

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** April 24- May 8, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 9  
**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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*Erwin at Richard's  
See page 10*

**Bruce Bowker, Richard Beady,  
Jason Erwin and Ellen Muller at  
sunset at Richard's Restaurant.**

**Also in this issue:**

New Citizens	-pg. 2	Sailors in Curacao	-pg. 9
Looking Back '94, '95	- pg. 3	Cruisers' Cleanup	-pg. 15
Grand Piano for Bonaire	-pg. 6	... and much more	



The group who organized the acquisition and delivery of a concert-class grand piano to Bonaire reported that **the piano has arrived** and the **first concert is scheduled** for Mother's Day, May 9, at the Plaza resort. **For details on this cultural achievement turn to page 6.**



Following numerous flamingo deaths the **Water and Electricity Company (WEB)** promised to equip overhead electric cables with reflectors so that the birds will not fly into them. The company will set aside NAf 30.000 to NAf40.000 for the project.



Last December the Bonaire Government passed a resolution (AB1991#8) to help build up the island's fish stocks by **establishing no fishing zones within the Bonaire Marine Park**. While spearfishing has long been banned, line fishing was permitted. STINAPA, which manages the Marine Park, was designated to define, educate and, if necessary, enforce the new regulation.

The two zones will be marked by buoys and signs in four languages. Yellow painted stones are used as well.

Zone 1 runs from north of Harbour Village to Point Waya, Zone 2 from the Plaza Resort harbor to Chachacha Beach.

It is permitted to take bait fish and two non-reef-dwelling fish in these areas under special regulation.

Experience in other Caribbean areas show that within a few years fish population and fish sizes increase in the no-fish zones and adjacent areas.

**On Tuesday, April 14, the Sorobon-based fishing boat**



Bonaire government photo

Last week Island Governor Glenn Thodé in the name of Queen Beatrix awarded **Dutch citizenship to 31 persons** who completed the necessary requirements. The ceremony was held in the Passangrahan (Island Council Chamber). Addressing the new citizens were, among others George Menshe, head of the Civil Registry, and Governor Thodé.

**Jordano with two persons aboard hit the reef at the entrance to Lac Bay.** The fishermen were rescued unharmed with the assistance of STINAPA Park Rangers and the Coast Guard helicopter.



EcoWorld photo

**Bonaire is not alone in considering using algae-based fuel.** The city of Venice, Italy, has announced a plan to produce 50% of its electricity needs from an algae-based power. The city will be producing electricity from two types of algae that are brought in clinging to ships and which regularly grow over the seaport. The algae will be cultivated and treated in laboratories to turn it into fuel. The fuel will then be used to power turbines in a new 40 MW power plant in the center of the city. The innovative project will cost the city \$264 million and should be operating in two years.

Are algae-growing test ponds being built on the south side of the Sorobon road across and east of the Donkey sanctuary?

*via EcoWorldly, thanks to Maureen Mellema*

**The Antillean Parliament will shortly receive a phasing plan for the further process of dismantling the Netherlands Antilles.** The promise came after opposition member Jopie Abraham from Bonaire requested clarity regarding the progress of the constitutional change process.

The progress of Bonaire's connection to Holland as a municipality continues independently of this process.

**Homeowners are requested to deposit their used glass for recycling in the yellow "Klinko" containers at the old SELIBON location on Kaya Industria** across from Warehouse Bonaire. The former instruction to dump them in restaurant or hotel yellow containers is cancelled.

**The Antillean airline companies DAE and Insel Air are having difficulties in receiving any transfers of their revenues in American dollars from Venezuela.** The Venezuelan car industry, banks dealing with credit cards and other sectors dealing with imports are also suffering from the dollar shortage. This is the result of the lowered oil price and the international crisis. Some Venezuelan banks have informed their clients via pop-up messages on their websites that payments in dollars can be made only for food, accommodation and medical emergencies abroad.

**Citing cooler seas and the prospect of a weak El Niño, the benchmark Colorado State University (CSU) hurricane forecast on Tuesday to 12 tropical storms, of which six could become hurricanes.**

The US research team, founded

by storm forecasting pioneer William Gray, said the season could see two "major" hurricanes of Category 3 or higher on the five step Saffir-Simpson intensity scale. Hurricanes of that magnitude have sustained winds of more than 110 miles (177 km) per hour.

The researchers said sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean had cooled in recent months. Hurricanes draw energy from warm sea water, so cooler water could diminish hurricane activity.

**Bonaire artist, Janice Huckaby Baillie, has been accepted into the Ocean Artists Society** and will be formally inducted at the upcoming DEMA show in Orlando, Florida, October 2009. The Ocean Artists Society (OAS) was started by Wyland, Bob Talbot, and Guy Harvey several years ago. The society was created to foster an



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**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 - TIME: 9:00 - 4:30 pm. PLACE: BONAIRE SUNSHINE HOMES, Kaya Lib. Simon Bolivar. Snacks, drinks and games bring the whole family.**



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# Happy Birthday, Reporter 15 Years Old This Month

Beginning with this issue we will look back at the past years' news that appeared in our pages. It's interesting, especially when viewed in the light of current developments.

We begin with a retrospective of some of the news as it appeared in *Port Call* (previous name of *The Bonaire Reporter*) at its beginning in 1994 and 1995. You'll notice many of the items are waterfront related as befit the original *Port Call* slogan-Bonaire's Boating Newspaper:

1994

1-1 - *Port Call* - "For Yachts in Bonaire" - 1<sup>ST</sup> issue was printed in April 1994. Readers had to donate NAf 1 per copy (to cover Xeroxing).

8-8 - Now called *Port Call* - "Bonaire's Boating Newspaper"

9/26 - The local antique fishing sloop, *Eagle*, is set to be rebuilt under the auspices of the Bonaire Maritime Museum and placed in the museum

10/3 - Referendum 1994- *Ban Fiha Nos Rumbo* (Let's Chart our Course) on Oct. 21

10/17 - A large, modern tuna trawler, *Lucille*, (with a Hughes helicopter) was captured with illegal drift nets. Eight large trawlers were reported a few miles of Bonaire's north coast. Dutch Royal Air Force plane dispatched from Curaçao and observed them fishing. Police boat P-1 with customs and harbor officers boarded boat which was escorted to Kralendijk harbor.

- Sandwich Factory opens

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11/28 - Results of the Referendum

1994 - Alternative #1 voted in- "Keep Bonaire as part of the Netherlands Antilles."

12/5 - Next year (1995) will see the arrival of 12 cruise ships, up from nine in 1994. This does not include the Scientologists' ship, *Freewinds*.

- Record salt exports from AKZO-Nobel Salt Company- 400,000 metric tons  
12/19- *Port Call* becomes FREE and "It's Still Free!"

12-27 - Proposal by Marine Park manager Kalli DeMeyer to charge NAf 500 annually for each private mooring. Some residents say, "As part of the long term Marine Park mooring plan eventually no anchoring may be permitted in Bonaire waters. We believe the visitors' costs of daily mooring (\$3-\$5) combined with the residents' annual charge will discourage yacht tourism."



- Tall ship SSV *Corwith Cramer* out of Woods Hole, MA, visits with crew and students aboard.

- Club Nautico opens with a grand party

1995

1-14 - "The Museum Lives - Bonaire

Maritime Museum - Stichting Maritiem Museum" opens an MCB account. Objective: "To develop a self-supporting museum which documents and exhibits artifacts related to the love affair of Bonaire with the surround seas."

**The Pirate's Pen**  
by Jack Chalk

Jack Chalk is the president of CURO and manager of dive operations at Captain Don's Habitat. His weekly columns

1-27 - 1<sup>st</sup> of the weekly column, "The Pirate's Pen" by Jack Chalk

2-3 - Underwater Surveys by Prof. Gordon Younce, Ph.D. - Compiling the trash on the reef in Kralendijk harbor.

- George Saragossa promoted to Chief Marine Park Ranger

- Cultimara switch from plastic bags to paper results in a noticeable decline in paper bag trash

- Dancing at the new Fantasy Disco.

- New art gallery/ art supply store opened in the Lourdes Mall by Bonnie Kerr.

2-24 - "Swedes invade Bonaire." Half the new boats in port are from Sweden.

3-17 - American Canadian Cruise Line mini-liner visits Bonaire. Mini liners have features which allow navigation in

(Continued on page 12)

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# On The Island Since... 1993 Ana Belinda de Lima

"I was born in Honduras in 1968. My whole family is from Honduras. When I was two years old we left. My father was an engineer in the oil industry and first we went to live in Curaçao where my dad worked at the refinery. Then we lived in Aruba, Ecuador, Mexico and Santo Domingo, and when we moved to Venezuela I was 10. Up until then I'd always gone to an American school and English was the first language at home.

Once we were in Venezuela my mom just loved it there and she said, 'No more moving!' So my dad went on working abroad and we stayed with our mom. She was our role model; she kept the family together and educated us.

In 1989 my father was working for Bopec here on Bonaire and we – four kids and my mom – came over to spend the summer holidays here. I was 21. During that vacation my dad became ill and he and my mom went back to Venezuela, but they decided we could stay here and have our vacation. We were really excited to be by our-

selves. We went out every night and it was perfect because Bonaire was such a safe place, so we did things we could never do in Venezuela – like partying until two in the morning!

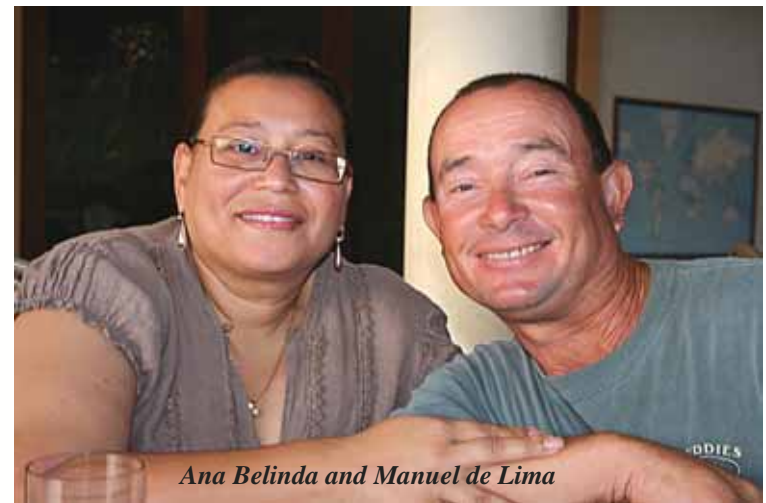
Then I met my husband, Manuel de Lima. He'd come from Portugal through Venezuela to Bonaire in 1982 and he was working for a Portuguese company on the island. It was like destiny because he was already divorced and he had a little girl who was living in Venezuela with her mom, only 30 minutes from where I was living... a big coincidence. We started dating, but he was living on Bonaire and I was living in Venezuela, so it wasn't that easy. I was studying pre-school education and running a daycare, 'Colita y Muñecon,' and we only saw each other once a year at Christmas, but the telephone was our great friend. My parents didn't let me go for summer vacations anymore after they found out I had a boyfriend.

In 1993, four years after Manuel and I had first met we decided it was enough and we got married

and I left everything behind and came to live here." She smiles. "It seems to me like yesterday. The beginning was a little bit tough because we were such a close-knit family, so the change was really huge. But with the love and patience of my husband I got through that. I didn't speak Papiamentu or Dutch and that's what I needed to get a job.

Since I was 15 I'd always worked with children, so it was like a big part of me was missing. I stayed at home and was a wife and it was like that for almost nine months. I used to torture myself by going to the preschools and the two daycares that I knew until play-school 'Jiwiri' gave me the opportunity to work there as a volunteer. Esmeralda gave me all the help I needed to learn Papiamentu and in less than three months I was singing with the children and God helped me because six months later a teacher left and I got the job permanently. Then I also took a Dutch course for two long years with Mrs. Piek because I thought it was very important for me to be able to understand the Dutch children as well, and now I can communicate with all the kids. I worked with Jiwiri until my baby boy Alejandro was born on the fourth of July, 1996.

Because he was a really difficult baby as he was always sick, I



Ana Belinda and Manuel de Lima

stayed at home with him. However, in April 1997, five couples with five babies knocked on my door. They wanted me to take care of their babies and that's how Colita y Muñecon started on Bonaire.

Because I was a foreigner it took me some work to get the permit to start a crèche, but with the help of SEBIKI and some deputies I got my legal permit two years later. After that I started taking every course provided by SEBIKI and the government to upgrade myself and to keep on learning Papiamentu. And today I don't feel like a foreigner anymore – I'm so happy to be part of this community and the preschool community and I can give my opinion and I don't have to be afraid of saying some-

thing.

I was taught 'old school' – the old system – and it's a little bit difficult to change after you've been working for a long time with a specific system. The way I see it, behind discipline there's always love and respect. I find the new school system too flexible. I think it's good for children to have boundaries, but... it all depends on the child and the specific needs of each child. Most of the parents think that the majority of the responsibility lies with the crèche and not with them. The bad person in the movies is always the teacher, not the mom! Often they want me to discipline the child, but at home it can do what it likes. Maybe be-

(Continued on page 5)

**"...we're speaking four languages here: English, Papiamentu, Spanish and Dutch, and the children absorb all these languages very quickly."**

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On the Island Since  
(Continued from page 4)

cause parents don't see much of their children it's their way of compensating. Children do miss their parents; they miss them a lot! They need their attention and their time."

Ana de Lima loves 'her' children and she's strict but fair as she believes that's best for the child. She's straight to the point and she feels very responsible and passionate about helping a child grow and develop.

"At the moment I have a bunch of little angels; we are working with a nice group and a nice group of parents too. Now I'm slowly introducing the new system. It's been introduced in all the pre-schools on Bonaire. It's called 'Kaleidoscope' and it's almost the same idea as they're using in the elementary schools now, so the transition between preschool and elementary school will be smooth. But... we have to be multi-lingual. We have to teach the child in its own language. So we're speaking four languages here: English, Papiamentu, Spanish and Dutch, and the children absorb all these languages very quickly.

I'm really happy the preschool system changed since I first started here. Then it was a place where you left your children to be looked after; there were no crayons, or paper, just toys. And now you can enter into any of the 20 crèches here on the island and you'll see all sorts of educational materials. At

my crèche we have 30 children: some come in the morning, some in the afternoon and some come all day. We have a program, a schedule the kids follow daily so it's like a routine for them. Every month we work with a different theme and at the end of each theme we have an outgoing activity or a big party. Being responsible, loving and strict is what counts most. I always tell my trainees – there are two working in the mornings and two in the afternoons – 'Look, this is not a cookie, we have a lot of responsibility; we have a lot of little Spidermen and Spiderwomen growing up here!'

I love my work, but I'm also a mother and a wife. Alejandro is 12 now and he's in SGB at Havo. I'm really proud of him and his achievements. He's a good swimmer with the Barracuda swimming club. At the moment he's in Aruba participating in a swimming competition and I'll be going in two

days to join him. He also loves to go on his mountain bike – anything that's sports thrills him.

When I'm free I love to stay at home and enjoy it. I also love animals; any little animal they bring to me I'll take care off until it's big enough to go to a new home. And I'm always selling tickets to raise money for different activities. Sometimes we get into the car, find a beautiful spot and sit there with sandwiches and something to drink

and we just enjoy the view. I don't like the sun or the beach; I don't like to get dirty, that's the problem!

Well, my idea is to work three to four more years, then find someone who would like to go on with the crèche so I can learn how to play the piano which is one of my great dreams and to have a little time with my family and travel around. But I wouldn't like Colita y Muñecon to disappear; I would-

n't like that at all. I think I will always stay here – you know sometimes I think of living in Venezuela or Portugal, but when I'm there... I really want to run back to my calm and secure island!" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Ana Belinda and her "kids"



							
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# Bonaire Gets A Grand Piano

The Bonaire Classical Music Board, a group of 15 culturally-minded residents and a few companies, report that the island's own grand piano, a **Yamaha C5**, arrived last week and has been unpacked, installed at the Plaza Resort and is getting tuned following its sea voyage. There was great help from Rocargo Services who sponsored the transport from the Netherlands to Bonaire.

The donations for the grand piano already exceed NAf 35.000. There is still NAf 4.000 to finance. That will be managed by fundraising and organizing concerts where the grand piano is an important instrument.

**The first concert with our grand piano is scheduled for May 9** (a nice present for Mothers Day) with a festive celebration and a recital of **Livio Hermans**, a native of Curaçao who will play compositions of Bach, Chopin, Schubert and well-known classical Antillean composers like Jan Gerard Palm.

After the recital there will be a pleasant "after party" with the **Quartet of Gebby Saleh** providing light classical Antillean music. The concert will be at the Plaza Resort, in the Cacique Hall at 8 pm and is organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire. The entrance fee is Ang 35.- pp, an "Intermission drink" is included.

**If you want to attend the concert please call 717-4496 or 717-5767 or email, [guusgeritsen@bonairelive.com](mailto:guusgeritsen@bonairelive.com) or [hansfaassen@gmail.com](mailto:hansfaassen@gmail.com).**

There are only 175 seats avail-

able. **Tickets and seats will be reserved on request.**

Contributors will also receive a certificate of the donation and a pass in your name which gives a 50% reduction on tickets for two persons for all the concerts of the Classical Music Board Bonaire during a number of years, depending the amount of the donation.

Since the large staff at Trans World Radio has been transferred off Bonaire there have been almost no classical concerts on the island since then because the grand pianos also left the island and the studio was no longer available.

The Fundashon Piano Grandi and the Classical Music Board Bonaire, both an initiative of a group of private persons, made it possible to hold the great, festive first concert on a grand piano on May 9 at the Plaza.

The Foundation is very grateful to Plaza Resort because there is no other public place on the island where the grand piano can



Some assembly needed- Rocargo technicians help



Hans Faassen tests the piano

be hosted safely and also can be used at the same place for concerts and recitals. Our island does still not have a public theatre or a concert facility which

can be found on the other islands.

The initiators of Fundashon Piano Grandi have the intention to offer the use of the grand piano to all public organizations on the island. For info about that call Hans Faassen on 717-5767

The **Bonaire Classical Music Board** is a foundation whose objective is promoting, organizing and developing classical music on Bonaire.

The foundation will organize eight to 10 concerts per year and at least three school

concerts. **The focus of the CMBB** is on the traditional European classical music but much attention will be given to the South American, Caribbean and Antillean classical music culture as well.

In the last months interesting contacts have been made with organizations and artists on Curaçao, Aruba, Venezuela

(Valencia) and the Netherlands in order to organize six interesting concerts.

**Tickets** can be obtained at Addo's Bookstore, Flamingo Bookstore, Plaza Resort Bonaire and on the evening of the concert at the Cacique concert hall in Plaza Resort. We recommend you buy tickets at the presale points because there will be a lot

...Continued on next page, column 3

classicalmusicboardbonaire

**FIRST CLASSICAL CONCERT**  
at PLAZA RESORT BONAIRE

saturday, may 9, 2009  
8:00 pm

The CLASSICAL MUSIC BOARD BONAIRE and the FONDASHON PIANO GRANDI proudly present the Grand Piano of Bonaire's first classical piano recital.

**LIVIO HERMANS**  
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**BONAIREAN VOICES**

**THE BONAIREAN MAN**

Most foreigners coming to Bonaire wonder how our Bonairean men think, behave and act. Well, in this case, I think we have to get the answer from an educator who has been studying the Bonairean man's progress from the early ages. Retired educator, Mr. Henry P.A. Tore (68), married to Mrs. Matea Teresa Strickx, has been on the island since 1964. After teaching in the Dominicus Elementary School (behind San Bernardus church), he continued his career as an educator at Lourdes High School (the front part of SGB (School Gemeenschap Bonaire) today on Kaya Korona) in English and Mathematics.

From 1970 he was the principal of Lourdes High School for four years. In 1974 he was appointed as the inspector of education for Bonaire and Curaçao. Then Holland came up with a new plan for education on Bonaire which was to put all secondary (junior and senior) high schools in one building, under one roof. In 1975 he fulfilled Holland's goal and was honored to be the director of the SGB from 1975-1980.

He's since held all kinds of jobs associated with the office of education. He was Director of the Department of Education, founder of the Catholic School board; of FORMA, a form of education for drop-outs; and the FINEB finance office for graduates who want to continue their studies in Holland, Aruba or Curaçao. As you can see he has broad experience in the field of education, so he can tell you about his own experiences and the Bonairean man.

"From the point of view of an educator," he said, "a man is molded according to his environment at home, in school and on the street. In the past men had more privileges than women in every sense. They had more freedom to experience and learn to be in high positions. Women were more at home. They were more protected from the outside world and were taught to do things household things. In the past we had a lot of problems too, but the men of the past are not the present men.

Back then we got a good education at home and in the schools. During those times the clergymen were the and you had to do your homework in school. After the emancipation of women and their acquisition of additional rights, a lot has changed. We as men had to learn to give more value to the women, and the community expects you to make these social changes. If you are a public figure people will see you as a role model. If you are disrespectful you will be judged by the community. Of course we had people in our community who were not thinking like that.

In my opinion, whatever project comes



Henry Tore

photo by Extra

up we should do it together in a positive way. We should be equal and respect women's emancipation. The women need to admire and value the men and likewise the men need to do the same with the women.

Emancipation of the women and their additional rights made men start thinking differently, because women have proved that they can succeed in high positions. There are Antillean women who have had and who are still fulfilling responsible positions in our community, like Mrs. Lucinda Da'Costa-Gomez, Mrs. Maria Liberia-Pietersz and our Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Mrs. Emily de Jongh-Elhage. Against all odds, insult and opposition the women have grown strong, capable of filling all positions.

My advice to men generally, especially to the Bonairean man, is to invest in his future. He must study. Young men are taking it very easy today. But we have to start thinking about our responsibility. Driving a nice car, dressing nicely and playing by the rules are not enough. You need to invest not only in material things but also in wisdom and courage. Assume your responsibility as a man. Get a job, take care of your family and/or children, do volunteer work and continue to study. Take your responsibility in our community and exert yourself. The modern man must invest in himself, the community and even in the world community, like adding his contribution to reducing the world environmental problems."

■ Siomara E. Albertus

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



Piano Concert (Continued from page 6)

of interested visitors for the concert while the number of seats is limited.

The activities of the Classical Music Board Bonaire are supported by Bon FM, Caribbean Homes, KPMG and Rorargo- IFC. ■ Guus Gerritsen

Photograph of Livio Hermans by Marian Walthie



**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 8.** Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney

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

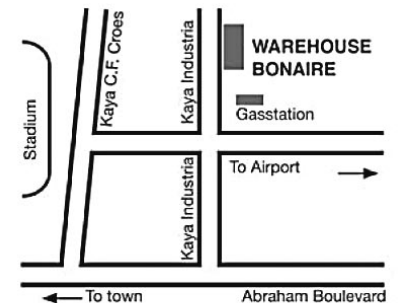


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**Mama Modelo contestants visited the TCB Tourism Awareness Program and Mama Smile as part of their preparation for the pageant and election of Mama Modelo 2009 on May 8 at 8:30 pm at Jong Bonaire. Contestants are Ruthaily Cicilia, Albaligia DePalm, Metty Martis, Elaiza Noris Pietersz, Ideline Saragosa, Mirnalym Soliana and Shanin Winklaar.**

**Flotsam and jetsam** (Continued from page 2) appreciation and develop continued interest in the ocean arts. Their website is [www.oceanartistsociety.org](http://www.oceanartistsociety.org):

Janice moved to Bonaire in 1991. She worked at the Flamingo Beach Hotel as an underwater photographer and instructor until 1996. She then started painting full time. She has been so inspired by the island of Bonaire that she has been able to produce over 500 paintings and thousands of prints which are purchased by people around the world who love Bonaire and her art. Her theme "I Paint Bonaire" includes landscapes, people and underwater scenes. Her latest creations include above and below scenes of different dive sites.

Janice said, "I hope to work in the future to promote our island of Bonaire in a unique way through my art, increasing the awareness of how valuable our oceans are and how special Bonaire is to all of us."

The main Sponsor is MCB-Bonaire, Sub Sponsor is the Rose Inn Restaurant **Sign up on April 28 at Zeezicht Restaurant, starting at 7 pm.** For more info call Richard Pietersz 780-7225



It's a good thing the Plaza Resort beach doesn't have a roof because it would get blown off the first week in June. That's when the **5th Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival** will be held (June 4, 5, 6, 7). A variety of music styles will be heard when internationally famous musicians mingle with the island's local bands from early evening to after parties that will keep the music playing to the wee



**Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22**, the date *The Reporter* goes to press. Several events are scheduled to commemorate it and we will report on them in the next edition. One highlight is the planting of 40 native trees at Pos Bronswinkel in Washington Slagbaai National Park, in celebration of its 40th Anniversary this year.

Group leader of the Stichting Project Foundation, Chelendra Elisabeth, and youngsters Edwin and Kevin receive the keys to a brand new van from Edwin Vrieswijk of Akkermans Autos.

The Stichting Project has a good reason to celebrate: after driving an old, beat up van for years, a brand new van could now be purchased thanks to the support and help of: Wings of Support, Madurodam Steunfonds, Fonds Wiggers van Kerchum and Akkermans Autos.

This new bus is essential for the Stichting Project as many of their training projects are given at different locations. Trainers and students are very thankful for this great support. (photo above)



Stichting Project photo

In the last issue of *The Reporter* (April 10-24, 2009) there was an article about a Bonaire Sports First. It concerned the first two male Bonaireans, Charlon Sumpster and Rayonell Lindeborg, going to the Carifta Games. (We made sure we said that they were the first male participants.) But they were not the first athletes to go from Bonaire. **That was Miss Kristle-Ann Figaroa in 2003** who competed in the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter relay. The games in that year were held in Trinidad & Tobago. Kristle-Ann is the daughter of Ady and Irene Figaroa.



**Get ready for the Playa to Rincon running race.** The 24th edition of the 17,5 km. event will happen on Rincon Day (April 30). Run 2009, 17.5 KM.

Start: Sport Stadium, Kralendijk: speed walk & 50+ race at 6 am, road race at 7 am. Finish: Rose Inn in Rincon

The First (1) Overall Male & Female Winners get US \$200.00 each

Trophies and medals for other categories: Age groups male: 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-59, 60+

Age Group Female: 16-24, 25-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+. There will also be prizes for relay teams and speed walk.

Time limit for road race is three hours.



Green Label photo

**Green Label Garden Center has received a new container of amazing new furniture for your porch, terrace or poolside.** All items are made of teakwood or other solid materials Their prices are really inviting. Coming soon is a container full of nice palms and other great greenery, so everybody is invited to come visit Bonaire's only true garden center on Kaya Industria. And say hi to owners Ap van Eldik and Agnes van Dik (in photo)

**If you have books that you don't read anymore please consider giving them to a good cause.** They will be sold to benefit the youth of the Protestant Church on Rincon's Kaya Crestian. Organizers, Aat and Elly Oudshoorn, will pick them up. Call them at 717-3227 or 786-0870 to make arrangements. The books will be sold during the Dia Di Rincon festivities at a stand in front of the church. Stop by their stand on that day and you're sure to find something for yourself as well.

**Remember readers, The Reporter is brought to you FREE through the support of our loyal advertisers.** Be sure to visit them and say, "The Reporter sent me." ■ G./L.D.

**SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?**

Puzzle on page 7

659 418 237  
873 265 194  
142 973 658  
584 729 361  
296 341 785  
317 586 942  
725 634 819  
961 852 473  
438 197 526



# Bonaire Sailors Win In Curacao

**B**onaire sailors and windsurfers invaded the Curaçao Challenge regatta held from April 9-13 and took home loads of prizes. Races were held in Spanish Water and the wind was very strong, especially on Friday.

The six sailing kids competed in the Optimist B-Class. The kids were racing for the first time between all those expensive moored yachts which made all a bit nervous, but there were no problems.

There were three races every day. All Bonaire kids completed all races and improved their skills.

The top five Optimist finishers were:

- 1- Santiago Alvares Bonaire
- 2- Ruben van Eldik Bonaire
- 3- Keinpe Montsma Curaçao
- 4- Nils van Eldik Bonaire
- 5- Constatijn Botterop Bonaire

Juan Alvares sailed in the Sunfish Junior Class and in this really strong field he did very well.

All had a great time and made some good contacts on Curaçao and plan some new activities in the near future. Kids Sailing is very big on Curaçao and the BSSA can use these new contacts to promote the kids sailing on Bonaire. With our good winds and quiet Bay of Kralendijk we have the perfect conditions!



BSSA photo

Readying the Optimists

The 12 Bonaire windsurfers duked it out in the Wet 'N Wild Slalom Beach Club and also took home the gold and silver.

Results:

- Mini Junior Slalom
- 1- place Amado Vrieswijk Bonaire
  - 2- place Steven Max Aruba
  - 3- place Jurgen Saragoza Bonaire

Junior Slalom

- 1- place Felix Martina Curaçao
- 2- place Alexander Da Costa Gomez Curaçao
- 3- place Ezri Heymans Bonaire

Men's Open Class Slalom

- 1- place Elton "Taty" Frans Bonaire
- 2- place Demenson "Kiri" Thode Bonaire
- 3- place Ingmar Schnitzler Curaçao



Aquaspeed photo

Bonaire's winning windsurfers

Woman's Class slalom

- 1 place Monique Meijer Bonaire
- The Aquaspeed Bonaire Windsurfers

Foundation thanks all those who made the trip to Curaçao possible. ■ Ap van Eldik/Jessica Sint Jago

## BonQuiz #5

Test your knowledge of Bonaire

What were these beams used for?



Driving along the southern shore of Bonaire has got to be one of the most colorful and exuberant experiences on the island—colorful in every aspect of the word. Our culture and history and the south end of the island have been tied together for centuries, and this tiny story is a part of that. Local color is something we all seek.


After 1957 when an American based company decided to restart salt production on Bonaire after centuries many of the former traditions in collecting salt of course disappeared, but several of the original elements remained. The oldest area, Blue Pan, aside from the ruin and obelisk, has little to show from its past. But the areas of White, Red and Orange Pan have quite a few unique relics that were left behind. As you approach the homes at White Pan, look to your left. On a low tide day the dikes and pan walls are clearly visible. These were built by the slaves. As you continue south you'll see more walls and dikes made from coral rock.

But there is one relic that's quite special and must be preserved as should all the buildings in the south! As you take the most southern bend along the road and look to the sea you will find an original sea inlet which was man made. Follow the inlet to the salt pans and on the opposite side of the road you will see several wooden beams lying horizontally to the road. ■ Christie Dovale; photo by Ger Bakker



Find the answer on page 14.

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



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# Richard's Hosts Erwin and Friends



**B**onaire diving and windsurfing icon Erwin Muller (above) was back on Bonaire last week for a visit. He's on a fast road to recovery from the stroke he suffered on Saturday, 10 January 2009. The stroke left him paralyzed on his left side, but thanks to his efforts during the months in the Curaçao rehab facility he walked into Richard's Restaurant needing only some help from a cane. Richard Beady, owner of the Bonaire restaurant landmark, had offered to donate 100% of the night's receipts to help in Erwin's recovery.

Even though Bonaire offers universal medicine care, it cannot provide all Erwin needs. He needed expensive upgraded hospitalization for top care. Because rehabilitation facilities are superior in Curaçao it was deemed that Erwin recover there. His wife Ellen commuted back and forth and finally found a place to stay in Curaçao.

This has been a extremely expensive journey. There have been many who have offered to help and did so financially.

The evening at Richard's offered the opportunities for Erwin's many friends and supporters to share in the excitement of his recovery as shown in the accompanying photos. In excess of NAf 7.000 was raised.

If you want to contribute to Erwin's recovery Ellen's American friend, Dara



*We can't ID everyone but we can for some (l. to r.): Linda, Papichi, Ellen, Benny, Doei, Eddie, Erwin himself, Pancho. Jopie, Jason, Richard and Elvis. There were perhaps 70 people on hand to meet and congratulate Erwin personally.*



*BonQuiz Reporter Christie Dovale chats with Erwin*



*Captain Johnny Craane plays. Eddy sings, Erwin smiles*

Walter, has set up a way to do this in the US. Simply Pay Pal your donation to: [Erwin2CanDive@gmail.com](mailto:Erwin2CanDive@gmail.com).

There is also an account for his benefit at the Maduro & Curiel's Bank. The account number is 400 050 800. Direct deposits accepted.

If you would like to follow up on his recovery Linda Baker has created a blog. Go to <http://erwinmuller.blogspot.com/> ■ G.D.

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# MCB Easter Tennis



Bonaire's annual MCB International Tennis Tournament is more than a matchup of the areas best players. It's entertaining for players and spectators and a social event as well. This year there were prizes galore— trophies, medals, air tickets, gift certificates and more.

Besides the games there was a BBQ evening with live music of the Foyan Boys on Saturday night were and by the Kaweati thrillers on Sunday evening.

A DJ provided every day with background music and there were free snacks and "2 for 1 Polar Happy Hours." Many spectators were on hand as well. The MVP (Most Valuable Player) of the tournament was Jan van Tilburg for his enormous commitment to this 7th edition of the MCB tournament..

The results were as follows:

- Men Singles B1; Paco Veeris (BON)- Mark Hodgson (ARU)6-2 6-0
- Men Singles B2; Wolter de Palm (BON)- Norwin Frans (ARU)7-5 6-2
- Men Singles C1Matthijs Besseling (NL) - Giovanni Hart (CUR) 6-2 6-3
- Men Singles C2 Gabriel Albert (BON) - Sebastian Peluso (BON)7-5 6-0
- Ladies Singles B Sandra Joubert (BON) - Karen Miller (USA) 6-1 6-2
- Ladies Singles C Annemieke Stolk (BON) - Kalli de Meijer (BON) 6-3 6-4
- Men's Doubles B1 Andres Kock/Silvio Hart (BON) - James en Enzo Finies (BON) 6-2 6-4
- Men's Doubles B2 Burney El Hage/Elvis Tjin A Sjoe (BON) - Edwin Sluis/Mark Smit (BON) 6-2 6-1
- Men's Doubles C1 Hugo Schiffers/Paul de Haan (NL) - Matthijs van Dijk (BON)/Rudolf Kraling(DUI) 6-4 6-2
- Men's Doubles C2 Ruud vd Veen (BON)/Wil van Delft (NL) - Lucas Besseling (BON)/Matthijs Besseling(NL) 2-6 7-6 (T7-5)
- Ladies Doubles B Donna Shea (USA)/Yvette Hageman(BON) - Krystel de Palm/Thammy Albertsz (BON) 6-3 6-0
- Ladies Doubles C Caprice Behner/Prawphan Wilden (USA) - Erica Antoin (BON)/Esther Huige (ARU) 6-1 7-6 (T8-6)
- Mixed Doubles B1 Yvette Hageman/Andres Kock (BON) - Thammy Albertsz/Burney El Hage (BON) 6-4 6-2
- Mixed Doubles B2 Tanneke Bartels/Elvis Tjin A Sjoe (BON) - Rosalie Bierings/Ibi de Palm (BON) 6-4 7-6 (T7-4)
- Mixed Doubles C1 Elke Bottrop (BON)/Hugo Schiffers (NL)- Cordelia en Rudolf Kraling (DUI) 6-2 6-3
- Mixed Doubles C2 Esther en Ronald Huige (ARU) - Sandra en Joseph Joubert (BON) 7-6 6-1.

The next, 8th, Edition of the MCB International Tennis Tourney will be on Easter Week-end, 2010, April 1to 5, 2010. ■ *Press release*

# Mountain Bike Race

Bonaire Wellness Connexions will hold the first mountain bike race of the year on Bonaire on May 3. All local and visiting mountain bike riders are invited to take part. It will be a "tempo race" – a fast ride with practically no hard climbing. This race is all about going fast along the wide trails of the Yato Baku area of the island, just outside the capital Kralendijk.



Scene from last year's race

Most entrants will ride four laps of a 4.4 km course. It starts with a seemingly flat first kilometer, but in fact riders will be rolling through what is called in Dutch a 'fals plaat'. There are some technical sections in the middle of the course and the finish is a fast downhill section. An awards ceremony and music will follow the race, with prizes awarded to overall winners. Beginners will ride two laps, experts seven laps.

The race is open to mountain bikers of all ages and abilities. On Sunday morning, May 3, there are categories for beginners, sport riders, master and elite riders. On Saturday afternoon, May 2, there will be a race for kids from 10 years old.

Full details on the race and registration appear on [www.bonairewellness.com](http://www.bonairewellness.com). For more information please contact Miguel Ángel Brito on + (599) 717 4241 or + (599) 785 0767 and email [info@bonairewellness.com](mailto:info@bonairewellness.com).

Categories	
Kids (Saturday May 2)	4:30 pm
Adults (Sunday May 3)	7:00 am
Awards ceremony	10: 00 am
Entry Fees	

Men and Women: NAf 15 (USD \$9) , Kids under 17: NAf 5 (USD \$3)

Participants must pre-register before the race day at Bonaire Wellness Connexions headquarters or by email ([miguel.brito@bonairewellness.com](mailto:miguel.brito@bonairewellness.com)). NO REGISTRATIONS ON RACE DAY.

Directions to the race course:

The race will take place in the area of Yato Baku, behind the neighborhood of Amboina. The easiest way to get there is to drive from Cultimara supermarket (situated in the middle of town) towards the church in town. At the intersection, which is in front of the church, turn left and then after 70 m. turn right to follow Kaya Nikiboko Noord (road to More for Less Supermarket). Follow that street till the end, then you can follow the signs (blue-red arrows) that we will place along the road. ■ *Photo & story by Miguel Brito*

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*Birthday (Continued from page 3)*

places normally accessible only to small yachts and they carry only 76 to 92 passengers. The 12-day ABC island cruise begins in Bonaire where the ship is based. The 1995 season was successful and the ship will return next season.

**-Two Bonaire fishing boats reported missing:** 29' *Leuma* spotted within 10 miles of Curaçao and towed to safety by the CITRO boat. *Mi Sorpresa* with 1 person aboard was not found. (Note from *Port Call*, 3-24 - "Miraculously *Mi Sorpresa* was spotted by a tanker at sea. After eight days in the open Caribbean the fisherman was found in good physical condition, perhaps due to the fact he had a supply of water aboard.")

**- Bonaire Cruise Association delegation attends Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami to promote Bonaire for the first time.**



**3-31 - Patun Saragosa**, Bonaire's Olympic windsurfer, placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the Pan American Games.

**4-21**-Aquaspeed Bonaire Windsurfers Club, assisted by Mike and Carol Solbach, put on a **spectacular windsurf race** weekend at Kai. - 29 windsurfers from Aruba and Curaçao competed with Bonaire.



**7-7 - The Plaza Hotel, formerly The Point**, opened with 150 guests on July 4. The management plans to provide each apartment with a boat for the use of the guests.

**7-14 - In May Bonaire became the first Caribbean island to have an Internet**

**website.** In its first month 1,143 subscribers viewed some or all of the 32 pages of information. Soon it was to offer multimedia presentations of local music and the Papiamentu language.

**7/18 - An investment consortium based in Aruba has requested permits to develop a resort on Klein Bonaire.** In 1987 the Dutch Government rejected an opportunity to purchase the island for NAf 2.500.000, saying the sensitive island real estate could be protected by zoning.



**9-15-Hurricane Luis** hits St. Martin, Antigua, Anagada, Anguilla, Saba and St. Eustatius. Greatest losses in St. Martin where over 100 persons are missing and thousands of boats and homes damaged. Asking for financial help via MCB "Help St. Martin"

**9-22 - Killer Hurricane Marilyn** smashed into Virgin islands - 40 boats driven ashore in normally well protected Coral Bay, St. John.

**10-6 - The fishing sloop Eagle** is on display at Regatta House awaiting rebuilding under the auspices of the non-profit Bonaire Maritime Museum Foundation.

**11-10 - This is year is the "Mother of Hurricanes"** with 20 named storms, 10 hurricanes and 4 hurricanes in categories 3/4/5 - Rumors that at least **one cruise line (Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines)** has made inquiries regarding the purchase of Klein Bonaire and/or Klein Curaçao for use as destinations for their cruise ships.

**12-8 - Several cases of Dengue fever** have been detected in Curaçao

**12-22 -- Marine Park placed additional moorings** in the anchorage consisting of 3, 3-meter square blocks of reinforced concrete. For the time being use of an unmarked mooring is free.

**-The fishing sloop, Eagle**, is still on display at Regatta House, looking pathetic, awaiting rebuild under the auspices of the non-profit Bonaire Maritime Museum Foundation.

**-Zuster Maria Z Hoppner Foundation calendar** on sale with underwater photos by Bonaire's photo pros. ■ L.D.

## Pet of the Week

This

fuzzy little black and white puppy is called "Evo." He was discovered in miserable circumstances by someone who called Animal Welfare who sent a Good Samaritan out to bring him into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. He had been tied

up on a short chain, he was malnourished and totally unhappy. "Evo is a very special puppy," we were told by one of the staff. "He has recovered from his horrible early life and is just a fantastic dog. He deserves a real good home." Evo is only 11 weeks old but his bright personality already shows through. And what a funny face he has - he's alert and comical. Just to look at him will make you laugh. The vet has declared him fit and healthy. He's had his shots and worming and tests and he's ready to go to the right home. You may see him at the Shelter on

the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

In past years the Shelter has had a stand at the Rincon Day festivities on Thursday, April 30. They sell all sorts of things for cats and dogs from their pet shop, T-shirts and flea market items that have been donated by caring people. All proceeds go to the Shelter to help keep it open for unwanted cats and dogs on the island. See you there! ■ L.D.



"Evo"



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### Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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

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**Reporters:** Siomara Albertus, Miguel Brito, J@n Brouwer, Karen Chelswick, Christy Dovale, Guus Gerritsen, Jack Horkheimer, Molly Kearny-Bartikoski, Katie Kirschbaum, Greta Kooistra, Jenny Lynch, Maureen Mellema, Mabel Nava, Jessica Sint Jago, Ap van Eldik

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[bonairebasics@telbonet.an](mailto:bonairebasics@telbonet.an)  
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**Wanted: Shop Manual and also a hard top for Jeep Wrangler.** J@NBrouwer, 796 - 3637, [digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com)

**Picture Yourself With  
The Reporter In...**

**R**eporter readers Sharyn Spray and Pat Ingram write, "A visit to the Galapagos Islands was the trip of a lifetime. We had the opportunity to interact with so many creatures in and out of the water."

Despite the request that we maintain our distance from the sea lions, iguanas, penguins, sea turtles, blue-footed boobies, etc., some of these critters didn't get the message. The sea lions found our flippers to be fun to nip and the penguins carried on as if we weren't two feet away from them.

I think the Galapagos Park Service rivals Bonaire in keeping the islands unspoiled and protecting the indigenous wildlife. Tourists are not allowed on any island without a Park Service guide and are prohibited from straying off the marked paths. This keeps the nesting areas from being trampled. Hopefully tourism won't spoil this wonderful ecosystem and future generations will have the same opportunity to enjoy it as we have."

**Darwin Station,  
Galapagos Islands**



**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).

**KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)**

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

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
4-24	0:02	1.9FT.	8:57	1.0FT.	14:10	1.1FT.	14:40	1.1FT.	86
4-25	0:43	2.0FT.	10:13	0.9FT.					93
4-26	1:28	2.0FT.	11:24	0.8FT.					97
4-27	2:19	2.0FT.	12:17	0.7FT.					97
4-28	3:20	2.0FT.	13:06	0.7FT.					94
4-29	4:18	2.0FT.	13:50	0.7FT.					86
4-30	5:28	1.9FT.	14:23	0.7FT.					76
5-01	6:28	1.8FT.	14:57	0.8FT.					66
5-02	1:06	1.3FT.	7:36	1.7FT.	15:25	0.9FT.	22:28	1.4FT.	58
5-03	3:11	1.3FT.	8:33	1.6FT.	15:40	1.0FT.	22:05	1.5FT.	55
5-04	4:33	1.1FT.	9:39	1.5FT.	15:44	1.0FT.	22:14	1.6FT.	58
5-05	5:54	1.1FT.	10:36	1.3FT.	15:30	1.1FT.	22:34	1.7FT.	65
5-06	7:12	1.0FT.	12:00	1.2FT.	14:41	1.1FT.	23:01	1.8FT.	73
5-07	8:25	0.9FT.	23:37	1.9FT.					80
5-08	0:08	2.0FT.	9:45	0.8FT.					85



**Missing Dog:**

Charlie is our Fila Brasileiro, age 1. Missing since April 7 from the neighborhood of Kaya Opal, Republiek. He wears a black collar with studs. He or she who brings him back safely to us can count on a good reward! Please be good to him!

Please call us with any information: **701-5539** or **786-3933 or 717-3258**



**Missing Cat:**

Missed dearly by us and all five of our male cats: our female calico cat "Zappa". Zappa is about one year old, dark with ginger spots ("schildpad"), she has a tail like a squirrel and is very friendly. We live in the area of Belnem. Please call if you have seen Zappa: **786-7440** or e-mail:

**bimaro@flamingotv.net**

# Letters to the Editor

## MORE PILFERED LUGGAGE

Dear Editor:

My husband and I were on Bonaire for a month earlier this year...we have spent a month there every year for the past 10 years. For the first time we experienced a theft from our luggage en route to Bonaire. We flew out of San Juan on a commuter plane (American Eagle) and were told to surrender our carry on bags so they could put them in a secure room in the front of the plane, as there wasn't ample room at our seats. Since everyone was complying with the request, we did also. Until that time the carry on had been solely in my possession. Upon arriving at our destination on Bonaire, I opened my carry-on to discover that a very expensive electric hair smoothing device had been taken from my luggage. While reading your newspaper while on the island I discovered other people had suffered thefts on that same flight. One neighbor lady at our resort had an expensive camera taken about a year ago, too. I don't know if anything can be done about these thefts, but I thought the public should be made aware so they can make sure nothing of value is left in the carry-on when they surrender it to the crew on the plane from San Juan to Bonaire. Who would ever dream that an electric hair smoothing device would be the target of a thief? I was grateful that I had put my jewelry in my purse at San Juan prior to our departure for Bonaire.

Joan Beauch (USA)

Ed Note: American Eagle's last Bonaire flight is on May 1.

## CRUISE SHIPS EXPLOIT

Dear Editor:

I read the March 27 edition and one article especially caught my attention, it was the letter to the editor regarding the cruise ships. Let me start by saying we are a couple in our 40s that very much like the island, we have traveled around the world and have decided after being in Bonaire 3 times that we are going to call it home and to that end we have bought a condo on the island.

However our main concerns were that if the reefs and the relaxed atmosphere are not protected the island will essentially lose both its main source of revenue and its appeal.

I would first like to say it was a well written article and second of all the author was too kind: the benefits of the cruise ships under the current arrangement is not negligible--it is rather a burden on the island and its inhabitants. Bonaire would actually fare much better by banning the cruise ships rather than welcoming them. Of course if the charges were to cover all real costs in-

cluding that every person pays the full STINAPA fee and not a portion thereof, and the full cost of sewage and garbage, etc... then this changes.

By full cost of course I mean enough that the government can recover 100% of the costs and as a minimum get a 15% profit to handle the long term maintenance. These costs must be based on the ship's capacity and not on the tourists that come ashore as it will make the process much too complex to manage otherwise. Now, you may say I sound like I dislike cruise ships but the truth is I don't. The issue I have is that they are in my opinion doing much more harm to the island than they are providing benefits.

Peter (Canada)

## 15 YEAR CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on 15 years of uninterrupted publishing. We started coming to Bonaire in 1993 and used to read *Port Call* while scarfing down Donna and Barry Gassert's offerings at The Sandwich Factory. I'm sure we once told you we got our basic open water and advanced PADI certifications with Donna and Barry in Poughkeepsie, and their move to Bonaire energized us to visit, again and again. 31 trips later, we're still reading *The Reporter* cover to cover, whether on island or at home. Keep up the good work.

Corky and Sy (USA)



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## BRINGING BACK BARTER

Dear Editor,

"Easy come, easy go" is often said about money, but lately for many of us it has been "Harder come, easier go."

So I'm thinking out loud here, an idea about barter on the island, or perhaps our own intra-island currency ('Bonaire Bucks') let's say.... Not a new idea, but perhaps it could be new to modern day Bonaire.

Many communities use this system, and while living in Vegas a decade ago we benefited by spending our "funny money," accepted by many professionals and businesses.

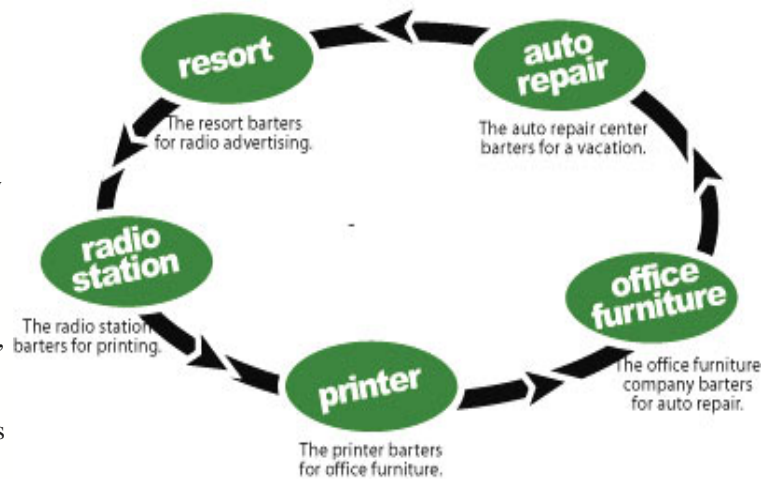
Sure saved us lots of cash.

I wonder if others on the island would accept some way to barter businesses and services? In a relatively small close knit community such as this island, everyone knows everyone else, either personally or through others, and most everyone does business with most everyone else.

Ideally, wouldn't it be better not to involve guilders or dollars if we could leave them out of the deals?

Tourists wouldn't benefit much from this, and neither would there be any desire for the big corporations, but with so many small businesses and just regular consumers, and with soooo many readers of *The Reporter*, I hope some of these would

## How Round Robin Barter Works



respond with their '2 cents'

Has this been tried recently already?

If you are a businessman or businesswoman, what do you think?

Would such an idea fly, or would there be fears of those left holding the bag if it didn't?

Would I sell something to a restaurateur for a Bonaire Buck if I could buy lunch at the restaurant with it?

Sure I would. Would he use that Bonaire Buck to purchase groceries for his family at the grocery store?

Would that grocer use it to buy something at the furniture store for his home?

Would that shop keeper use it to buy something he needed from me?

I would accept it - using it again for a hair cut.

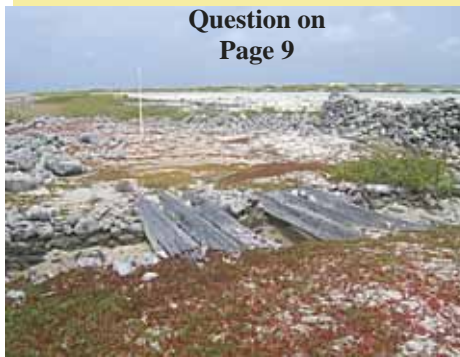
Would that barber use it to purchase a new pair of scissors? ...and the cycle would perpetuate...

JP Richau (Bonaire)

## BonQuiz Answer

It was a bridge, built by the slaves over the original inlet from the sea.

Question on Page 9



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# Adi's Art for Phyllis

Brian McCarley asked his friend, artist Adi Figaroa, to create something beautiful and symbolic in memory of Brian's wife, Phyllis Blackburn, who recently passed away. Phyllis was an avid scuba diver and loved being on the reef. Adi had an idea. "In a wood carving I wanted to show the coral reef that she loved so much, the blue eel (blue for sadness) and the Queen Angel who is majestic under water."

The piece was carved from an old, seasoned piece of mahogany driftwood that had been in Adi's garden for over 10 years, and in this artwork it's come alive again. ■ L.D.



Brian McCarley and Adi Figaroa with the carving

Artist Adi Figaroa has been a supporter for many years of the *Kas di Sosiego* (old folks home). Every Sunday he's provided sweet snacks to the residents, "to make their lives a little sweeter," he says. But now the money has run out so Adi is now creating small scenic art pieces made of recycled wood from pallets and soda cans. The pieces will be sold and the proceeds will go to buying more sweet snacks for the *Kas di Sosiego*.



# Reef Cleanup By Cruisers



The initial cleanup on January 29<sup>th</sup> when over 60 tires were removed from the shallows and reef along Kaya Playa Lechi and Kaya J.N.E. Craane was just the start of a project, which would carry on through February and much of March. The cruisers moored in the park and the marine park staff carried it out.

The effect of surge from Hurricane Omar, in October 2008, deposited a tremendous amount of debris (mainly tires and wooden planks from the shore and broken docks) lying along the reef. The cruisers offered their services to the Marine Park, and Din Domacasse, the Chief Ranger of the Park, agreed that three Park staff and a Park boat would work with the cruisers to clean up tires that were free of coral or sponge growth.

Over 40 volunteers spent a half-day retrieving tires from the bottom and lifting them into the boat. Toucan Dive Shop kindly provided free air fills for the divers. The event was so successful (a large garbage bin was filled with tires) that it was agreed to complete the tire cleanup the following week.

In the meantime, boaters gathered and piled any tires lying in the vicinity of their boats. Then, on February 5, the boaters completed the tire project with the help of Marine Park staff. In all, over 120 tires and a large piece of docking were collected.

A meeting with Ramon de Leon, Ma-

rine Park Manager, confirmed that the reef clean up was a priority and that he fully supported the continuance of the project. The cruisers next collected and piled wood from the wreckage of the three main docks along the waterfront. On February 19, a boatload of wood planking was recovered. Air fills for this day were provided by Carib Inn.

Two more work days, on March 12 and 19, saw another two boatloads of docking, fragments of fiberglass from broken boats, PVC piping, and even a sink, removed. Anything too heavy to raise manually was lifted with air bags and dropped into deep water beyond the reef. WannaDive offered free air for the divers on these two days.

In addition to the volunteers, the Marine Park staff worked particularly hard these days. Besides lifting the debris into their boat; they had to unload and transfer it to their truck and off-load it at the landfill. It was a great effort by everyone involved.

Bonaire is a favorite destination for cruisers, from all over the world, who dive. It was a rewarding experience for everyone to "give back" to this wonderful island that is loved so much. Now, shore divers, local and visiting, who frequent this area can once again enjoy and appreciate the beauty along this portion of Bonaire. ■ Story & photo by Karen Chelswick

# Bubbles from the Biologist



© James B. Wood

## Did You Know...

Legends of sea monsters like the Kraken, a beast that ascends from the deep to devour whole ships of brave men, may not sound like the Caribbean Reef Squid we see here in Bonaire, but there are some similarities between the two. This mollusk eats small fish, other mollusks and small crustaceans. They eat about 30-60% of their body weight daily! These squid don't have to travel from the depths of the sea but prefer to live in shallower waters, down to 60 feet.

Caribbean reef squid use body color and pattern to communicate with each other. Male squid are sending mixed messages. Fighting males will turn white and bounce against each other, but throw a female in the mix and the male will actually split his coloration so that the female only sees the gentler side of him (the male never shows her the aggressive white pattern) while still on the offensive with the other male (an entirely different message altogether). They will also turn pale when approached by a predator before jetting off - clearly these are not the sea monsters of legend. ■

Katie Kirschbaum

Kirschbaum is a junior at the University of Minnesota studying environmental education and has an irrational fear of giant squid.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENINGS

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sculptress Josephine Ebing Exhibit** in the garden of Kaya Grandi 85. Ebing's show will be open from 10 am to 12 noon and from 3 to 7 pm.

**Wednesday, April 22—Earth Day**—See page 8.

**Thursday, April 30—Rincon Day (Queen's Day Holiday)**—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. See page 6.

**Friday, May 1—Labor Day** - Holiday

**Sunday, May 3—Mountain Bike Race.** See page 11.

Friday, May 8—Mama Modelo Bonaire, *Un Show Espectacular*, by A.D. Productions, 8:30 pm to midnight. Jong Bonaire, NAf 15. 786-9090, 516-9090

**Sunday, May 9—(Mothers Day) Piano Concert.** Livio Hermans plays Bach, Chopin, etc. Plaza Resort, NAf35, 717-4496, 717-5767. More on page 6

**Saturday, May 16—Open House at Bonaire Sunshine Homes,** 9 am to 4:30 pm. Snacks, drinks, games. Kaya Lib. Simon Bolivar. See page 2.

**June 4-7—5th Annual Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival.** See page 8

### CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

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

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 in-

## Earth Day Beach Cleanup On Klein Bonaire

Everyone Invited

Every year STCB celebrates **Earth Day** by cleaning our main turtle beach. By doing this we help keep Klein Bonaire clean and at the same time we offer our turtles clean beaches to nest safely. Debris that accumulates on the beaches can cause damage to the nesting females and to their hatchlings as well.

This year our Earth day Beach clean up will be held this Sunday, April 26th. We invite you to come and celebrate with us!

Sunday, April 26th

Come to the Harbor Village Marina at 7 am (you will be at Klein Bonaire until 1 pm)

Bring water, hat, sunblock, shoes

For more information call Mabel 7800433 or Funchi 780-1225 or the STCB 717-2225.

formation 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 Crutita 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 Salina**, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379.

**International Bible Church of Bonaire**, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6

to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

**Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk** – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

*Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol*, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios):** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at **7:30 pm.** 717-2194

**Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services** Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

**Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church** located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:** Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

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## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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## BANKS

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## DINING

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

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

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**Top Health Bonaire Fitness and Health Center** Modern workout rooms and machines, professional trainers and low prices make it easy to lose weight and get fit.

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

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

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

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## Rob's Harley-Davidson WLA

*The 45<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."*

Bonaire/  
Kralendijk –

When, on a Wednesday afternoon, Rob van Dongen opens the door of his workshop in the back of the yard, his garage gives me the impression of a kind of historical museum. The first item you see is a Harley Davidson "Liberator" parked in front of a World War II Ford Jeep. Then you see an enormous American flag hanging on a wall in the back of the garage, an old fashioned fuel pump, classical American toys for the kids, old metal oil cans and used tools, and all kind of World War II army gear. And of course there is the smell of fuel, engine oil and hypoid EP 90 gearbox oil, all blended with the smell of cigars. This is Van Dongen territory!



*Rob van Dongen's backyard workshop*

Rob appears to be a very open and friendly person. He loves his hobbies and he really wants to inform you about everything. Because it is already half past seven he immediately rolls his classical motor out of the workshop and parks it along the yellow painted wall of his traditional Bonairean house. First we have to take the pictures, and then it is time for a talk. We will run out of tropical daylight soon!

The motorcycle is a Harley Davidson WLA Liberator, made in the US in the year 1942. The drab green colored vehicle is officially registered on Bonaire as 493 – MF and also wears a red plate on the rear fender showing some kind of number of manufacturing: U.S.A.W – 687273. Rob is very proud of his 750 V-twin motorcycle. He bought the machine some 12 years ago in Europe and transported it to Bonaire about 10 years ago. Rob says, "I have been a regular visitor to my beloved island of Bonaire since 1980. I bought the house in 1989 and since 2006 I am an official resident of the island. One of the reasons for leaving the Netherlands was the enormous increase of road traffic in Holland. It became harder and harder to enjoy riding my motorcycle on those cloudy Dutch roads. My loyal Harley just loves cruising at a speed of some 45 miles an hour. Nowadays modern cars and trucks don't like this speed anymore! I had already bought my house on Bonaire so the decision was easy. Let's go to Bonaire and enjoy the advantages of the silence and quietness we can still find on this island! Just think of an afternoon trip around the silent south, enjoying the sound of the wind and the engine!"

Some pictures are taken: pictures of the contents of the workshop, the motorcycle, Rob rolling his bike out of the garage, the bike parked along the wall, Rob and his bike.

Rob tells me about everything. A long time ago, as a student in the Netherlands, Rob fell in love with a Harley Davidson Liberator. A friend of his owned one. This friend had a lot of problems with the bike, but when it ran it ran and the sound was unbelievable. So Rob decided to save money to buy his own Liberator one day in the future. About 12 years ago, after looking around for ages, Rob found a nice and almost completely original Liberator for sale. The bike had been restored and was in very good condition. Rob made the right decision. The engine always runs and the machine just needs regular maintenance. This, of course, means topping up all liquids and checking everything always. You really have to run a Liberator on a regular basis, otherwise the oil tank starts dripping on the chain and it keeps on dripping until it is completely empty. And, as we know, an engine needs fuel and oil.

The WLA is a model of Harley-Davidson motorcycle that was produced to US Army specifications in the years during and around World War II. It was based on an existing civilian model, the WL, and is of the 45 solo type, so called due to its 45 cubic inches (740 cc) engine and single-rider design. The A stands for "army." Harley-Davidson began producing the WLA in small numbers in 1940 as part of a general military expansion. The later entry of the US into World War II saw significantly increased production, with over 90,000 being produced during the war (along with spare parts the equivalent of many more.)

Rob's WLA was built in 1942 in the States. It is a very reliable and quite slow 750 cc side valve two cylinder compressing the fuel and air mixture only five times. When the engine is hot it can even run on kerosene! There are only three speeds in the hand shifted gearbox and using the brakes is quite an adventure. Normally Rob uses the engine to slow



*A portrait of Rob van Dongen and his Harley-Davidson WLA Liberator (1942). Rob has lived on Bonaire since 2006. He enjoys life as a retired dentist. This does not mean he is not active now. He still uses his skills and specialities. Just recently he and Pieter Sweers organised a kind of joint venture with the Bonairean government. Together with Mayra Vasseur he set up a prevention program on the island to inform the kids about how to take care of their set of teeth and how to keep them as healthy as possible. The program is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bonaire.*

down. The brakes are there but the power of the old drum brakes is not comparable to the power of modern disk brakes. There is no electric start on the machine. It is just the old kick starter you have to use. Mounted on the left hand side of the rear of the bike is a foot-operated siren. It works similarly to the dynamo of a bicycle. The harder you push the siren to the rear tire, the higher and more penetrating the noise. Rob tells me the siren is a very useful device with all the donkeys on our island.

Partly close the butterfly/choke of the carburettor. Turn the ignition switch on top of the tank. Push the kick starter another time. The reward: a very nice original V-twin low revving Harley sound and the juicy smell of oil and gasoline.

Let's shift gears, hit the road and warn the donkeys! ■

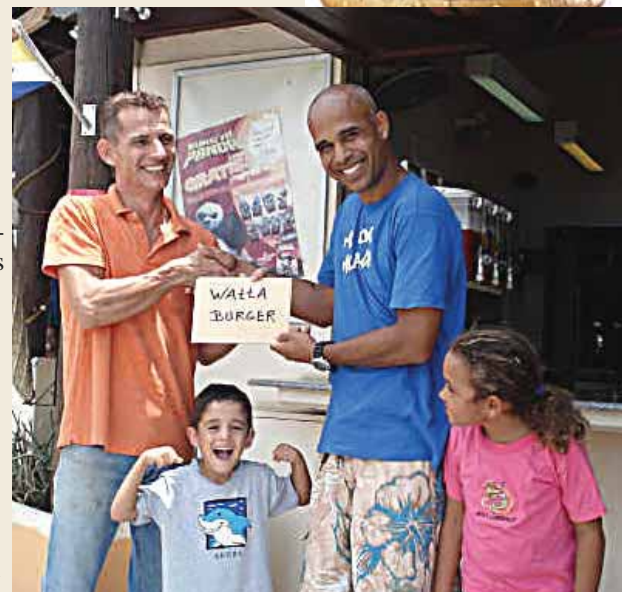
*Story & photos by J@n Brouwer*



Starting the engine is a ritual: Open the fuel tap. Kick start the engine three times.

## Watta Winner

Bonaire/Playa – The "Find the Differences" contest winner was announced on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Paco Veeris received the WattaBurger gift certificate prize from Henri Verhoef, owner of Wattaburger. Henri's classic 1966 Dodge Coronet III was the subject of the 44<sup>th</sup> of a series of articles about interesting vehicles on Bonaire. Last week two pictures of the car were published and there were five differences to be found: 1. Henri was sitting/not sitting on his Dodge, 2. The soft top was up/down, 3. The front wheels were straight/turned to the left, 4. The side windows were rolled up/rolled down, 5. The lid to the tank cap was opened/closed. And Paco even discovered more differences. Congratulations Paco and enjoy the burgers and the ice creams! ■



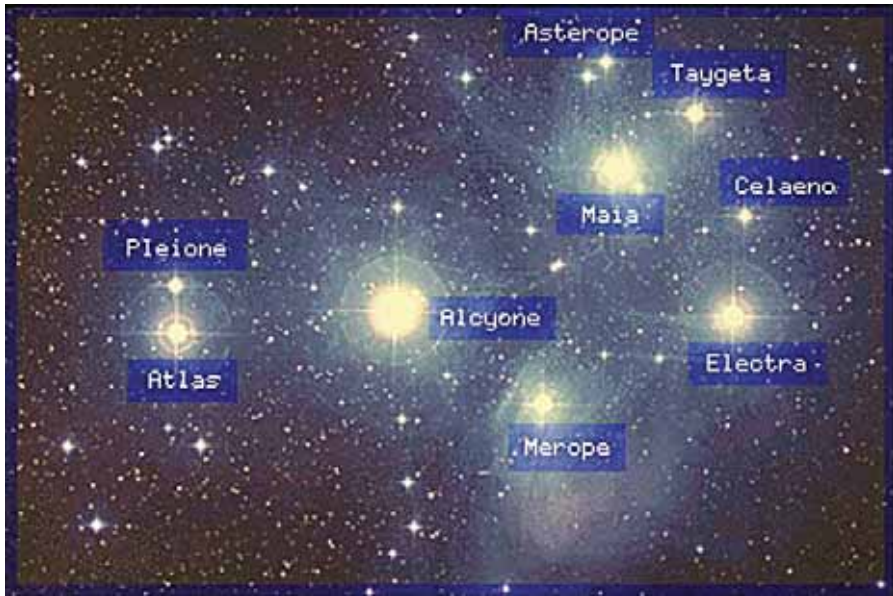
*Henri Verhoef (left) hands over the prize to Paco Veeris. Paco is sports activity leader at Jong Bonaire. Jong Bonaire is an activity center for youngsters, open daily after school time. Also in the photo: Paco's six year old son, Yuma, and daughter, B'lana, eight.*

*Story/photo by J@n Brouwer*



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up



The Seven Sisters and the Moon Point to Mercury at its Best for 2009

This Sunday you'll have an opportunity to find **Planet #1** at its best for the entire year by using the **Moon** and the **Seven Sisters**, which will make a fabulous visual threesome.

This Sunday night, April 26<sup>th</sup>, about 45 minutes after sunset face west northwest where you will see an exquisite crescent Moon complete with **earthshine** which will look like a dark full Moon nestled within the crescent, and just below it the tiny star cluster known as the **Pleiades** or **the Seven Sisters**, and just below it the most difficult of all the naked eye planets to find, **Mercury**, but easy to find this Sunday by using the Moon and the Seven Sisters.

The Seven Sisters names are **Maia, Electra, Alcyone, Taygete, Asterope, Celaeno** and **Merope**.

Mercury is the tiniest planet of them all, Planet #1 from the **Sun**, 3,000-mile-wide Mercury, only a thousand miles wider than our Moon. And if it looks pink to you don't worry because it's called the pink planet even though it really isn't pink at all. We call **Mars** the red planet because it actually has a reddish color to its soil. But Mercury appears pink due to the fact that it never ever gets very high above the horizon, so we always look at it through dusty and dirty layers of our **Earth's** atmosphere which gives it a pink coloration. The dirtier the atmosphere the pinker it will look.

So if you've never seen Mercury before you can make sure you've seen it this Sunday simply by looking below the crescent Moon and the Seven Sisters. And might I suggest you get out a pair of binoculars or a small telescope to really make this sighting even more fun because you may be surprised to see Mercury looking like a tiny crescent Moon, smaller than our own crescent Moon, directly above it. And here is something to think about. Our Earth is 93 million miles away from the Sun and takes 365 1/4 Earth days to make one trip around it. Mercury however is only 36 million miles away from the sun and makes one trip every 88 Earth days. And since one trip around the Sun equals one year if you are 10 years old on planet Earth you would be 41 1/2 years old on Mercury. Which makes it safe to say you should probably never ask a Mercury maiden her age.

Mercury is actually the fastest moving of all the planets. In fact, whereas our Earth moves 67,000 miles per hour in its orbit, Mercury zips around the Sun at the breakneck speed of 107,000 miles per hour. So look for Mercury this Sunday when it will be almost as high as it ever gets and super easy to find. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*

# StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

April-2009

## ARIES: March 20th - April 20th

With love planets Mars and Venus in your sign you'll be more popular and find plenty of opportunities for romance or pleasure. Because you feel more confident, you are willing to take risks and could find your finances improve as a result. This month's new Moon encourages you to take a chance.

## TAURUS: April 20th - May 21st

Ruler Venus with passionate Mars puts you in a fun loving mood and if single, you won't hesitate to make the first move. A powerful new Moon in your sign increases your intuition and also your esteem. You are making better decisions now. You may be acknowledged, praised for your talent or might even appear in the news!

## GEMINI: May 21st - June 21st

You may feel lucky or confident about entering a new situation, yet this is not a time to be overly optimistic! Neptune and Jupiter in harsh aspect to your ruler Mercury make you vulnerable to deception. Take time to investigate things before you commit. The new Moon in your house secrets is about reveal hidden aspects or flaws you haven't previously considered.

## CANCER: June 21st - July 22nd

This month's new Moon in Taurus brings out your generous side. As a result you'll want to indulge yourself and treat your friends. Planetary action at the top of your chart may also put you on the receiving end. If someone wants to do you a favor it's probably because it benefits them as well. Your ability to understand what motivates others, allows you an extra edge now.

## LEO: July 22nd - August 23rd

Sometimes things move so slowly that you may wonder if you're on the right path. Although recent frustrations have caused you to doubt yourself and your plans, it's certainly not time to quit! If you push yourself a little harder, you'll quickly turn the corner and find a brand new life awaiting you!

## VIRGO: August 23rd - September 22nd

Mars in harsh aspect to Saturn in your sign at the time of the full Moon has you suddenly duking it out with loved ones. Maybe because you have your own problems or a different value system; you find it harder than ever to put up with the quirks or annoying habits of others. You're not in the mood to compromise and words of encouragement just won't do. You need to see action or take it!

## LIBRA: September 23rd - October 23rd

Relationships may offer comfort, but they can also be stifling. Whether you feel you're in a rut or just going no where fast, this month's full Moon offers an opportunity escape the dullness. Venus in your opposite sign encourages you to become more self reliant. Do something to make yourself happy instead of pleasing others now.

## SCORPIO: October 23rd - November 22nd

A new Moon in your opposite sign makes you charming, yet assertive. This is a good time to begin a new relationship or make a fresh start with your current partner. Even a creative collaboration is easier now. If single, you'll be attracting stable yet artistic types. Taken or not, ruler Mars in powerful Aries, demands you sacrifice routine for pleasure!

## SAGITTARIUS: November 22nd - December 21st

This month's new Moon helps you get more organized at work and being more persistent in your health routines. Keeping fit and steady is key now, but so is having fun. Venus and Mars in your house of pleasure could bring a new romance. You'll enjoy being creative and entertained now.

## CAPRICORN: December 21st - January 20th

In your world only the tough survive. But real life is best when it's balanced with pleasure. It may be hard to break away from work and find time to spend with others, yet this is exactly what you need now. Venus and Mars in your house of short trips makes a weekend getaway memorable! If single - romance may be found by taking a class or through travel.

## AQUARIUS: January 20th - February 19th

Mars close to your ruler Uranus brings out the dare devil in you. You feel the need to take chances, cut loose and maybe act a little crazy. You may have a sudden urge for something zany or unique that reflects your fun style. You'll enjoy stimulating conversations and find others appreciate your silly side now. Make them laugh!

## PISCES: February 19th - March 20th

Mars and Uranus in your sign makes you feel restless and ready for change. Yet with Saturn in your opposite sign, you sense others are blocking your path. Nothing could be further than the truth. The only thing holding you back is your lack of a real plan. The full Moon sheds light on a money matter and once you settle it, you'll find freedom from feeling financially secure. ■



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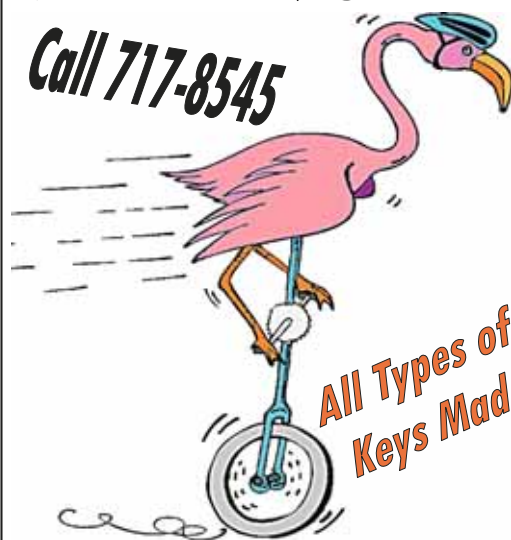
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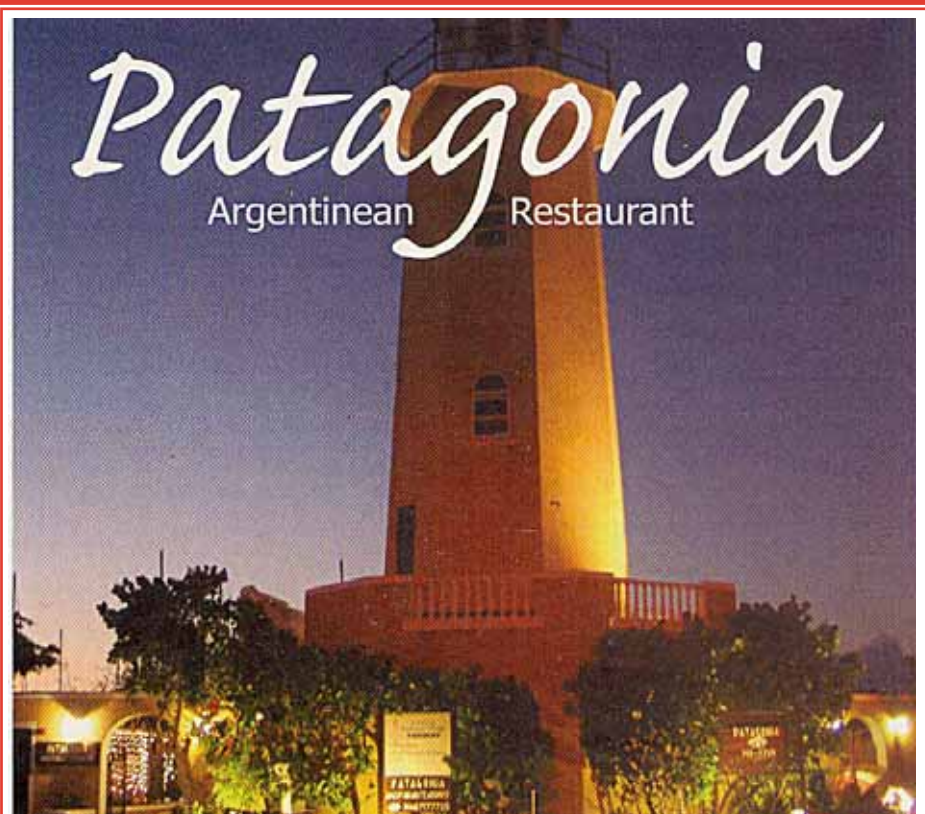
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MCB (Playa & Hato branches)	City Shop	The Island	TCB
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Carib Inn	Plaza Resort	Hair Affair	Rose Inn
Tropical Divers	Sand Dollar Resort		
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