

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE

March 27-April 10, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 7

The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

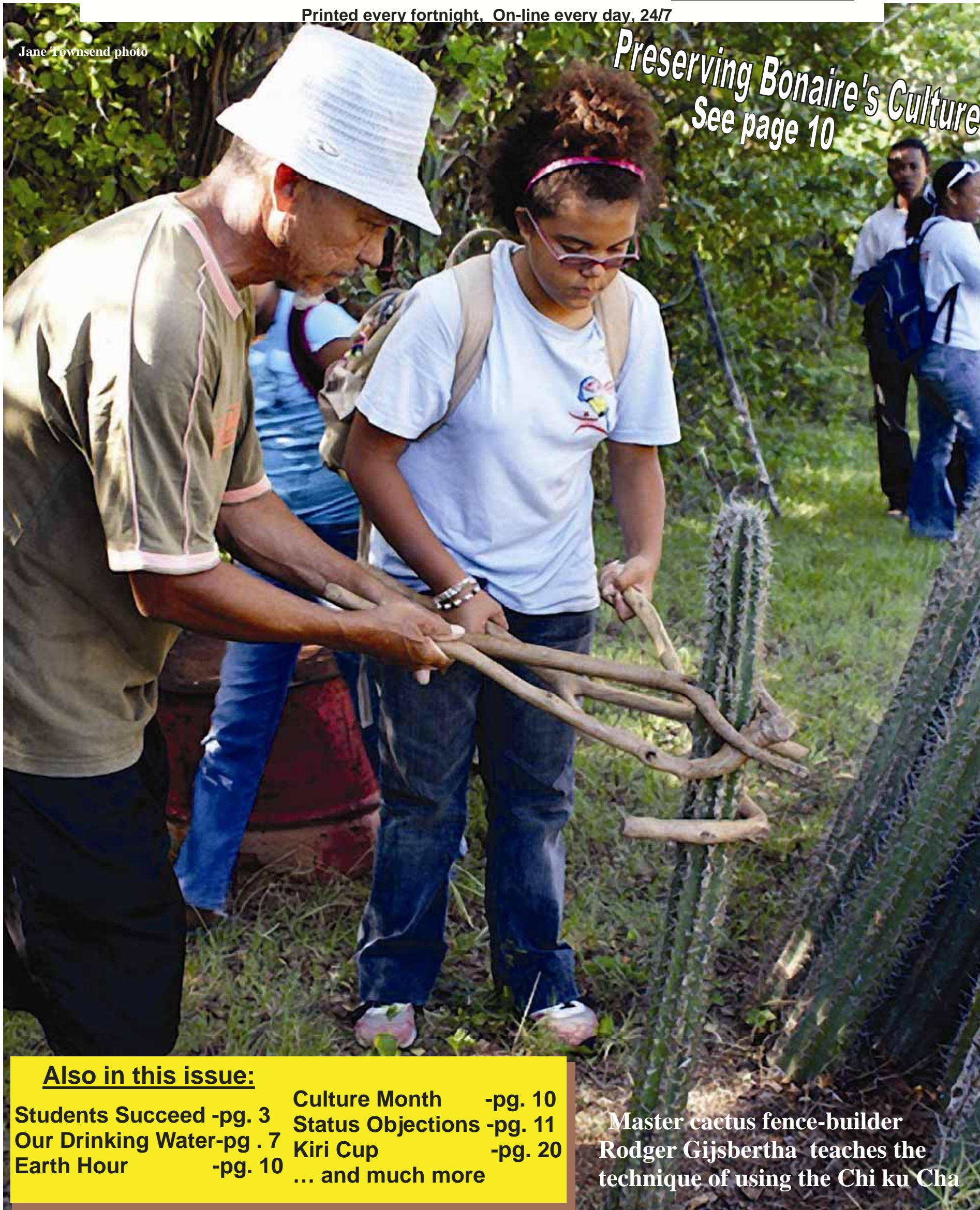
Kunuku Shimaruku, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-6518, 786-6518, email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Since 1994

Printed every fortnight, On-line every day, 24/7

Jane Townsend photo

*Preserving Bonaire's Culture
See page 10*



Also in this issue:

Students Succeed -pg. 3
Our Drinking Water-pg . 7
Earth Hour -pg. 10

Culture Month -pg. 10
Status Objections -pg. 11
Kiri Cup -pg. 20
... and much more

Master cactus fence-builder
Rodger Gijsbertha teaches the
technique of using the Chi ku Cha

The Central Committee of the Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles finally considers the debacle of Bonaire's "Parker Project" closed. Robert Parker, an American with interests in hotels in New York's Catskill Mountains, convinced the Central Government to guarantee a construction loan to build the Point Hotel on the abandoned Flamingo Paradise canals. In 1993 the resort was almost complete, including furnishings, when Parker abandoned the project leaving unpaid bills to local businesses, salaries to the hotel staff in training and payments to the hotel's builder, an Italian company.

Subsequently the Italian insurance company, Sace, which had loaned the developers the money to build the hotel, demanded the Antillean Government pay the damages based on their guarantee. With fees and interest the Antilles were forced to pay a total of Naf 90 million and was the proximate cause for the introduction of the first sales tax in the Antilles.

The "Point" property was sold by the Central Government to Holland's van der Valk family in the mid 90s, who refurbished it and opened the Plaza Resort, now one of Bonaire's largest hotel properties.

Dutch Ministers Van Raak and Johan Remkes requested the Dutch government to present a vision on "the future of tax-free havens in special economic zones" on the BES islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, and to include this vision in the new tax legislation for these islands which will become part of the Netherlands.

The Netherlands is at the top of a list measuring First World governments' efforts to help build prosperity in poor countries around the world. The Netherlands is followed by Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Japan and South Korea are at the bottom of the list. The U S ranks poorly at 17th out of the 22 countries on the 2008 Commitment to Development Index (CDI), produced annually by the Centre for Global Development, an independent think tank that works to reduce global poverty.

In early March Curacao-based Insel Air either had lengthy delays or cancellations on its routes to St. Maarten, Santo Domingo, Haiti, Valencia, Miami and Curaçao. According to Insel Air two of its planes, an MD-82 and MD-83, had to be grounded as both planes had reached their time for scheduled maintenance.

A spike in revenue showed the relatively small economy of Bonaire has taken advantage of the influx of Dutch capital in anticipation of the coming changes in the constitutional structure of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Maduro & Curiel's bank (MCB) made the observation during the presentation of its annual financial results.



Bonaire and Curacao will have their own Internet Exchange (The Caribbean Internet Exchange-CAR-IX) starting next Monday. An internet exchange is a hardware hub where local internet providers are connected and where they can communicate locally among themselves without any contact from abroad. A significant advantage of this system is that local internet contact with local destinations is less expensive and done locally.

The Telecom operators UTS, MIO, Scarlet, Digicel in Cura-

Ryan Pietersz (27) was sentenced to life imprisonment for the manslaughter of Marlies van der Kouwe. In the Antilles a life sentence means the person will never be released from prison unless given clemency.

Pietersz was acquitted of murder, rape, sexual assault and kidnapping of the 24-year old Dutch pharmacy trainee. The judge decided it was proven that Pietersz had stalked Van der Kouwe on the night of September 20 to 21 last year; followed her when she rode her bicycle to her apartment in Hato and waited for her. As she passed he ambushed her pulled her off her bike and smashed her head against the ground. Pietersz then took the woman with him on a scooter and strangled her.

Psychologists, psychiatrists and probation officers reported that there was a grave risk of Pietersz repeating the crime. They described him as an antisocial person who showed impulsive, aggressive and ruthless behavior. The only way to prevent this from happening again was to "ban him from society forever," the judge said.

Pietersz had been imprisoned previously for abduction, robberies and rape committed in 2002. Pietersz admitted to strangling the young woman. He said it was a robbery turned bad. Van der Kouwe's parents and sister were in court to hear the verdict.



Ryan Pietersz

çao and Telbo in Bonaire joined forces with the Central Government to hopefully provide a better "Quality of Internet Service" to cut costs and help the economy grow.

Initially local internet traffic can be exchanged on Curaçao instead of needing an international connection in Miami. Bonaire will be connected at the start and Aruba and Sint Maarten soon after. The Amsterdam Internet Exchange, AMS-IX, which provides the biggest internet junction in the world with a capacity of 439 Gb/s, is CAR-IX's partner and mentor.

The Bank of the Netherlands Antilles (BNA) is forecasting a real economic growth of 1% in 2009. This takes into account an expected inflation of 2.2%, significantly lower than

6.5% of the previous year. The US forecasts a decline of 1.6% and the Netherlands a greater 3.5% decline in growth.

Bonaire Island Council member and new Senator, Anthony T.C. Nicolaas, has asked the Governor, in his capacity as the president of the Island Council, to pay special attention to the situation of persons with physical and/or mental handicaps on Bonaire. A significant number of Bonaire residents are faced with multiple obstacles to equal opportunity, independence and complete economic and social integration. Nicolaas asked the Island Government to survey the number of Bonaire's handicapped, assess their requirements and come up with an action plan that will better the situation.

Continued on page 0

Table of Contents

This Week's Stories

Ryan Pietersz	2
Jacky Bemabela Play	3
Student Chefs Succeed	3
SGB Chez Nous Reopens	6
Phyllis Blackburn poem	6
Bonaire Communicates	9
Culture Month	10
Earth Hour	10
Guest Editorial-Objections to New Status	11
100 th Free Sterilization	12
Louise Rood-Dr, Do	14
Letters to the Editor: Cruise Ship Trade, Query, Wheelless	14
Rotarally	15
Kiri Cup	20
Reporter Countdown	20

Weekly Features

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On Island Since-Normen Boekhoudt	4
Pet of the Week (Carmen, Kittens)	12
Bonairean Voices (Our Water Supply)	7
Sudoku Puzzle	7
BonQuiz (Cactus)	9
Sudoku Solution	9
Picture Yourself (Petra, Jorden)	13
Classifieds	13
Reporter Masthead	12
Tide Table	13
Bubbles-Did You Know (Medical uses)	15
What's Happening	16
Dining, Shopping Guides	17
Bonaire On Wheels (Is. Grower)	18
Sky Park (Venus)	19
Star Power (Astrology)	19

How to contact us

Letters to the Editor:
Reporter@bonairenews.com
Story tip or idea:
info@bonairereporter.com
Print and Online Advertising:
laura@bonairenews.com
Archives:
Bonairenews.com, then click on "Go to Archives"
The Publisher:
George@bonairenews.com

The Bonaire Reporter,
P. O. Box 407, Bonaire,
Neth. Antilles.
Phone 790-8988
Phone 790-6518
Available on-line at:
www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,
On-line Every day, 24/7
Next edition printing on
April 15, 2009.

Ad deadline April 11



SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES

Member: American Society for Industrial Security

WANT TO FEEL SAFER?

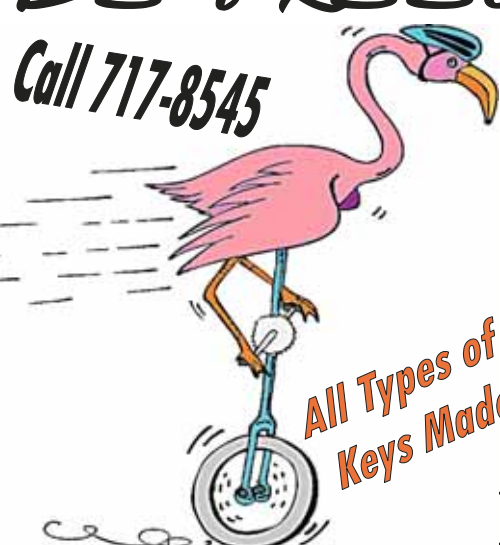
SIGN UP WITH US

•Transport of Money and Valuables	•Vehicle patrols	In Business Over 25 Years
•Private Investigations	•Burglar Alarms	
	•Fire Alarm Systems	

Kaya Nikiboko Nord 37A, PO Box 225 Tel: (599) 717- 8125
Fax (599) 717- 6125 E-mail sss@bonairelive.com

DE FREEWIELER

Call 717-8545



All Types of Keys Made

SCOOTER & BIKE SALES & REPAIR

Peugeot, Kymco
Loëkie, Grant
Gazelle Brands

Parts and accessories for any brand scooter or bike
Bike Clothes for Everyone

Kaya Grandi #61
Across from INPO

Open: 8:30-12:30, 2:00-5:30
Owner Operated

freewieler@flamingotv.net

Jackie Bernabela's Play

"After Party" Debuts in Curacao

"After Party" is a hilariously funny and sometimes poignant play in Papiamentu about a group of women, forever friends, who decide to buy a big old beautiful house and live together in their elder years. Their children have grown up and their husbands have passed away. The play opened to a packed house at the Teatro Luna Blou in Otrabanda in Curacao last Saturday night, March 21.

Bonaire's Jackie Bernabela, the director and co-author with Albert Schoobaar, of the play, says, "My girl friends, who I've known for years, were my inspiration for this play."

Bernabela has directed plays in Bonaire and in Holland, is a drama teacher and has translated plays into Papiamentu for local actors and audiences. "After Party" was sponsored as part of the theater's Artists in Residence Program.

Jackie's girlfriends have all kept in touch over the years and most of them were in the front row of the theatre on opening night, laughing their heads off as they recognized the words and antics of themselves and the others. "I put myself into one of the characters too," said Jackie, "the one who was always losing her things."

The actresses playing the friends come from a group of extremely talented and experienced actors in Curacao. "They were the Betty Davises and the Katherine Hepburns of the 60s and 70s," declared Jackie. They gave stellar performances - perfect timing, talking over each other - like real conversations in real life. Each was comfortable in his or her role.

The next day, Sunday, this hardy group gave two more performances. There will be 10 more performances on the following weekends at the Teatro Luna Blou. You may call the theatre at 462-2209 for reservations. At the moment it is sold out, but there may be some cancellations. ■ L.D.



Jackie Bernabela arrives at the theater with the cast, greeted by the theatre director, John Leerdam

Student Chefs in Italy



Faculty and Students gathered for the graduation in Emilia Romagna, Italy.

The FORMA students who finished a culinary course in Italy prepared a special lunch for the Italian sponsors who made the project possible. The menu was a product of their imaginations and was prepared under the guidance of Bonaireans Miguel Saragoza and Ezzard Semeleer. The menu began with a fish croquette with a Creole sauce followed by stuffed ravioli. The main course was *funchi* (Bonaire's polenta) with finely ground fish accompanied by a fried plantain. Dessert was a delicious "cousin's cake." All expressed delight at the presentation and taste.

After the lunch the students received certificates of merit for the three weeks of work they put in learning the cuisine of Italy's Emilia Romagna region.

Students were Nathaly Adamus, Stellinda

Engelhart, Dianina Lambert, Gloria Lont, Rosa Marchena, Sertiva Mercera, Sharily Nicolaas, Joey v/d Ree, Migaila and Mirchonella Winklaar. The students arrived home last weekend. ■ Press Release/L.D.



Mirchonella Winklaar gets her certificate



CARIBBEAN HOMES
+YACHTS
BONAIRE.COM

SARAMACA
villa 7

Listed for:
US\$ 1,225,000




OPEN HOUSE
see-it-to-believe-it

This Saturday, March 28
from 10 AM till 2 PM

Phone (599) 717 4686 www.caribbeanhomesbonaire.com Kaya Isla Riba (Next to City Café)

Born on Bonaire - June 8, 1979

Normen Boekhoudt

“Life is good. What I’m trying to say is that if everybody starts thinking forward instead of looking backwards and worrying about things they’ve been through – those things don’t exist anymore. You’ve already lived that, so you have to leave it behind and move on because what you’ve been through you can’t turn around anymore.

My parents had five children. I have three sisters and one brother. I had a great mom and a great dad and I couldn’t have been happier. I grew up in Playa and my mom, Norma Boekhoudt-Marchena, still lives in the same house where I was born. My mother’s father, Gabriel Marchena, and his father, my great grandfather, build the *Niagara I* and the *Niagara II*, big sailboats that took cargo from Bonaire to Curacao and vice versa. Both boats disappeared on a trip and until today nobody knows what happened.

My dad, Ralph Boekhoudt, was an engineer on a ship. He started on the first cargo ship from the island, a boat called *Debby*. After that he worked for the salt company for 17 years until he passed away March 22, 1998. I was 19. You won’t believe it, but a year

later, exactly on the same day, I lost my pinky in an accident. My papa was my best friend.

I started working after school hours for Rocargo when I was 12. At 16 I became a helper in the Plaza kitchen. I like to cook. I stayed there for six months; then I left and started working for Marco Gravenhorst’s Island Pool Service for a couple of years. When they left for Holland I went to work for another pool service company.

One day I left for Venezuela to attend a wedding of a good friend of mine. I was supposed to go for two weeks. The wedding took place in San Antonio, close to San Cristobal on the border of Colombia. There I met a cousin of my friend’s wife who worked for this guy called Hugo Molina, who organized all the ferias of



If Chavez decides we’re not going to get ‘his’ tomatoes anymore, we can grow our own. If I can, the rest of us can do it too...

toreo – the bull fights – in South America. I’d run out of cash - so I decided to become a cowboy! It was fun! Every morning we mounted horses, rode for three

hours, rounded up 400 cows and took them back to the hacienda where we injected them against diseases and checked their health. We slept at my friend’s hacienda,

a coffee and banana plantation. It was a beautiful place on a very steep slope of a mountain, but there were tarantulas as big as my hand. I did that for four months and it became harder and harder to make a decision about what I was going to do.

So, I took the bus to Coro, a 12-hour trip, and in Coro it was nice too. I stayed there for two weeks and then I went to check if there

was a flight to Curacao. There wasn’t, but I talked to the pilot who had nothing else to do. He said he would take us for \$35 per person, so we flew back on a private plane.

Two days later I was back on Bonaire and started working for Johan on excavators, cranes and trucks - heavy equipment. In 2001 I flew to New York.

(Continued on page 5)

WESTPOINT

Air-conditioning

Kaya International # 36 Bonaire, Kralendijk
 Tel.: 717-4630 - 717-3666 / Fax: 717-4650
 E-mail: infocityshopnv@gmail.com

City Shop

Miho preis & Bon Servisio

	SIN INSTALASHON	KU INSTALASHON
9000 BTU	Fls. 895,-	Fls. 995,-
12000 BTU	Fls. 1.025,-	Fls. 1.145,-
18000 BTU	Fls. 1.325,-	Fls. 1.475,-
24000 BTU	Fls. 1.745,-	Fls. 1.895,-
30000 BTU	Fls. 2.420,-	Fls. 2.595,-

** Nos ta ofrese bo 5 Aña di garantia riba e kompresor i 1 aña di garantia riba e sobra piesanan.

** Pa tur kompañia ku ta instala airko i instalado City Shop N.V. ta ofresebo un MIHO PREIS.

*On The Island Since
(Continued from page 4)*

Johan's partner, Bob Casner from New Jersey, had called me and asked me if I could come for a couple of months to work on the demolition of the WWII military base in Syracuse, NY—Hancock Field Airport. If I could, I would go back right now. I was making \$1,800 a week. I didn't have to pay for my apartment or for the car. Everything was taken care off. During the weekends I would go for drives, just randomly, to see where I would end up, checking into hotels or motels at the end of the day. I had such a great time!

A month before I went to New York, I went to Miami with Lele and Steve. We landed at Miami Airport, drove up to Jacksonville, fixed a sailboat and sailed down to Fort Lauderdale. When the captain decided he'd cross the ocean to St. Martin whether or not it was bad weather, I was 'man overboard.' Ha! Ha! I flew back to Bonaire. I remember Steve, my friend, telling me that I was a big chicken. After four days I heard they'd had a shipwreck. When Steve came back he told me he was sorry, that he should have listened to me.

Well, after having worked for Johan for three and a half years, I left for Holland and it was pretty good. I enjoyed being there; I liked my job and my colleagues. I worked on a forklift for a com-

pany close to The Hague, which had these huge greenhouses where they were growing flowers. I stayed in Holland for three years.

Now I'm a bartender. I work at Jibe City and it's been almost four years. It's my first bartending job and I enjoy my work. It's fun; people always smile, they're enjoying themselves at Jibe and on Bonaire, and it's a pleasure to serve them. The tourists come to surf or just for the view and for our highly recommended food! And I speak Dutch, English, Spanish and Papiamentu and a little bit of Portuguese and Turkish, so it's no problem to communicate with people.

When I was in Holland, Venezuela and New York, it wasn't only about work - of course I needed the money - but it was also important to me to learn how other people think, how the culture is and how they live. If you're not interested in those things it's hard to get along, to get to know them. I feel good wherever I go. I adapt myself to people really fast." *Normen is guy with a great philosophy and he's gentle, open minded and easy going and way ahead compared to other people of his age.*

"I don't like to go out," he continues. "Going out is a waste of money! I enjoy myself at home with my girlfriend Jennifer and our puppy dog Charlie, which we recently adopted from the Shel-

ter. I prefer to be at home with the whole family and friends (you never get into trouble with them) and organize a barbecue. In my free time I'm a handyman. Since I'm working at Jibe they don't need a handyman anymore. Or I'm busy with my plants. I grow tomatoes, celery, spinach and local vegetables. Last year in September I even had strawberries - very small ones - but they were good! Now I'm building a greenhouse at my mom's place.

I like animals and plants and nature. I started growing vegetables when I was 10. I had my own little garden with radishes, carrots, beets, sweet potatoes, celery and *warmoes* (spinach) and one day my brother Raphaelito succeeded in harvesting one little broccoli! Up until now I think it was a miracle how he did it, especially because he wasn't really into plants. I'm still jealous. I think people here could do so much more than they're doing now. If I can grow all these vegetables it means that many more people could do it too. If Chavez decides we're not going to get 'his' tomatoes anymore, we can grow our own. If I can, the rest of us can do it too. If I had the



money or the opportunity to build a big greenhouse and to grow fruits and vegetables for a living I would do so immediately. And if I had a kunuku with a good well and a windmill to pump up the water I would go and live there right away. I have something with plants. When I put a tomato seed in the soil and see how the plant grows and how it forms the new tomatoes - I feel I created something. I really, really like it.

I don't know if I will always stay here. It depends on what's going to change. It could be good or bad changes. So far we don't know. I think everything is becoming more and more difficult; they want to put rules and regulations here which do not match with our culture because all of

our lives we lived the way we're living. And those same rules and regulations did a lot of harm to other countries. Everywhere in the world where there are a lot of rules it's hard to make it. I've seen a lot for being 29 years old and Bonaire is still home sweet home. For me the most important thing is that every day I get what I need and I don't need a lot - I've got my girl, I've got my dog, I've got my job - I've got my stuff taken care off." ■

Story & photos by
Greta
Kooistra



<p>For All Your Shipping Needs</p> <p>Kaya Industria 12, Kralendijk- Bonaire—N.A. 717-8922 FAX 717-5791 Email:info@rocargo.com</p>			
<p>ROCARGO SERVICES, N.V.</p> <p>Full service door to door by air and by sea. Customs clearance, transportation, warehousing. International and local relocation. Packing material in stock. Qualified and professional personnel. Timely, accurate and reliable ISO 9001: 2000 Certified</p>	<p>FedEx[®] Express</p> <p><i>The World On Time</i></p> <p>Offering DAILY Express Services from and to Bonaire</p> <p>For shipment tracking www.fedex.com</p>	<p>AmCAR AMCAR FREIGHT, INC.</p> <p>Amcar Freight, Inc.</p> <p>The ONLY company offering direct weekly consolidation services from Miami, USA to Bonaire</p> <p>www.amcarfreight.com</p> <p>7860 N.W. 80th Street Medley, Florida 33166 Tel. (305) 599-8866 Fax (305) 599-2808</p>	<p>IFC</p> <p>International Freight (Car) BV</p> <p>The ONLY company offering direct weekly consolidation services from Europe/Holland to Bonaire</p> <p>www.ifc-consolidators.nl</p> <p>Jupiterweg 1A (Ecopark) 4761 RW Moerdijk, Holland Tel 31-(0) 168-40-94 94 Fax 31-(0) 168-40 94 70</p>

Hotel Cooking School Chez Nous Reopens



Chez Nous faculty and students

Recently Chez Nous, the hotel cooking school at the high school, was reopened by John van't Hoff, one of the new directors of the SGB high school, and Deputy of Education, Maritsa Silberie.

The school offers training to students going to work in the "horeca" (food and beverage) business in cooking, waiting and bartending, careers that are crucial to Bonaire, an island that depends a lot on restaurants and tourism.

After being closed for nearly four months as a result of the damage done to the kitchen by Hurricane Omar, Chez Nous is now open to serve the public until

the end of April, thanks to the work of DROB (Department of Public Works and Environment).

The restaurant, Chez Nous, is open Tuesday evening for four-course dinners from 6 pm and on Wednesdays and Thursdays for three-course lunches from 12 noon. **It's important to make reservations ahead.** Call the SGB between the hours of 8 am and 3 pm 717-8120 and ask for Chez Nous. We can attest that some of the meals that come out of that kitchen are impressive! Give it a try. ■

L.D.



Phyllis went back to the Sea today; she was always so happy there.

Guess the only reason she ever came back, she ran out of air.

An eagle ray passed by, I think he waved. Even the Chromis seemed particularly well behaved.

An angel fish tagged along as we crested the reef, a time, what a time; saved Time passes so quickly when there is not so much left.

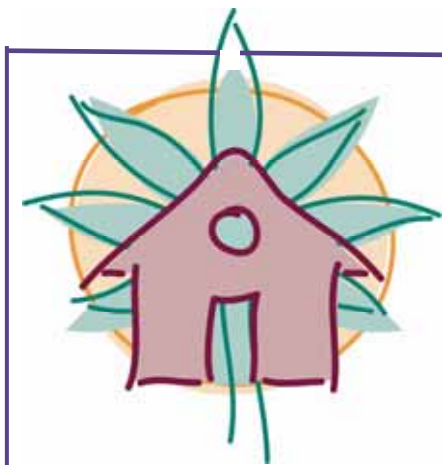
I shall visit you often, with all my love

Phyllis Blackburn 1946 - 2009

Turtle Snack



Part-time Bonaire resident Lee Scruggs snapped this photo of a Green turtle munching on a parrotfish carcass. And we didn't know that turtles ate fish. Thanks, Lee. ■ G.D.



Sunbelt Realty N.V.
Kaya L.D. Gerharts 8
717 65 60
info@sunbelt.an | www.sunbelt.an

•Stop the silent destruction of your home •

Tel:
7172670
7869262



PROFESSIONAL
EST CONTROL N.V.
Aruba • Bonaire • Curaçao

Termite Treatment •
Fleas & Tick's •
Plant Treatment •
Ant Treatment •



You Can Run...But You Can't Hide.

T.I.S.

Bonaire's "insider" market has selection and prices that will save you time and money. Visit today.

Shop T.I.S. for a large variety of foods, products, frozen items, meats, liquors, wines and much more. Come and have a look in our big market on Kaya Industria and Shop the Caribbean way. T.I.S. is for everybody!

The Island Supplier, Kaya Industria 28A. Tel # 717-6446 or 717-6448 Fax # 717-6447 Email: tis@telbonet.an

Wholesale and Retail T.I.S. delivers to homes, marinas restaurants, supermarkets and tokos.

INSTANT BLAZING FAST INTERNET. JUST ADD A COMPUTER.

USE IT AT HOME, IN THE OFFICE, ON THE ROAD - VIRTUALLY ANYWHERE FOR ON-THE-GO MOBILITY. PEAK DOWNLOAD SPEEDS TO 3.1 MBPS, UPLOAD SPEEDS OF 512 MPBS. WORKS IN ARUBA, CURACAO, AND BONAIRE PLUS SUPPORTS MULTIPLE PLATFORMS. SOME OF THE SUPPORTED APPLICATIONS INCLUDE:

- EMAIL - INCREASED SPEED TO SEND LARGE FILES
- INTERNET/INTRANET ACCESS
- REAL-TIME MEDIA STREAMING
- ONLINE GAMING
- HEALTHCARE/INSURANCE, SENDING IMAGES

Sign up for a MIO phone too—

VISIT US AT AND FOR A LIMITED TIME RECEIVE A FREE /MODEM:
KAYA ANDRES A.EMERENCIANA 4D NOORD
NIKIBOKO BONAIRE N.A TEL : 717-8787
TO JOIN VISIT WWW.MIOMANIA.COM OR CALL 0 800 GET A MIO (438-2646)

MIO GROUP

Bonairean Voices is sponsored by



MCB

MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK (BONAIRE) N.V.

Kaya L.D. Gerharts 1 • Phone: +(599) 715-5520
Website: www.mcbbonaire.com • Email: info@mcbbonaire.com



www.mcbb-home.com

We keep making things convenient for you!

With 4 branches and 10 ATMs located throughout the island and our Internet Banking, MCB@Home, at your service anytime, any day, anywhere.



BONAIREAN VOICES

OUR DRINKING WATER

In the last few weeks in this column we've been talking about fishing activities in Bonaire waters, and as you know, fish need clean and clear water to survive. And so do we. I made an appointment with our Bonairean Water and Electricity Company (WEB). Mr. Roy Silberie, Manager of the Planning and Quality Control Department, introduced me to Mr. Edson Martinus (45), an engineer in that department which is concerned with the production of our drinking water.



Edson Martinus—Water Engineer

"Before 2005," Edson explained, "WEB used big boilers to distill the sea water into drinking water, but after the fire in the power plant we start using another kind of system to produce drinking water. This system is called Seawater Reverse Osmosis. This plant is environmentally friendly and it produces no noxious discharges. At the moment the production of drinking water is outsourced to GE technologies. GE Technologies produces fresh water from seawater, but it still needs to be treated. WEB buys this water from GE and turns it into drinking water. The GE water is treated with sodium hypochlorite which ensures that the drinking water is devoid of any biological activity or lime (calcium carbonate) to maintain a PH of 7.5-8.5 to reduce the corrosiveness of the water. It's put through activated carbon filters to absorb odor, taste and any toxics from the water. So, as you can see, WEB is still responsible for the quality of our drinking water.

This processed water is tested in the WEB lab every day to make sure it meets the health standard of WHO (World Health Organization) guidelines and the Netherlands Antilles drinking water law before the water gets to the distribution tanks. There are three distribution tanks on Seru Largu hill and two on Rincon hill.

The result of the chemical analyses made in the WEB lab must meet the international laws for drinking water. Some of these standards concern Temperature, Conductivity, PH, Turbidity, Alkalinity, Total Hardness, Calcium Hardness, Magnesium Hardness, Iron, Chlorine, Sul-

phate, Phosphate, LI and CI. These terms may seem a bit complicated, but they are what explain the quality of the water we are drinking. On the back side of the paper we residents sign for water connection to our property is a whole description of these terms so we know that we are drinking good water," he explained. Have you ever noticed that?

As we continued our interview he said, "We have the best quality of water in Bonaire and we can drink it without fear. The daily production of the water is 3,600 m3. And the total usage is 2,900-3,100 m3 daily. In time of crises we can still supply the population for eight long days without any production."

Have you heard about the program that STINAPA has on the radio? One of them is about our environment and how much bottled water we and our tourists use and how many of these empty bottles become toxic for our soil and sea. So try to avoid this. Refill your bottle with our fresh, tasteful and healthy Bonairean water. You never know: maybe in the future WEB can open another water plant to produce water for export and help boost the economy of Bonaire.

For more information you can have a tour through our national water plant and learn more about our Water and Electricity Company (WEB).

■ Story & photo by Siomara E. Albertus

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

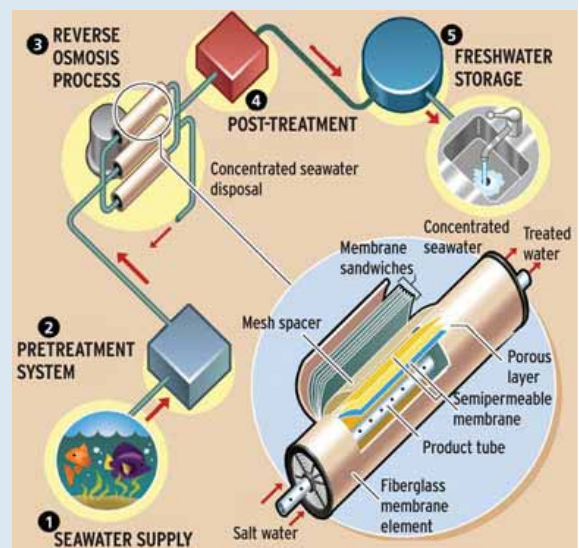


Reverse Osmosis Gains Favor

Advances in membrane design, in combination with energy-recovery devices that take pressure from the concentrated brine stream and transfer most of it to the incoming water flow, have made desalination more affordable. Current RO facilities desalinate seawater for 68 to 90 cents per cubic meter according to the American Water Works Association. In Bonaire, WEB delivers pure desalinated water to Bonaire households for NAf 12 (\$6.77) per cubic meter.

Some 13,000 desalination plants capable of producing 52.3 million cubic meters (13.8 billion gallons) of potable water a day are currently in operation, according to the International Desalination Association (IDA). But that is only a half a percent of global daily water use, a figure that would grow faster if process costs could be further reduced. Nevertheless, construction of desalination facilities rose at an annual clip of 17% since 1990, the IDA reports.

In any case, a new market analysis by Lux Research forecasts that the global desalinated water supply will grow at a compound annual growth rate of 9.5% during the next decade as Australia, Israel, Singapore, California and others build desalination plants for seawater and inland brackish water. ■ G.D.



New Morning Program
"FIT & HEALTHY"
Top Health Bonaire
Fitness & Health Center

Fit & Healthy is a program completely under the guidance of a professional. Exercising in a responsible way is guaranteed. The 75-minute program is adequate for all and especially all ages (even 60+). Lose weight, maintain a healthy weight or work on an optimum physical condition. If you are experiencing health problems, like back- and knee pain, Fit & Health is right for you. Special attention to a correct posture. What makes Fit & Healthy different from aerobic sessions is that there isn't any dance choreography, but you get the same weight loss result as from aerobics.

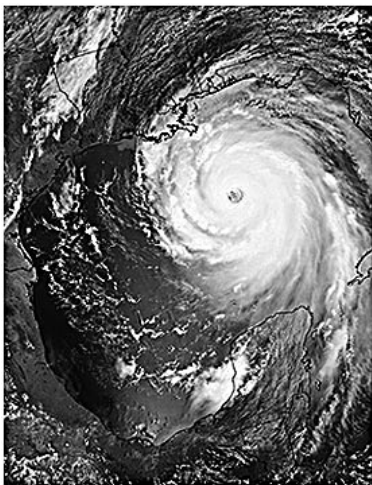
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 8:00am till 9:15 Cost only NAf 75/ month
**** BRING THIS AD FOR A FREE TRIAL CLASS ****

Top Health Fitness Center at the Kaya Nikiboko Nord (towards More-4- Less) in the "La Hacienda" building— 796-3109 or 786-8908

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

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



A hurricane swirls in the Gulf of Mexico. Image Credit: NASA

► *AccuWeather.com*, a private weather forecasting organization, has released its predictions for this year's impending hurricane season. The good news? **Half as many tropical storms this year in the Atlantic as last year. The bad news? That's still four big storms between June 1 and November 30, the annual Atlantic hurricane season.**

The projected dip stems from, among other factors, a weak El Nino weather pattern this year caused by warmer water temperatures in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, said Joe Bastardi, *AccuWeather's* chief long range and hurricane forecaster.

In total, Bastardi predicts that 13 named storms – those that reach tropical storm status with 63 mile-per-hour (101 kilometer-per-hour) sustained wind speeds – will roil the Atlantic this year. Of that, eight will cross the 74 mile- (199 kilometer-) per-hour threshold and become full-fledged hurricanes. Two of those are expected to be major storms of Category 3 or above on the Saffir-Simpson Scale, meaning sustained winds of at least 111 miles (179 kilometers) per hour.



► For the convenience of its customers at its Playa branch on Kaya L.D. Gerharts, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) has **expanded its free parking facilities.** Last Monday, March 16, the parking lot beside Little Havana will be reserved exclusively for customers of the MCB branch. The first half hour is free automatically and if the bank business extends beyond that time a chit will be given to the customer extending that time. The normal parking rate is Naf 5 per hour for non-bank business. The "old" MCB parking lot will be reserved for employees. Parking between 7 am and 6 pm during the week is reserved for customers and employees of the



Government Photo

► Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag with the two new Parliament members of Bonaire's UPB (green) Party: Anthony Nicolaas (left) and Harlton "Onnie" Emerenciana (right). UPB party members Hubert Martis and Noris Gomes also took the oath as respectively the new Antillean Minister of Economic & Labor Affairs and State Secretary of Interior & Constitutional Affairs.

bank. In the evening hours and during weekends the spaces are open for public use.



Government Photo



Government Photo

► Last Thursday and Saturday the police had a public viewing at the police station of bicycles allegedly stolen so that victims could identify and claim their bikes.



► As we go to press an agreement has been reached through the intervention of Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe **so that the freight ships can be unloaded in a timely manner even if cruise ships are in port.**

G./L.D.

► The Bonaire Island Government has encouraged WEB, Bonaire's electric current provider, **to accelerate the installation of new lighting in downtown Kralendijk, especially along the sea promenade.** In recent weeks there was an increase in criminal activity in the area and the defective lights may have been a factor. Some new lights have been installed and others repaired, but further installations are awaiting delivery of materials.

► Sunbelt Realty represented Bonaire at the Second Home Fair in Utrecht, which is the biggest



fair in Europe in its category and has over 350 participants offering houses in more than 65 countries. In previous years there were frequently several broker offices from Bonaire present. **This year Sunbelt Realty was the sole Bonaire broker touting Bonaire** as the perfect location for a second home. Sunbelt Realty is in the Les Galleries Shopping Mall, across from the MCB bank. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm and on Saturday from 8:30 am to 12:30pm. Call Anja Romeijnders at 717- 6560 for further information.



Marian Walthie photos

Pegasus crew, Arjen van Eijk and Florian Dirkse with STINAPA's Elsmarie Beukenboom

► Bonaire kicked off this year's series of "The Taste of Bonaire" with a tribute to the environment. It's a special time as Bonaire is celebrating respectively the 40th and 30th anniversaries of Washington-Slagbaai National Park and the Bonaire National Marine Park.

The TCB, assisted by STINAPA, helped launch the around-the-world voyage of the Curaçao-based yacht *Pegasus*. STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom represented Bonaire.

The yacht's crew, Arjen van Eijk and Florian Dirkse, are hoping their "Green Miles" trip will raise awareness of the state of the world's oceans and how sustainable energy can help the environment. Green Miles wants to inspire people to interact with the world and the oceans properly.

The crew will sail around the world on a limited budget as sustainably as possible over a period of two years to attain their goals.

Equipped with solar panels and two windmills for electrical needs, their yacht, a Gibsea 126, will soon head towards the Pacific Ocean. The project can be followed on the Internet at www.thegreenmiles.nl.

■ G./L. D.



Yacht Pegasus



Be pampered for breakfast or lunch by youngsters in training for the world of the professional restaurant business by the Stichting Project. Delicious menu, Good prices
On Kaya Gob. N. Debrot –opposite the Divi Flamingo Hotel
Open: Wednesday to Friday 9.00-14.00 See you soon!

Bonaire Communicates

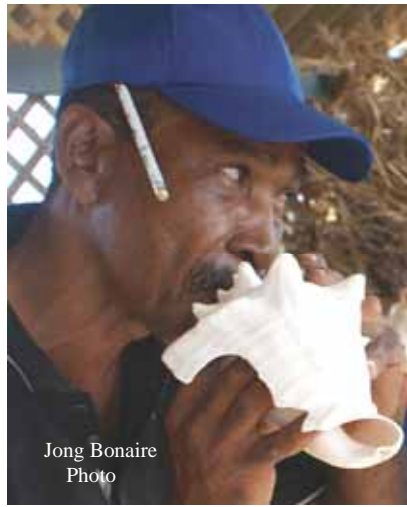
When Telbo announced it's 25th anniversary last year, being the curious sort I began to wonder what the telephone situation was prior to that time, i.e., before 1983. As I began to research this I came across a commemorative book produced by Telbo giving an interesting history of communication on Bonaire dating from the very early days. Imagine what it must have been like not to have all the tools we so depend on today: the telephone, email, fax, Blackberry, Skype and all the other indispensable inventions that are 'must haves' in today's world.

But in olden times, when Bonaire was very young, the best and only way to communicate from one end of the island to the other was by using cow horns, conch shells, or flutes made from corn stalks. The calls made by these instruments could be a person 'calling' a friend or someone needing help with his fishing or hunting. It was also frequently used to call the children home. In order to know who was calling, each horn blower had his or her own signature sound, much like a person sending Morse code has a distinctive signature. There were specific tones, sequences, and rhythms which were translated into messages. As many as 20 different signals have been identified which were used to announce a death, that someone was lost, that help was needed, etc. These calls were also used in navigation to dictate boating maneuvers, to warn of danger, or to greet passing ships. In the very early days fires were built on Mount Brandaris to warn Dutch ships and the island of Curacao when there were enemy ships off Bonaire's coastline.

Obviously communication at that time was primitive. As an example, in 1885 it took two days for information on a hurricane that hit Rincon to make its way to Playa as communication depended on people riding donkeys and horses to get messages around the island. Apparently there wasn't a horn tone for 'we've been flattened by a hurricane'.

Time passed and inventors such as Marconi developed the telegraph. In 1909 an investigation was made concerning the installation of radio stations along Bonaire's coastline to provide telegraph communication services to ships. In 1910 telegraphy was approved for Bonaire, and finally, in 1911, a telegraph station, located at Fort Oranje, was completed and the first telegram was sent. The local citizens all flocked to the station to see how this miracle of communication worked. In their excitement they took the opportunity to send telegrams to their relatives in Curacao – apparently the precursor of the Hallmark card. This system was somewhat primitive as two wooden masts supported the antenna and, as there was no electric power available, a battery was used which was activated by a windmill. Later on, at the beginning of the first world war in 1914, Bonaire's telegraph station was able to receive telegraph signals with war news that was then transmitted to Curacao.

The telephone arrived on Bonaire in 1921 when a line was installed between Playa and Rincon. Later, in 1944, Kralendijk got its own network with 20 connections. It's interesting to note that in



Jong Bonaire Photo

the beginning there was no charge for service. (Hey, Telbo, how about that?) But as with all new and exciting inventions the network expanded and private persons as well as businesses signed up. By 1947 there were 75 numbers available but only 60 were being used with 45 dedicated to the government. By that time a small charge for service had begun. By 1953 the telephone company staff consisted of one technician, four telephone operators, and a supervisor. That same year the first public telephone was installed near Wilhelmina Park to accommodate visitors and passengers arriving on the 500 ships, mostly sailing vessels, that visited Bonaire during this time. (And we think WE have a cruise ship problem!)

Time marched on and the telephone system became more easily available to the people of Bonaire. Initially the telephone numbers consisted of only four digits. It wasn't until 1999 that it was increased to seven digit numbers with three exchanges – Kralendijk, Antriol, and Rincon. I clearly remember the four digit numbers as well as having to sign up on a waiting list a couple of years before moving to Bonaire in order to be sure to have a number when we arrived. Ah, the good old days.

Now hasn't this been fun learning about how far we've come on Bonaire in the last few hundred years? Just wait until next week when I'll bring you up to date on communications available on Bonaire in the 21st century. Oh goody! ■ *Dabney Lassiter*



BonQuiz

Test your knowledge of Bonaire



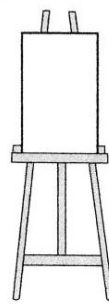
Something that, without a doubt, attracts the attention of tourists who I have the privilege of touring with are the wonderful cactus fences. This typical way of keeping people in or out of a piece of property has been around for a long, long, time. The Masai in Kenya use this technique, mainly because there is no other material in the desert to use to keep cattle from their crops. In such arid and dry places, cactus serves its purpose well. And thus on Bonaire and in the region, this too has been a means of protecting the crops. Farmers on Bonaire have perfected the use of two sticks, cut out of the trees in the *mondi* (outback) to handle the cactus. They are cut according to the phase of the moon so bugs aren't able to infest and ruin the sticks. The sticks also protect the fence builder from being stuck by the thorns. This is a special skill that not many on Bonaire can master.

Question: What are the hand-made tools called that are used when building a cactus fence? Find the answer on page 14. ■

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours. Contact her to arrange a tour, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 or email: christie-dovale@hotmail.com

Comments and suggestion are welcome. ■

Story & photo by Christie Dovale



Carib Fine Art

CARIB FINE ART has the pleasure of inviting you to a sale exhibition of Caribbean paintings, metal screens and wooden sculptures.

Date: Saturday, 28th March from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday, 29th March from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Address: Kaya Fidelia 1 (Antriol - behind Jehova Church)

ALL DENTURE LAB

ARE YOUR DENTURES:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loose? | <input type="checkbox"/> In Your Pocket? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cracked? | <input type="checkbox"/> Worn? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missing Teeth? | <input type="checkbox"/> Causing Gum Pain? |

Call For An Appointment 717-2248 or 786-3714

DENTURE SPECIALIST

E.M. Rijswijk Denturist

Repairs while you wait.

Kaya J.G. Hernandez z/n (Near Botika Korona)

New hours:
9 am-12 pm,
2 pm-4 pm
Monday-Friday

SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 7

849 257 631
325 168 749
716 349 582
591 784 326
437 926 815
268 531 497
672 493 158
153 872 964
984 615 273

Earth Hour - A Call to Awareness

In conjunction with the worldwide Earth Hour event, Bonaire Basics, Center for Awareness, is organizing their first annual participation in a global effort to raise awareness of climate change. This year more than ever the world is coming together on one subject: awareness of climate change. And yes, we too can become more aware.

One thing we can do to become part of this global effort to raise awareness is to turn off our lights for one hour, starting at 8:30 pm on Saturday, March 28, for Earth Hour. Earth Hour aims to reach more than one billion people in cities around the world, inviting communities, businesses and governments to switch off lights to send a powerful message that we care enough about climate change to take action.

What is Climate Change?

Climate change is the long term significant change in the patterns of average weather that reflect abnormal variations to the expected climate within the earth's atmosphere and its effect on other parts of the world. Currently we are experiencing **global warming**, an increase in temperature on earth. This has a wide range effect all over the world. We've all noticed the climate changes, even here on Bonaire, but few of us realize that there are things we can do that can make a difference. Environmental problems are so complex that many people feel they can have no effect on them. However, there are ways we can make a difference, as individuals together. Your participation in Earth Hour will make a difference. This global event shows that by working together each of us can make a positive impact in the fight against climate change by reducing our carbon footprint.

80 countries and over 1,760 cities around the world have already committed to vote "Earth" for Earth Hour 2009 as part of the world's first global election between earth and global warming. Make your commitment now. **Earth Hour 2009 is turning into the greatest voluntary action the world has ever witnessed, and your vote counts.**

Committed cities include Beijing, Moscow, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Helsinki, Brussels, Mexico City and many more. Many big landmarks are also turning off for Earth Hour, such as Sydney Opera House, Bangkok's Wat Arun Buddhist Temple, New York's Empire State Building, and the world's largest constructed building, Taipei 101, to name just a few.



Here on Bonaire we will commemorate the event. **Join Bonaire Basics, Center for Awareness at Kaya Korona #47** (Behind Firgos). Here's the schedule:

Doors open at 6 pm.

6.30 pm - Information on environmental issues on film - 90 min.

8.30 lights off and lighting of the candles, at which time Sabine Engel will explain the influence of fossil fuel on the ocean.

Throughout the evening there will be a peek at other cities around the globe, including a Skype conversation with K. Shaffran, one of Al Gore's personally trained representatives.

At the closing of the event environmentalist Carina Kalki will share some basic tips.

Be part of this free event. It promises to be an enLIGHTening experience! Remember to bring your own candle and cup.

For more info: Bonairebasics@telbonet.an tel. 717-3041

Hosted by EVELINE; body, mind, spirit tel.788-1058

Here is the official site to peruse while familiarizing yourself with this global event: www.earthhour.org.

Eveline

Culture Month at Jong Bonaire

Cover Story

All during the month of March the teens of Jong Bonaire are participating in a series of 16 Culture Workshops ranging from cactus fence building to making musical instruments. A number of the island's *grandinan* (elders) who are the culture experts are leading the workshops at Magazina di Rei, Tras di Montana, Jong Bonaire and other locations.

The Month of Culture has been designed to teach the young people about the various cultural activities and island heritage so that they can continue passing the learning on in the future. After the workshops are complete, each teen will prepare a project for a Culture Exposition that will be held at Jong Bonaire the last week of March.

Theme of the culture program and for the 2010 Jong Bonaire Calendar is Treasures of Bonaire. The treasures are threefold: Bonaire's cultural heritage, the *grandinan* who are helping to preserve the culture and, of course, our young people who will carry the traditions forward.

Top winners in the cultural project will be featured along with the "experts" on the 2010 Jong Bonaire Calendar. There will also be cultural worksheets developed from the projects so that the learning can be preserved and taught in schools and other organizations so that the Jong Bonaire Culture Preservation Program will benefit young people and the island for years to come.

Topics of the cultural training and the experts include: *pan sera* (bread baked in a clay oven) taught by Jan Felida and Jenny Christiaan; *kura di yatu* (cactus fence) taught by Rodger Gijbertha; *traha kos dushi* (sweets made from coconut, pumpkin) taught by Jenny Landskind and Eva Koko; *kas di bara* (house and roof made with sticks), taught by Bubu Beaumont;



Simidan (harvest festival) taught by Fina Chichi and Minhela Helmyr; *supla karkó* (playing the conch horn) taught by Hubert Mercera; *yerbanan* (herbs and their uses) taught by Dinah Veeris of Curacao who has written a book on the topic; killing a goat and making *yòrki* (photo above), taught by Toto Finies; boat building, taught by Ismael Soliano; making *karbon* (charcoal) taught by Elmer Frans, making a *fornu di kalki* (a furnace of coral), taught by Felipe St. Jago; making musical instruments, taught by Jan Felida.

After the two weeks of workshops the teens will spend a week preparing their reports and creating displays to show what they have learned. These will be shown during the exposition. Culture Month will end on 3 April when the winners of the projects are announced. Culture Month at Jong Bonaire is supported in part by a grant from SNAYDP. ■

Photo & story by Jane Townsend



Bonaire Sunshine Homes

Rentals..... we do it best

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HOUSES TO RENT IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS WITH A LUCRATIVE RENTAL RETURN FOR LONG TERM UP TO 3 YEARS TO DEPENDABLE PROSPECT CLIENTS FROM THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT, INVESTORS AND REPATRIATES.

TEL (599) 717-4992 • FAX (599) 717-4972 • CELL (599) 785-1592 / 701-4050
info@bonairesunshinehomes.com • www.bonairesunshinehomes.com

Real Estate with a local touch

World's Best Natural Fertilizer (From the Chicken)

Bagged and ready for your garden
Delivered to your home!
Over 10 bags: 10 guilders each
1-9 bags: 12 guilders each

Call Bob Lassiter (717-3949)
 International Bible Church of Bonaire

Mega Garden Center Open every Weekday
 Also Open Saturdays 9 to 1

- **Garden Design**
- **Construction**
- **Maintenance**
- **Garden Shop**
- **Irrigation needs**
- **Fertilizers**
- **Mulch**
- **Insecticides**
- **Ant killer**
- **Herbs**
- **Holiday gifts**

Choose from 460 different types of plants

Kaya Industria, Behind TIS
 717-8310, 566-6033, Fax 717-3720

E-mail:
greenlabel@telbonet.an

Best Buddies & Pearls

PEARLS, GIFTS AND FASHION
www.bestpearlsbonaire.com
 Main Street Kaya Grandi 32, Bonaire Tel: 796 7451

Guest Editorial

In this article you will learn about the objections of a part of the local population to the new status for the people of the BES-islands, not about its advantages. This article will try to sum up these objections.

A number of Bonaireans, particularly in the last months, have been demanding another referendum, claiming that the people, voting in the 2004 referendum for Option B (Direct relations with the Netherlands) did not receive any information before the referendum about the exact contents of a direct link with the Netherlands. This information was not available in 2004 because no final decision had been made yet on the form of this direct connection. To establish a basis for elaboration of exact plans the decision of the people of Bonaire and Saba voted for a close relationship with the Netherlands over becoming an autonomous land (Option C), total independence or keeping the status quo.

In October 2006, an agreement (Slotverklaring) was reached between the Netherlands and the BES islands that the islands would be granted a status of special municipalities (*bijzondere gemeente*), a form of a public body (*openbaar lichaam*) as outlined in Art. 134 of the Dutch Constitution. This "Slotverklaring" was approved by the Island Council.

I am not a lawyer but the term "public body" is misleading because there is nothing public in it. On the contrary, it means a special entity among the municipalities of the Netherlands. During a "Round Table Conference" in December 2008, an agreement was signed between the Netherlands and the Kingdom's partners about the new

relations inside the Kingdom and the law WolBES (*Wet Openbare Lichamen BES-eilanden* – Law on Public Bodies BES-Islands) was approved by the government of Bonaire and of the other two islands.

The opponents are claiming that during another referendum many more people would vote for Option C which got less than a quarter of the total votes in 2004. It has become now a political struggle of the opponents against the ruling UPB party, particularly its leader, Ramonsito Booi, and also against the representatives of the main opposition party in the Island Council, the ADB, because they also approved the plans for the new status. The opponents reproach Booi for his original promise that the people of Bonaire, under the new status, would get the **same social benefits as the inhabitants of the Netherlands. Following the agreements, that proved not to be true.** Therefore, according to them, the promised *igaldad* (equality) will not be reached and the new state structure will turn the people into second class Dutch citizens.

A movement demanding a new referendum was established on Bonaire, and a delegation traveled to Aruba, asking its parliament to support the efforts to organize this referendum. It was a paradox to ask the help from this parliament only, taking into consideration that 82% of the people of Aruba had voted for independence in 1977. The government of Aruba, of which the parliament is an extended arm, asked the Netherlands several years later, without any referendum (!), to give Aruba again the opportunity to remain in the Kingdom. Nobody asked the people of Aruba if they agreed with it.

The New Status of Bonaire and Its Opposition

The opinions in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the editorial opinion of this newspaper.

The opponents to the new status of Bonaire also sent letters to the United Nations because, according to them, the new status is in conflict with UN resolutions on the untouchable right of self-determination of former colonies. They call the status also an instrument for neo-colonization of Bonaire.

Hearing about neocolonialism, I remembered my stay in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1977, where just at that time a decolonization conference took place with many delegates from African countries which had achieved their independence in the previous years. Once, returning to the hotel after my daily work, I saw the door of the conference hall open and to my enormous surprise I heard the introduction of the next speaker, a young delegate from Aruba. Speaking Spanish, he informed the conference participants about the enormous suffering of the Aruban people under the oppression by the former colonial despot. His speech was followed by addresses given by delegates from Angola and Mozambique which had to lead a long, armed struggle to become independent. Years later, the Aruban speaker became a minister in the cabinet of Aruba, a position he has held until now.

The main apprehension of the opponents to the new status is that some Dutch laws (about abortion, euthanasia and same-sex marriage), not being in accord with Christian values, may apply on our islands as well. They are also afraid that, like in the Netherlands, soft drugs will be freely available in the so called "coffee shops." The last but not least objection of the opponents is that the financial supervision of the govern-

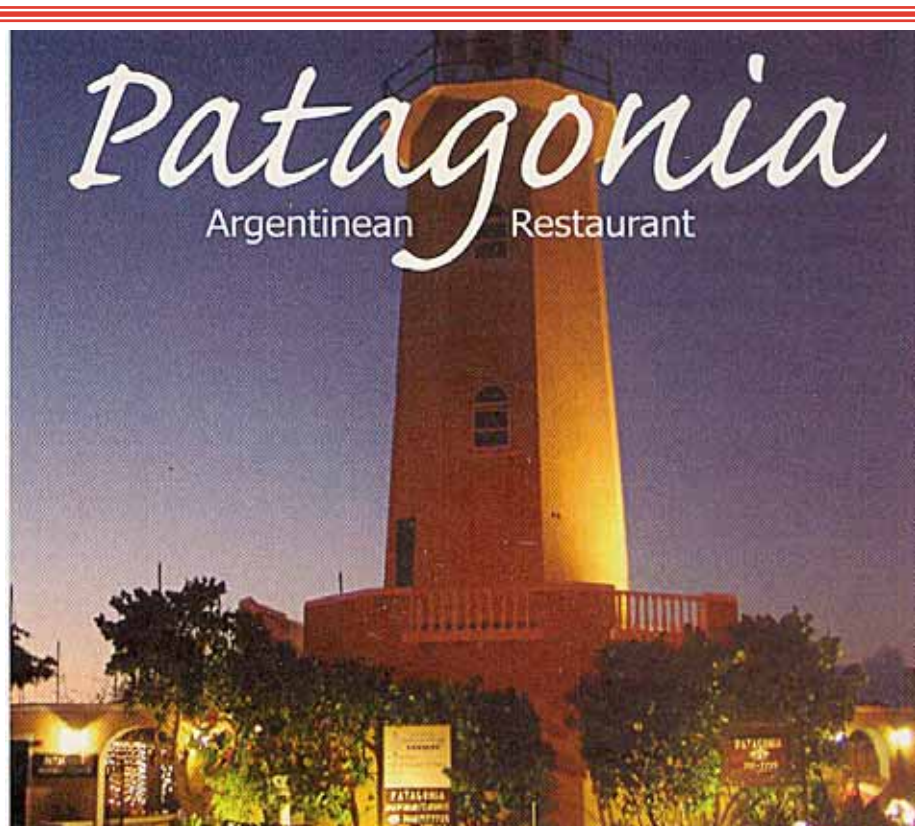


Holland isn't very big but Bonaire (and Saba and Statia as well) could fit into the Ijsselmeer with room to spare

ment of Bonaire by the CFT (financial oversight) is a violation of the democracy. ■
Editorial by Jiri Lausman

The next issue of *The Reporter* will offer comments on the objections listed.

Jiri Lausman is a retired civil engineer, born in Prague, living as a Dutchman the last almost 40 years, 18 of them in Aruba. Before his retirement he worked as the manager for a large Dutch construction company. He has a home on Bonaire.



**Owned and operated by
Pablo Palacios and family
Creators of Argentine cuisine
on Bonaire**

**Open for dinner every day except Monday
in the Lighthouse at The Harbour Village Marina
Call 717-7725 for reservations**

www.patagoniarestaurant.com patagonia_restaurant@hotmail.com

**You Ring-
We Bring**

Fine Wines from Around the World
In Vino Veritas

AWC

Antillean Wine Company
(599) 09-560-7539
Fax (599) 717-2950

wine@antilleanwine.com



LIKE TO PLAY GOLF??

Try out our ecological golf course at Washikemba on the east coast of Bonaire. Like to learn this fast growing sport?

Introductory lessons available.

Find out more about this wonderful opportunity on www.piedraso.com.

For info call 717-8684/795-1391.

**UNITED COLORS
OF BENETTON.**



**New Stock
New Styles
Men, Women and Children**

**Kaya Grandi 29
Kralendijk
Phone 717-5107**

Pets of the Week

-Carmen and her babies



In many places, black cats and Friday the 13th are considered signs of bad luck. But here on Bonaire, where life is different, these things turn out to be signs of good luck!



On February 12 two very concerned Bonaire visitors brought a small, black, golden-eyed female cat to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Their concern was over some wild dogs that had been killing cats in the area. The two women said they believed the cat was pregnant and did not want her and her soon-to-arrive kittens to be in danger. The sweet little cat, given the name, "Carmen," was settled into a comfortable cage at the Shelter with food and water and was to be evaluated the next day as to her condition.

The next morning, Friday the 13th, the Shelter staff was greeted by Carmen and four tiny, healthy, jet black kittens! Carmen was trusting enough to let the staff hold her tiny babies from the very first

day. What a stroke of luck for Carmen that the two tourists cared enough to remove her from harm's way just hours before she gave birth.

The kittens are developing quickly and are a source of joy for Shelter staff and visitors. Carmen and her babies will be ready for adoption once the kittens are between six and eight weeks old. (Ed. Note: The kittens will be six weeks on Friday, this week, March 27.)

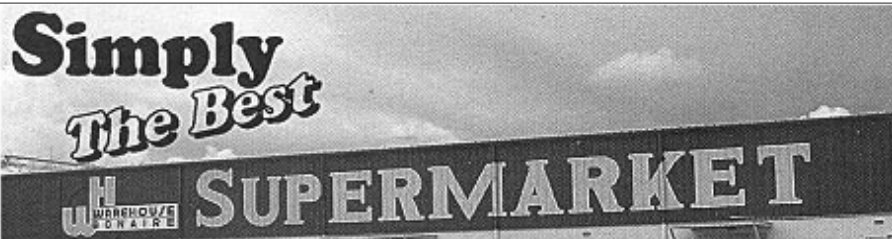
You may see Carmen, her babies and the other animals up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. ■ *Story & photos IJane Disko Madden*

100th Free Sterilization Patient

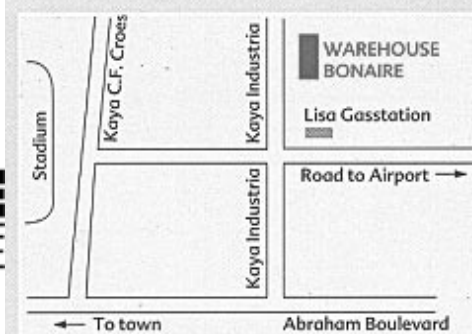


Veterinary surgeon Jan Laarakker (above) welcomed his 100th free sterilization patient courtesy of the Animal Help Foundation. There was a small celebration in Dr. Laarakker's clinic in Nikiboko. An owner brought his three dogs in to be sterilized after having heard about the sterilization program. As the owner of the 100th dog to be sterilized he was presented with some treats for his dogs as well as the free sterilization T-shirt. "I am happy to have done this," he said, "because now I know that my animals will not contribute to the problems of having more animals on the island."

The founder of Animal Help Foundation of Venezuela has devoted himself to more than 12 years of the well-being of animals. The foundation does sterilizations in Venezuela, Greece, Spain and the Netherlands Antilles. The organization is totally made up of volunteers and aims at improving the relationship between people and animals. A spokesperson for the foundation says, "We continue on Bonaire with this project which has proved to work. Call 788-2949 for more information. We succeeded with this treatment in Venezuela and kept the stray population under control and even reduced it. At present we are considering using the plan on Curaçao. If that succeeds then we are again a step further in the right direction." See the website at www.dierenhulp.nl. ■ *SDV press release*



BONAIRE'S LARGEST AND BEST STOCKED SUPERMARKET
ALWAYS: FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES, DAIRY, BREAD AND MEAT



Kaya Industria 24, Kralendijk, Bonaire
 Tel.: +(599) 7178700 • Fax: +(599) 7178785
info@warehousebonaire.com • www.warehousebonaire.com

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$65; By mail to Europe \$130. By Internet \$25 donation. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising in The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles; phone (599) 790-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: www.bonairereporter.com *Published every two weeks*

Reporters: Reporters: Siomara Albertus, Jan Brouwer, Christy Dovale, Eveline, Jack Horkheimer, Molly Kearny-Bartikoski, Greta Kooistra, Dabney Lassiter, Jiri Lausman, Peter Lensveldt, Jenny Lynch, Jane Disko Madden, Sara Matera, Brian McCarley, Alissa Rickborn, Jessica Sint Jago, Jane Townsend.

Distribution: Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elisabeth Silberie (Playa)

Housekeeping: JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

©2009 The Bonaire Reporter

**Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— Are still free
Got something to buy or sell?**

Non-Business Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words): FREE
Commercial Ads only NAf1 per word, for each two-week issue.
Call 790-6518 or 790-6125 or email info@bonairereporter.com

JANART GALLERY

Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu.-We.-Th. & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

IS YOUR HOUSE NEW TO YOU?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Also interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive.

Call Donna at 795-9332.

BONAIRENET

The leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER
Trees and plants, Bonaire grown.

8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don & Janet). 786-0956

Bonaire Images

Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lover's Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com

GREAT CLEANING SERVICE
For Quality House and Office Cleaning

CALL JRA
Serving Bonaire for more than 15 years Honest, Reliable, Efficient, Thorough, Low rates, References. One time or many Phone 785-9041 ... and relax.

LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf6 per meal. Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981. Web site: www.chinanobobonaire.com

Massages With Natural Body Balance and Relaxation - Physical problems/Relaxing/Shoulder/Neck/ Foot. Reflex/Salt Scrub. New: Achiatsu Massage Call for Appointment 785-0006/786-9887 /www.livetolivebonaire.com
Lisette & Sameh

Private yoga classes call Louise 717- 7021 or 700-9422.

CLASSES in silver-smithing, stone setting and the art of beading. Call Louise at 717-7021 or 700-9422.

CALL TO LOCAL ARTISTS
Looking for artists to lead workshops @ BONAIRE BASICS
All mediums ~ contact eveline @ EV-ELINE; body, mind, spirit 788-1058

OUTDOOR BONAIRE
DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
KAYAKING • CAVING • CLIMBING • RAPPPELLING
ABSEILING • MOUNTAIN BIKING • NATIONAL PARK TOURS • ISLAND TOURS • BIRDWATCHING
Tel (599) 791-6272 / 785-6272
hans@outdoorbonaire.com
www.outdoorbonaire.com

House for Rent: Bonairean House
Long or short term 2 Bedroom house. Fully Furnished w/airco Rent Incl. cable & Internet. Available as of now. Price: \$685 No Pets. Call 560-7367

House for Rent Available July 1
Santa Barbara 3 BR/2 BA/Open floor plan with LR, DR and Kitchen, Carport, Large porch with pool and beautiful garden. Furniture included in rental 6 month rental \$1700/month excl cost of electric, water, telephone, internet and cable Call 717-8876

For Sale / Inruilen Prisma
Woordeboek Engels - Nederland Nieuw Nederland - Engels Nieuw Inruilen voor Nederlands - Papiamentu Papiamentu - Nederlands Cell 785-0918

Auto for Sale- 2000 Daewoo SE Matiz 69,000 Km, Well maintained and runs good-Naf 5500 Call 717.8876

I'm looking for land in Bonaire.
I want to build my house. Alex Salazar Tel.: 707-7007

4 New Porch Chair Cushions
from outdoor fabric, white and blue stripes, made in USA, 50x123 cm, bought on Aruba for NAf 149 each now for NAf 99 each- Call 717-3876

For Sale – 1990 Toyota Starlet
Parts Car – Best Offer Call 786 3134

Wanted – 2000 Toyota Wanted–
Truck or Car—must be in great working condition. Call 786 3134

EVELINE; body, mind, spirit & BONAIRE BASICS now offer **YOGA & MEDITATION** ~
Yoga ~ Tues & Thurs @ 5.30pm ~ 6.30pm guided by Mika Brouwer
Meditation ~ Wed @ 6 pm-7pm & Sat @ 8am - 9 am ~ Guided by Erwin LaCruz ~ SIGN UP NOW ~ only a few spaces left ~ for info call>> B.B. 717- 3041~ E. 788-1058 ~

Furnished studio apartment for rent for six months . April 1st. call 795-3456.

Camera Equipment FOR SALE
Call 717-8876: Underwater lights and frame (Ikelite 125 Strobe, Ikelite 50 Strobe & Ikelite TTL slave) \$150
Minolta 35 MM Film Camera w/28 mm - 200 mm zoom \$50
Canon EOS Rebel 300 Digital 35mm camera w/2 lenses (28mm -

**Picture Yourself With
The Reporter In...
Petra,
Jordan**

Vanessa and Kees van Lede from The Netherlands, regular visitors to Bonaire, remembered to take along a copy of *The Reporter* on their visit to the Middle East.

Kees was an executive with AKZO Salt when they owned and operated the Bonaire Solar Salt facility, and has a warm spot in his heart for Bonaire. ■



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

And the winner is...

Therese Rosier of Bonaire who sent us her photograph "in stocks" in Medina, Malta (see photo in the last *Reporter*) receives the 2008 Picture Yourself Grand Prize of a dinner at the fine Patagonia Restaurant from **Reporter Editor Laura DeSalvo** (left).



KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
3-27	1:13	1.7FT.	9:30	1.1FT.	14:07	1.2FT.	16:58	1.1FT.	90
3-28	1:56	1.8FT.	11:25	1.0FT.					93
3-29	2:49	1.8FT.	12:43	0.9FT.					92
3-30	3:49	1.9FT.	13:46	0.8FT.					88
3-31	4:53	1.9FT.	14:29	0.8FT.					81
4-01	5:57	1.9FT.	15:14	0.7FT.					71
4-02	7:00	1.9FT.	15:51	0.8FT.					62
4-03	7:59	1.9FT.	16:21	0.8FT.					57
4-04	1:11	1.2FT.	8:55	1.8FT.	16:49	0.9FT.	22:54	1.3FT.	57
4-05	3:09	1.2FT.	9:51	1.7FT.	17:14	1.0FT.	22:46	1.4FT.	63
4-07	5:54	1.1FT.	11:42	1.5FT.	17:24	1.1FT.	23:27	1.6FT.	81
4-08	7:22	1.0FT.	12:36	1.3FT.	16:59	1.2FT.			88
4-09	0:35	1.8FT.	8:49	1.0FT.	14:13	1.2FT.	15:56	1.2FT.	91
4-10	1:15	1.8FT.	10:22	0.9FT.					91
4-11	1:59	1.9FT.	11:50	0.9FT.					88

300mm) \$150 Sony PC-115 Digital minicamcorder \$200 Mako Light N Motion Housing \$400

Electronics FOR SALE Call 717-8876
Toshiba DVD Player \$50; Sony DVD Player \$50; RCA DVD Player \$50; Panasonic VHS/DVD player and recorder. Record from TV \$75; Panasonic VHS Player \$25 (2); JVC VHS Player \$25; JVC Dual Audio Cassette Player \$25; DG Subwoofer \$50; JBL Subwoofer \$50; 13" TV (2) \$75 ea; 20" TV (2) \$125 ea; 25" TV (2) \$100 ea

Computer/Office Equipment FOR

SALE Call 717-8876

ASUS Computer: 7 in screen w/wifi, 3 USB ports, Memory Card Slot (MMC/SD cards), LAN Ethernet cable port, Modem port, microphone port, earphone port, VGA, 4 gigs flash memory, Linux, Open Office. Great for travel, check emails and watch movies. **Used once. \$300.**

Labtech computer speakers \$5
Panasonic KX-FL521 Laser Plain Paper FAX & COPIER. Includes 2 NEW Drum Unit (Cost \$90 ea) + 2 NEW Toner Cartridges (Cost \$30 ea) \$325 Xerox Phaser 3117 Laser Printer. Includes 2 NEW Print Cartridges (Cost \$92 ea) \$300

Letters to the Editor

THE CRUISE SHIP TRADE

Dear Editor:

JUST CALL ME CURIOUS..... Sometimes I feel much like the guy that's caught dancing after the music stops playing. Did I miss the parade? Maybe I'm on the wrong bus?

Somehow, the music stopped and I am left on the dance floor wondering what it is that may have caused our benevolent brain trust at the tourism office to embrace the cruise ship "trade" as no other Caribbean destination has.

While other ports, having sampled the waters, are backing away, as one might from a stinky pile of garbage, the Bonaire Bureau congratulates itself on attracting as many steel sided, smoke belching, sewage shedding monoliths as can be stacked in our fragile port.

I am quite convinced that the tourist board members go to sleep dreaming of dock facilities that would extend all the way to Klein. (Well, come to think of it there are already plans to relocate the "commercial docks" North and I would be willing to bet a Polar that the plans also include "enhanced" cruise ship accommodations.)

The word 'trade' used as adjective in 'Cruise Ship Trade' suggests that there is some affiliate to commerce, by definition, some give and take.

To that, I suggest that the moniker could be appropriate as we GIVE the tour ships unbridled run of our island and then we TAKE their trash, sewage and the congestion brought by the hoards of black socked, leather shod, Bermuda clad, fanny pack toting tourists that could be counted by the empty water bottles in the land fill.

My casual observation of the cruise ship mobs returning to their floating hotels tells me that none are burdened by overstuffed bags of merchandise. I haven't looked closely but I would go out on a limb and say that few if any new Rolexes are counted in the slim booty retrieved from the merchants of Bonaire, nor have I noticed many Bonaire Tee shirts adorning the backs of the wayward through either.

I would assume that the resorts of Bonaire don't realize any redemption from Cruise Ship Tourists either.

Just about the only tangible souvenirs the majority depart with are blisters and sunburns (for which they obtain lotions for once back on board).

The near empty shelves at Warehouse are currently adorned with multiple fliers pointing to the Cruise Ships as the culprits?

Now that, to me, is somewhat of a diametrical position as the merchants and resort proprietors are directly responsible for allowing the Cruise Ship Trade to run amok through our little home.

The tourism office operates at the discretion of the resort entities and the merchants of Bonaire.

Once we, the common folk, toss our taxes and vehicle registration into the coffers, our leverage position is diminished to little more than a bunch of happy souls with sun on our faces.

It is the voice of island commerce that harkens the ear of the people that scribe the invitations to these parasitic Cruise Ship Operators. It is the unity of those that have the most to lose that sway the direction of those less affected by GIVE and TAKE.

In this matter, it is the commerce of the island that must step up and "fix" the cruise ship problem, hopefully, before the damage is irreparable.

Brian McCarley

QUERY

Dear Editor:

As an additional note on getting things sent to Bonaire, although not by post, a package was sent from Japan to Bonaire by FEDEX. It arrived in Curacao, as apparently all FEDEX packages must! - in one day. That is really good service. Who could complain?

It took nine days to get from Curacao to Bonaire. One can only ask why? Why? WHY?

BB



Eric van der Sar photo

WHEEL- LESS

Dear Editor:

Last night around 02.30 AM we were awakened by sounds outside our apartment. The people outside were the renters (a young Canadian couple with child) of the penthouse of this building.

They were talking to the police. Why? We found out this morning. See photo above. They were planning to catch a plane. This is certainly a nice and unforgettable way to leave Bonaire. Will they ever recommend Bonaire?

How stupid can you be? Is this a way to promote visiting Bonaire? In this way the money spent by the tourist department is a waste. I can imagine that you would not like to publish this event. But something has to be done!

Have you something to say?
Then write a Letter to the Editor
for the next edition

BonQuiz Answer

Question on
Page 9

Jong Bonaire photo

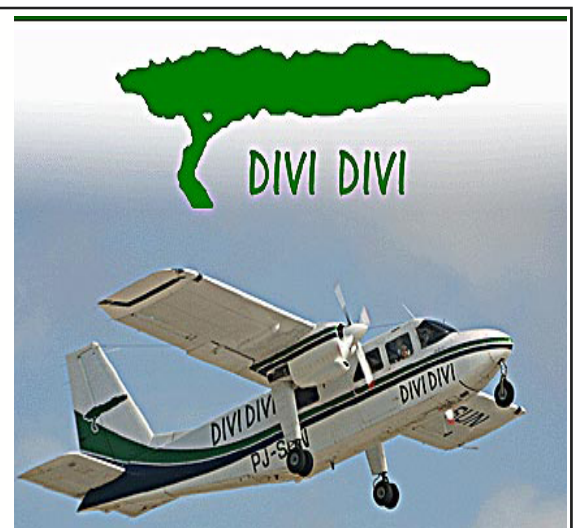


Jong Bonaire teens work with Chi ku Cha.

Answer : Chi (female stick) shaped as a 'Y' and a 'Cha' (male stick) shaped like a hook'■

16 Flights a day
between
Bonaire and
Curaçao

Divi Divi Air
Reservations
24 hours a day
Call
(5999 839-1515)
Or (5999
563-1913)



Dr. Doolittle Becomes Dr. Do-a-lot !

Louise Rood - her last name justifies her strong appearance - RED, for the color of her hair. Louise set foot on the island for the first time in the early 80s. She took a major part in setting up Sorobon Beach Resort, which is still today, literally, the sole resort for



Louise Rood

naturalists. Bonaire with its unhurried and unspoiled foundation became the ideal home for Louise. She is undoubtedly the pioneer of the alternative tourist industry on Bonaire.

She is probably better known as an overall animal protector, the "Dr. Doolittle" of Bonaire. It started out as a helping hand for animals in need and grew into what is today the Bonaire Animal Shelter. But she has in some way taken a part in almost any animal care activity on Bonaire. Even today scraps of paper notes dominate her house, "wounded stray dog spotted at..." And animal lovers of Bonaire know how to find her. She is always followed by an "aura" of animals and her somewhat alternative lifestyle in still those early days on Bonaire made her sometimes misunderstood.

These days she even finds time to practice yoga on the island and she gives yoga lessons weekly to school kids, as she puts it, "to give something back to Bonaire." Even though Bonaire is still a haven of peace and tranquility, these youngsters learn the first steps to finding peace and balance within themselves.

She's also written articles for *The Bonaire Reporter*, in which she puts people in the spotlight who have changed and continuously improve the quality of Bonaire. These "knights" of Bonaire finally get what they deserve: admiration and respect. This free publicity for those heroes and heroines gave them better tools and aid, so that help becomes easier in their battle against the overall negatives.

We are now staying on the island for the holidays and are enjoying her hospitality. In the 80s my wife was working for Sorobon. She was never an employee but raised by Louise in the spirit as her own daughter. For this alone she gave value to my life.

When she comes back tired in the late hours after a search for another animal in need, she asks me, "Does it make a difference?" I can only answer for myself: All these knights of Bonaire and animals that cannot express themselves verbally: You do make a BIG difference! ■ Peter Lensvelt

Peter, now operating a villa property in Finca Moralejo, just outside the village of Alozaina in Spain, was manager of Lion's Dive (now part of Buddy Dive) and before that the owner/operator of the popular Raffles Restaurant and the building where it was located which sadly has since been torn down. Peter and his wife Nice lived on Bonaire for 13 years before moving to Spain seven years ago. More on his website: www.fincamoralejo.com

Rotarally Results



Rally Winners

On Sunday, March 22, the Rotary Club Bonaire (RCB) held its 19th annual Car Rally with a record turnout of 82 autos. The start was between Toyota and the Sporthall, with a break at City Cafe, where you got a sandwich, coffee and new instructions to find your way to the finish. At the finish at Mangazina Di Rei was a BBQ with DJ Hun-kly with over 250 attending.

The rally was organized by the experts: Huub Groot, Edwin Vrieswijk, Jan Henk van der Wier, and rally map maker Freddy Rush from Curacao. The support crew was the staff from Sunbelt Realty, Akkermans Auto Supply and It Rains Fishes.

The participants enjoyed driving through the *mondi* and a few tricks along the way with through parts of Bonaire they never knew existed before. Overall winners were:

- 1st - Ron Gijzen and Paul Wichers
- 2nd - Manette Anthony and crew
- 3rd - Dennis and Muys Cieremans

RCB thanks all those who made this fundraiser so successful and fun. As Rotary Club Bonaire uses these funds for its projects in the community - Breakfast in Schools and other youth projects - they were happy to have received so much cooperation and raised over NAF 1.500. ■ Sara Matera

Bubbles from the Biologist

MEDICAL COMPOUNDS

Photo courtesy of www.reefguide.org)

Did

You Know...

that various marine organisms are the source of important medical compounds? It's true; many of the species found out on the reef can or have been used to create new and valuable drugs. For example, some of you (divers especially) might be familiar with the invasive species, *Trididemnum solidum*, or as it's more commonly known, Tri-d. This ugly gray-green tunicate is notorious for covering corals, sponges, and anything unlucky enough to be found in its path. Despite its annoying growth habits Tri-d is actually quite important; a substance derived from this species was used as an "active ingredient" in an effective anti-tumor medicine (Rinehart 2000). The US National Cancer Institute reported that treatment with the compound caused total and partial remission of tumors - a first of its kind. Unfortunately, further testing revealed that the compound was shown to cause cardio toxicity and it was dropped from the study. However, scientists were not far off from finding a cure; further research has revealed that other tunicates produce similar compounds minus the nasty results. The biodiversity of the sea is truly an amazing thing and without a doubt it plays an important role in our survival. If a nasty gray growth can cure cancer then who knows what else is out there! One thing remains certain; we have to preserve our precious resources (like the reef) not only because



Trididemnum solidum growing over coral

they are beautiful, or economically important, but because one day our lives may depend on it. ■ Alissa Rickborn

**Sick of ads that don't work?
Tired of seeing your ad
buried with others?**

**Your advertisement can be
here and reach thousands of
people who are buyers**

**3,000 copies every issue
Far more than any other Bonaire newspaper**

Call Laura at 790-6518



Rickborn is a third year biology major and chemistry minor at Arizona State University. She is currently studying at the CIEE research station on Bonaire.



Regular FERRY

TO KLEIN BONAIRE
From Bonaire Nautico Marina



HOTEL PICKUP SERVICE
TRIPS Every Day

THE ONLY WALKON / WALKOFF Catamaran *Kantika di Amor* NO CLIMBING!

Trips daily via resorts at 10 am, 12, 2 pm
Except Sunday at 10 am only

YACHTSMEN! Tie up dockside for \$7/day +tax

Water/115/220V & Cable TV
Dinghy tie-up at north-inside dock
US\$10 weekly from Saturday to Saturday. Pay at *Kantika di Amor* water taxi daily 10 am, 12, 2 pm. Sundays 10 am only.
Your boat name will be recorded.

BONAIRE NAUTICO MARINA
At It Rains Fishes Restaurant
Call Henk at 560-7254 / Bob 786-5399
www.bonairenauticomarina /VHF 68
info@bonairenauticomarina.com

BELLAFONTE 301 A + B

BEAUTIFUL OCEANFRONT CORNER UNIT WITH SEPARATE ADJOINING STUDIO

Lay Out

Fully air-conditioned large 2 bed, 2 bath condo (1,560.2 ft² / 145 m²) in one of the most luxurious ocean front condominiums on Bonaire with spacious living room and European quality kitchen with stainless steel high quality appliances. Large master bedroom with private bathroom and built in closets. Separate studio - hotel room with high quality kitchen unit, private bathroom, built in closets and nice terrace with both land and ocean view which can be rented out separately. Both the living room and master bedroom give access to the large ocean front patios with Jacuzzi.

Unique selling points:

- Very large condo
- Well built and maintained
- Luxuriously furnished
- Good accessibility by means of stairs or elevator
- Beautiful ocean front setting
- Good rental possibilities - rental history available
- On site management for ownership without worries

Ask for our colorful and detailed brochure!

US Owner can be reached at
sunnyresorts@cox.net

Asking price \$495,000



Kaya Grandi 34 - Kralendijk, Bonaire, NA
Postbus 36

Tel.: +599 717 5539
Fax: +599 717 5081

info@harbourtownbonaire.com
www.harbourtownbonaire.com

Chamber of Commerce:
5290

MCB Bank \$: 113.491.04
MCB Bank Nfl. : 113.363.02

Call 599 717-5539, email: info@harbourtownbonaire.com
Web: www.harbourtownbonaire.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENINGS

Art Show Renate van der Bijl "Moments in Time," at The Plaza Resort. The show will continue until April 13.

Art Show Ronald Verhoeven at Kas di Arte. Exhibit will continue until April 3. Monday-Friday 10 am-12 noon, 2 to 7 pm.

Saturday, March 28- Huge Book and Flea Market to benefit the Bonaire Animal Shelter, 11 am-5 pm. At the Shelter on Lagoen Rd.

Saturday, March 28 - Earth Hour- WWF movement for climate change awareness. Turn off your lights from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Story on page 10.

Saturday, March 28, Sunday, March 29—Carib Fine Art Sale Exhibition of Caribbean paintings, metal screens & wooden sculptures. Kaya Fidelia #1, Antriol (behind Jehova Church). Saturday, 6 to 8 pm; Sunday 1-5 pm.

Saturday, April 4—Big Rincon Monthly Marché, 6 am to 2 pm. A real Bonairean experience. Music, food, stands.

Saturday, April 4—Flea Market at Parke Public, 3 to 7 pm. For a table to sell call Vicky at 786-1592.

Saturday, April 11 - Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse on Kaya Industria, across the street and a little southwest of Warehouse Bonaire, 7 to 9 pm. Sample six wines and enjoy snacks for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539. Every 2nd Saturday of the month. Where wine and people lovers meet.

May - Jazz Festival

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, usually 10 am to 2 pm

Fri., Mar. 27—*Enchantment of the Seas*

Fri., Mar. 27 - *Enchantment of the Seas*

Wed., Apr. 1 - *Sea Princess, Summit*

Fri., Apr. 3 - *Enchantment of the Seas, Emerald Princess*

Mon., Apr. 6 - *AidaVita, AidaAura*

Wed., Apr. 8 - *Caribbean Princess*

Fri., Apr. 10 - *Enchantment of the Seas*

Mon., Apr. 13 - *AidaAura*

Tues, Apr. 14 - *Sea Princess*

Wed., Apr. 15 - *Summit*

Fri., Apr. 17 - *Enchantment of the Seas*

Wed., Apr. 23 - *Emerald Princess*

Wed., Apr. 29 - *Sea Princess*

Wed., May 6 - *Caribbean Princess* - LAST CRUISE SHIP OF THE SEASON

REGULAR EVENTS

- 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

- **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.

- **Flea Market at Parke Publico every first Saturday of the month, 3 to 7 pm.** Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf10 per selling table. (NAf 5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissessar - 786 1592.**

- **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm. Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539.

- **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.

Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon,** the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

Fridays

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

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

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

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

Tuesday-- Bonaire Land and Ocean presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff, 7pm on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condominiums.

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 Krioyo 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. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971

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. For more information call 510-0710. **Rotary** lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - 'Pirate House', above ZeeZicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crisita 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

The Best Photo Service on Bonaire



Paradise Photo

FULL DIGITAL SERVICES
FUJI MINI-LAB
KODAK & FUJI FILM
SLIDES
E-6 PROCESSING
PASSPORT PHOTOS
BATTERIES
CAMERAS
FRAMES
PHOTO ALBUMS
GREETING CARDS
DIGITAL AND MORE...

Les Galeries Shopping Center
(Bordering the parking lot)
Tel. 717-5890
Open M-F 8:30-12, 2-6 pm,
Sat. 9-12

SHOPPING and DINING 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.

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.

INTERNET AND CELLULAR SERVICE

MIO offers by far the clearest, most reliable phone signal on the island PLUS WIRELESS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET almost everywhere on Bonaire.

DINING

De Bonairiaan Restaurant is a unique restaurant run by the students of the Stichting Project with their advisors. Each day a different menu.

Kaya J. A. Abraham Blvd., #21
(nearly across from Divi Resort)
717-6921, 786-6816

Inexpensive: Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
9 am—2 pm for Breakfast, Coffee and Lunch

Pasa Bon Pizza is Bonaire's best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too.

On Kaya Gob. Debrot
½ mile north of town center. 780-1111
Call ahead to eat-in or take out

Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant at the Lighthouse at Harbour Village Marina is the original family-owned and operated steakhouse and grill. Fabulous dining.
Reservations 717-7725

Philips Cooking and Organizing is your personal chef for Private Dinners, Catering, Party Snacks and Wedding Services. **Let Philip do it all**
www.philipscooking.com call 701-1100

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.

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

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

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.

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.

PEST CONTROL

Professional Pest Control. Call Peter to get rid of all those nasty pets like termites, fleas, ticks and ants that want to invade your home. Call now and save your investment in your home.

PHOTO FINISHING

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

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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.

Bonaire Partners—Rental and Property management specialists. If you have a place to rent call them

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.

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.

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. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-noon.

Fortnightly Advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter are included in the guides. Free!
Call 790-6518, 786-6518
Or email Reporter@BonaireNews.com

Bonaire is getting more visitors.

Let them know about your business or restaurant with an ad in The Reporter.

Placement in the guide is free for our advertisers.

Call 790-6518 or 786-6518 for information

Scuba Sales

Repair - Replacement
New Gear - Accessories

Check CARIB INN First.
Great Prices –Great Stock

Always Great Values
Dive gear specials

Bruce Bomber's

CARIB INN

Since 1980
PADI 5 STAR GOLD PALM
717-8819 - 8 am to 5 pm daily
(next to Divi Flamingo Hotel)

Pasa Bon Pizza & Bar

780-1111



Not Just Great Pizzas!

Call ahead to Pre Order

Open Wednesday to Sunday
5 PM to 11 PM

NETTECH

AFFORDABLE

- ♦ Domain Registrations
- ♦ E-mail Hosting
- ♦ Anti-Spam & Anti-Virus
- ♦ Web Site Design
- ♦ Web Site Hosting
- ♦ Marketing Consulting
- ♦ Internet Consulting
- ♦ Photographic Services
- ♦ Graphic Design



NetTech N.V.
info@NetTech.an
www.NetTech.an
Tel: 717-6773
Fax: 717-7854



Hair Affair

We do our best to make your hair and make-up wishes come true!!

You can also come in for **facials and facial waxing.**

We use and sell **L'Oreal** products

Is your plan to marry on the island? We can make you beautiful and stay beautiful for your happiest day.

Personal attention by Janneke
Appointment by tel: 717-5990
or just walk in.

Downtown, near the waterfront next to Little Havana
Tues-Fri: 9-12, 2-6 Sat: 9-2 non stop

The Island Grower from Guatemala and his Garden Builder

The 43rd of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."



Janet, Ramon and Captain Don, The Island Grower, portrayed on Friday, March 20, in front of their beloved and admired Garden Builder, a third generation Suzuki Samurai, almost completely home made and for sure completely converted by the Island Grower team.

Guatemala/Bonaire –
More or less half way across the island, on the left hand side of the road to Lagun (Kaminda Lagun) you'll easily spot a big blue painted rock along with a waving permanently dive flag. The flag and impressive rock mark the entrance of the original 400,000-square-meter original plantation of Guatemala. The official address is Kaminda Lagun 103. It is here where Captain Don and his beloved Janet live. They bought the plantation in 1980 and they grow their own plants that landscape a substantial part of resorts and homes on Bonaire.

Don and Janet are assisted by their reliable employee, Ramon Statie, born in 1971 in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Ramon has lived on Bonaire since 1990 and has worked with Janet and Don since 1994. Ramon knows a lot about growing plants and creating new gardens. He knows about pumps, drip systems, tools and he is the regular driver of this week's vehicle, a blue and yellow colored Suzuki Samurai, nicknamed "The Garden Builder."

It is Friday afternoon. The road to Lagun curls over a lesser known part of the island. Civilization stops and nature takes over. Fewer and fewer houses, fewer and fewer connections to the Bonairean water and electricity supplier, the WEB. The environment looks more and more like how Bonaire has been in the past. When I park my jeep in the parking lot in front of Don and Janet's territory, Ramon already has opened the gate to welcome me. It is plants and trees and soil and drip systems and shades and wind- and water-mills all over the place. And here and there are some Suzuki Samurais parked. Some are old to very old and part by part given

back to earth. One of the Suzuki Samurais is used by Janet. The vehicle is 20 years old but still going strong. The other one is parked somewhere else on the huge property of Guatemala: the blue and yellow sprayed fourth-generation Samurai. It's the work horse used every day, nicknamed The Garden Builder, a fully equipped four-wheel-drive Japanese jeep, towing a fully equipped Bonairean-made trailer.

Captain Don, sitting in his chair on the porch of the little house on the plantation, shows me his green painted fingernail. "Green thumb," he explains. "As they say in Dutch, 'green fingers!' My intention is to cover a certain part of the island with our plants and trees. We are the "Garden Builder." We are inventing, creating, designing, drawing and installing gardens all over this beautiful island!

Back in the days when I was the manager of the Flamingo Beach Club/Hotel Zeebad, now the Divi Flamingo, we needed plants for our gardens around the buildings of the hotel. There was no grower of plants on the island so we decided to grow our own. We've been doing this for centuries now. We! This now includes Janet, Ramon and me. And of course

"The Garden Builder" is our great mechanical helper!" Don and Janet bought their fourth Suzuki



Janet, Don and Ramon in their semi open air work shop. In the back one of the Suzuki Samurais, relaxing from a hard working life. Don's five wheel custom made wheel chair might be another nice subject for a Wheels article in the future.

Samurai from Orlando from the motorcycle shop in Kralendijk. With a lot of help from Ramon they converted the vehicle completely. With all kinds of wooden and metal parts they created a kind of work horse/movable workshop/rolling laboratory. Something special on four wheels, carrying tools, parts, everything you can think of you need for creating and maintaining a garden. A real eye-catcher is the custom made wooden work bench, mounted on the hood of the reliable vehicle.

The completely converted Samurai is in use every day. The car is fitted with a 1.3 liter four-cylinder engine. There is a nice gearbox with high and low gears mounted on the chassis and the 15-inch wheels fit nicely on the vehicle. Top speed is low but less important on an island like Bonaire. Very important is the fact that the jeep is strong enough to tow a huge trailer.

"This trailer is home made from scratch," says Don. "Ramon and I like to use all kinds of found parts. In our workshop we weld, bolt, nail and glue everything we find together. This trailer is completely home made. It carries all the tools we need, all the parts to install a new drip

system, all the plants we need and even my off-road wheel chair slips neatly between the wooden walls of our trailer!" Don, Janet and Ramon and a few others have created a lot of gardens on the island in the last 30 years. In the near future there will be a slight change of plans. Don explains, On the 25th of June I will reach the age of 84. Planting trees and installing drip systems in new gardens will be a little bit too much for me in the future. We keep on designing, drawing, creating plans but we will only supply the knowledge, the plants and material for the new gardens. And yes, of course we are open to the public. We are easy to find because of the dive flag and the blue stone marker next to the entrance. But please, give us a call first to make an appointment: 786 – 0956. We are more than glad to inform you about landscaping and we really would like to show you our plantation and inform you about all the green, the fertilizing and the ecological use of water. Please be welcome to visit!"

Story & photos by Jan Brouwer



PHILIP'S COOKING & ORGANIZING

PRIVATE DINNERS – CATERING
PARTY SNACKS – WEDDING SERVICES

www.philipscooking.com

RENT YOUR CHEF Phone 701 1100

LET PHILIP DO THE WONDERS OF COOKING

www.evelinebodymindspirit.com



If you want to change the world, start with your "SELF" ~ Indulge your SELF in the luxury of our earth friendly products

Follow your heart to



Kaya Korona #47 788-1058 amst13@aol.com



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

See Venus As Both the Evening Star and the Morning Star



Phases of Venus

Photographed at the TBOO Observatory by Chris Proctor

On March 22nd, 23rd and 24th you'll be able to find Planets #4 and #5 in the Sky Park using Earth's largest natural satellite - which up until October 4, 1957, when Sputnik was launched as the first artificial satellite - was Earth's only satellite. Plus on the 24th, 25th and 26th you may be able to see Planet #2 appear as both the morning and evening star.

On Sunday morning, March 22, about half an hour before sunrise while it's getting a little bit light out, face east-southeast where you should be able to see a very slim waning, that is shrinking, crescent Moon. And just slightly below and to its left, Planet #5 from the Sun, the king of the planets itself, 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter, which always looks wonderful even through a super cheap small telescope. That's because you can watch the ever-constant ballet of its four largest natural satellites, three of which are larger than our own satellite.

But if it's cloudy out on Sunday you can still use the Moon as a Jupiter finder on Monday when an even skinnier Moon will have moved almost the same distance to the other side of Jupiter and will be on its way to meet Planet #4, the reddish-gold 4,000-mile-wide Mars, which will be very close to the horizon. But if you can't find Mars on Monday, 24 hours later on Tuesday an even skinnier crescent Moon will be parked just above and to the left of it.

Once again, Sunday the Moon is to the right of Jupiter, Monday to Jupiter's left and Tuesday just above Mars. And now for the challenging part. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 24th, 25th and 26th, if you look as far to the left of Mars as Jupiter is to its right, extremely close to the horizon you may be able to see a very bright light for 10 minutes or so.

And that is Planet #2, 8,000-mile-wide Venus which whenever we see it just before sunrise is called the morning star but aha! In fact this is a rare opportunity to see Planet #2 as both the evening star and the morning star on the same day, three days in a row. And this happens only once every eight years! But it gets even better because on those three days you may also actually be able to see the crescent shape of Venus with the naked eye. Remember Venus goes through phases just like our Moon but only once every eight years do we have the chance to see it as a crescent without binoculars or a telescope. Of course you have to have really good eyesight. Or you can try looking at it through a pinhole in a piece of paper, which may help you see it better. ■

Jack Horkheimer

StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

April-2009

ARIES: March 20th - April 20th Ruler Mars in the passive sign of Pisces may put you in a reflective, soul searching mood; however - pushing yourself out the door may be your best move. Your luck lies in numbers now; meaning that friends or groups can assist your needs. By the end of the month the new Moon in Aries provides an excellent opportunity to take charge of a daunting situation!

TAURUS: April 20th - May 21st Don't dismay if even your best plans fail to produce results just now. The planets say you need more time. You should be reviewing your options and even your relationships, while your ruler Venus back pedals in retrograde motion. This is a good time to meet up with old friends, yet wait till next month to begin anything new!

GEMINI: May 21st - June 21st There couldn't be a better time to make a good impression. Whether you're looking for a new position or just ready to take on more responsibility, Mars at the top of your chart brings your leadership qualities to the fore. Others notice your talents and appreciate you more than ever!

CANCER: June 21st - July 22nd A new Moon in Aries can help you navigate a difficult situation. If you feel that someone or something has been holding you back, you'll soon discover a way around them. Retrograde Venus at the top of your chart indicates your boss could be moody but it also means you benefit from a past work connection.

LEO: July 22nd - August 23rd You benefit most from keeping a global awareness, even if it means simply keeping in touch with others that live in far away places. What you discover about the lives of others can have a great effect on your future plans. Travel is favored, so is studying or taking an exam that qualifies you for a future position. Your luck lies in being observant!

VIRGO: August 23rd - September 22nd A full Moon in your sign brings relationship issues to the fore. Because the Full Moon is at odds with so many Pisces planets, it's important that you learn the art of cooperation. If you listen carefully to what others say, you may discover something important about yourself. Retrograde Venus helps to patch things up, so use this month to smooth out relations!

LIBRA: September 23rd - October 23rd

Ruler Venus, retrograde in your house of partners could uncover a secret about a loved one. It could also bring a dispute of some kind. Although you love peace and harmony, it will be hard to find it now. Knowing this, it's best you focus on things you can do by yourself. Your relationships will improve next month, till then pay attention to your health.

SCORPIO: October 23rd - November 22nd You're more than happy to roll up your sleeves and pitch in when required, yet sometimes you wonder if it's worth it. This month Mars in Pisces allows you to rack up some good karma by doing good deeds, yet some of your efforts could go unnoticed. The Virgo full Moon marks a time when no good deed goes unpunished, so don't expect to be fully appreciated!

SAGITTARIUS: November 22nd - December 21st Faith is one of your finer qualities and perhaps your greatest gift to offer others. With both Jupiter and Neptune active in your communication sector it's important to share your strength and hope more than ever. Family members may depend on you this month. Retrograde Venus in your romance sector may rekindle an old flame.

CAPRICORN: December 21st - January 20th Ruler Saturn at odds with planets in your communication sector could cause worry, doubt and misunderstandings. Take care to choose the right words when discussing important issues and pay attention to details - especially those involving the law. Retrograde Venus at the bottom of your chart favors family reunions.

AQUARIUS: January 20th - February 19th Being optimism can be a good thing, but not when it comes to money. With Jupiter and Neptune in your sign you are able to attract good fortune, but also capable of acting foolishly. The full Moon in your money houses reminds you not to count your chickens before they hatch or that a rainy day could be just around the corner!

PISCES: February 19th - March 20th It's finally time to get ahead. With Mars in your sign you may push yourself, even others more than usual. With new found confidence and courage you dare to do more, therefore are likely to succeed. However retrograde Venus in your money house could cause impulsive spending - try to stick to your budget! ■



www.scubavision.info - ph: 717.2844 - cell: 786.2844

Scuba Vision Films is Bonaire's premier video production facility. We are available for your video imaging projects underwater and topside.

Nature Films - Documentaries - Travel - Adventure - Advertising - TV Broadcast
Underwater - Stock footage - HDV - Digital Photo - Weddings
DVD Reproductions - DVD Mastering and Authoring
Courses and Seminars.

info@scubavision.info Ph: (599) 717.2844 Cell: 786.2844
Kaya Grandi #6 - Photo Tours -

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE CLEANED BY SHRIMP?



HEAR ABOUT IT at Dee's
TOUCH THE SEA
slide presentation
Captain Don's Habitat
8:30 pm Mondays
EXPERIENCE IT on a
TOUCH THE SEA
dive with Dee Scarr



Enhancing Interactions between divers and marine animals since 1982
717-8529
www.touchthesea.com

Improve your reception by the underwater world

Kiri Windsurfing Cup 2009

Sunday, March 1, was the date for the Third Annual Kiri Cup windsurfing competition at Sorobon. Demenson "Kiri" Thode, a local windsurfing celebrity, celebrated his 19th birthday on February 25. There was lots of wind and perfect conditions for the races. Thanks to all who helped make the day a success. Results:

Kids Free style
 1st - Amado Vrieswijk
 2nd - Youp Schmit
 3rd - Rover Dullaart



"Taty" Frans and Kiri

Juniors Free style
 1st - Ezri Heymans
 2nd - Dylan Robles
 3rd - Florian Wegerer



Kids Free style winners

Men Freestyle
 1st - Demenson "Kiri" Thode
 2nd - Elton "Taty" Frans
 3rd - Arturo "Payo" Soliano ■

Story & photos by Jessica Sint Jago

Countdown To The Bonaire Reporter 15th Birthday

The Bonaire Reporter will celebrate its 15th consecutive year of publishing this year. Born in April, 1994, its original name was *Port Call*. It called itself "Bonaire's Waterfront Newspaper," a news sheet with stories and information geared to its cruising yacht readers. And it was and is, "STILL FREE."

When owners, George and Laura DeSalvo (Publisher and Editor in Chief respectively) moved ashore from their boat, the newspaper did too. More and more stories of the island's happenings started appearing the pages. Flotsam and Jetsam was born and has since become one of the most widely read columns for its latest current but succinct news. The paper was printed on the island at National Printing - 350 copies - distributed on the island and to the yachts.

Then with the first issue of 2000 *Port Call* became *The Bonaire Reporter*. It wasn't just for the yachts anymore, the owners decided. The name should reflect the content and the readership. With the April 10, 2001, issue the paper grew to tabloid size, now printing in Curaçao on the modern web press at DeStaad, and increasing its printing to 3,000 per issue!

What keeps a newspaper alive and thriving? Its readers and, in the case of a newspaper that's free, its loyal adver-

tisers. *The Reporter* is proud and overwhelmed by the loyalty of its advertisers over the years. When you pick up a copy of this issue of *The Reporter* this month you'll find these advertisers still within its pages.

As *The Bonaire Reporter* has grown, so has its long-time advertisers. We raise a toast to you!

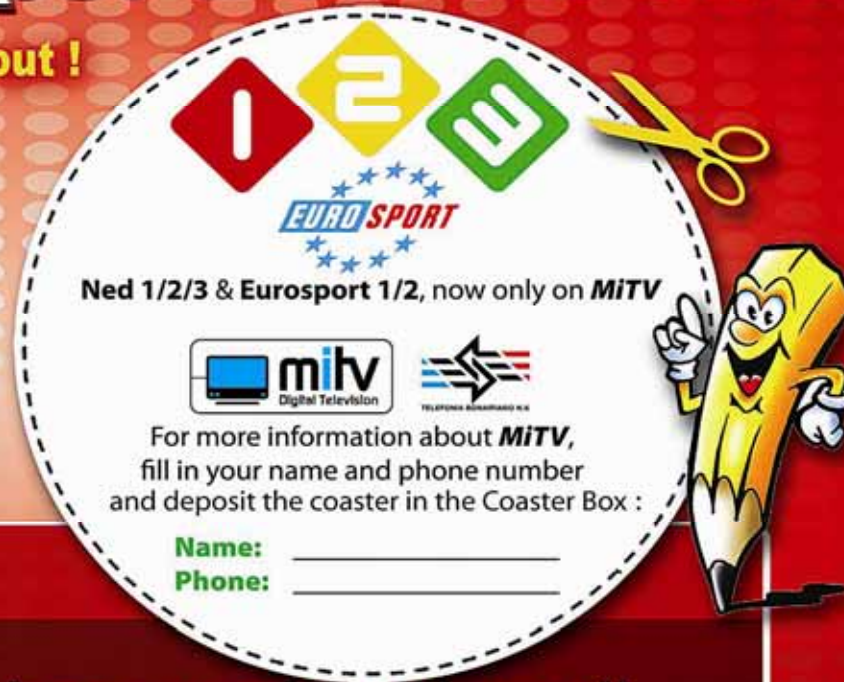
- Since 1995 - Rocargo Services
 - Since 1996 - Antillean Wine Company, Bonaire Nautico,
 - Since 1997 - Carib Inn, Hair Affair, Sunbelt Realty
 - Since 1999 - DeFreewieler Scooter & Bike Sales & Repair
 - Since 2000 - Special Security Services
 - Since 2001 - Net Tech, Pasa Bon Pizza
 - Since 2002 - Green Label Garden Center, City Shop
 - Since 2003 - All Denture Lab, Dierenkliniek (Animal Hospital), Paradise Photo, Warehouse Bonaire
 - Since 2004 - United Colors of Benetton, China Nobo
 - Since 2005 - Maduro Curiels Bank Bonaire, Professional Pest Control
 - Since 2006 - Divi Divi Air, Caribbean Homes, Best Buddies and Pearls
 - Since 2007 - Philip's Cooking and Organizing, MIO (Cell Phones & Internet)
 - Since 2008 - Bonaire Partners, Bonaire Sunshine Homes, Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant, The Island Supplier (TIS), Top Health Bonaire.
- More information will be heading your way as our birthday approaches. ■ L./G.D.

MiTV with a Super Deal for all !

Campaign valid until Coasters run out !

Dropbox places:

- *Telbo NV
- *City Cafe
- *Havana
- *Wattaburger
- *Jibe City



* this price is excluding 5% OB

fill in your name and phonenumber, deposit coaster in the coasterbox and receive a special price of ANG. 204,75 - **ANG. 123,-*** for 3 months of MiTV Basic package !

more than tv



mitv
Digital Television

www.telbomity.com