silver Medal is to be restored.

► Problems with the tail of a Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) ATR propjet caused delays for several days, especially for Bon-



Some of the members of the press with the Mushi Mushi crew, MCB's Orphaline Sateh and Rudy Gomez

► **September 1 was International Press Day.** Thanks to all who sent warm greetings to *The Reporter* and especially to MCB-Bank Bonaire who hosted Bonaire's press corps to an evening sail aboard the beautiful charter yacht *Mushi-Mushi*.

aire-Curaçao flights. The replacement part had to be flown in from France on a KLM flight that also experienced flight delays, said Steve Sloop, DAE spokesman. The three-meter long part arrived aboard the KLM flight to Bonaire in the early morning on Sunday. The ATR was repaired by 4pm. In the meantime the DAE's two Fokker 100-jets had to fly the entire schedule. DAE has two ATRs. The other ATR is still in the US undergoing maintenance. All ATRs should be back in service at the end of this week.

► **Did you know that there is an in-flight movie between Bonaire and Curaçao on EZ Air?** The Mr.

Bean clips are chosen to last the duration of the 15-20 minute flight. No earphones required.

► **The new paid airport parking lot** will be open and dedicated this coming Friday, September 5, at Flamingo Airport. Another Bonaire tradition, free parking, disappears.

► **Desiree Klink Logeman** will hold a free information evening at Bonaire Basics, where people will get the chance to get to know her and ask questions about her work. She works with herbs, energy, candles, chakras and massage. Most of her wisdom is based on Indian Shamans. It's Thursday,

Coral Spawning days:

20 September: Coral Spawning day 1

21 September: Coral Spawning day 2

22 September: Coral Spawning day 3

► One of the most spectacular experiences to be had underwater is to **observe the spawning** of the corals and sea creatures. This usually occurs several days after the full moon in September and October. Above are the dates for this month, night dives are best.

► This week NOAA issued a "**bleaching alert**" for this region of the Caribbean because the temperature of the sea is above normal- but this should not affect spawning. The most recent reef surveys by the Marine Park show small colonies of Smooth Flower Coral (*Eusmilia fastigiata*), Boulder Brain Coral (*Colpophyllia natans*) and Boulder Star Coral (*Montastrea annularis*) were experiencing low levels of bleaching. Surveys will continue this week. Remember that during bleaching events affected coral colonies are under enormous stress. Be extra alert not to disturb the coral.

September 11, on Kaya Korona 47, 8 pm. Call for information/ registration: Annemiek, 786-3341, bonairebasics@telbonet.an. She will also be interviewed on Mamita's radio show on Wednesday, September 10 between 9 and noon.

► **The TCB announced that 33,993 tourists visited Bonaire during the first five months of 2008;** this represents an increase of 8.81% as compared to the first five months of 2007. After a strong growth of 17% in 2007, in 2008 it is expected that tourism will continue to grow, however at a more moderate pace.

Following the strongest year-over-year growth ever recorded in the NA market (19.7% in 2007) results show that the market continued to expand at a very healthy rate in the first five months of 2008. US tourism arrivals grew at a rate of 10.43%, while the Canadian numbers soared at a rate of 29.76%. The European market showed a strong growth in 2007. In 2008 this is being maintained so far. The European market shows an increase of 3.9% in the first five months of 2008, compared to the same period in 2007.

► **Bonaire Reporter offices will be closed for vacation** for the next three weeks. ■ G./L.D

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Profiles: Aletta van Beeck, Pioneer In Eco Farming And Eco Products

What a joyful and impressive occasion it was to visit Bonaire's goat cheese producing farm! Owner and producer, Aletta, in spite of her professional background as a physiotherapist, fits right into the picture of a passionate eco-conscious farmer. During a stay in Costa Rica at an eco-sustained community she saw the real possibilities of working from the heart and intuition in close connection with the soil and animals.

Aletta came to Bonaire 10 years ago to work as a physical therapist at Bon Fysio. She fell in love with the island and felt a deep connection with the soil and the environment. Although she had no background in farming, (having grown up in a city), even as a child she dreamt of farming and being self supportive by living off the land. Her first effort, keeping goats and producing milk and cheese, was about four years ago when she lived on a kunuku (farm) in the Mexico area of Bonaire. But having a physiotherapy job and taking care of goats simply wasn't possible. But Aletta kept the goats because she knew that one day she would try it again, full time. Then the opportunity came to

move to a bigger kunuku at Trasi Montana where she has the use of 4.6 hectares. It took another three years before she dared to give up the security of her job and commit herself full-time to her farm. She had to write a business plan in order to get financial backing from a bank. She wasn't familiar with these kinds of serious business dealings, but she was convinced of the potential of her plan and her own commitment. The bank's okay was the confirmation she needed to go ahead. Since last February Aletta has been living her dream and the reality that comes with it.

She has 57 goats at the moment; she knows them all and can even see differences in their personalities. They look healthy, very alive and content. Twice a day she milks 18 of her goats. She explains that a goat produces milk for five months after giving birth. And because she wants the babies to have their share of milk as well, the daily output comes to eight liters of milk. She could get more milk if she fed the babies powdered cow's milk. Then she could use everything the mothers produce for her cheese making. But Aletta has as much feeling for her animals as for her busi-

ness. After five months, the milk production stops, and if her planning works out, another group of 18 will give birth and produce milk again. In order for her goats to become pregnant she needs a male goat twice a year. Her goats have their own separate quarters: mothers and babies together, separate from the others. During the day they can wander the 4.6 hectares.

The fencing around her property is a constant concern for Aletta. Where she can control it it's okay, but several times some of her goats have disappeared. Aletta is thankful for the frequent rains lately. She can still cut grass (you can see her along the side of the roads with a machete) once a day for her goats. Although she feeds them a concentrated goat food, the natural greens are a treat for them and the greens are necessary to pro-



Aletta van Beeck

duce a better quality milk. Water is brought in by the water truck. It is a fulltime job, seven days a week.

Her romantic ideal is still alive, and the strenuous physical labor is a constant reality check. She does all the work by herself, but she has a number of good friends who come and help out whenever it is needed. She mentions that without her friend, Margon, she would never have started this adventure, and without Jan she would not be able to continue. With all the love and support

from her numerous friends (too many to mention) and her mom and dad, she is able to keep her focus on the big picture and continue what she started.

Years ago there was a proposal to start a goat cheese factory on Bonaire. But, as Aletta explains, the market on Bonaire isn't big enough to support a factory with numerous employees. So the project never materialized.

The reason why Aletta doesn't just sell the goat milk but goes

(Continued on page 5)

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Profiles (Continued from page 4)

through the labor intensive process of producing cheese is mainly financial. She can't sustain her farm by selling eight liters of milk a day. But from eight liters of milk she can make nearly 20 cheeses, which gives a better return.

It takes five days to turn goat's milk into cheese. The cheese needs to be drained and turned every day. Since the process needs a constant temperature of 20 degrees Celsius, she happily accepted the use of an air-conditioned room in the house of her friend Jan Okhuijsen, who strongly believes in the project. Aletta doesn't have the means yet to transform her 40-foot container into a cheese chamber because she is off the grid, electricity wise, but in the future she will have one and thus make the farm self supporting.

The farm could become an interesting and educational attraction for school children (the Pelikaan School already paid a visit) and tourists, to show and explain how eco-managed farming is done on Bonaire. Also, just as at the Animal Shelter, kids could come and volunteer, learning much about animals and taking care of them. Aletta's farm is an inspiring example how on Bonaire the ecological approach is being used to produce goods.

Her cheeses are sold in Warehouse, Cultimara and More for Less. Many restaurants have her cheese on the menu. Her cheeses in the stores are never older than three weeks. They're sold in small transparent containers. Connoisseurs claim that after six weeks, the taste gets even more exquisite. A friend of Aletta's designed a beautiful and catching logo with the brand name, *Semper Kontentu*,



which will be put on the cheeses as Aletta's "signature."

On September 6 Bonaire will celebrate Dia di Boneiru. As she was during Dia di Rincon she'll be there to sell her cheese and introduce it to a broader public. Her new logo will be visible and you'll find her south of the Centro di Bario in Antriol. She is preparing for the big day by intensifying the production.

Aletta would greatly appreciate the help of a volunteer who could surf the internet to find a way to apply for a subsidy.

When hours later I leave the farm Aletta hands me one of her cheeses. I can't help myself and before I reach home, I have finished the whole cheese. It's truly exquisite and absolutely delicious.

Let's all make sure Aletta's farm will be successful and flourish for many years to come!

■ Louise Rood



Secret To His Success

Let Governor Herbert Domacasse give God the credit for his successful life in the private sector of banking and in his role as the governor and leader of our island. Governor Domacasse's message was loud and clear as he gave the sermon to the members, friends, and visitors of the International Bible Church of Bonaire on a Sunday morning in the local high school auditorium where the church is now meeting for a season until they can construct a new church across from the Maduro and Curiel's Bank in Hato near the traffic circle.

Governor Domacasse's take on leadership is based on the Bible story of Jesus as "You must be a servant first" if you expect to be successful in any leadership capacity. He says he never asked for the job of Governor but accepted it from those who contacted him about the position after they agreed that he could put Christ first in his role as Governor of Bonaire. Governor Domacasse says you must be prepared to lose or as he puts it, "choose to lose ----- to God in order to be a winner." God has certainly directed his life throughout these most difficult times in the many changes that are now affecting our Island Government and will have its effect for many years to come as another chapter is written in our island that closely resembles the slogan "Divers Paradise."

The Governor is truly a most humble man and has asked all to pray for unity of the island as he now is in his final months of his term, when he says he will turn over the three keys to the island (his government home, his government automobile, and his government office space) on October 24th of this year. As this reporter left the church, many comments on the governor's character, his ability to lead, and his wonderful way of approaching leadership and life were expressed by many in the congregation. ■ Bob Lassiter



Governor Herbert Domacasse with his granddaughter



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Did You Know..

that fewer than one in 1,000 turtle hatchlings make it from the nest until adulthood? Scientists estimate that only one out of every 1,125 survive because of the challenges young turtles face from the moment they break out of their shells. After a female lays her eggs in a nest on the beach, her hatchlings spend about two months incubating beneath the sand before they emerge together and crawl to the water – a time during which they are extremely vulnerable to predators who are looking to pick them off before they can begin swimming. Those that make it off the beach successfully will disperse into open waters and swim for years at a time, a phase that is often referred to as the “lost years” because of scientists’ lack of knowledge of the turtles’ specific activities.

But even these young turtles face a host of obstacles before they will reach sexual maturity, when they will return to coastal waters and begin mating and nesting. Turtles are vulnerable to exploitation at sea for both their meat and their shells, habitat destruction, disease, fishing nets and pollution. Despite the fact that it is illegal to hunt and kill these endangered animals, poaching is still a very real threat on Bonaire and in many other marine environments.

So the next time you encounter a turtle on a dive or snorkel, do not celebrate just your own luck in finding such a rare creature. Think about the odds the turtle had to overcome to make it to the reef as an adult as well. ■ *Danielle Kehl*

Kehl attended CIEE Research Station Bonaire’s Tropical Marine Ecology and Biology program and is a junior at Yale University. She grew up in New York City and began SCUBA diving at the age of 15.



Pet Of The Week

You would never know it to look at him now but this adorable puppy, “Kevin,” was living on the street with his two siblings. A Good Samaritan saw a chòller (drug addict) trying to capture Kevin and his brothers so he could sell them. The Samaritan was able to rescue the puppies and brought them into the Shelter. One of the pups has already been adopted. Kevin is not only a darling fuzzy boy but he’s got this incredible curling tail. The vet believes he was born around mid-June. A pup like Kevin won’t last long as a potential adoptee at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. As are all the other animals up for adoption Kevin has been examined by the vet, given his tests and worming and shots and will be sterilized when he’s old enough. The NAF 105 adoption fee covers all this, and you get a healthy and very sociable pet.

You may see Kevin at the Shelter on the Lagoon Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm.

Don’t forget that the Shelter offers very comfortable accommodations for dogs if you need a place for your pet to stay while you are away from the island. The facilities have been recently expanded so that the “guests” have a large run as well as spacious kennels that provide both shade and openness. ■ *L.D.*

Note: The Shelter has a new address for their website: WWW.AnimalShelterBonaire.com.



Kevin

Entry Fee: NAF 25,-
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Special Day

Congratulations to Jacqueline (Elisee) Craane and Dyrichemar (Rico) Martis who were married on Thursday, August 28, at the Catholic Church in Playa.

The reception was held at Vespucci Restaurant in the Harbour Village Marina. As you can see in the photo, the bride was beautiful and the groom dashing. ■



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Letters to the Editor

**Bonaire Voices
Reporter Praise
Reef Discussions
Crazy Motorcyclists**

BONAIRE VOICES

Dear Editor,

Bonaire is one of the few islands left in the Caribbean that still has some original culture, a friendly population and a local concern for its nature and environment. It is people like Siomara Albertus (in her column, "Island Voices") who see the necessity to keep it that way and to keep the ever increasing foreign influence from changing it. Her articles are to the point and reflect what so many Bonaireans think and feel but are sometimes afraid to openly say. I hope more Bonaireans follow her initiative - to speak out for their island.

Bruce Bowker

PRAISE FOR THE REPORTER

Dear Editor,

Those who deserve much credit should have their due recognition. I believe you and the staff of *The Bonaire Reporter* deserve immeasurable thanks and credit for bringing the facts, opinions and calls to action for what may be Bonaire's most critical hour - the impending death of her magnificent coral reefs - to all who have a stake in this. This includes businesses, residents, visitors, and their future generations. The dire information you so objectively and candidly report has been, through great faith and effort, gained by numer-

ous scientists, island leaders, and organizations dedicated to protecting the island's natural resources.

All of this valuable information would be of no avail without a Voice, so that everyone who has a stake in it can make the right decisions and take the necessary action.

Keep Up the Good Work. Bonaire Will Be Saved - We All Can Do It Together!

Eldon Gemmill, Water Quality Engineer and Scientist

BNMP YES!

Dear Editor,

The BNMP (Marine Park) is acting totally appropriately in the handling of the problem of wastewater discharge along the shoreline.

They are asking the BIGGEST dischargers of grey water/sewage to stop. They are not saying that the resorts are the problem. In fact everybody shares in this problem. They are simply saying that:

1. We need to act now
2. You, Mr. Resort, can make the biggest difference by acting now.

Since action is in the best economic interests we hope that the big resorts will act. Some already have and others are making plans.

You ask: "Why haven't they acted previously?"

The answer is simple. The scientific evidence wasn't there. Yes, Captain Don has been yelling for

years that we are ruining the reef. However, history tells us that action that is not based on scientific evidence often does not fix the problem and causes unnecessary expense.

The one problem that most Caribbean underwater national parks make is that they do not fund enough scientific data gathering and analysis. The Brian LaPoint Nutrient Study was partially supported by volunteers, and the LMSP (Light and Motion Sensor Project) is totally supported by volunteers. Additionally, there are many more volunteer studies.

The issue is not environmental, it is economic. We need to save the reefs that Bonaire depends on for economic prosperity.

We need to truck most of the waste to the other side of the island where it will primarily percolate to the non-economic side of the island.

The problem with all these long-term proposals is this: The organizations who want to do NOTHING will use your arguments to do nothing NOW! That is what has happened everywhere else.

Three years later when we are still discussing a long-term solution the reef coral coverage will be half what it is now. Bonaire will be a boat-dive-only location like the Red Sea and other Caribbean locations.

Tom Reynolds
LMSP Program Manager -USA

THE COST OF PUMP OUT

Dear Editor,

A centralized (sewage) treatment

system makes little sense for Bonaire. A better fit is "Neighborhood Treatment Systems" as originally suggested by Bonaire's NGO Nature Alliance.

Let me roll out the possible scenarios and alternatives, using only metric units and maybe some of you can adjust to local currency using NAf, \$ or €.

Based on the Master Plan and Feasibility Study we have to deal with a DAILY Island TOTAL Wastewater volume of approx. 1,400 m³/day, which is permanently percolating to the coral reefs.

It is planned to "use" the €20 million (system budget) to treat only 760m³/d from the 500 m shore zone by a centralized treatment plan. Approx. 640m³/d Island-TOTAL Wastewater will remain untreated and will percolate DAILY to the reefs.

For the suggested urgent temporary action it needs a strategic-pragmatic decision: how much of approximately 760m³/d from the 500 m shore line zone should be trucked away to the "LVV trenches," the only purpose being to prolong the percolation time to the coral reefs.

Let's look at a scenario:

Assumptions:
- 760m³/d should be trucked away to the "LVV trenches"

- one truckload (honey sucker) takes 10 m³, which means we will have

- 76 truckloads per day.

If the truck fleet works 11 h/d (7:00 -18:00) and one truck maybe needs 1 hour for pumping, trans-

porting, offloading and returning to the shore line we need approx. 7 trucks working 11 hours/day, 7 days per week. An 8th truck has to be on standby to cover likely breakdowns.

- How much would this exercise cost on Bonaire per day and in total from 2008 until 2011?

- Would e.g. WWF or "others" finance this temporary action?

To give you some indication about possible scale of funds needed, here in my area in Germany pumping, transporting, offloading AND TREATMENT might cost:

€14 per 1 m³.

If 10 m³ = €140

If 760 m³/d = €10,640 per day

Let's assume on Bonaire the transport of wastewater to LVV trenches WITHOUT TREATMENT might cost:

Euro 7 per 1 m³.

If 10 m³ = €70

If 760 m³/d = €5,320 per day

If wastewater transporting action starts on 1. October 2008 and ends on 1. January 2011, we have approx. 820 days and need €4,362,400.

Alternative:

Would it not make more sense to use approximately 50% of that amount, let's say approximately €2,000,000 to immediately reduce the "production" of wastewater at the sources within the 500 meter shore zone in combination with a mandatory policy of local Government?

A mandatory policy could stipulate immediate reduction of waste-

(Continued on page 9)




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BONAIREAN VOICES

THE SENIOR CITIZENS

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

When we speak of our senior citizens here in Bonaire we are referring to those who are known as the "60 Plusses." They could be citizens who were working for the government or in the private sector. Have you ever thought about how they are dealing with their daily living situations?

The cost of living goes up every month here in Bonaire, and the 60 Plusses have to deal with it every month when they get their pension money. Their pension income stays the same. The ex-government employees have an additional pension besides the regular pension that most people receive when they reach the age of 60, the AOW (*de Algemene Ouderdom Wet*). The government has an obligation to pay this pension every month. But because of the increasingly high prices our senior citizens start complaining.

Some of them do have two pensions, but still they can't make it. So imagine those with only one. The UPAH (*Union di Pensonado pa Adelanto i Hustisia*) is a union that seeks the improvement in the rights of their senior citizen members in Curaçao and Bonaire. They have a Social Fund (SOFO) to help those elders who are having a hard time getting through our expensive times. But remember, this Union is not a governmental project, so they have to get money to do whatever they have to do for their members. Our senior citizens, like those who are working, must pay their taxes to the government every month or every year. So, again, what can the government do for them?

A member of UPAH for years explains. He (70) said, "The government can start thinking about giving them an extra income for their vacation like every worker has. They can calculate the high cost of living every year to adjust the pension money. They can be more alert about elderly healthcare. When an elderly person has to go Curaçao to a specialist and they don't have any family, friends, not much money, or don't know the island so well, they will have a hard time. We urge the government to seek out nursing homes that can take care of these citizens when they arrive in Curaçao. Take them to the doctor and really care for them until the day they have to come back to Bonaire. The government is striving for a better fu-



Edith Strauss-Mercera opens the new Villa Antonia clubhouse for the 60-Plusses in 2002

ture for the whole island, for all its citizens, waiting for a new country in the Kingdom of Netherlands. We don't have to wait until then for that new country; the suffering is now and it needs special attention.

In Holland the government takes very good care of its senior citizens because they realize that one day they themselves will be in that position. For a long time we had to learn from Holland and make the changes, but we didn't. We are still waiting for Holland to tell us what to do or to do everything for us. For how much longer do we have to wait? Senior citizens who are ill and who are living all by themselves need security help. We are living in a modern world and with one push of a button you can get medical or security assistance at home. But no one thinks about it. In some cases it was too late when help arrived because he or she couldn't get to a phone to call for assistance.

Sometimes we think that nursing homes are the first choice. But we can help these citizens with some special care at home. They feel more comfortable in their own house, so why not help them in their own house? But of course someone might say, 'We need the money to do all this.' If we want we can. The only thing we need is man's power!"

If you think about yourself today, you will think about our the senior citizens because tomorrow can be your turn. ■

Siomara E. Albertus

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



Fundashon Verriet Members Holiday in Bonaire



A group of disabled people from Curaçao from the S.G.R. group/Fundashon Verriet, enjoyed a five-day vacation in Bonaire this last week. And they paid for it all by themselves!

Starting last year each one of them saved up money from their welfare income and then held fundraisers to accomplish this first time ever wonderful vacation to Bonaire, and they enjoyed every minute.

Among them was Cedric, the son of the late Roddy Emerenciana and the nephew of Classita Emerenciana. This photo was taken on Saturday as they dined on Criollo cuisine at the Rose Inn in Rincon. The group of 11 accompanied by six guides came to Bonaire, and it was a marvelous opportunity for them to have an interchange with the members (clients) of the FKPD (Bonaire's handicapped center) in Rincon and Nikiboko. They had meals in hotels, a barbeque, went to church and had tours of the island.

What was the best thing they did? They all agreed: "It was wonderful just looking at life here, just seeing and watching!"

They want to say a special thank you to Lula Hart for all the work she did in the organization and to Mercedes Bijkerk. ■ L.D.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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Letters to the Editor (Cont. from pg 7) water production. It could be supported by external funding controlled by a project management team from Bonaire's Nature Alliance NGO and technical support by an independent and interdisciplinary non-commercial organization, e.g. UNESCO-IHE in Delft, NL.

Detlef Schwager

Editor's note: Herr Schwager is a "water engineer" who worked for Dorsch Consultants on the feasibility study for a Bonaire Sewage System that the planned 2011 system is based on. Recently, unconfirmed reports are circulating on Bonaire that say completion of the sewage system has slipped to 2013.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO PUMP OUT



Low water-needs garden at Habitat

Dear Editor,

While I wholeheartedly agree with the assessments made and solutions offered, I would like to point out the following.

The article infers that ALL coastal resorts are discharging high levels of nitrogen rich wastewater into the adjacent reefs. **This is NOT true...specifically in the case of Captain Don's Habitat.**

We all know that too many nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) will kill coral reefs. Every time a toilet is flushed or a load of laundry is washed, more nutrients flow to-

ward Bonaire's reefs - the island's most valuable and vulnerable natural resource. A study concluded one year ago covering 14 locations around Bonaire's reefs by Brian LaPointe from the Center for Coastal Research, Ft. Pierce, Florida, found that our reefs are fast approaching a tipping point. He summarized with the statement that "The results are cause for concern and action" as reported in *The Bonaire Reporter* as well. Bonaire's advanced wastewater treatment plant, which will remove most of the nutrients from human waste, is probably 2-3 years away from being operational, yet development on the island continues. What do we do in the meantime to protect our reefs?

At Captain's Dons Habitat, the management and staff were not going to wait around. In the summer of 2001, with the assistance of EarthEcho International, Dr. David Vaughn and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, a customized wastewater treatment (WT) plant was built to biologically remove the nitrogen from their domestic waste stream. The plant has undergone several modifications and fine tuning over the past seven years with a major renovation and installation of an advanced customized wastewater treatment plant completed in the summer of 2006. This AWT plant replaced the older original on-site treatment system. The day to day operation of this new plant is expertly managed and kept tuned by Habitat staff person, Margaret Romijn, with the expert advice and assistance of Mr. Eldon Gemmil, a Water Quality Engineer and Scientist from the US.

Recent test results from the new system showed an 87% removal of ammonia nitrogen, which is toxic to

aquatic organisms, and a 60% removal of all nitrogen compounds. These preliminary numbers will likely improve as additional fine tuning and adjustments are implemented. Another benefit of this process has been a significant reduction in sewer gas odor around the septic tank to imperceptible levels. Following the advanced wastewater treatment process, the resulting clear discharge water is used to irrigate the lush vegetation surrounding Habitat. This further removes nutrients through plant uptake, plus it conserves precious fresh water. Habitat has always been known for its lush vegetation and while most people assumed it was for aesthetics, Captain Don realized years ago that with more vegetation, the resort not only looks good but also reduces the amount of nitrates, nitrites and phosphates eventually making it to our reef due to the uptake of these nutrients by the plants. You only need look at Google Earth and zoom in on the northern hotel strip, it is pretty obvious where Habitat is located.

The testing of Habitat's new system also showed removal of 17% of the phosphorus biologically, although phosphorus is difficult to remove biologically in a tropical climate. In order to get a higher percentage of phosphorus removed, chemicals would have to be imported and added to the wastewater. The sludge produced would then have to be disposed of. There is an easier way!

Thirty years ago, the State of Maryland was trying to protect Chesapeake Bay. By switching from phosphate based detergents to phosphate free detergents, millions of pounds of phosphorous were eliminated from the Bay, without adding any chemicals or producing

a mountain of sludge. Bonaire could benefit from a similar switch, and yes, clothes will still be just as bright, bold and clean as they are now. This simple switch could do much to protect our reefs. The government should allow the importation of phosphate free detergents duty and OB free and then require all commercial establishments to utilize these phosphate free detergents.

The testing and fine tuning of Habitat's new AWT system is ongoing. If our recent results are any indication, this small, relatively inexpensive type of treatment system may provide a useful model to be implemented at other places on the island as a way to safeguard the reefs until the time when the proposed new mega treatment plant is built and becomes operational.

I bring this up as over the past couple of months, much has been said and reported in regards to this situation and in not one article, report and/or recommendation, have I seen mention of Habitat's successful AWTS though all know that it exists and is functioning. Habitat would be more than happy to share our experience and expertise gained in installation, operating and fine tuning this system with anyone wishing to install a similar system of their own. It is even possible to scale down the system to individual household use as well as scaling up to meet the demand of an installation the size that would be needed at LVV.

Jack Chalk, General Manager
Habitat Bonaire N.V.

CRAZY MOTORCYCLISTS

Dear Editor,
What can we do about these racing, speeding, crazy motorcy-

clists on the island? When folks think Bonaire, they think diving. Not always any more. Now they think crazy motorcycles recklessly screaming, drifting side to side and running amok down the streets filled with pedestrians. We have all seen them.

Am I the only one with concerns? I personally have witnessed one of these maniacs screaming by the cruise ship when all the passengers were viewing our otherwise lovely island. Kids and the elderly can't get out of their way fast enough, let alone anyone or anything else!

For any of you that have gotten your license here on this island like I have, you recall being taught properly, rigidly tested on your skills, and I will bet still now respectful of your permission to drive or ride responsibly.

Exactly what is being done to solve this at present I do not know, but perhaps it will take fatality to effectively get a handle on the danger.

Now the most effective solution is rather simple. The first one of these punks to get caught by the Police will have to help the officers load his bike into the back of the Police pick-up, then drive with them to the landfill, where the fellow that drives that big bulldozer will create a two-dimensional piece of artwork from the used-to-be three-D motorcycle.

Then let the guy walk home. He will call all his friends for sure. Word will get out quickly. Repeat this procedure for the next one that failed to get the message, etc, until they all run out of money. Problem solved. If this were the case, I would like to be the bulldozer operator at the landfill!

JP Richau

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Nominations for "Appeltjes van Oranje 2009"

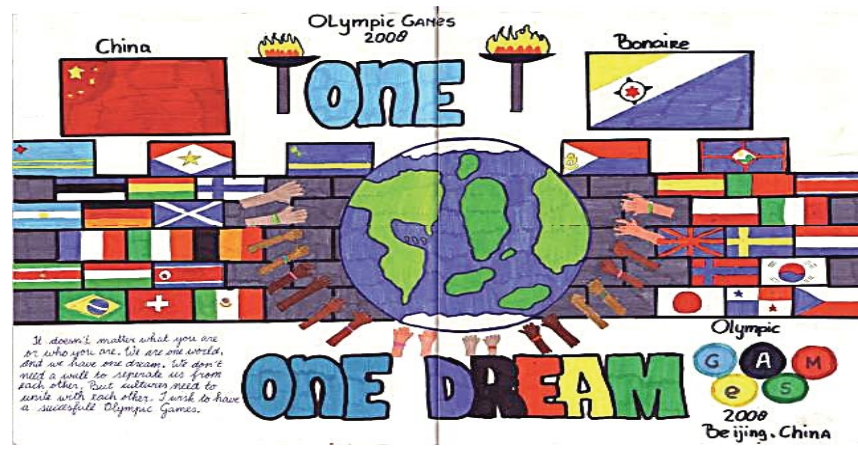
The Oranje Fonds is looking for projects that bring different groups of people together in a unique way. Are you involved or do you know of such a project on the Netherlands Antilles or Aruba? Then nominate it before the 25th of September to be eligible for an "Appeltje van Oranje 2009!"

The Oranje Fonds is the nation's largest humanitarian foundation. Every year, our patron Princess Máxima awards three "Appeltjes van Oranje". These consist of a € 15,000 cash prize and a bronze statue.

For more information and nomination procedures, go to www.oranjefonds.nl/appeltjes09.

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter *Olympic Games Beijing, China*



Mary-Jo Louise Lendering, 13, was the winner of the Caribbean section of VISA International with her art work, "One World, One Dream." Her sentiment: "It doesn't matter what you are or who you are. We are one world and we have one dream. We don't need a wall to separate us from each other. But cultures need to

unite with each other. I wish to have a successful Olympic Games!" The prize, sponsored by MCB Bank Bonaire, was a trip to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China. While there with her mother, Ludwina, they were kind enough to have these photos snapped. ■

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Loggerhead Heading Northeast



"Greggy Girl," a Loggerhead turtle that laid her eggs on Klein Bonaire, is now swinging to the south and headed directly at the Los Roques Archipelago. Since our last update she has covered approximately 150 km and is traveling at a rate of about 65 km per day. "Greggy Girl" is currently 170 km from Bonaire. Los Roques Archipelago is part of Venezuela, consisting of about 350 islands, cays or islets. It is located 128 km directly north of the port of La Guaira. Because of the wide variety of seabirds and rich aquatic life, the Venezuelan government declared Los Roques a National Park in 1972. In 2006, another of our turtles, "Heit," was tracked to Los Roques. ■ *Andy Uhr*

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BONAI Visits SIMARC



Skal photo

Jackie Bernabela of the Culture Department with the 10 youngsters she guided to St. Maarten

Twelve young budding archaeologists attached to the Bonaire Archaeological Institute, BONAI, visited St. Maarten last week for an exchange with their peers at the

St. Maarten Archaeological Centre, SIMARC.

The trip, paid for by the European Union and private sector contributors, mirrors the one taken a few months ago to Bon-

aire by SIMARC students. The exchanges give the high school students an opportunity to swap ideas about the collective and unique history of their island as well as the opportunity to brain-

storm on ways of preservation and network.

Dr. Jay Haviser, who founded BONAI and SIMARC, said the August 28 -September 1st exchange is great because it fosters common interest in heritage, history and environment while creating direct contracts between the islands.

With Bonaire and St. Maarten pursuing new goals within the Dutch Kingdom, making direct ties and forming common links such as the one the high school students will be forging is important, he added. As part of the exchange, Bonaire students took an island tour with specific emphasis on historical sites on the Dutch and French sides. BONAI and SIMARC students will talk about how they view heritage, preservation and the links between the islands among other topics.

The trip culminates in a youth forum on Saturday. The venue, the island council meeting room, added importance to the forum, Haviser said, because the youngsters are the leaders in training. A film of this forum and the one from Bonaire will be edited and compiled into one film that will be shown on the islands and given to donors as evidence of the work and talent of the students. ■

Jackie Bernabela

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WE ARE PEAKING

The costs of living are rising very quickly. Five years ago you could fill up your car for half the price you pay now. The prices on the articles in the grocery store are fit to give you heart failure. When you go pay your bill at WEB, you are in risk of starting to hyperventilate. It is not only here on Bonaire, but also in other parts of world (for a change). Two questions come to mind. The first one is of course: What is going on? And the second one is: When will it end?

The consensus on what is going on is that the oil prices have gone up. We use oil not only for our transport and electricity, but also for our health, clothing, storage and agriculture. A lot of products are derived from oil: medicines, nylons and polyesters, plastics, pesticides and so on. So when the oil prices go up, everything that is derived from oil will become more expensive. For example if the price of pesticides goes up, we ultimately have to pay more for our corn, potatoes, tomatoes and bananas. On top of that, the transportation of all our products to the shops is also more expensive.

It is no surprise that the price of oil is increasing. In fact Mr. M. King Hubbert (a geoscientist who worked at the Shell research lab in Houston, Texas) already predicted it back in the 50s. He said that after the big oilfield discoveries were made, the production of oil would be going up. But at a certain point you will reach your peak of production. After that, the production costs will go up because it takes more effort to get the oil out of the ground. To keep the same level of production you need to invest more and more money and the price of oil will go up. Also the fact remains that oil is in a big "reservoir" under the ground. If you start taking oil from that "reservoir," no matter how big it is, eventually you will drain it. Now we have come to a point where the reservoir of oil is not yet drained, but it is getting increasingly more difficult to get it out of there. Hence the increase in prices.

One barrel of oil (roughly 159 liters) costs about US\$1 to get out of the ground. You can get so much energy from it that it is practically free energy. Because it is so cheap we use it for everything. In other words, we have made ourselves totally and completely dependent on the (almost) free source of energy. And we are now entering a time where the gushing from this source will start to reduce to a mere trickle. To top it off, our demand for oil is growing exponentially.

After Mr. Hubbert made his prediction you would expect the panic to rise among the people. He predicted a world where oil is not readily available anymore: a complete nightmare. But nothing was further from the truth: he was ridiculed because the majority of the people refused to believe him. And now peak oil is upon us just like Mr. Hubbert predicted, and we have lost all this time to do something about it. Why are people so readily willing to disregard such a theory? We are living in pluralistic ignorance. Everybody is thinking that if it really were so



bad that somebody would do something about it. If everybody accepts it as it is, then it could not be so bad. If we keep looking at each other, waiting for the other person to do something, probably nothing will happen.

We have gotten just a small taste of what it is like to live in a world where there is less and less oil, where prices will continue to rise. How do you like it so far? You may have guessed by now that this is not going to end. At present if you want to do something you can take your car anywhere; if you want to go on vacation you can take the plane. Can you start to imagine a world where you cannot move to the extent you are now used to? And where articles like medicines and plastics will become increasingly hard to come by. If you cannot picture this or refuse to do so, you will certainly be surprised at what is going to happen. Putting your head in the sand like an ostrich is not going to work (as if it ever worked). You could start by informing yourself. With this information you can demand that your government starts to do something to tackle this problem. Also you can do something to decrease your demand of oil. Here are some tips to bring down your demand AND your energy bill.

- Use energy efficient appliances and lights.
- Be sure to clean the filter of your AC at least once a month. (Also, there are ACs working on solar power!).
- Check if the door on your refrigerator closes snugly. If you use AC, check if the doors and windows of that room close snugly.
- Turn off and/or unplug your electronics when not in use (think of lights, fans, battery chargers, computers, monitors, TVs, radios, etc. Even turning them completely off instead of on "sleep-mode" will save a lot).
- Be aware of the many lights you have turned on around your house during the night (is it really necessary to illuminate your garden while you are asleep?).

Those of you who still do not want to go through all this "trouble," you can start singing along with REM: "It's the end of the world as we know it and I feel fine." But I'm not sure if you'll feel so fine... ■ *Mary Ann Koops*

Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School.



Rotary Donates Dictionaries to SGB



The Bonaire Rotary Club officially donated 40 copies of the Papiamentu-English Dictionary published by Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire to Scholengemeenschap Bonaire (SGB High School) at its Wednesday Rotary meeting. Marisela Croes, past president of Rotary, made the presentation to Serapio Pop, head of SGB.

"We feel it is important to help make this dictionary available to our schools since our children are using the Internet and need to have access to the proper English words to be successful there," said Ms. Croes. "English is essential for our tourism industry and also for any company like Rocargo doing business with the US, UK or with the European Union," she continued.

The donation is part of the "Dictionaries for Schools" program of Jong Bonaire and helped move the Foundation even closer to its goal of 500 dictionaries donated to schools. "If we meet the 500 goal, an anonymous donor from the USA has promised to donate US \$20,000 to Jong Bonaire," said Rene Hakkenberg, president of

Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire.

"We have had excellent support from the business community on all three of the ABC Islands for this effort," said Hakkenberg, "but we still need to have 96 more school dictionaries donated to qualify for the extra grant."

"We are all aware of the financial condition of our schools and the private sector has responded very well to this appeal for donations. Organizations like the Rotary have shown that our community is committed to the success of our young people and our schools," Hakkenberg added. Rotary also donated four dictionaries to UniCollege. Several banks have joined in the donation program as well as private citizens and other companies. ■

Jong Bonaire Release

Any organization or individual who would like to contribute dictionaries can contact Jong Bonaire via e-mail (schools@papiamentudictionary.com), or by phone +599-717-4303. Ext. 12 (weekday afternoons).

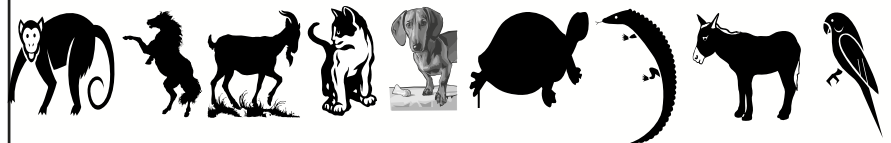


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Dierenartsen team:
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Drs. Hans & Ety Lambeek
Drs. Seib Fietsma
Drs. Ytzen v.d. Werf

Kaminda Lagun 24A, Tel 717-4255

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djaluna, djarason i djabierne **13:30-14:30**
djamars i djaweps **17:00-17:30**; djasabra **11.00-12.00**
of sigun **sita** tur dia
24 ora pa dia disponibel, tambe den wikent: Tel. **790-6001**

Spreekuur:

maandag, woensdag en vrijdag **13:30-14:30**
dinsdag en donderdag **17:00-17:30**; zaterdag **11.00-12.00**
of volgens **afspraak** elke dag
24 uur per dag bereikbaar, ook in het weekend: Tel. **790-6001**

Bonaire and Curacao 2008 Coral Spawning: predicted spawning times for reef invertebrates

Days after the full moon (Sep 15 & Oct 14)			3	4	5	6	7	8	9
First Spawning "Round"- Sept 18-24 (S)			18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep
Second Spawning "Round"- Oct 17-23 (O)			17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct	20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct
English names	Latin name	Spawning "round"	Predicted spawning times						
Stony Corals									
[1] Elkhorn coral*	<i>Acropora palmata</i>	A/S	?	21:15-21:45	21:15-21:45	?			
[2] Staghorn coral*	<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	A/S		?	21:00-22:00	21:00-22:00	?		
[3] Grooved brain coral	<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i>	S			?	22:00-23:30	22:00-23:30	22:00-23:30	
[4] Symmetrical brain coral	<i>Diploria strigosa</i>	S					22:00-23:00	22:00-23:00	
[5] Great star coral	<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i>	S/O		?	21:30-23:30	21:30-23:30	?		
[6] Mountainous star coral**	<i>Montastraea annularis/ faveolata</i>	S/O			21:30-22:30	21:30-22:30	21:30-22:30	?	
[7] Blushing star coral	<i>Stephanocoenia michelinii</i>	S				21:00-22:00	21:00-22:00	21:00-22:00	
[8] Six ray star coral	<i>Madracis senaria</i>	S/O						00:00-06:00	00:00-06:00
[9] Smooth Flower coral	<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i>	S/O				21:15-22:30	21:15-22:30	21:15-22:30	21:15-22:30
[10] Lettuce coral	<i>Agaricia agaricites/ humilis</i>	S/O	all night & day	all night & day	all night & day	all night & day	all night & day	all night & day	all night & day
[11] Finger coral	<i>Porites porites</i>	S	22:15-22:30	?	?	?	?	?	?
Gorgonians									
[12] Sea rods	Plexauridae	S/O	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00
Echinoderms									
[13] Reef urchin	<i>Echinometra viridis</i>	S/O	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00
[14] Sea cucumber	Holothuroidea	S/O	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00	12:00-18:00
[15] Brittle star	Ophiuridae	S/O	19:30-22:00	19:30-22:00	19:30-22:00	19:30-22:00	19:30-22:00	19:30-22:00	19:30-22:00
Worms									
[16] Christmas tree worm		S/O	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00	19:00
[17] Bearded fire worm		S/O	12:00-19:00	12:00-19:00	12:00-19:00	12:00-19:00	12:00-19:00	12:00-19:00	12:00-19:00
Sponges									
[18] Touch-me-not-sponge		S/O	12:00-17:00	12:00-17:00	12:00-17:00	?			

*) note: the spawning times of this species is extremely difficult to predict and there is a good possibility it will actually spawn in August

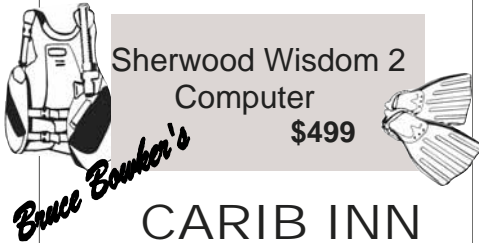
**) note: this species will be the most spectacular "spawner" that can be observed during these nights

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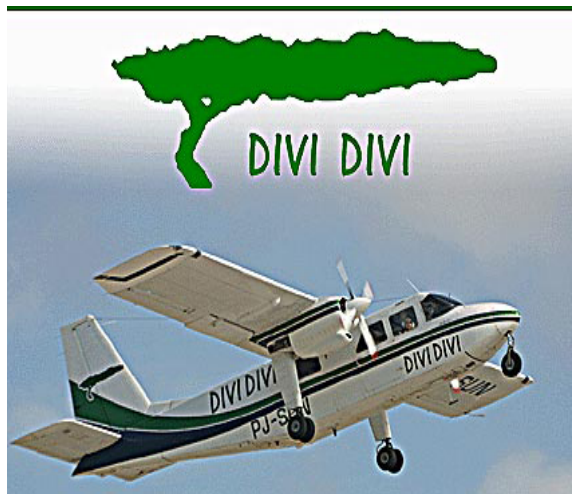
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Fax: 717-7854

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
9-05	3:14	0.9FT.	17:50	1.8FT.					60
9-06	3:59	0.9FT.	18:34	1.8FT.					49
9-07	4:31	0.8FT.	19:21	1.9FT.					39
9-08	5:04	0.8FT.	19:59	1.9FT.					32
9-09	5:36	0.8FT.	20:34	1.9FT.					30
9-10	6:00	0.9FT.	21:16	1.9FT.					35
9-11	6:19	0.9FT.	21:54	1.8FT.					44
9-12	6:35	1.0FT.	12:04	1.2FT.	14:09	1.2FT.	22:29	1.8FT.	55
9-13	6:43	1.0FT.	11:59	1.3FT.	15:43	1.2FT.	23:11	1.7FT.	67
9-14	6:39	1.1FT.	12:11	1.4FT.	17:00	1.2FT.			78
9-15	0:44	1.5FT.	6:25	1.2FT.	12:38	1.5FT.	18:28	1.2FT.	86
9-16	1:47	1.3FT.	6:06	1.2FT.	13:21	1.6FT.	20:20	1.1FT.	93
9-17	3:36	1.2FT.	5:31	1.2FT.	14:03	1.7FT.	22:38	1.1FT.	95
9-18	0:16	1.0FT.	15:01	1.8FT.					94
9-19	1:38	0.9FT.	16:00	1.8FT.					90

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The BONHATA office has some office furniture for sale:

1 Executive Credenza Dark Wood NAf 1,200; 1 2 Door Cabinet Light Wood NAf 50; Reception Chairs Grey/Wood NAf 40 each or NAf 220 for 6; 1 2 Piece L Shaped Office Desk & Drawers (needs some repairs) NAf 75 All items are for cash sale and as is. Please call 717-5134 or stop by the office, Kaya Soeur Bartola 15B, to view the items.

Lecture Series by Bòl Antoin

On Tuesday, September 2, historian and journalist, Bòl Antoin, spoke on Bonaire's culture and history as part of the Tourist Awareness Program (TAP) In a series of four presentations, this was the first: "Celebrations and Traditions of Bonaire." The Foyan Boyz performed as well. Preservation of our culture is important and these talks in Papiamentu have been

10th Annual Bonaire Bikers Motorcycle Tour



The 10th Annual Bonaire Bikers Tour is on from September 4 to 7. More than 400 people will participate, from Bonaire, Aruba and Curaçao. Bikers from the other islands will ship their bikes via the Don Andres.

Hotels like Capt. Don's Habitat this year are the principal sponsors, and they're completely booked for that weekend. Different activities are planned to take place on the road near Karel's Beach Bar, which also is cooperating with the event along with big sponsor, NAPA Autoparts.

On Wednesday, September 3, the action begins at Rocargo and Don Andres where the motorcycles will be unloaded from the containers. During the week there will be various parades throughout the barios to show our visitors the beautiful landscape of Bonaire.

TCB, SELIBON, DROB, the Police and Customs are giving their cooperation to the celebration that attracts tourists from the other Antillean islands for a cultural and friendly interchange.

Signup will be on Friday, September 5, at the Bikers' Clubhouse where all the motorcycle participants and the public may enjoy the ambiance. At 10 pm there will be a fireworks show on the Chito Mercelina wharf.

Saturday morning is the parade to the Centro di Bario in Antriol for the Bonaire Day celebration. Later there will be a parade to Esmeralda Beach as the sun sets.

Sunday there will be an official parade through all the neighborhoods, ending at the Rose Inn where delicious Criollo dishes will be served to the participants.

Bonaire Bikers MC have received sponsorship from many companies who have helped to make this event possible: Maduro & Curiel's Bank, RBTT, Fatum and Russel Insurances. Warehouse Bonaire and Rent-o-Fun are providing breakfast for all the participants on Sunday.

It's always a special treat for the public to see such beautiful bikes and to have the opportunity to enjoy the moment with their families and friends from the other islands. For more information call Orlando Francisca 786-2131; Mocky Arends 786-5614; or Norman Evertsz 560-7282. ■ Mocky Arends

organized to stimulate the knowledge and importance of our culture to everyone.

The presentations will be accompanied by visuals so even those not fluent in Papiamentu should understand.

You may register by calling 717-5021 or 717-8322, or e-mail: management@matchconsultancy.com.

The next three lectures at the Sporthall, starting at 7:30 pm, are listed in Happenings on page 17. ■ L.D.

Netherlands Blazers Ensemble on Bonaire

A spectacular musical event for the people of Bonaire



The 25-year-old Netherlands Blazers Ensemble is touring the Dutch Antilles for the first time and will be playing on Bonaire. The theme of the concerts is "Brisas di Musica" ("Winds of Music").

The Ensemble is made up of professional musicians from all the major Dutch symphony orchestras. They tour all over the world and their performances are spectacular, combining classical music with "world music," music from other cultures and continents.

The orchestra will play a special repertoire in which Antillean popular and classical influences will be very recognizable. Local artists like Papachi Salsbach, Linda

Anthony and Grupo Tutti Frutti from Rincon will participate in this concert, together with some children percussionists, under the leadership of Robbie Swinkels.

The open-air concert on Bonaire is on **Tuesday September 16 at Wilhelmina Park at 7:30 pm. The concert is free of charge.** The organizers will use busses to get as many people from Rincon and other barios to Kralendijk to join in this spectacular event.

Purchasers of VIP tickets for NAf100 will have reserved seating in the VIP area during the concert. After the concert all

the musicians will be there to have a drink with you. VIP tickets are at Addo's Bookstore on Kaya Grandi and the Bonaire Museum on the Kaya J.C. van der Ree.

The tour of the Netherlands Blazers Ensemble is sponsored by the Aruba bank, the Orco Bank, Hotel Renaissance, Avila Beach Hotel, Divi Flamingo Resort and Telbo/MiTV.

The concert on Bonaire is organized by SKAL (Sekshon di Kultura Arte i Literatura) together with some private persons who joined forces to make this concert a real musical and cultural happening for the people of Bonaire. ■ *Press release*

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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
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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. Good rum selection.

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

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

September 4-7—10th Annual Bonaire Bikers Tour. Pg. 14

Saturday, September 6- Bonaire Day (Dia di Bonaire) – Legal Holiday commemorating Amerigo Vespucci's arrival in Bonaire in 1499. Host barrio Antriol

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

Tuesday, September 9 – Bòl Antoin Lecture– Sporthall. The People of Bonaire 7:30 pm FREE— see pg. 14

Thursday, September 11— Logeman Free Info Meeting, see pg. 3

Sunday, September 14– Klein Bonaire Cleanup– see pg. 18

Tuesday, September 16- Netherlands Blazers Ensemble Concert, Wilhelmina Park, 7:30 pm FREE— see pg. 15

Tuesday, September 16 –Bòl Antoin Lecture– Sporthall. The Economic Development of Bonaire 7:30 pm FREE. See pg. 14

September 19 - A Taste of Bonaire – Experience food, culture, local handicrafts and all things Bonairean , Wilhelmina Park, 6-9 p.m.

September 20-27: Love Our Planet Week

September 20: Underwater Clean-Up

Tuesday, September 23 – Bòl Antoin Lecture– Sporthall. A Surprise 7:30 pm FREE. See pg. 14

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

- **Enjoy 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! **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**
 - Flamingo Rockers playing at **Sunset Bar and Grill**, from 6 - 8pm. The happy hour goes from 5:30 - 7pm. BBQ starting at 6:30pm.

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, 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
 Tel:790-6518, 786-6125
 or 790-8988

What's Coming Our Way?

Lots of cars and other vehicles are "coming our way" on Bonaire. Not surprising when we see all new developments appearing around and hear about increasing numbers of tourists, both via air and cruise ships.

Let's kick in that open door. About three or four years ago, finding a parking spot in downtown Playa on a weekday was a pretty easy job. It is no more.

The number of vehicles must have increased and when calling and asking around we learn that this is the case. One of the major car dealers on island estimates sales to have risen by around 20% the last couple of years. And apart from the giant (ugly..) ship visiting Bonaire regularly, delivering brand new cars, we also notice regular deliveries of containers with second hand cars coming in from overseas ready to be sold right here.

This observation does not include the number of "owned" vehicles brought in by those who have recently moved here.

Besides that, some car rental agencies (but not all, we must add) report to have increased their fleet (between 20-50%) over the last years also. This excludes an increase through the addition of some new rental agencies that appeared in the last year.

Things we all notice (traffic around SGB in the mornings, trying to find a parking spot in downtown Playa on a weekday, the situation around peak hours

at the crossing of Kaya International and Kaya Industria) are basically a logical result of the above.

The problem may solve itself if the impending reef crisis is not being taken care of properly. Dead reefs around Bonaire will have its economic effects and as a result we'll have to sell our cars. Issue solved.

Still, why aren't we seeing any hybrid cars like the Toyota Prius on island? The dealer tells us that there definitely is a demand, but the simple fact is the car is not available for the Caribbean yet. Specifications not ready, more preparations needed. We may expect the vehicle to be available here by 2010 though...

From hybrid to another innovation: I was lucky to be back in Amsterdam recently visiting friends and family, where I ran into a **Segway**. Some readers may already know this vehicle, but for me it was the very first time I saw it (see photo). Amazing.

The Segway is a two-wheeled, self-balancing electric vehicle, where one simply stands on. Computers and motors in the base of the device keep the Segway upright. Users lean forward to go forward, lean back to go backward, and turn by using a "Lean Steer" handlebar, leaning it left or right. Segway are driven by electric motors at up to 20 km/h (12.5 mph!) and sensors are used to detect tilt-

Cars, Cars, Cars...



A Segway people mover

ing of the device which indicates a departure from perfect balance.

Where is that Bonairean entrepreneur who somehow knows to arrange for that Segway Diver's Version with room for dive tank and equipment? I believe your business will fly.

Start by visiting www.segway.com. Good luck! ■ Story & Photo by Marcel Leurs



Klein Bonaire Cleanup



A Klein Bonaire Cleanup will be held on Sunday morning, September 14. The cleanup will help provide safe access for nesting sea turtles and safe, clean beaches for recreational use. The cleanup is organized by STINAPA and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) in conjunction with the worldwide International Coastal Cleanup.

So far this season, STCB has recorded 48 sea turtle nests on Klein. That number could increase to roughly 55 nests for this year. Fifty-five nests could result in 5,500 baby turtles hatching from their Klein Bonaire nests and attempting to make their way to the sea.

After being privately owned for 131 years, ownership of Klein Bonaire was returned to the people of Bonaire in 1999. Cleanup volunteers should meet at the Harbour Village Marina (just past the Patagonia restaurant) at 7 am on Sunday, September 14. Boats will transport volunteers to Klein Bonaire. Boats will return from Klein Bonaire to the Marina in the early afternoon. Groups and individuals who wish to join the cleanup are requested to register ahead by telephone. Call STCB at 717-2225 or STINAPA at 717-8444. Crisanta Martha, Education Coordinator, STINAPA/Marlene Robinson. ■ Press release

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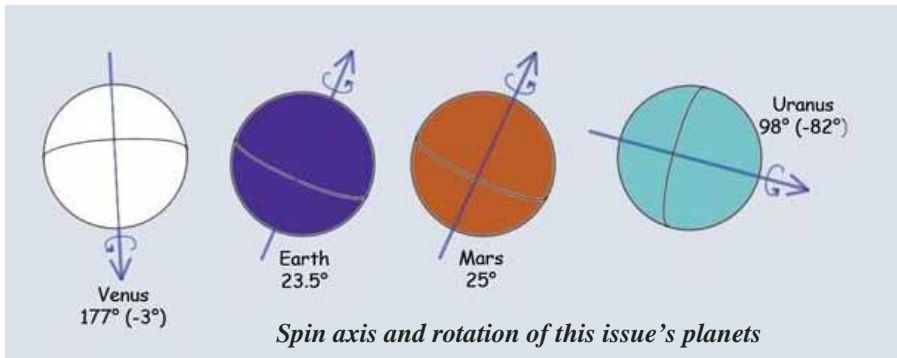
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Mars and Venus Slam into Each Other! And Uranus at its Closest and Brightest for the Entire Year"



Every once in a while two planets will appear so close together that you'd swear they might slam into each other. And even though we know that such a cosmic collision will never occur, nevertheless it is always fun to see such an event from Earth. And such is the case on Thursday evening, September 11, when the planet named for the goddess of love, Venus, and the planet named for the god of war, Mars, will be so close that they will indeed appear as if they might crash into each other. And starting this weekend you can watch them move closer and closer each night until the fateful almost-collision on the 11th. Plus on the following evening Friday the 12th the seventh planet Uranus will be at its closest and brightest for the entire year.

This Sunday, September 7th, 30 minutes after sunset while it's still a bit light out, face west where just above the horizon you will see tiny 3,000-mile-wide Mercury, slightly bigger 4,000-mile-wide Mars and dazzling 8,000-mile-wide Venus. And you'll notice that Mars and Venus will be pretty close. In fact so close that we could fit only 4 1/2 full Moons lined up end to end between them. But by Monday the 8th they'll be even closer; only 3 1/2 full Moons would fit between them. On Tuesday the 9th, closer still, only 2 1/2 full Moons apart, on Wednesday the 10th only 1 1/2 full Moons apart. But then the big change occurs on Thursday the 11th when Venus and Mars will be so close, only 3/10ths of one degree apart, that less than 1/2 of one full Moon could fit between them. Wow!

This is a really close meeting of two planets! And if you want to take full advantage of this sight I strongly suggest you watch them approach each night through a good pair of binoculars. Indeed you'll be amazed at how rapidly the planets move in their orbits. But even though Mars and Venus will look super close, visually speaking, it's only from our viewpoint on Earth, which makes it so. It's really all an optical illusion. In fact on September 11th Mercury will be 88 million miles away, whereas Venus will be 138 million miles away. But Mars will be a whopping 227 million miles from Earth: 89 million miles farther away than Venus, which sounds like a long way from home.

But if you really want to go a long way from home go out 24 hours later on Friday night, September 12th around midnight. Face due south and if you have binoculars or a small telescope you will see a tiny blue-green light which is 32,000-mile-wide Uranus which will be eight times farther away from Earth than Mars, a whopping one and 3/4 billion miles away. And that's close for Uranus because on Friday night the 12th it will be at its closest and brightest to Earth for 2008. And the reason I ask you to wait until midnight to look for it is because that's when it will be due south and at its very highest above the horizon. So don't miss the 7th planet at midnight on the 12th and a near collision between Venus and Mars on the 11th. ■ Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For September 2008

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your desire for excitement and adventure may be expensive. Romance may be likely if you travel. Driving too fast or double parking will result in difficulties with officials. Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't confide in any relatives whom you know have a tendency to meddle in other people's affairs. Take advantage of your attributes and lure the mate of your choice. You can meet new and exciting lovers through work related projects. Investments are best left alone this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You can get ahead if you work diligently behind the scenes. Don't let your anger consume you and don't allow important matters go unattended to. Get domestic chores out of the way early. You will get upset over trivial matters. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Some of the best opportunities will crop up if you keep an open mind. Be careful not to come on too strongly. Romance will unfold if you take trips or get together with friends. Draw up contracts regarding your personal situation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Consider making pleasure trips or participating in entertainment that will require energy. Sudden changes regarding your circle of friends could prove interesting and stimulating. Your personal life will be disrupted if you have been too busy with business. Don't let anyone take credit for a job you did. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your charm will be captivating. Try to mix business with pleasure while traveling. You will have a greater involvement in groups; however, they may not be to your advantage. Moneymaking ventures may just turn your life around. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You always seem to spend more than you make. Try to be patient with their inability to accept your new beliefs. Romance could develop through social activities or short trips. Think before you act. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Changes in your domestic scene are evident. Pamper yourself this month. Entertainment should include the whole family or a lot of your friends. You will be drawn to individuals who can provide you with both intellectual conversation and physical passion. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups. Someone you live with may feel totally neglected. You need to do your own thing and work on making yourself the best you can be. You will get bored quickly, so make sure that you have scheduled enough activity to hold your interest. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Your colorful conversation may attract new mates. You may find yourself in a predicament with family members. Keep an eye on your weight. Do your job and then spend some time with family; you'll be glad you did. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Misunderstandings could cause confusion and upset. Keep your mind on your work and stay away from situations that could ruin your reputation. Keep your cash in your pocket and offer them sound advice rather than your financial assistance. You may not be able to help, but your support will be favorable. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) A residential move may be in order. Get on with business. Don't be afraid to lay your cards on the table. Much can be accomplished if you compromise. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday. ■

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