

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE**

April 10-24, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 8

# The REPORTER

*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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

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**Bonaire's Aurora**  
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... and much more

*The aurora observatory is located far out of Playa where there is little risk of light pollution that could affect the quality of the images. Gathered around at the completion of the installation are (L to R) Alex Statie, Ethan Miller, George De Salvo and Dr. Jonathan Makela*



Jane Townsend Photo

**E**ffective immediately there will be a special window at the Civil Registry (*Servicio di Registro Sivil*) to process petitions for work or study permits. It is the centerpiece of a new system that aims to cut the multiple steps and visits to several government agencies to acquire the permit to just three visits to the Registry: the first visit for an appointment/interview, the second for submission of the required documents and the third to get the results (positive or negative) of the petition.

The window is open from 1:30 pm to 4:45 pm Monday through Friday. You can call 717-5550 for info or to set up an appointment.



Bonaire government photo  
**Commissioner Tjin-Asjoe and Harbormaster Rob. Sint Jago on the wharf**

► **There's some positive action along Bonaire's promenade.** Following a couple of nasty tourist attacks along the popular seafront walk a bank of temporary street lights have been set up by WEB in response to prodding by Bonaire's Executive council. Several Island Government departments are working together to arrange for rapid repair to the South Pier, Fishermen's Wharf and Chiku Mercelina Wharf which all suffered considerable damage from last season's storms and wind reversals. New Dutch funds are expected to pay for the work.

► **A study is underway to determine whether street surveillance cameras can be effectively used to fight street crime in Bonaire.** The system would be similar to those used in dozens of cities around the world.

► According to its annual statistical report, **Antillean Customs in Curaçao and Bonaire collected NAf 23 million more in import taxes in 2008** than in 2007, for a total of NAf 187.7 million. It's a sign of economic growth.

► **Early this month, SONA, The Foundation For Development-Netherlands Antilles, finally issued the official public invitation to solicit bids for the management and construction of the Bonaire Sewerage and Sanitation Project.** Up for bid is

the job to build the sewage collection system for the shore zone from Belnem to Hato consisting of 41.3 km. of piping, 1,050 house connections, six sewage basins and an effluent purification plant with a return irrigation system. Bids must be submitted by 23 April 2009. This information is also available on the Internet site of (U)SONA: <http://www.usona.an/EUprocurement/Bonaireseweraae>

► **Delta Airlines plans to add an extra flight from Atlanta to Bonaire effective October 2, 2009.** Delta flight 671 will depart Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport at 4 pm, arriving Bonaire's Flamingo Airport at 8:05 pm on Friday evenings. Flight 670 will depart Bonaire on Saturday mornings at 9 am, arriving in Atlanta at 12:25 pm.

► **Perhaps you've noticed an increase in the number of private jets and turboprops at Flamingo Airport these days.** According to Airport Director Les Laplace it has to do with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez putting pressure on non-Venezuelan registered private planes to register with Venezuela (YV is for Venezuela). As soon as a non-registered plane lands in Venezuelan territory the aircraft will be held until it does register. These corporate aircraft, mostly owned by offshore companies, are registered in the US or another country. When Venezuelan senior management and CEOs want to travel back and forth to the US or other destination they use the YV registered planes to come to Bonaire (or Aruba or Curaçao) and transfer to another US or international registered private jet that will carry them on. Bonaire's Flamingo Airport is getting a lot of business, says Laplace because it's cheaper for these private jets to land and take off from here than it is from Aruba or Curaçao.

► **With the abolishment of the Dutch "air ticket tax" passengers will pay 106 guilders less per return ticket to travel to The Netherlands. The measure goes into effect July 1.**

Departing passengers from the Netherlands were taxed 45 euros for intercontinental flights under the pretext of discouraging environmentally unfriendly behavior. After the introduction, the travel sector was furious, but KLM and Schiphol airport complied. The critics had pointed to the exodus of travelers to Belgium and German airports not imposing the tax.

► **Foundation Based Education (FBE) Cycle Two pupils on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be tested in May/June this year on their arithmetic and language skills so the Dutch Government can implement a program aimed at improving**

► **On Bonaire Earth Hour was a great success,** as families all over the island switched off their electric lights for an hour, Bonaire Basics Awareness Center on Kaya Korona put together a 90-minute show of YOUTUBE environmental films and set up a live interaction with Al Gore's rep, Karen Shaffran, in the US via Skype beamed on the big screen. She offered some ideas on what we can do here on Bonaire with our limited resources.



Bonaire biologist Sabine Engel gave a very interesting talk on ocean acidification with samples and she also opened up dialogue on what we can do here on Bonaire.

Carina Kalki provided more things we can do as individuals here on Bonaire; how we can start with 20 little things, like turning off lights behind us, etc.

Earth Hour was much bigger than Bonaire. From the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge to the Eiffel Tower in Paris and London's Houses of Parliament, lights were dimmed as part of a campaign to encourage people to cut energy use and curb greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. Organizers said the action showed millions of people wanted governments to work out a strong new U.N. deal to fight global warming by the end of 2009, even though the global economic crisis has raised worries about the costs.

Australia first held Earth Hour in 2007 and it went global in 2008, attracting 50 million people, organizers say. WWF, which started the event, figured one billion people from nearly 90 countries took part in the 2009 event. *☑ Eveline/G.D.*



► **The periodic flights of patients suffering from kidney disease to Curaçao for treatment may soon be a thing of the past.** On April 2 Commissioner Elvis Tjin-Asjoe met with internist Dr. R. Engels, Mariadal Foundation head Dr. Giovanni Frans, Otto Bartels, Louis Wierda and Adelly Susanna-Jansen to begin preparations for Bonaire to establish its own dialysis and treatment center. Similar initiatives were brought forward in the past but none had such broad support or source of funding.

these skills next school year. FBE has been criticized severely for not properly preparing students for high school.

The tests will precede a program for pupils to catch up on language and arithmetic skills in the highest

groups of Cycle Two of FBE at the beginning of the 2009/2010 school year.

The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) will take over complete responsibility

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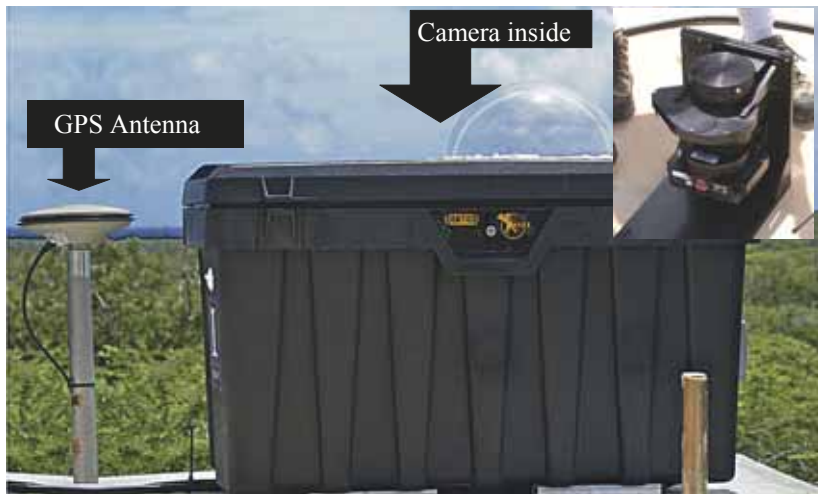
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# Aurora Bonairealis



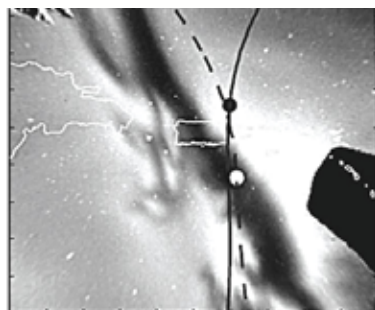
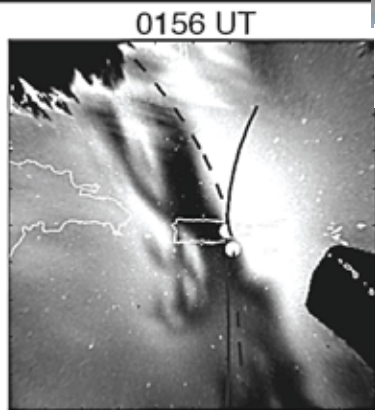
Cover Story



The Observatory contains a sophisticated optical system that produces a 360° sky image using three different filters. The system is self-contained and automatically records images every night when the moon is dark. In addition, a dual-channel GPS system records shifts as a result of changing electron densities at approximately 3Km altitude



Alan Gross, Ethan Miller, Jonathan Makela, George DeSalvo, and Alex Statie review the final installation (Jane Townsend Photos)



Images of an aurora over Puerto Rico (note map lines). The images show the changes in a single hour as the electron 'clouds' move very rapidly. Images like this are now being collected from the skies over Bonaire.

Shimmering sheets of light dance across the skies almost nightly as electrons rage through the ionosphere. This sounds like a description of the aurora borealis seen in Northern countries like Canada or Sweden. But could Bonaire have its own aurora?

It seems that there really is an aurora 'bonairealis' although the sky display is not visible to the naked eye since the energy above Bonaire is much less than at the poles. However, the display can be visualized using special photographic techniques, and a new research facility on the island is tracking this sky show.

Researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, headed by Assistant Professor Jonathan Makela PhD, will be studying these phenomena with a very practical goal: making air travel a lot safer. Makela is a member of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and has had extensive experience studying the interaction between the GPS system and the ionosphere. Ethan Miller, who will receive his PhD this year, assisted Makela in the Bonaire installation.

Makela's experiments link monitors in Puerto Rico and Trinidad, and now Bonaire and will be tracking the movement of electron 'clouds' as they drift across the Caribbean basin while simultaneously measuring shifts

in GPS coordinates.

"As the electron activity fluctuates in the ionosphere, it can affect both radio reception and the GPS system," Makela says. "GPS position readings can be shifted 5-10 meters which, while it does not seem like a great variation, could be disastrous for future airplane landing guidance systems."

"The intention is to have airplane controls more linked to the worldwide GPS system," he continued, "but, unless we have a better idea of the nature of these interferences and the ability to predict and compensate for them, the risks may be too great. Our hope is to gather enough data from our monitoring to help refine the models that are used to predict these interferences." The study is funded by the US National Science Foundation and will run until at least 2012.

The monitoring equipment consists of a custom made camera and filter system to photograph the 'aurora' (see photos) and a highly sensitive GPS unit to look for slight changes in apparent position. A wind generator, installed by Alex Statie of CR Electronics, Bonaire, supplies power for the equipment.

Makela began his work studying the effects of the

ionosphere on communications as a graduate student at Cornell University and has continued to develop his theories after moving to Illinois. "I find this study fascinating since it is learning something fundamental about our planet but also has practical applications," he noted. When asked what he sees for future research he said, "I've always wanted to study the 'Bermuda Triangle' phenomenon to see if there is a real, physical basis for the strange happenings there."

Both Makela and Miller are grateful to everyone in Bonaire who gave them information and advice. "It's truly a wonderful community," they said.

With this new project, the Bonaire Sky Park is now a research facility as well as an observatory. ■ Alan Gross



A children's celebration for the Bonaire National Marine Park's 30th Anniversary and Earth Day

Date: April 19th  
Time: 2pm-5pm

Place: CIEE Research Station

Kaya Gob. Debrot #26 (orange building)

\*\*Open to the first 40 children from the ages of 5-12

Sign up by Friday April 17th.

Call 717-4146 or email earthdaycice@gmail.com

Mural Painting, face painting, slideshow, snacks, and a take home gift!



# On The Island Since... November 18th, 2004 *Charlotte Andréa*

“The last thing I saw of Holland when we got onto the plane was the grey November sky, and my boyfriend Leo said, ‘Sweetheart, close your eyes and go to sleep and when you wake up you’ll see only blue skies and it will be nice and warm.’ And indeed when we arrived it was nice and warm but also very humid and muggy and the sky was totally black, not even grey, and definitely not blue. Apparently a rainfall record had been broken. It had not rained that much in 60 years. On our way from the airport to the house we’d rented, I saw people kayaking in the streets and I thought, ‘my God, where did I land?’ – Bon bini na Boneiru!

I came here because I was madly in love with Leo who was here to open a restaurant called Den Laman. Leo is from the islands; he was born and raised on Curaçao and after living and working in Holland and Africa for years he wanted to come back to the Antilles. He had rented a house in Nort di Salina. Alongside the house there was a wild river running, and I said, ‘You never told me the house was wa-

several months. In the meantime I collapsed a couple of times again, but when I felt better I always went back to work. In December Dr. Stewart send me to Rotterdam, Holland, to the Dijkzicht hospital because it was one of the few places where they might be able to repair the defect. Leo went with me and stayed with me all the time. I was lucky as they succeeded in solving the problem. However, the near death experience made me see life in a different way... it can be over any time. I’m enjoying the days and often I’m thinking, ‘Come on, people, what’s all the fuss about anyway?’

So, the first two and a half years on the island we worked like horses at Den Laman. We didn’t have a life really because we also moved around all the time. Poor Sam; she never got the chance to settle down and I didn’t have time for her.

Well, when we lived in our first rented house in Nort di Salina we’d seen an unfinished house around the corner and we fell in love with the location and the possibilities. Leo started the whole procedure and we managed

**“However, the near death experience made me see life in a different way... it can be over any time.”**

terfront!’ And he answered, ‘It isn’t, this is a road!’ My faithful dog, Sam, a Dalmatian, which I had brought with me, freaked out. She loves water and after the long trip she needed to get rid of her energy. She was a mess instantly, mud all over. So, I put down my suitcases and changed clothes and went outside to have a look at the puddles and lakes and suddenly I was attacked by thousands of mosquitoes – what a hell! It was terrible and I’d never even known I was allergic to mosquito bites. So the first weeks on Bonaire I was scratching and Leo would say, ‘Don’t scratch. I really dislike women whose legs are full of bumps and scratches. It’s really unappetizing.’ ‘Whatever,’ I told him, scratching harder. But I got used to it and also to the island.

After the arrival we started working morning, noon and night at the restaurant. Eight months later, July 2005, I almost died from a heart defect. Leo found me in the apartment where we were living at the time. I was already in shock and unconscious. He immediately called Dr. Van der Vaart asking if he should wait for an ambulance and Dick told him to take me to the hospital right away or it might be too late. I recovered more or less with medicines, flew back and forth to Dr. Stewart in Curaçao for tests for

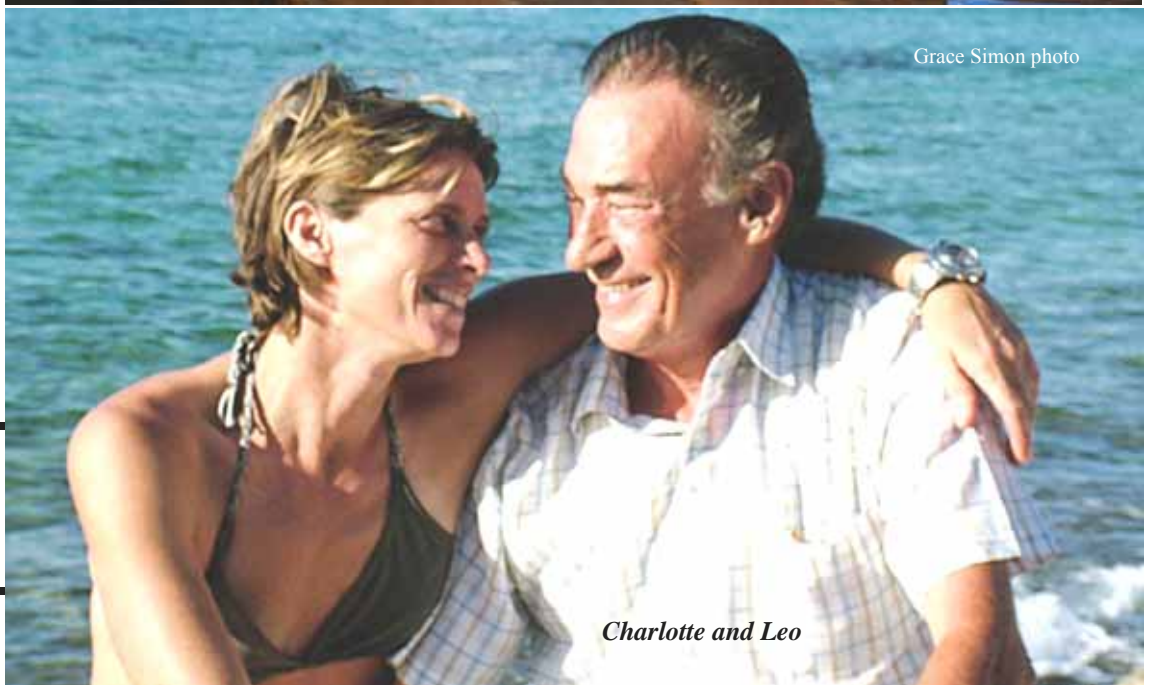
to buy the house and had it finished. As soon as possible we moved in and both of us had the feeling that we’d finally come home, in spite of the fact that the lot was bare and the house was empty. We’d put the restaurant up for sale, but we were still working day and night, so there wasn’t much time to make the house more comfortable. The neighbors were and still are all fantastic people.

We wanted another dog for Sam because she was lonely and we talked about it, but we needed more free time before we would take another dog. One day, I’d gone to the vet with Sam, and when I came back – I was still in the car – Leo yelled, ‘Where is Sam? Watch it!’ I thought, ‘What’s going on?’ So I said, ‘Take it easy. What happened?’ He answered, ‘Go and see for yourself in the kitchen!’ Curious as I am, I didn’t know how fast to get there and then I almost tripped over two puppies that couldn’t even open their eyes yet. They were about four weeks old. ‘How could you do that!’ I told Leo, ‘We don’t have time for this at all!’ ‘I know, I can’t help it,’ he answered. ‘I just came home for a minute to change clothes and then Nachi’s grandchildren (our neighbor who sells fish) stood at the door with the puppies and



Greta Kooistra photo

Charlotte Andréa on the table she built at Pasa Bon Pizza



Grace Simon photo

Charlotte and Leo

they said, ‘Pa Leo,’ and they turned around and hopped away and then you came.’ I immediately went to buy puppy food, but they couldn’t eat it as they were too little, so I went to the animal shelter and they told me how to feed them, and the puppies grew up beautifully.

We also ‘had’ three cats that were not ours. Every night when we came home from the restaurant they would sit on the wall in the back of the garden, half wild, but curious. Well, to make a long story short, they’re not wild anymore. They’re also sterilized and they belong to the family. We’re eight now!

*Charlotte Andréa (39) is one of a kind; she’s straight forward, lots of fun, a free spirit and an extremely loyal friend to those she calls her friends. She’s also very organized, a tremendously hard working and multi-talented woman.*

“All my life I’ve been creative. I am a professional graphic designer and everything I love to do is connected with that. After the restaurant was sold I worked at a lunchroom for one year but meanwhile I started making furniture and accessories from driftwood and materials I recycle. It’s not

like I put some driftwood together with a couple of nails and yes! there’s your sofa! We don’t want termites in the house, do we! The things I make are all made by design according to a certain style, my style – simple and pure and beautiful. For my friends, Joe and Lisa at Pasa Bon Pizza, I made a table and a cabinet, and I decorated houses for several other friends. As everybody is wild about my designs I’m thinking of setting up my own business within a year or so. That would be great because my mind is overflowing with ideas which I’m using now to finish our own house. But... as I have ADHD, I can drive Leo crazy because I am unstoppable and he doesn’t get a lot of attention. Lately I’m trying to slow down, which is not easy, but you also have to enjoy each other. I’m a night person and Leo gets up in the early morning, so, sometimes we don’t see a lot of each other, but every day he serves me a five-star breakfast in bed. And besides all the things he’s busy with- his authentic Bonairean fishing boat, his love for growing plants, vegetables and herbs and his friends all over the island - he also cooks for us and so he’s keeping me alive. I could-

n’t have found a better man. I feel at home here. I’ve got some real good friends whom I can always count on and I’m very attached to them. In the beginning I was homesick, thinking the island was too small for me, but now I wouldn’t want to go back, not even for a vacation.

I’m Italian by origin and I lived four years in Italy, and although I don’t speak Papiamentu, I do understand Papiamentu and Spanish and when I speak my mixture of languages, some pick it up, others not at all! Ha! Ha! But I am a Latina and not a *makamba!* Leo has lived and worked everywhere in the world and I’ve been roaming around a lot, but here on Bonaire, in Nort di Salina, we’ve found our home. Sometimes at night we’re sitting on the front porch, the moon and the stars shining over the hills, Glenn i su Gang playing music at the house around the corner, the dogs and cats at our feet, then we look at each other and say, ‘We’ve been so lucky...’” ■

Story by  
Greta  
Kooistra



*Flotsam and Jetsam*  
(Continued from page 2)

for education on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba at the start of that school year.



Can you ID this fish?

► **A robotic fish is seen in a tank at the London Aquarium.** Robot fish developed by British scientists are to be released into the sea off northern Spain to detect pollution. The carp-shaped robots, costing \$29,000 apiece, mimic the movement of real fish and are equipped with chemical sensors to sniff out potentially hazardous pollutants such as leaks from vessels or underwater pipelines. The robots to be used measure 1.5 meters (nearly 5 feet) long -- roughly the size of a seal. **REUTERS**

► **Venezuela still has the planet's cheapest gasoline** according to the Washington D.C.-based consulting firm, PFC Energy.

At NAf 21 (US 12 cents) a gallon (NAF5, US 3 cents a liter), it costs about 30 times less than bottled water. Venezuelan leaders have largely avoided raising gas

prices since 1989 when more than 300 people died in rioting after the government allowed energy prices to rise.

What's more, costs are now rising for Venezuela as output sags at the nation's aging refineries. Economists warn that Venezuela is now in a tough spot. Raising desperately needed cash by lowering subsidies would almost certainly fuel inflation, which at 29.5% in Caracas is already Latin America's highest.

When gasoline prices spiked for much of the rest of the world last summer, there were radical changes in consumer behavior and governments quickly revisited their energy policies. That did not happen in Venezuela.

► **None of the plans and dreams to make the BES Islands an integral, but remote, part of Holland can be realized without the passage of legislation to make it law.** In that regard, Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende called on the First and Second Legislative Chambers to lend a helping hand to facilitate smooth approval of legislation for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

A package of draft legislation will be sent to the Second Chamber before this summer. This legislation makes it possible for the BES islands to enter the Dutch Constellation as "public entities" when the Netherlands Antilles ceases to exist, perhaps as early as next year.

Balkenende explained that the BES legislation proposals would

be signed or co-signed by Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten. The overview listed eight BES-related legislative proposals:

- 1-The amendment to the Dutch Electoral Law (*Wijziging Kieswet*);
- 2-the financial function of the BES islands and their authority to impose taxes;
- 3-the adaptation law (*Aanpassingswet*);
- 4-the implementation law (*Invoeringswet*);
- 5-the law regulating the public entities (*Wet openbare lichamen*);
- 6-the tax law;
- 7-the customs and excise law;
- 8-the fiscal system implementation law (*Invoeringswet fiscale stelsel*).

► Last week the leader of the Dutch Party for Freedom, Geert Wilders, advised Prime Minister Balkenende, via his opposition party's (PVV) website, **to gift-wrap and sell off the Netherlands Antilles to Venezuela.** "Just dial this number. Write this down. You have a pen? 00-58-212-806-3111. Again: 00-58-212-806-3111. You got it? That is the number of the palace of President Chavez in Venezuela. He would love to have the Netherlands Antilles and we [would] love to get rid of [it]. I would make a good deal with him. Tie a nice bow around the islands and goodbye."

► **The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are no longer on the**

**international black list of tax havens of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).** This was reported during the G20 summit in London where the latest version of this fiscal list was published after it became known that the G20 wanted a white, a grey and a black list "on short term" from the OECD.

**The Antilles and Aruba are on the "grey list."**

In general terms, this implies that they cooperate with the international agreements in the tax field and for the financial services but have not yet implemented these adequately. According to reports, the Antilles "are doing a better job" than Aruba: the Antilles comply with seven of the international specified criteria while Aruba complies with four. Antilles State Secretary Alex Rosaria was informed that the Antilles didn't make the "white list" because they only had seven international tax treaties. It is understood that a minimum of 12 tax treaties is required -- if all other aspects are in accord -- to qualify for the white list.

A number of European countries, including Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland are also on this grey list due to their bank confidentiality arrangements. The OECD has placed four countries on its black list: Costa Rica, Malaysia, the Philippines and Uruguay.

► **US President Barack Obama plans to lift longstanding US re-**

**strictions on Cuba,** a senior administration official said, allowing Cuban-Americans to visit families there as often as they like and to send them unlimited funds.

The gesture, which could herald more openness with the Castro regime, will fulfill a campaign promise and follows more modest action in Congress this year to loosen travel rules.

The President has authority to loosen the restrictions on travel and remittances to Cuba on his own. The new rules will affect an estimated 1.5 million Americans who have family members in Cuba. Other Americans are allowed to travel to Cuba but only if they qualify through certain cultural, educational and other programs.

President Obama doesn't intend to call for lifting of the trade embargo against Cuba, which would require congressional action, nor is any specific diplomatic outreach contemplated, the official said. It's been predicted that normal relations between the US and Cuba would radically change the tourism dynamic in the Caribbean.

► **Sculptress Josephine Ebing will be opening an exhibition of her work on Sunday, April 11 at 5 pm.** It will be in the garden of Kaya Grandi 85. Ebing's show will



(Continued on page 8)

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# Ernst Wesselius Receives Kuifje Award SGB Students Research Education in Holland



Former Bonaire Public Prosecutor and now practicing attorney, Ernst Wesselius, received an award from Stichting Geliña, an acronym of the Kuifje Foundation on Friday, March 27 during a luncheon at City Café. "Ernst Wesselius," said Co deKonig, "receives this Kuifje Award 2009 because he is a brother in arms with Tin Tin (Kuifje). He has the same qualities – endurance, courage, creativity. He believes in justice. He goes forward and never gives up – like a terrier!"

The award of NAf 2.500 goes to Wesselius to cover the printing costs of his completed manuscript that tells of his experiences as Bonaire's public prosecutor. Others members of the Stichting Galina were there to join in the good wishes: Bòi Antoin, Marisela Croes, Hannebibeke deKonig, Larry Gerharts and Maarten Maartense. ■ L.D.



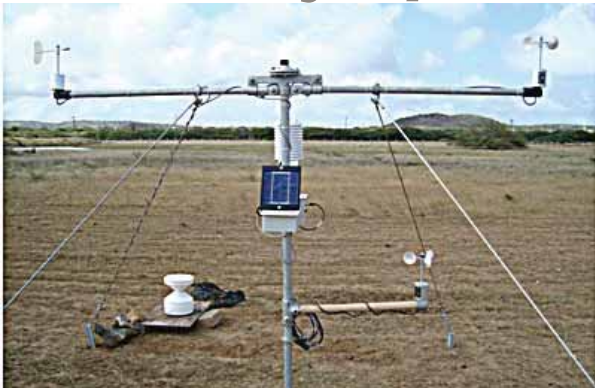
Herman van Leeuwen photo

Another excited group left for the Netherlands for their higher education orientation recently. Like last year's VWO (University preparation) group these youngsters will be visiting as many as 12 universities or schools with higher education in 10 different cities. They have been working hard to earn the money necessary to make this expensive trip. Their

parents and many sponsors have funded an important part as well. We wish to thank to all of them: Alfa & Omega Uniforms NV, Bon Security Force, Cactus Accounting, Cargill, Caribe Car Rental, Casablanca, Jong Bonaire, Lion's, Oljabak NV, Rorcargo, Rohuco, Stone Crusher, WEB, Wega di Number, and all

of the many private sponsors. If you are interested in helping Bonaire's future, please make your donations as the next group (VWO 4) has already started their fundraising activities. Account name: *Nos ta bai Hulanda* account at MCB number 11654503. ■  
Johanetta Gordijn

## Dust Study Update



Two students from Wageningen University arrived in early March to do research into dust problems on Bonaire. The research is being carried out for the foundation KibraHacha in cooperation with DROB and LVV. Also local entrepreneurs and businesses like *Total Rent A Car* are contributing to the research by providing sponsorship. The main goals are to give an indication of the amount of dust in Bonaire and to identify the main sources of dust



Dust Catcher



Sponsor Gerrald Victorina from Total Rent A Car hands over the keys to dust researchers Corjan Nolet and Menno van der Veen.

production. The research is well underway. The residential areas of Tera Cora and Antriol have been chosen as study areas. Thirty dust collectors have been placed throughout these neighborhoods and measurements are being taken. ■ Photos & story by Corjan Nolet & Menno van der Veen



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  
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**BONAIREAN VOICES**

**OUR REEFS**

On March 28 many people, aware of the global warming issue, turned their lights off for one hour from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Global warming is affecting us in different ways, one of which is how it affects our reefs. If the water keeps getting warmer it can cause our reefs to become extinct. Fortunately Bonaire is not as polluted as other countries, but in addition to all the toxic gases that damage our ozone layer there are still other local factors that can cause the ter-

and animal feces, nutrients from the septic tanks near the sea coast. You never know if these tanks are leaking. The government has to take care of these problems.

An emergency plan was made to come up with a quick solution. Another plan was made to start a sewage processing plant in 2010 which will be built along the coast. The island will be dug up along the coast from WEB, the water and electricity plant, to Punt Vierkant. All the houses and hotels along the shore will be connected to this plant. This will avoid the reefs from continually being polluted."

As Ms. Elsmarie Beukenboom explained about the environmental issue, **Mr. Anthony Nicolaas** (35) (below), Island Councilman said, "We can be sure that nature will be protected. The law will help control over fishing, cutting down of certain trees, protection of certain species, animals, birds and areas like the Ramsar area, Lac bay, Gotomeer, Klein Bonaire, Pekelmeer and Slagbaai. We want to give 100% protection. To protect our sea water and reefs an Emergency Plan was created via Waste Water Project Bonaire (WWPB). Holland put money up to get this action plan going. USONA, which manages the money from Holland, gave its permission to get the funding for this plan. Those involved in this action plan are STINAPA, SELIBON, DROB's



Bonaire Government photo

mination of our reefs. Once we start thinking of the small things that damage the reefs we are can contribute towards saving Mother Earth. And this is a contribution to you as a human being as well.

**Ms. Elsmarie Beukenboom** (53) (above), Director of STINAPA for six years, explains.

"Studies made by experts on our reefs for more than 30 long years, like those of Rolf Bak, a science professor in Amsterdam, Holland, pointed to the fact that most fish living on our reefs today are juvenile fish. These fish still need to develop and grow larger. The studies show another fact which is that our reefs are too small. To protect the reefs in certain areas we need to close down these areas from Harbour Village to Cha Cha Beach and then from Divi Flamingo Hotel to Plaza Hotel. In this way we can protect the fish and the reefs.

It's notable that there are other nutrients that little by little are polluting the reefs. We can mention a few of them. Dust, construction at the sea side, the quantity of rainwater going into the sea, human



Bonaire Government photo

Section Of Environmental Affairs and Mr. Martijn van de Grop from Holland, a civil servant for traffic and water affairs. A huge septic tank will be installed at LVV or the Landfill. All the septic tanks along the shore will be vacuumed by a truck which will take it to this mobile plant. The water will be purified and used for the vegetation. This will avoid waste water getting into the sea. A foundation to execute this plan is making all the preparations which will take about six months

and another six months for a company to work on the project, so it will start in 2010 and finish in 2012."

We can see there is work getting done to save our reefs. Saving our reefs is a serious matter because the reefs support every living being on this planet in one way or another. Please be conscious about what we have around us and protect our nature, and our mother earth. ■

Story & photo by Siomara E. Albertus



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

**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

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

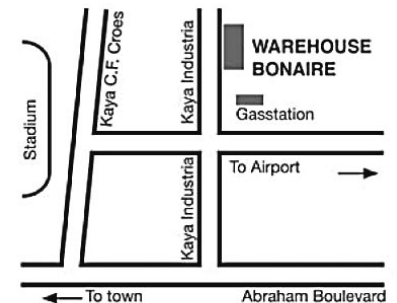


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**Flotsam and jetsam** (Continued from page 5) continue for a month at that site and will be open from 10 am to 12 noon and from 3 to 7 pm.



Bonaire government photo

**Selibon officials inspect a beach**

► **Selibon's Environmental Police (Polis Ambiental) will pay special attention to Bonaire's beaches** this coming Easter weekend and holy week. It's traditionally the time when island residents take advantage of the fine weather to camp and sleep on the beaches. In the days ahead the Environmental Police will walk the beaches and explain the policies to the campers. Advice to campers includes:

- **Take your own trash bags** to the beach;
  - **Place food waste** in separate bags and close them up before putting in the *kliko* (waste container);
  - **Don't put burnt charcoal** in waste containers;
  - **Don't have beach fires**; use BBQ grills or similar setups;
  - **Recycle** to minimize trash. Use "permanent" dishes, cups and utensils;
  - **Clean up** the campsite before you leave;
  - **Put bottles and glass** in the yellow *klikos* marked for glass recycling;
  - **Set a good example for others.** Keeping our beaches clean is everyone's responsibility!
- And have a great holiday time.

► **This year's Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival, from June 5-7, will offer a variety of music styles, with renowned**

**musicians from different parts of the world** performing at the two main concerts on June 5th and 6th, an evening with Jazz and Poetry on June 4th and the Jazz Brunch on June 7th. This 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival is shaping up to be a high quality music event. Book flights and hotels as soon as possible

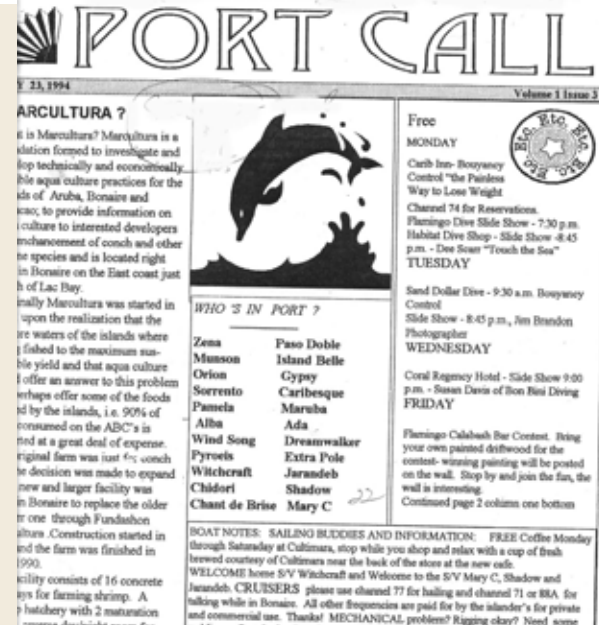
► **Thinking of renting your house and interested in knowing how much it is worth to rent?** Come to **Bonaire Sunshine Homes Open House** on Saturday, May 16 at their office; from 9 am all day until 4 pm. Snacks and drinks will be served so bring the whole family. See their ad on page 10.

► **Seven candidates are preparing to compete in the 2009 Mama Modelo Bonaire 2009 election.** *Mama Modelo* helps develop poise, confidence and grace in the young mothers who compete in categories of wit, thoughtfulness, fashion, beauty and public speaking. The event officially began with a welcome cocktail party last Friday at the Techno Bar Restaurant. Participating contestants are: Ruthaily Cicilia, Albaligia De Palm, Betty Martis, Elaiza Noris Pietersz, Ideline Saragosa, Mirmaly Soliana and Shanin Winklaar. *The Bonaire Re-*

# Countdown

**The Bonaire Reporter** (born as *Port Call*) will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of publishing this month. On the right is a copy of the earliest edition we have in our files, Vol. 1, Issue 3, May 23, 1994. It covered two sides of an A4 sheet. Twenty-two copies were Xeroxed at Obersi's, one for each boat anchored in Kralendijk Harbor. Yes, anchored. There were no moorings and anchoring was permitted only in the sandy part of the harbor area. The feature story was the *Marcultura* "shrimp farm." There you could buy a kilo of large shrimp for NAf 26. There was an ad to buy dive gear at Carib Inn and a listing of free slide shows and the rum punch party at Captain Don's. A familiar name appears: Susan Davis, now publisher of the blog Bonaire Insider, was offering a slide show at Bon Bini Dive Center. There was even an ad for a "transportable" cell phone programmed for Bonaire and Curaçao. It was a simpler newspaper for yacht people during a simpler time. ■ L./G.D.

# To Our 15th Birthday



*porter* is sponsoring Mirmaly Soliana, who was featured in the "Born On Bonaire" column in the December 19, 2008 edition of *The Reporter*. The *Mama Modelo* Bonaire 2009 pageant will be on Friday, May 8, at Jong Bonaire at 8:30 pm. Tickets are available from any of the seven contestants and at the Chez Claudette shop on Kaya Grandi for NAf 15 per person. The event is organized by the A.D. Productions Foundation. To help sponsor one of the contestants or for further information call 786-9090 or 516-9090 or email: [angelodomacasse@hotmail.com](mailto:angelodomacasse@hotmail.com).

► **Do you have books you don't read anymore?** Aat and Elly Oudshoorn would like to pick them up to sell them at their Secondhand Book Market during **Dia di Rinon**, April 30. You can call them at 717-

3227 or 786-0870 to make arrangements. Like every year they have a stand across from the gasoline station, in front of the Protestant Church on Rincon's Kaya Crestian. They sell the second hand books for the benefit of the youth of the church. There are books in different languages: English, Dutch and German, and they have a lot of Dutch children's books. There also will be a flea market besides the bookstand. Stop by. You're sure to find something and it goes to a good cause. ■ G./L.D.



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# 21st Century Telbo

In the previous edition of *The Reporter* we had our Bonaire communications history lesson. You can now put down your horn – conch, cow, whatever – and re-enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Crank up the Blackberry, recharge the cell phone and hit the road. We’ve certainly gone a long way in a short period of time, especially since every kid over the age of eight has a cell phone clutched to his or her ear. And with the right kind of phone you can climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and call Omaha to check on the kids. But as fascinating as that is, phones are only one way to communicate electronically. Why pass notes in class when you can text? Why pay a long distance fee when you can Skype? Why go to the post office and buy a stamp to mail your letter when you can stay home and send an email? Actually, with all the equipment available today, you don’t even have to leave your house to conduct business. You can take virtual trips, do your grocery shopping, and any number of other things that might otherwise force you out of bed. Having said all that, let’s see what’s available on our little island to make our life electronically fulfilled.



Telbo Office

Telbo, in its march of progress over the last 25 years, has helped to make life easy and fun. Offering high speed internet access and a growing array of TV choices, Bonaire will soon be electronically on a par with most cities around the world. While there is another option for internet and television services on Bonaire, Flamingo TV, the aggressive growth and development of Telbo’s services has positioned them as the leader of the pack.

To demonstrate this let’s begin by looking at Surf It, a prepaid internet service which allows the user to stop at one of the 14 ‘Hot Spots’ on the island (designated resorts, restaurants, the airport, etc.) to wirelessly connect. You simply buy a card, similar to telephone cards, in the amount of NAf 5, 10, 25, or 50, follow the easy connect instructions, and you’re free to use your computer to stay connected to the world. This new service is, of course, in addition to high speed internet service for your home and office.

Telbo has also developed MITV digital television which encompasses a variety of programs and services. At the present time there are nine TV packages to choose from which include the Family Basic package of 49 TV channels in English, Dutch, Papiamentu, and Spanish and 16 music channels. Add on packages such as Family Plus which, among other selections, offers Fox News and The Food Channel, will soon be joined by MSNBC and BBC America. There are 3 movie add on packages as well as an Adult channel, Sports channel (ESPN, golf, soccer, and coming soon – a tennis channel). As an extra added convenience, Channel 1 will soon become the Information Channel which will serve as your TV guide to what’s play-

ing during the day and night. For families with children MITV offers special security features allowing parents to lock channels and set up the Parental Control feature guaranteed to keep curious little minds away from what doesn’t concern them.

In the near future we can expect to see such new services as Pay Per View and Video On Demand. Be still my heart – can life get any better than that? Movies – your choice! Watch when you want! Choose from hundreds of selections! And special concerts and sporting events – WOW! \*

There’s lots more new technology and services in the pipeline but I will save them for later when I can give you details and starting dates. But be watching because Telbo/MITV is moving up to the big time ... and won’t it be fun! ■ *Dabney Lassiter*



\*\*\*\*\*

\* *For Techies:* Telbo has selected the AmiNET125 multi-codec Set-Top-Box to power “MiTv”, the first IPTV service in the Caribbean island of Bonaire over an ADSL2+ network. This innovative IPTV service is considered to be the showcase model for Telbo. The device gives Telbo the capability to provide subscribers an enhanced IPTV platform, which goes beyond traditional triple-play services. Telbo’s “MiTv” service, an integral part of its triple play (video, voice and data) offering and a first for the Caribbean region, consists of a Basic Package of around 40 channels including HBO, Discovery and FOX. As another first in the Dutch Caribbean, Telbo will offer the Dutch Public Channels (Nederland 1, 2 and 3), which will be inserted into the head-end via optical submarine cables. Telbo also offers an Extended Basic Package and packages serving specific customer needs. (international, sports, action, unique adult content, PPV and VoD and three premium movie oriented packages). ■ *G.D.*

# BonQuiz #4

Test your knowledge of Bonaire



Jimmy Peters photo

## What is this? →

Most fisherman have one. They carefully construct one of these contraptions and take it to sea when they fish, usually towing it behind their small boats. It’s used whether they’re trolling or doing stationary fishing around Bonaire.



Not having come across one of these in a long time, I had to surch the seaside in Playa P’bao to find one. And there it was on the shore, just as I had imagined it would look. Made from scraps of wood, it is a special artifact. Going out of style, it served its purpose well. The door flap is connected to it with a strip of tire rubber to keep the flap closed so the contents cannot get out. And slots make for space to allow the ocean in and out and so the trap won’t sink. **What’s it used for?**

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

# Dig For the Future

Wondering about the trenches being dug on Kaya Korona? Two of Bonaire’s government-owned utility companies are involved. Roy Silberie told *The Reporter* that WEB is digging to prepare for upgrading their electric power installations in the area. Sanson Ogenio of Telbo reported that his company “piggybacks” whenever WEB digs trenches on the island. At the same time WEB digs, Telbo installs empty tubes that will eventually house fiber optics. The fiber optic cables will later

be blown in by high pressure air. Telbo is thinking of the future. This is of course in addition to the deep trenches along the road in Hato and SA-BEDECO and the “Big Ditch” through Rincon to connect the wind farm in Morotin with the new WEB power plant near BOPEC. Ultimately WEB will desalinate seawater only at the Hato site. The bulk of the island’s power will come from bio-diesel compatible generators near BOPEC and the wind farm. ■ *L.D./G.D.*

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Puzzle on page 7

# Speed Sailing For Erwin

**B**onaire windsurfer Elton "Taty" Frans broke a record Saturday, March 28, when he windsurfed in choppy seas to Curaçao in just two hours and 14 minutes. Taty was welcomed in Curaçao by Antillean Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage. He



Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage, Erwin Muller and Taty Frans at the finish in Curaçao.

dedicated his feat to the former record holder, Erwin Muller, who sailed it in four hours (with much more rustic equipment) in the 80s. Erwin was one of the originators of windsurfing on Bonaire.

Frans is considered one of the fastest windsurfers in the world and aimed to better Erwin Muller's record Bonaire to Curaçao time. The record accomplishment was to call attention to Erwin, who suffered a debilitating stroke several months ago and who is on the long road toward recovery in a rehabilitation center in Curaçao.

Taty left the BOPEC area in Bonaire at 9 am and arrived at Marie Pampoën, Curaçao, at 11:14 am. The record attempt was originally planned for March 8<sup>th</sup> but could not take place then due to stiff winds.

Safety precautions for the event were provided by a relayed fleet of support boats. No single boat could match the speed of windsurfing Taty whose average speed for the approximate 35+ mile sail was 16½ knots, and at times exceeded 30 knots. Taty was sailing a 122 liter Starboard Isonic Board with an almost new Mauisail TR-5,

Bonaire Government photo

7.6m<sup>2</sup> sail. The wind was blowing from the northeast at 18-21 knots, wave heights topped out at about 3m.

**In a related effort to assist Erwin, Richard Beady the owner of Bonaire's well-known Richard's Restaurant, is going to donate all the money he makes the night of Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, to Erwin.** Richard's has a very friendly bar, great food and an incomparable seaside ambience. Richard is doing it because he loves Erwin. We plan to be there and hope you will be too.

If you wish to contribute directly to Erwin Muller deposit your donation in MCB-Bonaire account # 4000508 00. ■

G.D./Ann Phelan

# A Bonaire Sports First

**T**he first two male athletes in Bonaire's history to attend the Carifta Games 2009 (Caribbean and US International Field and Track) in St. Lucia on April 9 are **Charlon Sumpster** (15) and **Rayonell Lindeborg** (16). They will be representing the Netherlands Antilles. If they succeed with prizes they'll have a big chance to participate in the World Youth Championships in Italy. Both are eligible to attend the (Weganan di Reino) Kingdom Games in Aruba in July.

Charlon is a runner in the 800, 1,500 and 3,000 meter races. Rayonell runs the 400-meter relay, throws the javelin and is the champion shot putter. Their coach, Henricus Winklaar, holds a level 1 and 2 IAAF diploma. He trains the athletes voluntarily, six times a week. He will go with Charlon and Rayonell to St. Lucia and has also been named as Assistant Coach for the Carifta Games.

When they return from St. Lucia they will immediately prepare for the Kingdom Games. According to Coach Henrique the work isn't easy but he is sure the two athletes will show well because of their strong self-discipline and perseverance.

After nearly qualifying in the finals Curaçao in March to participate in the Carifta Games 2009 and the Wega di



Bonaire Government photo

Rayonell Lindeborg, Coach Henrique Winklaar and Charlon Sumpster,

Reino (Kingdom Games) Charlon Sumpster, 15, is being sponsored by MCB. Charlon was 1/300 of a second slower than the next runner and was therefore not eligible to have his ticket paid to go to the Carifta Games. So MCB, our friendly banker, decided to sponsor the "young athlete," MCB says, "whose future is brilliant." "Charlon is a very serious and dedicated athlete and at the same time he's one of the first Bonairean boys who will be going to the Carifta Games. Charlon will be showing the face of Bonaire with pride under the tutelage of coach Henrique Winklaar."

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# An Exciting Getaway - Right Nearby



Kura Hulanda Lodge Photo

Kura Hulanda Lodge

Looking for the ideal getaway that's close by but seems like far, far away from Bonaire? Where you have the same clear blue water and sandy beaches but where you really feel you are away from it all? Where it's serene, tranquil and peaceful? And it's a top resort, a member of The Leading Small Hotels of the World with more than four stars that offers all the amenities and luxury you're looking for? And with a staff that is friendly, attentive but not invasive?

This magical spot is Kura Hulanda Lodge at Westpunt, atop the Kadushi Cliffs at the northwestern tip of neighboring island Curaçao, and it's managed by Bonaire's Delno Tromp. Delno says there are a number of visitors from Bonaire who just want to get away for maybe a long weekend. Originally, the majority of the hotel's guests were from the US, but now they're from all around the world, he says, many of whom often stop to enjoy both islands.

Another familiar face from Bonaire is Front Office Manager Herbert Castillo who worked in Bonaire at Harbour Village and at Goddard Catering. He says he loves his job here. On the engineering staff is Rodwin Balootje, who worked at Divi Flamingo in Bonaire.

One of the things that set this property apart is how it makes you feel that you are the only pampered guest because there is so much spaciousness in the surrounding gardens and how the buildings are placed for



Kura Hulanda (Otrabanda) Manager Shirley Geerman poses at her hotel with Kura Hulanda Lodge Manager Delno Tromp

ultimate privacy. The villas, suites and guest rooms are screened by levels and foliage and either overlook the sea or the gardens. The free-standing octagonal two-story houses or lodges with straw roofs amidst the tall trees are reminiscent of Africa. All that's missing here are the monkeys.

There is a lot of emphasis on the gardens which are made up of primarily local flora and the wandering paths invite you to stroll. There's even a grove of native shimaruku cherry trees – not what some landscapers would consider gorgeous horticultural specimens - but the fruit is out of this world and it's totally native.

There are three restaurants, each with its own personality. The largest, Watamula, is covered with a circular thatched roof and you may dine there for breakfast, lunch or dinner. On a patio under the trees and overlooking the sea is the Christoffel, adjacent to the Christoffel Sunset Lounge. For lunch on the beach there's the Kalki Beach Bar and Grill. Five-Star chefs offer international cuisine. Special menus and requests can be accommodated.

There are all the other luxurious amenities like the quiet pool with the tinkling waterfall surrounded by straw covered huts for shade to keep cool and out of the



Watamula Restaurant wait staff: Naihira; Shermaline; Naisi and Lusmarina



Front: Franklyn and Juliette of the Front Office; Herbert, Front Office Manager. Rear: Delno Tromp, General Manager; Elfrim, Bellboy extraordinaire

sun. The well appointed exercise room is next to the pool as is another hut where you can receive a massage. Oh, luxury.

Down on the beach you may just relax, take a snorkel or go diving with the full service dive shop.

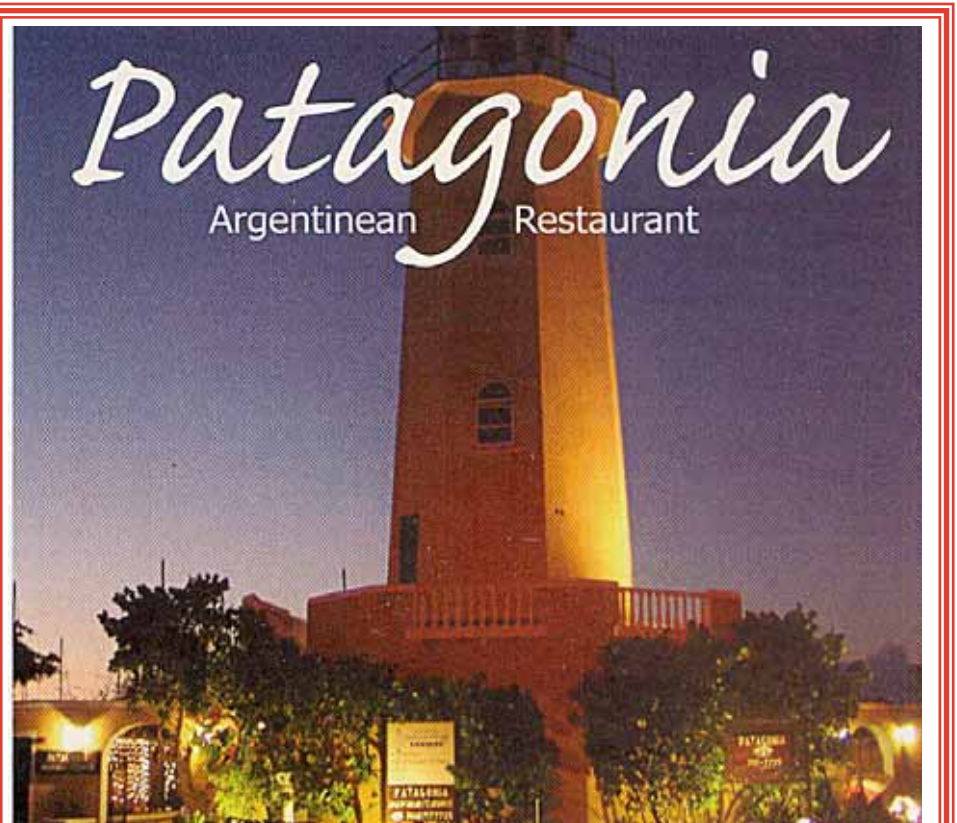
Still another face from Bonaire is Paul Siegel, Project Director of the hotel's vacation club. Paul, an experienced trooper in the hotel business, was manager of Bonaire's Flamingo Beach Hotel (now Divi Flamingo) back in the 70s. Paul's in charge of the sales of the existing oceanfront condos (studios and suites), lodge villas or one of the new Kalki Caribbean villas. The land to the north is reserved for those who want to build their own individual villa. This is a property that has been so well planned in advance that for investors there won't be any unpleasant surprises to deal with in the future. Paul said sales are good.

Noted entrepreneur Jacob Gelt Dekker (see photo on page 13) opened this luxury hotel about four years ago after having much success with his Kura Hulanda Hotel in Otrabanda in downtown Willemsted. That hotel, shops, spa, museum and casino grew out of once proud antique buildings that were in near total collapse in a nearly abandoned part of town.

Between the two hotels – the country one and the city one – there is communication even with a scheduled bus.

Want to get away and pay them a visit? Call (599-9) 839-3600. Or email: [Delno.Tromp@KuraHulanda.com](mailto:Delno.Tromp@KuraHulanda.com); [Herbert.Castillo@KuraHulanda.com](mailto:Herbert.Castillo@KuraHulanda.com) or Paul Siegel at [Vacation-Club@kurahulanda.com](mailto:Vacation-Club@kurahulanda.com). For more information click on the website:

[WWW.KuraHulandaLodge.com](http://WWW.KuraHulandaLodge.com) ■ L.D.



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# Pets of the Week



The cat cage at the Bonaire Animal Shelter is overflowing with new kittens these days - different color combinations, long haired, short haired - the works. In fact all the kittens in the photo are siblings. Entertaining them this last weekend and having a wonderful time were **Rover Dullaart and Skye and Sil Romeijn**. Who are cuter? The kids or the kitties?

When you choose an animal from the Shelter you may be assured it is in the best of health. It's had an examination by the vet, been wormed, had its shots and will be sterilized when it's old enough. That's all included in the adoption fee of NAf 75 for cats

and NAf 105 for dogs. And, very importantly, it has been proved to be a "social animal" that gets along well with people and often with other animals. Each one is different so be sure to ask one of the staff if you have particular needs like a pet that must get along with dogs or cats or children.

Stop by and see for yourself. The Shelter is on the Lagun Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989.

The book and flea market at the Shelter on Saturday, March 28, netted the Shelter NAf 2.600! Thanks to all those who donated books and other items and to those who bought them. ■ L.D.

Kids from the Bonaire Sailing School are sailing in the Curaçao Regatta on Easter weekend. Bonaire will enter two Sunfish sailors, Sipke and Juan, and four Optimists sailed by Ruben, Santiago, Constantijn and Nils. The sailors want to thank all the sponsors who made this happen. So thank you: Bonaire Automation, Hair Affair, Rent O Fun, Rosalie and Frank, Family Leask, BCB Botterop Construction, Green Label Garden Center and the Don Andres for transport. It is going to be a great opportunity for the boys. ■ Story & photo by Agnes van Dik



The sailors: Back row: Juan Alvarez, Ruben van Eldik, leader Artie de Vries. Front row: Constantijn Botterop, Nils van Eldik and Santiago Alvarez. Sipke Staper not pictured.

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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# COS' 10th Anniversary



From left to right: Danny Bol (COS partner), Jane Townsend (Jong Bonaire Board Member), Alan Gross (Treasurer, Jong Bonaire), Roëlla Pourier (COS partner) and Rosalie Bierings (COS partner).

The happy 10th Anniversary celebration at **Complete Office Support (COS)** was complimented by a donation to the Jong Bonaire Youth Center. The company was established in 1999 by Rosalie Bierings. In 2004 Danny Bol joined as partner. Then Roëlla Pourier started working at COS in January 2009, also as Partner, in charge of the Tax and Legal Department.

In her presentation speech Roëlla Pourier said, "... I would like to thank all our clients for trusting us with their business for the past 10 years and I join Rosalie and Danny when I say that I am certain that new endeavors will only make our commitment to you stronger..."

... I would like to call forward Mr. Alan Gross and Mrs. Jane Townsend, who are the representatives of Jong Bonaire. On being with the thought that it is far better to give than to receive we at Complete Office Support would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of the team at Jong Bonaire.

On behalf of Complete Office support we would like to present you with this check to be used on behalf of the teens of Jong Bonaire. This is just a small token of our appreciation for the tremendous work you do down at the Jong Bonaire center with the youth of Bonaire who are the next generation and therefore the future of Bonaire. Please keep up the good work." ■ G.D.

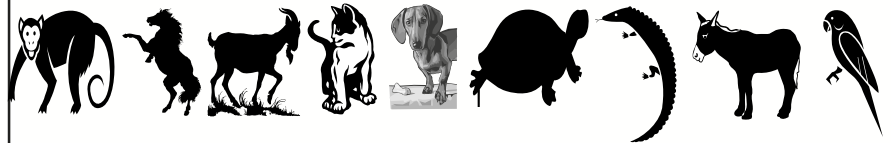


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This is what Jacob Gelt Dekker does when he is at the Lodge Kura Hulanda at Westpunt, Curaçao. He just reads *The Bonaire Reporter* to stay on top of it all. ■

D.T.

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

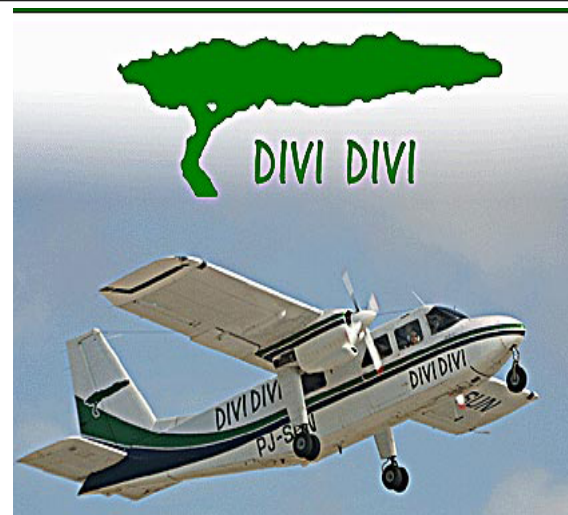
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DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF	
4-10	1:15	1.8FT.	10:22	0.9FT.					91	
4-11	1:59	1.9FT.	11:50	0.9FT.					88	
4-12	2:48	1.9FT.	12:50	0.8FT.					82	
4-13	3:40	1.9FT.	13:44	0.8FT.					73	
4-14	4:28	1.8FT.	14:20	0.8FT.					63	
4-15	5:25	1.8FT.	14:52	0.8FT.					53	
4-16	6:10	1.8FT.	15:24	0.8FT.					43	
4-17	7:00	1.7FT.	15:45	0.8FT.					35	
4-18	7:45	1.6FT.	15:59	0.9FT.					31	
4-19	2:23	1.3FT.	2:26	1.3FT.	8:25	1.6FT.	16:06	1.0FT.	22:55FT.	33
4-20	3:57	1.3FT.	9:17	1.5FT.	16:03	1.0FT.	22:40	1.5FT.		41
4-21	5:11	1.2FT.	10:00	1.4FT.	15:52	1.1FT.	22:46	1.6FT.		51
4-22	6:20	1.1FT.	10:54	1.3FT.	15:39	1.1FT.	23:04	1.7FT.		64
4-23	7:38	1.0FT.	11:59	1.2FT.	15:25	1.1FT.	23:33	1.8FT.		75
4-24	0:02	1.9FT.	8:57	1.0FT.	14:10	1.1FT.	14:40	1.1FT.		86

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# Guest Editorial

## 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.

This part offers counterpoints to the objections of a part of the local population to the new status for the people of the BES-islands. The objections were presented in the last issue of The Reporter

I have the following comments on the mentioned objections

### 1. Self-determination

According to the UN Resolutions, the people of the former colonies have the right to freely determine their place in the international community of nations. People in a certain territory can decide to form an independent country, to form an association with another country or to integrate in an existing country. These three possibilities corresponded in principle with the options D, C and B during the 2004 referendum. The majority of the people of Bonaire voted for option B. The opponents to the new status are saying that the voters did not know what would be the exact contents of the direct link with the Netherlands. Nevertheless, it was clear that it meant a much closer relationship than just an association, in our case forming an autonomous land within the Kingdom.

### 2. Neo-colonialism

There are various definitions of neo-colonialism, but it is in principle a survival or revival of colonialist exploitation of the weaker country's resources to strengthen and enrich the stronger country. It is evident that the new status of Bonaire has nothing to do with neo-colonialism. The opinion of an overwhelming majority of the Dutch people, since the 70s of the last century, has been that the remaining former colonies had to become independent countries. This went so far that Suriname was almost literally forced to seek independence in 1975. However, after a full third of the country's population had fled to Holland, and partly also to the Netherlands Antilles, and Surinam had soon become a bloody dictatorship, the Dutch realized that no such pressure could be exerted in case of the Dutch Caribbean islands.

The Kingdom had welcome the urgent demand of Aruba to become independent and in 1986 created a very favorable status for the transition period for Aruba, the well known Status Aparte. Unfortunately for the Dutch, Aruba's autonomous government later changed its mind and rescinded the article on independence in its new constitution. In order to prevent a similar situation as in the case of Suriname, particularly a new, large influx of Arubans to the Netherlands, the Dutch showed understanding for the request of Aruba to have the opportunity to remain in the Kingdom and Aruba was permitted to retain its status.

Now, more than 20 years later, the opinion of the inhabitants of the Netherlands is much stronger about the necessity of the Dutch Caribbean islands becoming independent. Particularly the extreme PVV, which according to current polls is now the biggest Dutch political party, does not agree that the government of the Netherlands, particularly during the present financial crisis, should be sending millions of Euros to the islands which

have no strategic and economic value for the mother country. The high criminality among the Antillean youngsters, predominantly from Curaçao, although slightly lower than among the young people of the Moroccan and Turkish origin, is another reason for the PVV to want to cut the existing close links with the Dutch Caribbean islands.

There are two basic reasons why the government of the Netherlands now does not encourage the islands to become independent. In the first place. The Dutch feel responsible for the islands' inhabitants and do not want to abandon them. The second reason is that the independence of any of the islands would cause thousands of people, all with Dutch passports, to flee to the Netherlands as it happened in 1975.

### 3. Equality of all citizens of the Kingdom

Although it seems to be a justified demand that all existing Dutch laws and regulations, particularly in the field of social benefits, would also be valid on the BES islands under their new status, it is not feasible under the current circumstances. The people on the islands would certainly not be prepared to accept the change in the retirement age from the current 60 years to 65 as in the Netherlands. In order to receive a full AOW pension the people have to pay a premium during all of their active life. It is almost certain that the current retirement age of 65 will be, in the coming years, changed in the Netherlands to 67. The main reason is that the 65 age was at the time when the AOW (General Old Age Pension Law) was established after WWII, based on a much lower life expectancy than nowadays. In addition, soon there will not be enough money to pay the AOW pensions and the change to 67 will save 6 billion euros (almost \$8 billion) each year.

But there are other Dutch laws and regulations which will certainly not be acceptable to the islands' inhabitants, for example higher taxes: the maximum 52% rate for income tax and 20% sales tax (now 5% on Bonaire).

### 4. Dutch laws considered not to be in accord with Christian values.

The lack of space does not permit me to go in detail on these laws. Women in practically all European countries have the right to terminate pregnancy. Even in the very Catholic Italy it has been legal since 1978 and a proposal to repeal the law was rejected in a 1981 national referendum by 80% of voters. As known, abortion, with certain restrictions, was legalized in the very religious US in 1973 after the famous Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. The legalization drastically reduced the mortality rate of abortions in the US. Euthanasia, the

voluntary ending of life of terminally ill patients suffering unbearable pain, has still not been legalized in the majority of countries (in the US until now only in the state of Oregon, under strict conditions). However, the reality is that, according to data from the Netherlands, many more patients and very ill old people are currently voluntarily dying (*versterving*), which is ceasing to eat and drink, than as result of the medically performed euthanasia.

As far as the same-sex marriage is concerned, according to Bob Wit, judge at the Caribbean Court of Justice and former judge in the Netherlands Antilles, it is not mentioned in the EVRM (European Treaty for Human Rights) signed also by the Netherlands. There has been no verdict in this matter by *Hoge Raad der Nederlanden* (High Council of the Netherlands). Even a full recognition of such marriage, contracted in the Netherlands, according to Bob Wit, will not be accepted in the overseas parts of the Kingdom. He has mentioned that even in the fully integrated US a same-sex marriage made in California is not recognized for example in Florida.

As far as soft drugs sale in the Netherlands is concerned, people on Bonaire think erroneously that it is legal. The fact is, however, that the coffee shops are illegal according to the statutes, but there is a policy of non-enforcement. Many coffee shops had been closed by various municipalities as a result of objections of the population against them.

The last objection of the opponents to the new status, that the financial supervision of the island's government is a violation of the democracy, is just ridiculous. On the contrary, it is an important instrument to protect the taxpayers, preventing irresponsible bank loans and dubious development deals (like has happened on Aruba) negotiated by the local government.

Many opponents do not know that the status of special municipalities has a tem-

porary character. Five years after it's being established an evaluation will take place, necessary adjustments will be made and the final status of our islands will be determined. The Kingdom's Constitution has to be adapted in this connection.

Although we now often speak about the integration into the Netherlands (you will not find the word "integration" in any official document), due to the 9,000 km geographic separation and completely different local conditions many differences will remain between the Netherlands and the BES islands. A number of important Dutch laws and regulations will not apply, and our islands will not become members of the European Union so therefore no changes will come of the existing unfavorable customs regulations. The euro will not be used as the BES currency; instead, the US dollar will replace the NAf/guilder. We should speak, instead of using the word "integration" about a new status of our islands as special municipalities within the Netherlands. ■ Editorial by Jiri Lausman

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.



## BonQuiz Answer

Question on Page 9



It's a **Bibero**, a live bait box Antillean fishermen use to keep their bait alive while they fish.

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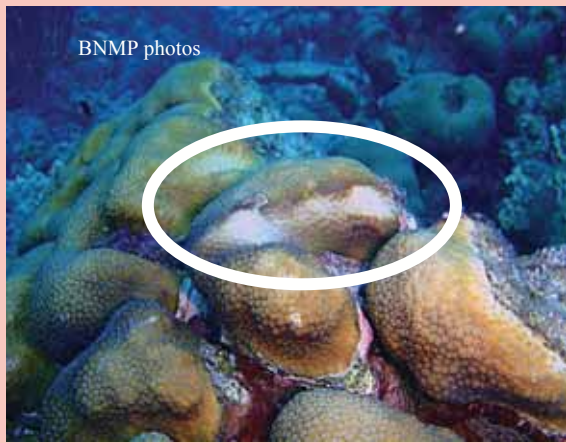
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# CORAL: FRAGILE, HANDLE WITH CARE



**Message to Bonaire Dive Shops and Divers:**  
**I**t has been brought to my attention that some divers have been putting dead coral on top of live colonies as a marker to find their way back to the exit point (top left photo). This practice, besides being unnecessary even with minimum navigation skills, damages the live tissue of the coral (top right photo) and is illegal. The wounds produced by these markers are possible points of infection for different diseases like black band disease (photo right) or yellow blotch. Dive shops should advise their divers to discourage this practice. For more information about coral reefs diseases please check <http://www.coris.noaa.gov/about/diseases/> ■  
 Marine Park Manager Ramón de León For STINAPA Bonaire

# Bubbles from the Biologist

## Did You Know

that seahorses don't have teeth or a stomach? The food they consume passes through their digestive tract so fast they need to be eating almost all the time in order to stay alive! They anchor themselves to sea grasses and corals with their tails and suck in crustaceans and plankton with their extended snouts as the food drifts by. Seahorses eat more than 3,000 brine shrimp per day!

Did you also know that MALE seahorses are among the only species on earth that carry the unborn young? They have a pouch on their front side where the female deposits her eggs. The male then fertilizes them internally and carries the eggs until they hatch. He releases fully formed, tiny seahorses into the water. Imagine a world where men would carry unborn children. Seahorses can be found in shallow tropical and temperate waters throughout the world. They range in size from 0.6 to 14 inches long. Unfortunately, habitat depletion, pollution and extensive harvesting have made several species susceptible to extinction. ■ *Julie Sickels*

*Sickels is a third-year student of Marine Biology at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL. She is currently studying at the CIEE Research Center in Bonaire.*



Seahorse



# Kite Flying Contest

All photos by Herman van Leeuwen

**T**his year's *Kontest di Fli*, the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of Bonaire's Annual Kite Flying Contest, held last Sunday, April 5, enjoyed perfect conditions. The all-day event began at 8 am and continued until 6 pm. All contestants must create their own kites. Prizes were awarded for the smallest, strangest, most beautiful, the biggest, and the most original kites, as well as an overall grand prize. Families, friends and all kinds of groups

from all the ABC islands get together to build the most amazing kites, and often it takes a whole crowd to launch them. It's a wonderful, wholesome atmosphere. Groups of families and friends set up with chairs and tables, food and drink coolers, and have a social good time while watching the spirited competitions. ■ *G.D.*



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENINGS

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**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.

**Friday, April 10 – Good Friday (Holiday)**

**Saturday, April 11 – Opening of exhibit of sculptress Josephine Ebing**, 5 pm, in the garden of Kaya Grandi 85. Ebing's show will continue for a month at that site and will be open from 10 am to 12 noon and from 3 to 7 pm.

**Saturday, April 11 Richard's Restaurant** to donate the proceeds of the evening to benefit Erwin Muller (see story on page 10) Be there to support Erwin, one of Bonaire's living legends.

**Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday**

**Monday, April 13 – 1st Glass Mosaic Exhibition** by Mamita Fox, Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47, 10 am to 3 pm. Entrance free.

**Saturday, April 18 – Underwater Cleanup.** Meet at Dive Friends at Hamlet Oasis for a cleanup at the Cliff dive site.

**Sunday, April 19th – Children's Celebration of the 30th Anniversary for the Marine Park and Earth Day CIEE Research Station**, Kaya Gob. Debot 26, 3-6 pm. 40 children only. Sign up by Friday, April 17.

**Wednesday, April 22 – Earth Day – Planting 40 trees** in the Washington Slagbaai National Park at Pos Bronswinkel. More information call 717-8444.

**Thursday, April 30 – Rincon Day (Queen's Day)** – One of the most lively, fun and energetic events on the island. Friends and relatives come from the other islands of the Antilles to celebrate. Music, dancing, stands selling hopi dushi local food, books, gifts and much more. It's the place to be – all day long. Simidan Parade around 5 pm.

**Thursday, April 30 – 18 km. Run** Playa to Rincon, MCB Bonaire-Queen's Birthday race

**Friday, May 1 – Labor Day - Holiday**

**June – Jazz Festival**

### CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

**Mon., Apr. 13 – Aida Aura**

**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 December 25th. and January 1st. Call **788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 meet-

ing 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:

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# SHOPPING and DINING GUIDE

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

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**BONAIRE ON WHEELS**  
**A Coronet for Henri**

*The 44<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."*



Spot the differences in the two photos and win NAF25 worth of Wattaburgers!





**Contest!** Here are two different pictures of the same Dodge Coronet III convertible, made in 1966, owned by Henri Verhoef. **Find the differences** between the two pictures and tell *The Bonaire Reporter* about your discoveries. Send your list of differences to *The Bonaire Reporter* by email: [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com) and maybe you are the lucky winner of a prize! In the next issue of our newspaper we will inform you of the right answers. And the prize is a Wattaburger gift voucher of NAF 25,00.

Bonaire/Playa Pabou –  
**I**t must have been more or less in the year 2000 that Henri Verhoef bought his Dodge Coronet III convertible. He can not really recall the right year precisely, but what he knows for sure is that his almost original Coronet convertible was built in the United States of America in the year 1966 and that his car was only one of two Coronet convertibles exported to the Netherlands. (And even the Wikipedia guys can only inform us about saloons and coupes. Nowhere are the convertibles mentioned.)

And Henri's Coronet is an original convertible for sure, no jig saws are used. And the mechanism of the roof is powered by the air of a sturdy 12-volt compressor. We are talking of the year 1966, you know: power roof, power brakes, power steering, power engine.

Henri Verhoef, on the island since the year 2002, is the owner of a Coronet III, powered by a V8-engine of 440 cubic inches. Some guys in the States say there is no substitute for cubic inches and they might be right. The V8-engine measures 440 cubic inches. This is, converted in modern metrics, some 7.2 liters. That is only about the size of the engines of some 144 mopeds or scooters of 50cc!

So Henri got his one-out-of-two Coronet III convertibles and he started down the long road of restoration. It took a lot of money and a couple of years to make the vehicle road worthy. Then, one day, the car really had to be ready and prepared for the road because the Coronet had to cover a distance of some 60 miles, the distance between the garage and the container. Henri Verhoef had the idea to go abroad, to go to Bonaire!

So the restored car experienced her maiden voyage and the engine became overheated because of an oil circulating problem. The last 30 miles to the container in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, were covered with the help of an auto ambulance.

In Bonaire Henri had to start all over again. I took some time to find the right shed with chickens, half way along the road to Rincon, on the left hand side, hiding a Dodge with a useful and complete engine of the same size: those earlier mentioned 440 cubic inches slash 7.2 liters! A well charged battery and some regular petrol were enough to start the V8 engine. It was spitting, hissing and farting but it ran!

In the meantime Henri became very busy, being the new owner of Wattaburger and the co-owner of the recently opened restaurant El Mundo, both in downtown Kralendijk. Henri had to start to look for some assistance. The solution was found in Jairo Mendoza from Garage Hermanos Mendoza, along an unpaved but well known road behind The Warehouse Supermarket. The Mendozas originate from Venezuela and they specialize in maintaining, repairing and restoring American cars and American engines. So the Mendoza family converted some parts and fitted the original three-speed automatic gearbox to the smooth running Bonairean donor engine. A new paint job was applied and after a lot of effort the Dodge was road worthy and street legal again.

At this present day Henri's Coronet III convertible is a nice looking lady in the summer of her life. Her color is healthy

and the tiger prints on her upholstery suit her fine. She is not as fast as she used to be but she is lean, classy, experienced and reliable. Henri likes her looks and her behavior. "I love this car," Henri says, "and I've gotten used to her. Sometimes there are little problems like losing electric power and some brake problems, but she is fine with me and I am fine with her. She was one out of two in Holland and for sure she is the only one on Bonaire. Sometimes I hesitate a little but I would only sell her for the never-leaving dream of my youth: a 1964 or 1965 Ford Mustang!" ■

Story & photos by Jan Brouwer



## Diving Truck



**M**y brother, sister-in-law and I were just finishing up a dive at Karpata on March 11 at approximately 3 pm when we saw something large and red dive into the ocean. My brother, Jeff, was the first to swim over to render assistance and I followed shortly behind him. What we saw was a red dump truck in the water. Thankfully, according to someone up at the top of the cliff, after the brakes failed the driver bailed out of the cab just before it sailed over the precipice. Nobody was in the vehicle. ■

Jonathan Green

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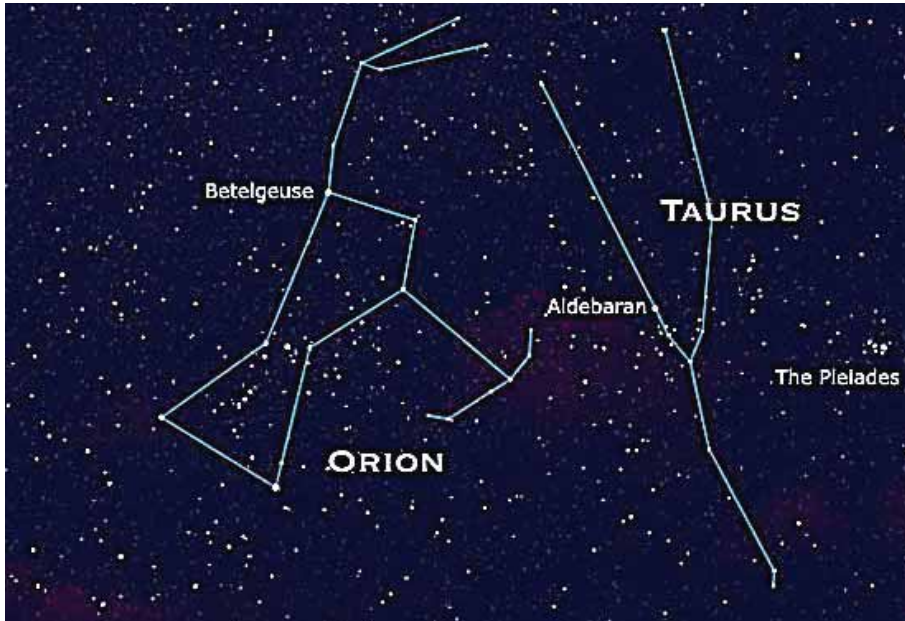
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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

How To Find The Two Brightest Red Stars Which Are Visible Right Now!



Stars do come in different colors. And the two brightest red ones can be seen very close to each other right now.

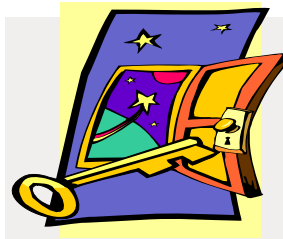
On any night during the first two weeks of April about an hour after sunset face north-northeast where almost everyone's second favorite star pattern is clearly visible. Most people's favorite is comprised of the seven stars which make up the **Big Dipper** which is visible in the northeast right now.

But the second favorite is comprised of the seven bright stars in **Orion the Hunter**. It's just about overhead. Three bright stars in a row mark his belt. Two bright stars mark his knees and two bright stars his shoulders. And all but one of them looks white to the naked eye. Only the bright shoulder star named **Betelgeuse** looks different and glows a bright red. And it is the brighter of the two brightest red stars we can see with the naked eye.

The second brightest is just off to the right of Orion and is the brightest star in a group of stars which make kind of a V-shape. Named **Aldebaran** it is the fierce red eye of **Taurus the Bull** upon whose shoulders ride the exquisite little star group known as the **Seven Sisters**. And legend has it that they're perched on his shoulder because he is protecting them from the overly amorous intentions of Orion who was somewhat of a notorious ancient womanizer. At any rate if you compare Aldebaran and Betelgeuse's colors you'll notice that they are both red but each a different shade. And there their similarity ends. Indeed although they look very much alike they are very much different.

Now you may recall that we measure the distance to stars not in miles but in terms of the speed of light. Light travels 186,000 miles per second so our **Moon** which is about 1/4 of a million miles away is about 1 1/3 light seconds away, which means that it takes 1 1/3 seconds for light to travel from our Moon to our **Earth**. So we always see the Moon, not as it exists now, but as it existed 1 1/3 seconds ago. Aldebaran's light takes 65 years to reach Earth. So we say it is 65 light years away which also means we always see Aldebaran not as it exists now but as it existed 65 years ago. Wow!

Betelgeuse, however, is 8 times farther away, 520 light years, which means that we always see Betelgeuse as it existed 520 years ago, before Christopher Columbus set sail. Double wow! But it gets even better because if we compare these two red stars with our million-mile-wide yellow **Sun** we discover that Aldebaran is 36 times wider. And it gets even better because Betelgeuse is a variable star and changes its size like a gigantic cosmic heart. When it's fully contracted it is a whopping 600 times as wide as our Sun but when it is fully expanded it is 900 times as wide. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



## THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
For April 2009

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You can make money if you are careful not to let it trickle through your fingers. Avoid scandals of any sort. Take care that arrangements to spend quality time together are made in advance. Minor accidents could occur if you don't take precautions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Your home environment appears to be a little shaky. Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work. Travel for pleasure will be enticing. You may find that others do not do things the way you want; however, if the job gets done, let it pass. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Don't hesitate to voice your ideas and opinions. Make career changes that may increase your income. Your ability to relate will close the generation gap. Avoid arguments with relatives who might be conservative and outdated. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly. Art investment will pay big dividends in the long term. You are best to do your research before taking on such a venture. You must get out and mingle. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Don't put your professional reputation on the line. Opportunities to go out with clients or colleagues will be in your best interest. You can dazzle members of the opposite sex with your quick wit and aggressive charm. Stick to travel or do things in conjunction with groups. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try to enlist the support of your coworkers first. Take the day to relax and pamper yourself. Your home environment appears to be a little shaky. Travel and educational pursuits may help alleviate the stress you have been feeling. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Romance may be better than you ever thought possible. Don't be shy; show your abilities! Escapist tendencies may lead to overindulgence. You may find that family members may not be too easy to get along with. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Talk about your intentions and confirm that you both feel the same way. Make plans to mix business with pleasure. Dinner with clients or business associates should be successful. Your lover may disappoint you in such a way that estrangement will follow. Turn things around, make sure that they do their share. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov.23 -Dec. 21) Positive changes regarding your personal status are evident. Romance can develop; however, it will most probably be short-lived. You will have no problem getting along with clients. Do the necessary chores and then do things that please you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

You can make financial gains if you are prepared to take a risk. Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. You may have been too agreeable to someone who just anted to use you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Do not make rash decisions about your personal life. Your home environment may be hectic, which could result in emotional upset if you aren't well organized. You can count on getting a pat on the back for your efforts. You may be sensitive to a point of absurdity. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) The advice you get this month may be based on false information. Be careful of disclosing personal information. You may get upset with peers or relatives. Don't be too quick to spend money. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday. ■



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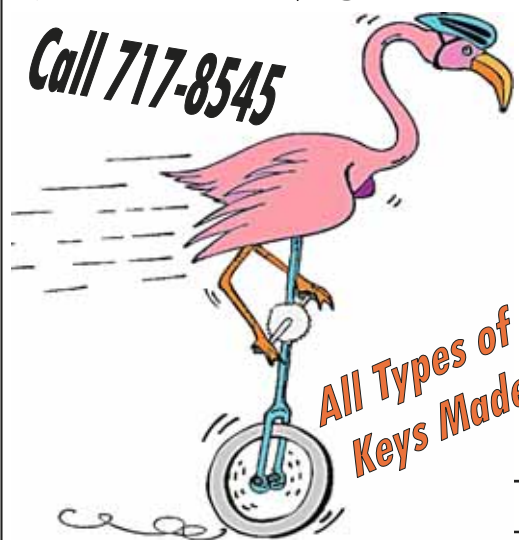
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