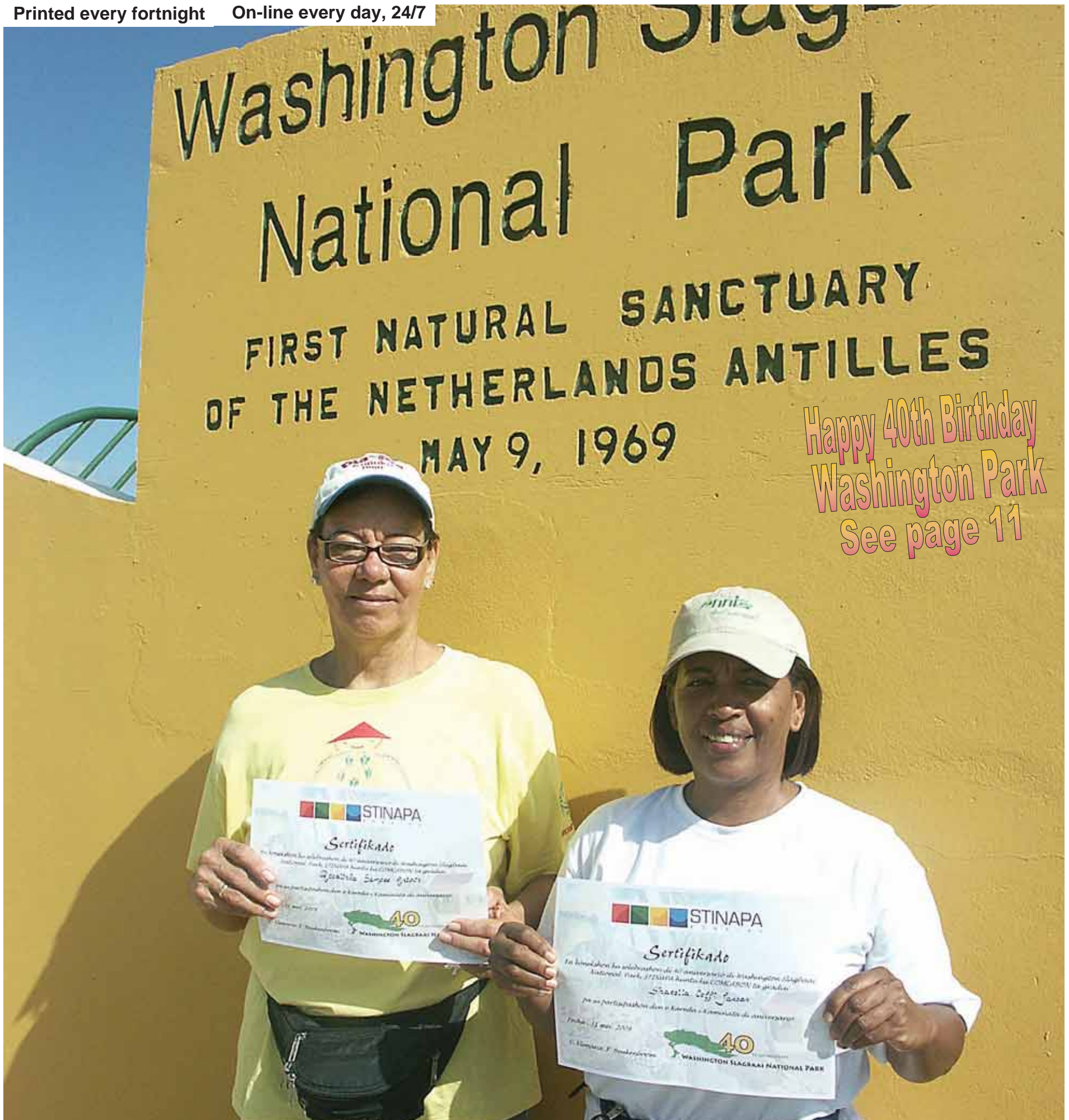


**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** June 5-19, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 12  
**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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*Happy 40th Birthday  
Washington Park  
See page 11*

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Two of the ladies from the Pia Pia group who walked from Rincon to the Park : Rosalinda Semper Antoin and Sharilla Coffi Jansen. Six were in the group; it took them just 45 minutes.





**Green energy company Econcern, which claims to be the biggest of its kind in The Netherlands, said Tuesday a court had approved procedures to protect it from bankruptcy during the economic crisis. Econcern is the parent company of Ecopower, the company installing Bonaire's new wind and biodiesel system.**

"A court in Utrecht approved the (company's bankruptcy protection) application and appointed an administrator to work with the board to find a solution," company spokesman Erloy Bos told the *Wall Street Journal*. Bos said the group, facing grave financial difficulties, had "sought a solution in close cooperation with shareholders and banks. That solution was not found." The new status granted by the court will temporarily shield Econcern from creditors while it tries to find alternative ways of repaying them.

The Bonaire project, scheduled to come on-line at the end of 2009, replaces the present WEB power grid with a modernized distribution system for power from 11 Megawatts of wind turbine power and a 14 Megawatt power plant using MAN diesels which can

burn biodiesel as well as conventional petroleum products. Bonaire's interests in the project are overseen by the Bonaire Holding Maatschappij (BHM), which also controls WEB.

**As we go to press there has been no reaction from BHM or the commissioners involved with the project on the effects of the bankruptcy filing.**

Econcern, created in 1984 to develop projects in wind, solar and bio-energy, employs about 1,200 people in 19 countries.

► Last Thursday the Meteorological Service of The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba issued a special bulletin for the Caribbean Basin about a possible tsunami threat based on the data from the Tsunami Warning Center. A wave could have been generated by last week's devastating earthquake off Honduras that morning. The 7.3 magnitude quake killed five people in the Central American country and toppled buildings. The earthquake occurred about 4:25am local time at a depth of 10 kilometers, with a magnitude of 7.3 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was more or less 320 kilometers northeast of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. However, no tsunami activity was reported.

There is considerable geological evidence that large tsunamis battered both Bonaire coasts thousands of years ago.

► **Good news for breathing people in Curaçao. The Isla oil refinery in Curaçao must stop exceeding the annual average norm of 80 g/cubic metre in sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) permeating areas downwind of the plant, as measured at the Beth Chaim Jewish cemetery effective January 1, 2010.**

That's what the judge ruled in the case of 25 "downwind residents," the yachting marina at Piscadera, and the Foundation Humanitarian Care SHZC against the refinery leased by Petroleos de Venezuela. Non-compliance will lead to a fine of NAf 5 million per year. Isla can still appeal the ruling and

(Continued on page 3)

► **Look for a shakeup in Bonaire power politics and a reassessment of Bonaire's posture on its relationship with Holland on the upcoming structural changes.**

It's because *Union Patriotiko Boneriano* (UPB-green) Councilman **Anthony Nicolaas declared himself an independent member**, disavowing his UPB affiliation, and backed a motion of no confidence in the Island Government introduced by Jopi Abraham, opposition leader of the

*Aliansa Demokratiko Boneirano* (ADB-red) in last week's Island Council meeting. The resolution called on the ruling party's UPB commissioners to resign as they no longer have majority support. It may mark the end of a 10-year-long domination of the UPB in Bonaire politics.

Nicolaas, who is also a member of the Antillean Parliament, said he would continue to back the De Jongh-Elhage cabinet at the federal level for now, but hoped to do so together with DP, one of the parties in the ADB which has a seat in Parliament, rather than the UPB.

The Island Council meeting had been called at the request of the opposition to discuss the constitutional change process, a possible referendum and the policies of the Executive Council and UPB commissioners, in particular. **UPB had decided to boycott the meeting, but Nicolaas showed up and helped form a quorum**, before declaring himself independent and supporting the motion of no confidence.

As we go to press the four present UPB commissioners, James Kroon, Jeffrey Levenstone, Maritsa Silberie, and Elvis Tjin Asjoe, appear to have no intention of resigning. The ADB has initiated steps to force the action which requires several weeks.

It was reported that UPB leader Ramonsito Booi said this unexpected action was unacceptable. "We are on the brink of realizing important progress for the people and we can't allow one person to wake up crazy one day and throw it all away."

He was referring to the process for Bonaire to become part of the BES islands with St. Eustatius and Saba, as special overseas municipalities of The Netherlands, which the ADB opposes in its present form.

Booi said "pressure" will be put on Nicolaas to give up the two seats "that belong to the party." He said the ADB had previously introduced a motion of no confidence against Nicolaas when he was commissioner because he was convicted of beating his wife. "And now they want to work with him?"

The "pressure" threat, said Nicolaas, prompted him to seek formally police protection.

While no motion was passed calling for a new referendum, it remains on the agenda of the meeting requested by the ADB and could still take place.

An informal survey of Bonairean people conducted last month indicated that only a small proportion of Bonaireans desired another referendum.

A referendum held in Curaçao in May to reverse restructuring agreements with Holland was defeated 52% to 48%.



Councilman Anthony Nicolaas  
Bonaire government photo

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#### How to contact us

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

**The Bonaire Reporter,**  
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*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)*  
will probably do so.

► The General Court of Auditors of the Netherlands Antilles issued a report last week which concluded that **the Bonaire Executive Council (BC) is guilty of “cronyism,” and preferential treatment of certain applicants for leased land (erfpachtrecht).** This is the conclusion of an investigation which found that there was a lack of transparency and that certain applicants received leased land under policy and recommendations that deviated from those that the BC itself set.

► **Here’s the current picture on air**



**travel to Bonaire for the next few months as reported by the TCB:**

—Based on weak advance bookings, **Delta will not** operate JFK-BON between June 20 and October 31, 2009. All bookings to Bonaire will be transferred to the connection via Atlanta. If the traffic from the northeast flowing over Atlanta causes bookings to exceed the capacity of the presently scheduled aircraft, Delta will upgrade the aircraft to a wide body for the remainder of the summer and early fall.

As previously announced, **a second flight from Atlanta to Bonaire will be added on October 2.** Delta plans to leave ATL twice a week and watch bookings for the winter. If bookings are up year over year, they will then look to add a third flight.

—Based on low demand during the fall “shoulder-season” months, **Continental has announced they will not operate EWR(Newark)-BON between September 5 and October 31.** All traffic coming from the northeast will be transferred to the connection via Houston.

**The second Continental Houston flight operates from June through August.** It will not operate September, October and November, but **will return in December.** This four-month hiatus is the same as last year and is not attributed to weak load factors out of Houston. Should demand from traffic flowing via Houston from the northeast exceed the capacity of the presently scheduled airlift, the September and October schedule of the second Houston will be revisited.

— **Insel Air will begin new weekly non-stop service from Miami, Florida,** to Bonaire effective July 4, 2009. The flight will operate weekly on Saturdays throughout the year. Insel Air flight #7I 907 will depart Bonaire at 11:55 am, arriving into Miami at 3:05 pm. The return flight #7I 908 will depart Miami at 4:25 pm, arriving into Bonaire at 7:35 pm.

— **KLM, after eliminating its two triangle flights from Bonaire- Aruba on March 30, 2009, has announced its connection flight Amsterdam- Sint Maarten- Bonaire- Amsterdam starting June 1, 2009,** with an MD11. Arkefly continues with its **regular weekly flights on Saturdays.**

► **Curaçao-based airline Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) suffered a loss of approximately US\$ 1 million last year**

according to independent analysis which questioned whether there is sufficient capital in the company to absorb continuing losses and survive. DAE is facing growing competition from Insel Air and “commuter carriers.”

InselAir Airlines reported they had a profit of NAf 2 million last year. DAE Director Floris van Pallandt admitted that 2008 was a difficult year for the company, especially during the first half. “The last six months Insel Air and Dutch Antilles Express are direct competitors. In many cases, they fly the same routes.”

Passengers mainly complain about DAE’s flight cancellations. Many business travelers are said to be unhappy about the quality of the airplanes in view of failures like breakdown of the air-conditioning during a flight.

Van Pallandt blamed flight cancellations on an overlap in maintenance of the airplanes during the past year. “There were two major ‘checks’ in 2008. This calendar year is running a lot smoother.”

Van Pallandt rejected suggestions that the company cancelled flights to “save up” passengers. “That’s absolute nonsense. We are a scheduled airline and stick to our schedule. Saving up passengers isn’t even feasible, as nearly all flights are flown with an above 50% seating occupancy.

DAE flies with three 46-passenger ATR 42 turboprop airplanes and two 100-passenger Fokker 100 jets.

DAE’s expansion plans cut back when Insel Air expanded their service. DAE then adjusted and contracted its flight schedule with the result that DAE has an ATR and an F-100 in reserve, which is costly.

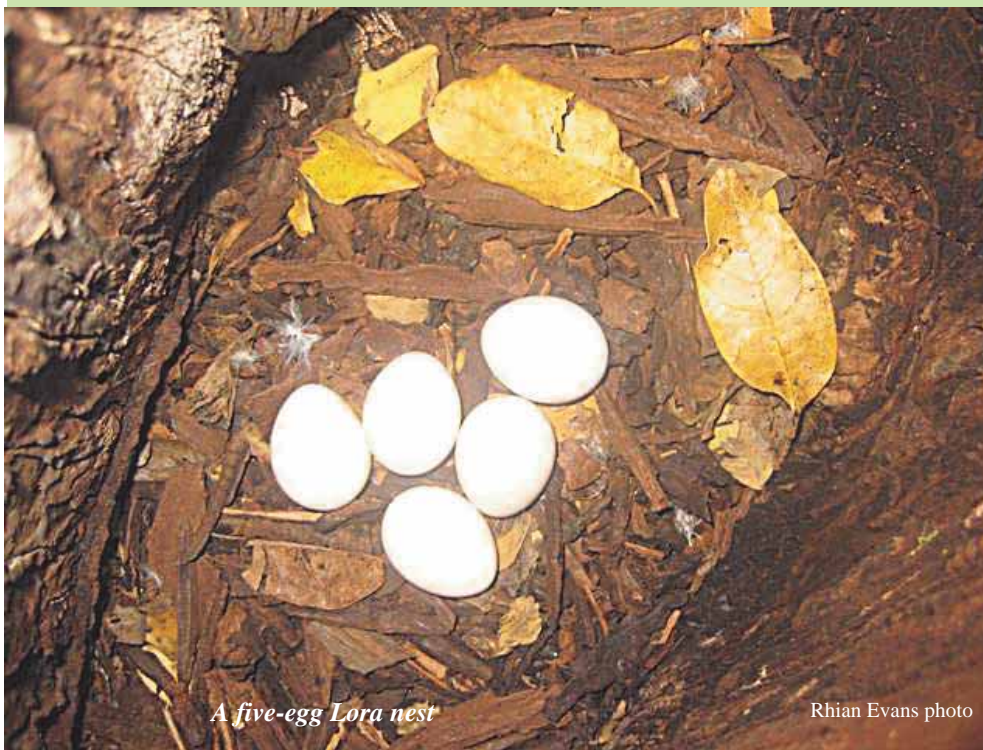
► One year ago the Dutch Government introduced an “Ecotax” for all flights leaving Schiphol Airport. **KLM objected successfully against this measure so the government of the Netherlands eliminated this charge as per July 1 this year.** Since a lot of passengers had paid this already, KLM Curaçao has started contacting its passengers on this route and returning their money by credit card or cash. Should there still be passengers who have not gotten any information from KLM related to their return travel out of Amsterdam to Bonaire, Curaçao or St. Maarten after July 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, they are requested to contact KLM at (+5999) 736-1422.

► **The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) launched its new interactive fan pages on the social network websites Facebook and Twitter.** Bonaire’s Facebook and Twitter pages were created to support Bonaire Dive Into Summer 2009 and the Celebration of Bonaire’s Commitment to Conservation, commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Washington Slagbaai National Park and the 30th Anniversary of the Bonaire National Marine Park.

To visit Bonaire’s Facebook and Twitter page click on [www.twitter.com/BonaireTourism](http://www.twitter.com/BonaireTourism) and <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bonaire-Dutch-Caribbean/90852345311?ref=nf>

► **Bonaire divers and snorkelers should always keep an eye out for unusual fish.** You may discover a new species. In the top 10 of new species discovered in 2008 is a new damselfish, the deep blue chromis (*Chromis abys-*

*(Continued on page 8)*



*A five-egg Lora nest*

Rhian Evans photo

**I**t’s the busiest time of the season right now for the Loras on Bonaire, and for the research team as well! Every day, we are finding more and more nests with eggs and we are doing our best to find out the exact dates that they are being laid so that we have an idea when the eggs will hatch. From previous year’s experience, we know that the female will incubate the eggs for anything between 25 and 30 days until the first little pink chicks appear.

During this phase of the breeding season while the female is incubating the eggs, we wait for the female to leave before going to check the contents of the nest. This does not cause any distress to the female parrot that is sitting tight on her precious clutch of eggs. The last thing we want to do is to scare her. Our strategy is to hide outside the nest before dawn and await the arrival of the male parrot that will call the female out to feed. When the pair leave together, we have an opportunity to get a glimpse inside the nest. This means that sometimes we only get to check one nest each in the morning, because this happens at about the same time at each nest. As a result, we are too late to check any other nests close by. This is very frustrating!

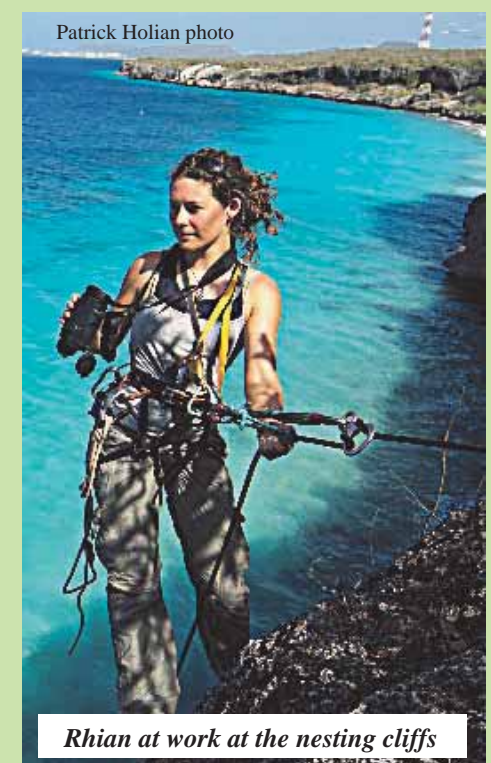
This season the project received six data loggers as a donation from The Phoenix Landing Foundation, a US non-profit organization promoting the welfare of parrots. Data loggers are small instruments that measure temperature and humidity and they can be hidden inside a Lora nest. This will give us a great insight into the conditions inside the nest and it will mean we can compare the difference between tree and cliff nests. Some people say that Loras that hatch from cliff nests talk more than those that hatch from trees! Maybe we can attribute this to a difference in the conditions where the chicks grow up?

Unfortunately, the recently laid eggs are already suffering at the jaws of predators. We have found nests already where the eggs

have been removed from the nest and eaten. Broken eggshells were also found on the ground nearby. There’s no way of telling what is responsible, but it is highly likely to be rats or cats which are introduced mammalian predators. It is also possible that other birds are responsible as they sometimes compete with the Loras for nest sites. Parrots are unable to construct their own nests. They use cavities that already exist in cliffs and trees, and it seems that these are in demand, and not just from other birds. Last season, we lost a nest to bees that built a hive inside the cavity and killed three chicks, and this year, some parrots have been prevented from breeding for the same reason. This time it was too early for any chicks to be harmed.

On a more positive note, this year has seen the first nest containing five eggs (see above photo) -a record as far as we know from previous years’ research! It will be interesting to see whether all eggs develop and hatch. If so, it will be pretty cozy in there. ■

Rhian Evans



Patrick Holian photo

*Rhian at work at the nesting cliffs*



# On the Island Since... 1984 -Lous Rood

“I came here in 1984 and we built Sorobon Beach Resort. Right away I found out that Sorobon was a popular place where pets, mainly dogs, were dropped. So, from the very beginning I was confronted with the animal situation on the island. I always took them in and pretty soon I had 20 dogs, 18 cats and... two guests! There had to be another solution for the abandoned and stray animals.

There were some Dutch people who had built two kennels where they sheltered stray dogs, and the veterinarian would come over from Curaçao every three months to put them down. There was no other option. So, looking for a better solution, Lynn Tijssen, Barbara Roswell and I asked the government for a piece of land. They granted us the location where the animal shelter is on Kaminda Lagoen.

We held fancy fairs, sold books, clothes and second hand stuff and got the money to build the first kennels and a cat compound, which is still there. Another great thing was that the government granted us a salary for one person to take care of the animals. That person was Ruthmilda Pikerie. So then there was a board of three volunteers and one employee, and it had become an official foundation.

As there was no vet on the island,

the three of us went to the shelter in Curaçao to learn how to put the animals to sleep. It was horrible, but there were too many animals and we didn't have a lot of adoptions, so there was no possibility of keeping all the animals we got in. Also, money wise, it was impossible to keep more than 20 dogs and cats. However, we did get some private donations which kept us going and we even built a small office/storage space. For eight years I went to the shelter four times a week, in between my work at the hotel.

As I'd kept five dogs and 13 cats at the hotel many of our guests became interested in what we were doing. We got a lot of donations;

Shelters (*Stichting Buitenlandse Asielen*) in the Netherlands and he introduced us to the founder. I invited them to my hotel and together we organized a big campaign to sterilize dogs and cats for free. We spayed and neutered 40 animals – it was very inspiring! And later, when they were back in Holland, they sent us a shipment of supplies for the shelter – it was a great boost.

After eight years we sold the hotel and I left the island for a couple of years, but this feeling of being powerless stayed with me, as if there was no end to all this animal suffering. So, when I came back to Bonaire I promised myself not to get involved again.

“... Taking responsibility for who you are and what you're contributing here on this planet comes from a feeling that we're all connected and we're responsible for one another –”

they also brought us medicines and flea collars, mostly from the States. The Americans are really generous in supporting these causes!

Then, one of my guests turned out to be a Dutch veterinarian and he had close connections with the Foundation of Foreign Animal

After I'd left, Elly Albers ran the shelter for some years, and by the time I came back she had committed herself to the Animal Welfare Foundation and she did it practically on her own. Before I knew what was going on I was involved again. But this time it has to do



Lous with her granddaughter Amaya at the opening of the sterilization campaign of the animal shelter.

more with improving the actual situation of animals – from horses to parrots and everything in between – in their homes. Our goal is to raise the awareness that animals

course there are always exceptions, but in most cases it's a matter of ignorance. Many people don't realize that their animals are living under miserable circumstances. We

deserve to have a decent life. Of  
(Continued on page 5)



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On the Island Since  
(Continued from page 4)

see dogs locked up in small wooden crates 24 hours a day, dogs on short chains without enough water, shade or food, dogs that are pregnant every six months and puppies that are killed by cars or just die of neglect. Animals that run free cause accidents and get injured. Groups of stray dogs roam around and they attack people and kill other animals.

When we get complaints in – and more and more local people are putting in complaints – one of us (Elly, Suitberta, Elsmarie or I) goes there, to have a look and evaluate the situation. We try to convince the owners that the situation can be improved.

We are well aware of the fact that it's not a local problem; it happens all over the world and it involves all kinds of people. Our community is made up of many different nationalities and we encounter problems in every type of household. But, if people cannot take proper care of their animals, the Animal Welfare Foundation and the animal shelter are always willing to find a way to solve the problem, together with the owners.

We have dog and cat traps to catch unapproachable or wild animals. We offer free sterilization.

The animal shelter just started a campaign and their goal is to sterilize 500 pets for free this year, done by the two vets on the island. If the people don't have transport, the animals can be picked up and brought home again – and we're always willing to improve the

situation at home. Sometimes a simple solution makes a whole lot of difference."

*Lous Rood is a quiet and soft spoken lady. She looks fragile, but don't be mistaken. There's a lot of strength in this woman and she has a true and passionate soul. When you're with her you feel there's hope. She's one of these people who makes the world a better place.*

"Why the animals? Because they can't speak for themselves and we are responsible for those who depend on us. Animals are God's creatures, like we all are, and they have a soul like any other living being. The way I see it, they are here to teach us compassion and responsibility. We are here to respect and recognize God in every living creature – in everything that's created – nature, people and all the animals. It all starts with respect and awareness; why we are here on this planet; and what it is we have to learn. And... since the island is small and manageable, we can be an example of this awareness.

We do have laws to protect animals, but the problem is how to enforce them. We need more volunteers, preferably local people, because we don't want to be the *makamba* with the pointing finger. What we need is cooperation. Animal Welfare has everything to do with people, because it's the people we're trying to connect to so that they can connect with their animals. Our goal is to transfer the Animal Welfare Foundation to local hands, to make it a local mat-

ter.

The reason I'm here on this island is that the strong positive energies are still very present on Bonaire. The way I feel is that every soul on this planet is here for a reason and it's different for everybody. Especially here on Bonaire I meet people who've come to recognize their purpose in life – in all kinds of ways. It's an island of confrontation, not only to the outside world, but also on the inner level. Taking responsibility for who you are and what you're contributing here on this planet comes from a feeling that we're all connected and we're responsible for each other. When you're good to others – not only people, but to every living being – you're also good to yourself. It all comes down to love – love and respect for all souls. I feel that is still present here – what I call 'energy and connection.' It might be the same feeling that local people experience when they go to the *kunuku* or the sea.

Bonaire has many spiritual places where one feels connected

to a higher energy. I'm sure many Bonaireans know it too, because there is so much more here when it comes to the past and the present and the future. The reality of spirits and souls have always been a part of this community. And they still are. That's why I feel at home and at peace here. This is a very special place and although lately things have been disturbed in many ways, I trust this island to be protected.

Because I'm here for harmony and inner peace, it's hard to accept that there are still animals which are denied a decent existence. I also know that many people and

children are struggling, but when I arrived here the situation of the animals was the first thing I was confronted with. It simply crossed my path and that's why I'm doing what I'm doing." ■

Story & photos by  
Greta Kooistra

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Paul Wichers, Chairman of the Board of the Animal Shelter, and Elly Albers, former Shelter manager and Animal Welfare Foundation member, speaking with Lous.

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# Snorkeler's Notebook: The Adventure in Snorkeling

At the bottom of the steps at Bachelor's Beach I greeted four divers, suited and tanked up, with this inquiry: "How do you all manage to carry so much? I admire your stamina. Snorkeling is so easy in comparison." As one of the divers stumbled over the coral rubble, he yelled back at me: "Are you kidding? Snorkeling is the real adventure and real work!" I guess I had never configured snorkeling as that adventurous compared to mastering all the gauges, hoses, weights, and valves of diving. For me the prospect of pushing the wrong lever and being catapulted from the depths into the stratosphere is terrifying enough to keep me floating with snorkel and mask, slovenly forever. Yet, something in the diver's parting comment rang true, so I began to recall some of the snorkeling adventures I had either intentionally courted or inadvertently floated into.

In Eleuthera (in the Bahamas), my friend Glen and I realized too late that the name "Current Cut" meant CURRENT as in carrying us away at 15 knots while sharks slept motionless on the bottom breathing effortlessly. I was sure that it was my guardian angel Mother who whispered in my ear, "Go right and get out at that dock ahead!" While Glen flew ahead of me laughing hysterically through his snorkel about a Disneyland ride, something told me that it could end in Bermuda. And when I imagined his mother blaming me for the death of her favorite son, I sobered up fast. After we swam furiously towards the dock, hauling ourselves out to capture a breath, Glen turned to me, pleading, "Can we do it again?" And we did: four more times, each time going further than the last until my guardian angel was yelling not whispering. Yes, I guess that adventure made me realize that snorkeling can be exhilarating and a tad dangerous.

Several years later, it was in Tobago at a spot nefariously named the "Washing Machine" where Glen and I were the only two snorkelers willing to get in and hover over the so-called oldest brain coral, failing to notice we were being slowly dragged into the churning of that machine. I clung to him; he clung to me. As the boat chugged over to pluck us out from the soapy suds of the Tobago Laundromat, I knew what the stares of our companions were saying: "Are you crazy or just stupid?" At this point, you also might be thinking that Glen and I were bad influences on each other. (Actually it was more like we were two kids working on those coveted Girl Scout and Boy Scout badges.) In any case, there was no doubt in our mind that snorkeling was high adventure enough; we didn't need to add tanks and hoses.

When I bought a house on Bonaire, I did not always have a snorkeling partner like Glen (which may be a good thing), but I still found plenty of adventures on my own. The one that really made me feel deserving of a Girl Scout bravery badge was being one of the few who snagged a Bonaire Banded Box Jellyfish for scientific identification and DNA testing. This adventure was a bit serendipitous with luck and circumstance in equal measure. After seeing the BBBJ at Invisibles pulsating in all its stinging glory, I asked my neighbor, Tish Dace, what was that strange and marvelous creature full of treacherous stinging cells? Her genuine excitement spurred me on: "Oh, you are one of the few to witness the rare BBBJ; the scientists think it is a new species only found around Bonaire! And they are hoping to obtain a live specimen for tissue samples." So, a few days later, when I came across a "live specimen" hurled onto the rocks at Bachelor's Beach by an irate father whose daughter had been stung repeatedly, my Girl Scout instincts came to attention. I convinced my snorkeling companion, Siomara Albertus, that together we should run home, cut a liter Coke bottle in two, and run back with two sticks to pluck the still pulsating BBBJ off the rock and slide it into a saltwater fixative. Tish was really surprised when we



Internet photo

showed up at her house with a Coke bottle full of jellyfish! Anything for science, right?

Upon reflection, I suppose the diver is correct: snorkeling is more than placidly paddling along. Adventure is always right around the next coral colony. ■

Pauline Kayes



## A Bonairean Fisherman's Good Deed



Dianne Tetreault photo

Thanks to the sharp eyes and swift action of a local fisherman, a visiting boat's dinghy was recovered earlier this week. Jack Webb, captain of the sailboat, *Denali Rose*, thought he had secured his dinghy to his sailboat's cleat. He went below to work on one of the many boat repairs on his "To Do" list, when he heard someone shouting outside. Jack's wife, Susan "Fred" said, "I think someone's outside calling us." They both climbed up into the cockpit. A local fisherman in his white wooden fishing boat, with the name "Detty" painted on the bow, motored up and pointed out toward Klein Bonaire at a dinghy drifting free. "Is that your dinghy?" he asked. Jack, replied, "Yes! It is!"

The local fisherman put his outboard in gear, brought the runaway dinghy back, and handed the

line to its very appreciative owner. The fisherman said he had just come back from fishing, had already tied up his boat and was on shore, when he noticed a dinghy drifting away from the mooring field. Although Jack thanked him for his efforts, he never caught the fisherman's name!

"We have been sailing in the Caribbean since 2004, primarily in the Windward and Leeward Islands, but this is our second season of diving in Bonaire. "While Curaçao and Aruba have nice features, Bonaire is my favorite," said Jack, "and the fisherman's act of kindness just proved my opinion that Bonaire is tops as a friendly vacation and diving spot! Thank you, Captain of the fishing boat, "Detty"!"

The sailboat's dinghy now has two lines to prevent further escapes! ■ Susan "Fred" Webb s/v *Denali Rose*

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## BONAIREAN VOICES

### THE BONAIREAN BUSINESS

Each new project or business must begin with a solid foundation. And as we see Bonaire developing in so many ways, we're seeing a number of Bonairean businesses drift away. In the past our ancestors had more courage to start up a new business. We can remember some of them: the business of making charcoal, the production of paint, selling goat skin to make accessories, the fish industry, the salt industry (managed by Cargill today) and a lot more. Some of their products were exported to other islands, the US and The Netherlands. But continuity is the key point for a successful business.

Elvis "Piskechi" Martinus (49). Many of you know his name. Having done so much for Bonaire, in his own words, he speaks about his success.

"I've always wanted to do something in tourism, culture or sports. Windsurfing came into my life in a very spontaneous way. Island visitors came up with the idea. We had two young men practicing windsurfing. First was Erwin Muller who started in 1970 and then Patun Saragoza who had competed in Regatta. We thought of starting a business but we needed some sponsors for the project. We contacted Mr. Roger Juriens from Aruba who had a shop and had a lot of contacts. He got us some equipment. A lot of local people and local banks didn't believe in the project, so we got financing from an Aruban bank and other international sponsors who gave their support so we could continue with the business.

During Regatta the Venezuelan competitors agreed that Bonaire had a great area for the sport and they called it 'The Windsurfing Island.' We went to the island of Maui, Hawaii, and when we compared that island to Bonaire we could say that the windsurfing areas were about the same as we have here on Bonaire. The only differences are the waves and how they affect the freestyle competitions.

Windsurfing has progressed so much here on Bonaire and a lot of local people are practicing the sport. It's become a national sport, very different from when it started in 1970 when Erwin Muller was the only local person doing it.

I started windsurfing in 1987, and in 1988 I participated in a world competition in the US. We had a high level of organization of this sport thanks to Mr. Niki Tromp from Bonaire and Mr. Roy Bottse from Curaçao who helped a lot.

Business is going very well now, but getting permission to start was very hard. There had to be a study of the area first because it was protected by the Ramsar Treaty. We had to work hard when the economy wasn't going so well in 1987 and in 1989, the year we wanted to start with the business. We got the permission in

1995. (The Windsurfing Place opened in 1996.)

To show that we could do it, my business partner, Patun Saragoza, a Bonairean, and I had the courage to make a risky investment. From Norway we bought a nice wooden prefab building (still being used as the Windsurf Place office, shop and utility room) to fit in the environment so we could start with the business. Although it might be very difficult, you have to go for it. We had to show that we could make a career in windsurfing.

To the Bonairean citizens:

Let's get down to the basics. There are different ways to start a business, like having a plantation, a fishing industry, a car wash company, selling our local products. We were in Thailand to present the Pro-Kids program and we realized there are a lot of small businesses where people get their daily small income, but in the high tourist season they get more. Continuity is the key to success, and be serious in what you are doing. Don't close the door on your ideas. Realize that Bonaire can reach far. People are starting aloe and cactus businesses. We must take the initiative, do it and continue to do it. Invest in local things and don't be afraid to cross the border. Care about our local food and how it's prepared. Preserve those traditions which we must pass to our young ones.

It took more than 10 years to see the fruits of our business, and today I can be a proud man. One of the most successful businesses in the world, according to the quality of our equipment and service. 100% local people work in this business without discriminating against others.

To contribute with my organizational ability I participated in a big conference with different sports managers. The BSF (Bonaire Sport Federation) stands for structure and unity. With all the changes on the government level we don't know what the sport objectives will be in the coming years. That's why we need to improve the structure of the sports levels now for the sake of our Bonaireans. Someone says we have the structure but what we need is **Unity**. The Federation has to come together for agreement. We can't wait for the government to solve problems in the Federation. We have to know that sports are part of our culture and we know how we can do it. All sports can reach a level of professionalism. In windsurfing the equipment is very expensive. It's an individual sport and you need a lot of discipline. Team sports are good. They mold people, make them better people, and children have a lot of energy to practice a team sport in a sound way. We have to take the initiative now, don't wait for tomorrow, do it today."

The real point is a solid foundation for



Elvis "Piskechi" Martinus

all projects and business, as I said before.

■ Story & photo by Siomara E. Albertus

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



## Swim Competition



The Bonaire Aquatics Club 2nd Annual Open Water Swim Competition is on Sunday June 14. The competition will take place along the shore of Bonaire's main town of Kralendijk. Race distances are 500m for ages 10 and Under and 1.5km, 2.5km and 5km for 11 years - adults. Swimmers of all ability levels are welcome. Supporters can easily view the race course from the seaside Promenade, so bring the whole family for a day of competition and fun. There will be an awards ceremony afterwards at the Kas di Regatta. Barbeque lunch, snacks and beverages will be available, musical entertainment plus raffle with great prizes. You don't need to swim to have fun and win great prizes.

For more info phone 717-3710,7001370, fax 717-7629 or email to [bonairebaracudas@hotmail.com](mailto:bonairebaracudas@hotmail.com) . ■ Press release

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Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 3)



It has kept its vivid blue spots well hidden from humans, hanging around deep reefs and rock outcroppings in the western Pacific region around Palau, an island country east of the Philippines. The deep blue chromis, which even has butterfly-like iridescent spots on its dorsal rays, is an average of about 3.9 inches (10 centimeters) long.

In a reception held at de Bonairiaan restaurant, the Stichting Project thanked their local supporters and presented the award they received from Princess Maxima, the *Appeltje van Oranje* (Apple of Orange), from the Oranje Fonds (Orange Fund), the largest socially oriented social charitable fund in The Netherlands. The foundation helps young people with behavioral problems. The royal endorsement hopefully will attract additional financial support from private donors to fund the expanding scope of the successful project.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecast a hurricane season (June to November) in the Atlantic tamer than the one in 2008, which featured 16 storms severe enough to be named. Bonaire has a long history of being free of hurricanes but sometimes is affected by the storm's sea swells. The name of this year's first storm will be Ana.

After the smashing success of its first concert on May 9 another concert has been organized to feature the island's new grand piano. It's set for June 13 at the Plaza Resort, in the Cacique Hall at 8 pm sharp (see poster on this page for ticket sale locations) The Theme: **Musika Klassiko di Boneiru**. Musicians from Bonaire play European, Antillean and their

There are still to be no traffic lights on Bonaire. Assisted by funds supplied by the Dutch Social Economic Initiative (SEI) traffic circles will be built at two traditional trouble spots: the intersections at Kaya Industria – Kaya International and at Kaya Industria – Kaya Nikiboko South. Work will begin Monday, June 8, at the first site and is expected to take three months and will include improved drainage and a pedestrian walkway. The traffic flow around the new circles will observe international conventions: traffic in the circle has right of way. (Bonaire's single existing traffic circle at the intersection of Kaya Amsterdam and Boulevard Gob. N. Debrot is confusingly controlled as an "intersection" where traffic from the right has preference.)



There will be alternate routes available during the roadwork. Follow the signs that will be provided. Work on the the second circle will begin at the end of January 2010, following the end of rainy season. BWM will do the work under the supervision of DROB.

own compositions. There is also the first presentation of a CD by Hans Faassen (Piano): "Bonairean Inspirations" Tickets are NAf 25 for adults and NAf 10 for children up to 14 years. You're advised to buy your tickets early. The last concert was sold out and many people were disappointed.

Next Saturday, June 6, at Eveline; body, mind, spirit on Kaya Korona #47 (behind Fergos) there will be a "clothes collection" to donate to the Red Cross on the Porch from 10 am til 1pm. The first 25 people who bring in clean, wearable clothes, will receive a Rose Quartz Crystal ~ This crystal represents the heart chakra, where love resides. Bring loving kindness into your life ~ come on out to "The Porch" at Eveline; body, mind, spirit and see what it's all about.

A Place For You Haircut Salon, formerly at Sand Dollar Mini Mall, relocated to The Windsurf Place at Sorobon on June 4. What a unique place for a haircut! They are open from 10 am to 4 pm, Thursday through Sunday.

Call 786-6416 or email [info@aplaceforyoubonaire.com](mailto:info@aplaceforyoubonaire.com) for an appointment

On Saturday, June 6 play Bingo to raise money for the Grupo di Karnaval Hubenil (children's carnival group). Ten Games - Big prizes – from NAf 150 to NAf 1.000! At Klup Patriotiko in Sabana, 8 pm. Entry fee NAf 25. More information call Dolores Bernabela 717-8951.

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Jong Bonaire Treasurer Alan Gross receives the check from Huub Groot

Rotary Bonaire donated NAf 8.500 to the Youth Center Jong Bonaire to help support their Culture Preservation Program. The center had a month of cultural workshops in March where the teens learned about 14 traditional island traditions and crafts. They then created projects about these cultural skills. From these activities Jong Bonaire will produce a series of culture worksheets to help preserve the skills and will also develop a 2010 calendar titled "Treasures of Bonaire," which will be available in September. The calendar will feature 12 teens working with 12 of the islands grandinan or elders who taught the skills. It is hoped that teaching the teens and young people about the skills, and featuring them over the next years will help preserve these traditional crafts for posterity. Press Release

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**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 12. Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney

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



# Snorkler Saved

It was a sunny, quiet and relaxing afternoon on Bonaire (nothing special on this island – almost all the afternoons are perfect). On May 21<sup>st</sup> a few people from the Polish-American Travelers Club, organized by Classic Travel, were exploring Weber's Joy, a diving site. While Julia Zielczynska (not even 12 years old) and two ladies, Uta and Irena, were snorkeling, Piotr Nawrot from



SCUBA instructor Scott Hardy with snorkeler rescuer Julia Zielczynska

the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences from Rutgers University stood on a rock surveying the scene. He was not planning on swimming this day.

After a short swim, Uta returned to the shore and explained that the current was quite strong and was moving the snorkelers quite far away. Julia and Irena began to fight the current in hopes of returning to shore. However, Julia soon realized that she was swimming back alone. She quickly scoped the surroundings and arrived at a very disturbing picture: the current had pulled Irena under water and ripped her mask off. She was floating with her head and hands down and the snorkel below the surface.

On the previous day Julia had attended classes to be certified as an "Open Water Diver," thanks to Scott Hardy from Buddy Dive Resort, so she was prepared for this situation. Julia immediately brought Irena to the surface and sent a distress signal to Piotr. Without delay, Piotr ran to the water and grabbed whatever fins he could find along the way, which were unfortunately a few sizes too small and got lost in the sea. He rushed to the scene to find Julia holding Irena's head above the surface of water to avoid the further intake. Irena's heart and lungs stopped functioning and she was unconscious. Piotr grabbed hold of Irena's still body and battled the harsh current back to the rocky shore. In the meantime, Uta ran to a nearby road and stopped the first car she saw. Fortunately, the driver had a cellular phone and was immediately able to call an ambulance (thank you, unknown driver.).

By this time, Piotr had begun to perform CPR on Irena after emptying almost a gallon of water from her lungs. By drawing on his previous rescue experience, Piotr was able to restore her heart beat with a heart massage. Irena, however, was still unconscious. At this time, Julia ran out to the road to signal the accident location to the arriving police cars and

ambulance. The first police car arrived very quickly followed by the ambulance a few minutes later. Immediately, the medical team from the San Francisco Hospital in Kralendijk applied oxygen to Irena as they took her into an ambulance. Thanks to the oxygen, she regained consciousness before reaching the hospital.

In the hospital, she was put in the Special Care Unit. When she awoke a few hours later, she asked "Where are my sandals? Were they lost on the beach?" After hearing that, the Polish American Group knew that she was fine. However, Irena was still weak and the seriousness of her lung infection was still unknown. Fortunately, antibiotics quickly administered relieved the infection.

Thanks to the great skill of Doctor Miranda and the care by the rest of the medical staff, Irena was able to walk out of the hospital two days later. The whole group returned safely to the US one day later.

Julia's parents were concerned that such a traumatic event might cause negative connotations. However, when they questioned Julia about this, she answered unexpectedly, "Maybe I will be a part of a rescue squad one day."

This story demonstrates the importance of knowledge, friendship and effectiveness. It is a strong example how a sequence of optimal decisions and coordinated teamwork saved someone's life. Bonaire will forever stay in our memories not only as a "Diver's Paradise" but also as an island with friendly people who are always ready to help. ■ Jerzy "Yurek" Majcherczyk

Documentation and photos collected by Jerzy "Yurek" Majcherczyk FR'92 Fellow Explorers Club President of Polish American Travelers Club, P.O. Box. 3011. Wallington, NJ 07057. USA. [www.odkrywcy.com](http://www.odkrywcy.com) 201-384-5137

# BonQuiz #8

## Kas di Bara, Mud House

Tiny details always make a difference when a home is built. In the distant past all the materials needed had to be carefully gathered locally. There were no home centers or hardware stores. If you were not rich, you might build a *kas di bara*.

Essentially this was a house made of dried mud. The mud was mixed with a layer of pulverized island limestone, creating a reasonably sturdy substance that was plastered on top and between the walls. After the walls were finished coral limestone burned in ovens was mixed with water to whitewash the walls. The floor was made of stones chosen in the afternoon, making it easier to find the coolest ones in hopes of keeping the floor cool. The roof was constructed with sorghum stalks. During the rainy season this would become saturated and get very heavy.

None of the original *kas di bara* survive in a complete form although some ruins exist and examples have been built recently to illustrate the techniques. These first Bonairean homes are a part of island history and culture. ■ Story & photo by Christie Dovale




**Question: What was the framework for the *kas di bara*?**

Find the answer on page 16.




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](mailto:christiedovale@hotmail.com). Comments and suggestions are welcome.






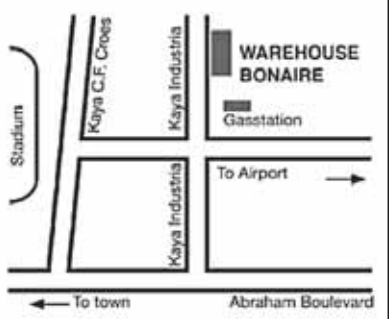
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# A Trip to Turkey Turns Into a Bonaire Testimonial

First thing the morning after my last performance at the Austria Free Style Classic (see the previous *Reporter*) I jumped on a Turkish flight to South Turkey. After three hours I arrived at Dalaman airport. It took another three hours' drive by car to get to Datca which is perched on the peninsula that juts into the Aegean Sea beyond Marmaris. It's a sleepy place where you go to eat seafood, shop in fairly upscale carpet and jewelry shops and take boat excursions to see the ruins of the Greek city of Knidos. Datca is also known for its long hot summers and strong thermal winds that blow over huge mountains. It hosted the Turkish windsurfing championship races for the last several years. There are two fully equipped windsurf centers, traditional Turkish restaurants and cute bungalows a few steps away from the beach.

I was invited by the Turkish windsurfing champion, Berk Yalgin, who has held the freestyle title in Turkey for the last three years. We were scheduled to do a freestyle training and a filming project for the first windsurfing instructional DVD in Turkish for the Turkish windsurf industry.

A few days later the Danish female freestyle champion, Xenia Kessler, came by to join us for training.

But the forecast was turning into something we did not want- shifting winds, some cloud cover and rain for the next few days. We ended up playing soccer, table tennis, biking and swimming. As soon as there was a bit of breeze we would drive down to the beach to check it out. But conditions remained unsuitable on every single attempt. The locals would smile and say that the winds were playing tricks on us. Oh well, it was funny to hear it.

I've been training in Turkey for three years now and never experienced such conditions in springtime. On one of the many windless days I sat down with Xenia Kessler and asked her a few questions about her winter visit to Bonaire where she windsurfed for about three months together with her sister, Juilie Kessler.

## **Xenia, How did you learn about Bonaire?**

I got to know about Bonaire because Elvis, Caesar, Ruben, Taty and Kiri visited Denmark in 2008 on the Starboard Prokids promotional tour. I was there at the event to help and got to know these Bonairean guys who told us about Bonaire. Before this I had seen some windsurf movies picturing the crystal blue water and the mellow winds in the warm place, but I didn't hear much about it before.

## **Was it easy to get to our island?**

From Denmark it would have been pretty okay because the connection flight from Holland is really good. But I wasn't travelling from Denmark this time, as my sister and I were on a big training trip, so we went from Brazil to Bonaire, which wasn't as easy as it sounds. From this airport in Brazil we had to go all the way back up to Europe, switch flights, and cross back over the Atlantic Ocean to come to Bonaire. But it was worth it.

## **Could you tell us about your first impression?**

It was different. It was somehow European, somehow American, most of all

Caribbean of course. Later I found out that the best word to describe this place is 'Bonairean.' It's a unique place for sure, and even though you know every little thing from somewhere else, it makes it something special when it's mixed together on one little island. One of my first impressions was also the people. Those I met were very helpful and open. It made me want them to come to Denmark so I could give something back. I really felt welcome from the beginning, and I was looking forward to living there for three months.

## **So why did you choose to come to Bonaire?**

I chose to come to Bonaire because I love to freestyle windsurf. I wanted to improve my sailing and knew the waters there were good for this, and I knew there would be good windsurfers to train with. We were in doubt about the wind, as the rumours say that the winds in Bonaire are mostly light winds. However, my sister and I chose to go 'all out' and stay there for three months, which is something I'll never regret.

## **What do you think about Sorobon?**

I like the spot Sorobon a lot, and I miss it. There was such a good atmosphere on the water and on land - everybody hanging out, helping each other and talking windsurfing. The shallow blue waters, the sandy bottom and the winds of course made it the perfect place for me to practice what I love the most, freestyle windsurfing. And I hope I get the chance to come back one day.

## **What was your goal on this trip?**

Apart from having a nice stay and experience living on a small island like Bonaire, I wanted to improve my windsurfing skills. I reached my goals thanks to the other windsurfers who helped me a lot there.

## **What did you do when there was no wind?**

When there was no wind we biked around the island, swam, drew, made necklaces, played the guitar, cooked good food (because there wasn't always time for this when the wind blew from morning to late afternoons), hang out with the other windsurfers and enjoyed the beautiful nature of the island.

## **Would you like to go back to Bonaire?**

I would really like to go back. And I really hope it will be possible for me to do one day.

## **Would you recommend more Danish windsurfers come to Bonaire? If yes, why?**

Yes, I can recommend not only Danish windsurfers but also others visit Bonaire. Of course there is a period with no wind, or mellow winds, but there is a great atmosphere at the surf stations even when the wind doesn't blow. And Bonaire is a great experience. And when the winds do blow, you've got the best freestyle windsurf action in the world happening right there.

## **What were the good points? Why?**

That great windsurf spot allowed me to improve a lot, but also the island is super vigorous and beautiful. It's an easy place to travel around, the communication is really good as most people speak English really well, which makes it easier and more exciting to get to know the people. The weather is nice and warm. What else

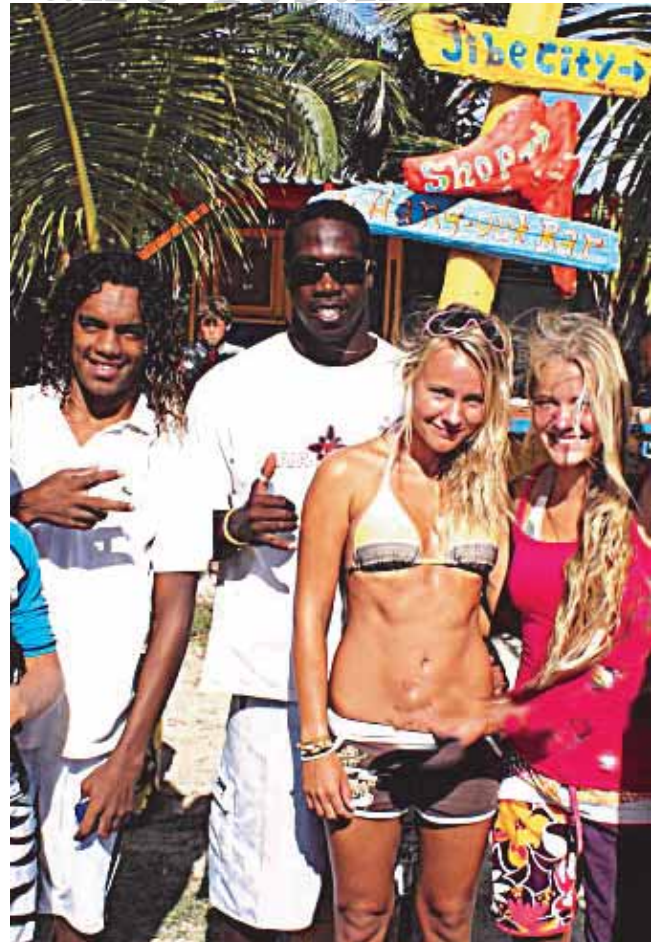
can I say? The good points are many!

## **What were the bad points? Why?**

With good comes bad, even on Bonaire. Not only do people like Bonaire but the mosquito also enjoys the warmth, and they obviously like the taste of tourists. The longer periods without winds are always a windsurfer's nightmare, but luckily there were only a few of these when I was in Bonaire.

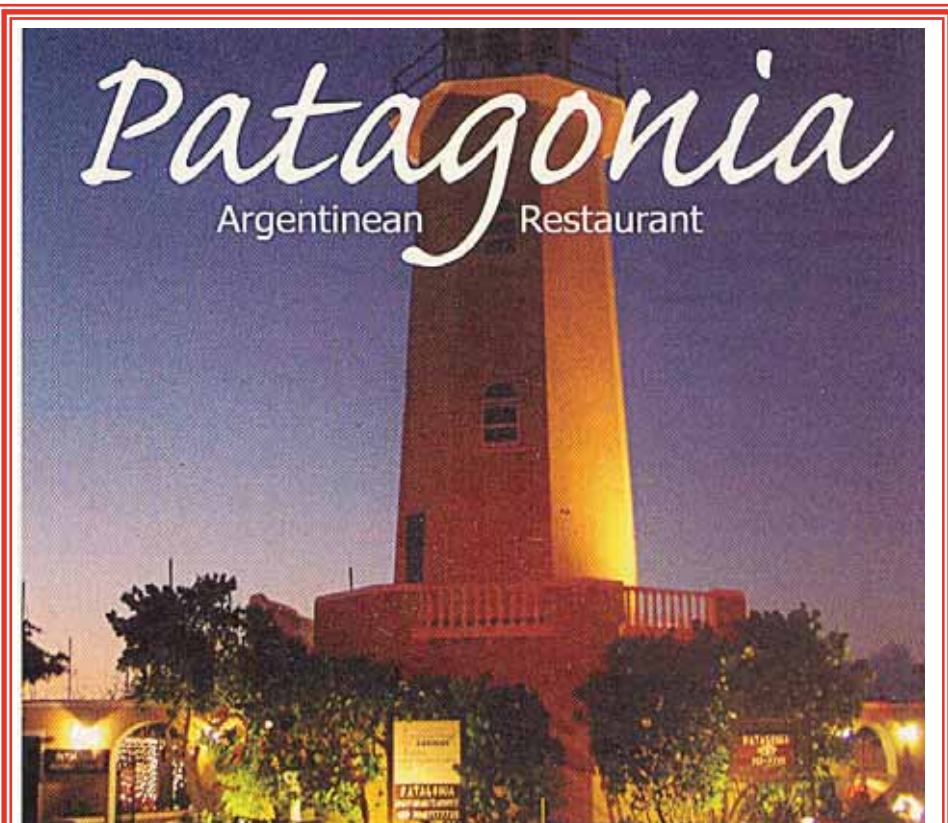
Thanks to Everybody who helped me and my sister and made our stay in Bonaire so great:

Ruben, Taty, Tonky, Caesar, Kiri, Elvis, Robin, JibeCity, the Petrisie Family, Floris and family, De Freewieler, Rover, Youp, Charletan, Ezri, Flo, Sil, Normen and Jennifer, Frederick, Fra and Chanse, Vanessa, Andy, Matt, and ABK boardsports crew, Erik, Cliff, Dirk Jan, Gert and Fiona, Mikki, Valerina, Payo, Bastian, Davy, Anja and Martin, Maj and Jeppe, Juan and Javier, Raynell Cecilia/Ray Productions, and so many more people we met on our way."



Kiri Thodé, Ruben, Juilie and Xenia Kessler at Sorobon

Thanks to Xenia for her time and thanks to all for reading. ■ Ruben Petrisie  
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**Cover Story**

# Washington Park Celebrates 40 Years

On Sunday, May 31, Washington Park Slagbaai National Park, the oldest nature sanctuary in the Caribbean, celebrated its 40th birthday and threw open the gates with free entrance to everyone for the day. The weather couldn't have been better. More than 1,000 people visited and about 130 cars drove

through the Park. The events kicked off at 8:30 am with guided activities like the *Kasikunda* climbing trail, the 270-foot *Kasikunda* hill and the *La-gadishi* walking trail or the 792-foot *Brandaris* climb. There were more leisurely activities such as strolling along the walking trails or a guided tour through the mu-

seum. There was free transportation to Slagbaai for those who wanted to swim or snorkel. Roads were in good condition, so even regular cars were able to drive in the Park. Festive activities centered at the Visitor Center at the entrance to the Park with treasure hunts, painting and coloring projects for

the kids. There was live music and the folk dancing. Representatives of the weekly Rincon Market set up their stands with gifts, hand crafts, plants, local food, BBQ, cakes, homemade candies and cookies. In the last few years the Park has dramatically upgraded its visitor amenities, established a resident

center for visiting researchers, enriched the capabilities of the staff and expanded its appeal to both visitors and residents. Compliments to Park manager Fernando Simal and STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom for their good works. For more information visit the STINAPA website; [www.stinapa.org](http://www.stinapa.org). ■



A biking group from the island's Jehovah Witness congregation was joined by The Reporter's publisher



(above) Radio personality Mamita Fox showed off her mosaic art.



STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom was into the spirit of the day.



All of these hikers made it up and down the *Kasikunda* hill



Some of the ladies who had the stands selling local food, drinks, gifts, crafts and more.

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# Algae Cleanup to Protect Lac's Seagrass

The first cleanup of lines and buoys at Lac bay was successfully conducted on May 22<sup>nd</sup> thanks to the support given by Jibe City and volunteers

In November last year, a series of buoys and swim lines were installed at Lac to mark and protect the sea grass beds in front of the Sorobon peninsula.

The installation of this system of ropes and buoys was made possible by a joint effort of the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP), Progressive Environmental Solutions (PES), Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) and two private businesses: Jibe City and The Wind-surf Place.

Ongoing maintenance of these lines and buoys is necessary because of the continuous accumulation of algae and seaweed, making them too heavy and causing them to break.

Every week, staff and volunteers from STCB and PES work on these lines and buoys, but it has proven not to be sufficient.

In search for a long term solution, a more

thorough cleanup was organized by these two organizations with the support of Jibe City. Volunteers, mainly residents of Bonaire, were invited to participate in this cleanup with the idea of repeating the effort every two to three months. Jibe City graciously provided the food and drinks. Twenty-eight people gathered at Jibe City ready to work. By 6 pm most of the lines and buoys were cleaned. Buoys and anchors that needed repairs were also fixed. STCB, PES and the BNMP are grateful for the support given by this great group of volunteers and to Jibe City.

## Why is it important to stop the degradation of the sea grass beds at Lac?

The sea grass beds of Lac are not only important for the key species (such as conch and green turtles) that feed on the grass directly, but for the role that they play in the ecosystem of Bonaire overall. These beds provide shelter for breeding and are a primary nursery for several commercially important reef fish of Bonaire.



Lac Volunteers

The loss of these habitats can severely impact the number and size of the fish that later on move to the reef. This would not only negatively impact the dive industry but will threaten the resilience and biodiversity of Lac which in turn will disrupt a food chain on which many people of Bonaire depend today. The public is asked to join this effort by respecting the designated sea grass areas and helping us to educate others. If you

happen to see people walking on the sea grass beds, please let them know that they are damaging the place for all of us and request that they step outside of the sea grass beds. You can make a difference by helping enforce the law that protects our natural resources. In case you need any help, you can always call the Marine Park for assistance. ■

STCB press release & photo by Mabel Nava

# Dive Into Summer Preview



Deep Sea news photo

Dr. Sylvia Earle will headline "Celebrate Our Planet Week" during Bonaire Dive Into Summer 2009. "Her Deepness" is no stranger to the island. Dr. Earle will be on Bonaire from August 15-22 to participate in several on-island events designed to highlight Bonaire's continued leadership in sustainable tourism.

Oceanographer Earle was born in 1935 in Gibbstown, New Jersey. She was chief scientist for the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

from 1990-1992. She led the first team of women aquanauts during the Tektite Project in 1970. In 1979, she made an open-ocean JIM suit dive, setting a women's depth record, 1250 feet. She also holds the women's record for a solo dive in a deep submersible (3,280 feet). In 1985 Earle founded Deep Ocean Engineering along with her husband, engineer and submersible designer Graham Hawkes, to design, operate, support, and consult on piloted and robotic subsea systems.

She left the company in 1990 to accept an appointment as the Chief Scientist for NOAA.

Today, Dr. Earle serves as Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society and the company known as DOER Marine is run by her daughter. The company continues to design, build and operate new equipment for the deep ocean and other challenging environments. She was named *Time* magazine's

first "Hero for the Planet" in 1998. She is a Knight in the Netherlands Order of the Golden Ark. She won the TED Prize in 2009.

Bonaire is honored to welcome Dr. Earle to Bonaire this summer. We will keep you posted on her scheduled activities. ■

Press release

## Sudoku Answer

429 371 856  
658 429 713  
173 568 294  
286 957 341  
791 243 568  
534 186 972  
362 794 185  
817 635 429  
945 812 637

Puzzle on page 8

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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**B**onairean Delno Tromp took time out from managing Curaçao's Kura Hulanda Lodge to connect up with his old friend, Elizabeth Wigny, owner of the dearly departed Croccantino Restaurant.

Of course Delno carried along a copy of *The Reporter*. ■



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|------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|------|
| 6-05 | 8:54  | 0.8FT. | 23:16 | 2.1FT. |       |        |       |        | 72   |
| 6-06 | 9:54  | 0.7FT. | 23:55 | 2.1FT. |       |        |       |        | 77   |
| 6-07 | 0:24  | 2.1FT. | 10:35 | 0.7FT. |       |        |       |        | 80   |
| 6-08 | 0:59  | 2.0FT. | 11:16 | 0.7FT. |       |        |       |        | 80   |
| 6-09 | 1:32  | 2.0FT. | 11:52 | 0.7FT. |       |        |       |        | 79   |
| 6-10 | 2:04  | 1.9FT. | 12:18 | 0.7FT. |       |        |       |        | 75   |
| 6-11 | 2:36  | 1.8FT. | 12:42 | 0.8FT. |       |        |       |        | 71   |
| 6-12 | 3:08  | 1.7FT. | 13:05 | 0.8FT. |       |        |       |        | 65   |
| 6-13 | 3:25  | 1.6FT. | 13:16 | 0.9FT. |       |        |       |        | 58   |
| 6-14 | 13:11 | 1.0FT. | 23:15 | 1.5FT. |       |        |       |        | 51   |
| 6-15 | 12:49 | 1.0FT. | 21:01 | 1.6FT. |       |        |       |        | 44   |
| 6-16 | 12:26 | 1.0FT. | 20:52 | 1.7FT. |       |        |       |        | 40   |
| 6-17 | 6:44  | 1.1FT. | 7:30  | 1.1FT. | 12:13 | 1.0FT. | 21:10 | 1.8FT. | 42   |
| 6-18 | 7:10  | 1.0FT. | 9:31  | 1.0FT. | 12:03 | 1.0FT. | 21:38 | 2.0FT. | 50   |
| 6-19 | 7:52  | 0.9FT. | 22:09 | 2.1FT. |       |        |       |        | 61   |



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# The Bonaire Reporter Back In Time To 1998 Commemorating 15 Years

## JOIN US TO GO BACK IN BONAIRE'S HISTORY TO 1998 – 11 YEARS AGO.

**P**ort Call (*The Reporter's* original name) continued to grow - from 10 to 12, A-4 size pages. Some new columns that came along in 1998 were **Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea, Investor Trade Winds, Cruiser Profiles, Elly Albers' Animal Answers, The Sailing French Chef, The Richter Scale.** Stories continued to center on **the fight for Klein Bonaire and the environment. Others: pros and cons of "theme dives" in Bonaire, the undersea world, election explanations, art exhibitions, the mooring controversy (to charge or not to charge), Bonaire's culinary team, local cultural events and much coverage of the solar eclipse.**

Here's a retrospective of some of the news as it appeared in *Port Call/The Bonaire Reporter* in 1998.

Jan. 16

-**Western Union** money transfer now on Bonaire

Jan. 23

-**1<sup>st</sup> parrot (Lora) count since 1992** - will be the baseline for the planned Save the Lora campaign that will raise awareness of the need to protect Bonaire's endangered parrot.

Feb. 6

-**New Lt. Gov. Richard Hart takes office.** (Now head of BHM)



- Red party Democrats win two Central Government parliamentary seats. Ramonsito Booi, leader of the green, Patriotiko party wins most votes but his party wins only enough votes for one seat.

Feb. 13

-**El Nino waves batter waterfront.** Damage done from Capt. Don's Habitat and Sand Dollar south to Belnem and Pink Beach. Many people and businesses offer help.

-**Skeletons of the hotel on Sorobon Beach** to be torn down.  
-**Capt. Don named to Diving Hall of Fame.**

-The **Dome sports bar** opens (now *Papagayo restaurant*)

Feb. 27

-**Skipper of the Woodwind, Stefan (Fanie) Leach passes away** after a long illness.

Mar. 6

-**Lora count drops 20%** from last count in 1992. Now 350 birds (*This year, 2009, the Lora count was 475*)



Ed Wallner, eclipse watcher

-**Day of the Eclipse. Spectators at Malmonk between 2,000 and 4,000.** Awesome!

Mar. 13

-Antillean Nature Plan grants Klein Bonaire full **Ramsar Treaty** site protection status, which makes unapproved development on the island - even though it may be privately owned - illegal. The law mandates that Bonaire formulate a Nature Policy Plan within two years. (*It took 10 years to complete!*)

-New park area to be set up at **Tolo** on the tourist road with swimming beach, BBQ pit, shade shelters and trees and plants.

Mar. 20

-WEB electricity and water production shortage is resolved with Trans World Radio generating site coming on line.

Mar. 27

-Sunfish World Championships to be held in Bonaire in 2000

Apr. 10

-**Bonaire's 1998 Culinary Team Chosen** - will go to the "Taste of the Caribbean" in Puerto Rico in October (*Due to damage done by Hurricane Georges to Puerto Rico and other islands, the event was cancelled.*)



Apr. 17

-**Italian yacht, Rais, driven ashore** near Willemstoren lighthouse.

May 9

-Drought affects Bonaire's endangered parrots (Loras)

-Bonaire selected to join *Skin Diver Magazine* Hall of Fame for excellence in "Consumer popularity" and named the "Macro Capital of the Caribbean."

May 15

-**41 countries represented in Bonaire's foreign workers population.** Foreigners make up 40% of the island's labor force (approximately 5,000 workers)

-Zee Zicht Restaurant, Bonaire's oldest at 69 years, now under new management - Johan Visser - who took over from his

mother, **Sylvia Abraham.** Sylvia will now run The Great Escape mini-resort (*now Roomer*).

June 5

-Bonaire's newest power plant at the **Trans World Radio transmitter in the south of the island goes on line.**

-Bonaire named to the *Skin Diver Magazine* Hall of Fame

-**Tourism up 10% for the month of May** (147% rise in visitors from South America and steady growth of 2.5% from the US. Numbers from Germany and Netherlands continued to decline with a drop of 22.8% and 9.7%. TCB's Ronnie Pieters said results were because of the continued strength of the US dollar.

June 12

-**1<sup>st</sup> block laid for Jong Bonaire building**

-Martines Importers accepts all brands of aluminum cans for recycling

June 26

-**TCB head**

**Ronnie Pieters** suspended;

Burney El Hage is named

new TCB

head. (*A court later ordered Pieters reinstated into his job, claiming that his suspension was without justification.*)

July 3

-Amigu di Terra concerned about damage being done to the environment by **soil mining.**

-Hot new musical group, "**Moogie and the Studmuffins,**" debut

July 10

-Simulation of a tsunami strike with Dutch DART teams

-BonaireLive internet service provider begins

-**Sunset Beach Hotel** may have to close. Interbank, under court orders, began removing inventory of the hotel to satisfy creditors.

-Lt. Gov. Hart says he will **withhold permission for additional foreign workers;** there are sufficient workers on the island for present and future projects. Additional workers will strain the schools, medical care facilities and infrastructure of the island, he says.

July 17

-**Economic Shakeout** - Closing of Sunset Beach Hotel, China Garden Restaurant, Jardin Tropical, Bejola Construction. Flamingo Beach Hotel is on the verge of a shutdown and its casino is closed.

-Lt. Gov. Hart issues **general amnesty for all foreigners** living or working on the island without valid permits.



Pieters

Aug. 14

-Results of *Port Call* Contest, "**What Surprises you most about Bonaire?**" Bureaucracy, donkeys, Bonaire's Beauty, parties, bugs, pets

Aug. 28

-Businessmen organize (AKIB) to do something about the island's economy.

-Antillean Parliament decides **against granting Venezuela tuna fishing rights** in our local waters.

-**Frazer Candidus** passes - teacher and ornithologist who lived many years on Bonaire

-Bonaire government and labor leaders meet with management of the Divi Hotel chain to discuss the **future of the Divi Flamingo Beach Hotel.** It was reported that in the eyes of the management the hotel has fallen on bad times and they were reluctant to make further investments in the property.

Sept. 11

-**Sewer plant soon?** "Sewage is a time bomb that could destroy Bonaire's economy by killing its coral reefs," is the message heard by a high level commission of Central and Bonairean government members and staffers from the Dutch firm of Haskoning Consulting Engineers and Architects in a meeting. (*The "bomb" exploded in 2008 when rampant algal cover infested some areas*)

Sept. 18

-Bonaire Cruise Association says **32 visits** planned by 20 different ships in the '98-'99 season. (*127 ship arrival with 224,000 tourists are expected in the 2009-2010 season*)



Oct. 2

-Hurricane Georges carves a path of destruction through the Caribbean; Bonaire has wind reversals and some beach erosion and shorefront damage.

-Island Executive Council votes to have Klein Bonaire independently appraised in preparation for Government purchase as a national park.

-**Island Cleanup:** 2,832 bags of trash collected by 2,200 people in 66 different groups and organizations.

Oct. 9

-For sure the **year 2000 Sunfish Worlds** will be held in Bonaire (*Sadly, there wasn't enough sponsorship and the Worlds were not held here.*)

-**Jim Hough,**

**founder of the Green Parrot,** passes away



Hough

Oct. 23

-Letter of intent signed to re-open Markultura as an operation to produce shrimp larvae.

-WEB turns off utilities to the Regatta HQ, Sunset Beach Hotel, for non-payment

Nov. 6

-**Duerwaarder (bailiff) Prospero Silber** auctions off the remaining contents of the **Sunset Beach Hotel** (*Mr. Silberie passed away last week - May 2009*)

-**Hurricane Mitch,** 4<sup>th</sup> most powerful Atlantic hurricane of the century, passed Bonaire with damaging waves into Kralendijk anchorage. Much devastation in Central America including Windjammer *Fantome* ship missing.

Nov. 13

-**Sewer News:** Consulting firm Haskoning presented their recommendations for sewage treatment on Bonaire to members of the Island Council, the Nature conservation NGOs and the press - describing solutions to the pollution that is damaging Bonaire's coral reefs. Recommended plan **will remove the waste water from homes and hotels only along Bonaire's shoreline area from WEB south to the Plaza Resort.**

Nov. 20

-A Bonaire **Free Trade Zone** has been approved by the Island Council on the landward side of the main road leading to Pink Beach, just south of Lighthouse Point. (*Nothing ever was developed there.*)

-Belgian charter airline, Sobleair, makes its inaugural flight to Bonaire - with 90 passengers to the Plaza Resort.

Dec. 18

-**Corine Gerharts** hands over presidency of Sea Turtle Club to **Imre Esser.**

-**Hugo Chavez** elected president of Venezuela by a landslide.

-**Sunset Beach Hotel bought by its prime creditor,** Interbank of Aruba, for \$4 million. (*Interbank went under shortly afterwards*)

Dec. 25

-**Maritime museum opens in Curaçao.** Five years ago several Bonairean residents had a plan to open a maritime museum on the site of the waterfront Fort Oranje but it went nowhere. (*Curaçao won; Bonaire lost*) ■

Compiled by **Laura DeSalvo.**

**Readers are invited to write in their recollections.**



# Bubbles from the Biologist

## Did You Know...That fine sediments in the water can cause all sorts of problems on a coral reef?

When developers and home owners dig up weeds, bulldoze trees, and level lots it spells trouble for coral reefs. All of that dirt that used to be held together by extensive root systems is now free to wash into the sea with the first heavy rain. People also import black soil (and dirt) for their gardens and if this isn't held in place, it will also wash into the sea during the rainy season. When sediments enter our near shore waters, they cause several problems. Suspended sediments (usually very fine sediments) lower visibility and reduce the amount of light that reaches the corals. This reduces photosynthesis by 'good algae' (*zooxanthellae*) that live within and provide food to the coral animals. Sediments may also bring nutrients along with them. Nutrients may cause 'bad algae' (macroalgae) to flourish and overgrow the more slow-growing corals. Corals thrive in nutrient-poor waters. Another problem that the reef faces when sediments enter the water is that the sediments land on the coral animals and smother them. Usually, if there is only a fine layer of sediments, the coral animal can slough off the nutrients by producing extra mucus, but this costs the coral energy. If the disturbance is a one-time affair (acute), the coral may survive, but if sediments are continually landing on the corals (a chronic disturbance), the corals will suffer and may die because they have less energy, are more susceptible to disease, have slower growth and reproduction, etc. CIEE researchers are measuring the amounts of sediments that are landing on our reefs here in Bonaire in an attempt to find out if the level of sedimentation poses a threat to our corals. We've set out sediment traps at 10 locations and remove them every two weeks



One of the CIEE sediment traps. If you see one of these while diving, please don't disturb it.

for processing in the lab. We hope to have a better understanding of sedimentation rates in Bonaire by the end of this year but plan on continuing this study indefinitely. ■ *Story & photo by Caren Eckrich*

*Eckrich teaches Coral Reef Ecology and Scientific Diving to American university students at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. She's also the Director of Sea & Discover, a marine education center offering interactive learning programs to kids and adults. You can reach her at 717-5322.*



## Fly-In Birthday Party

Kitesurfer Zwaantje Kooij (black shirt/cowboy hat) invited her friends to fly on their kite boards downwind from the southern kite beach of Bonaire to Klein Bonaire for her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday BBQ party.

Congratulations "Zwanette." ■

Donna Wuyts

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# Pet of the Week

One of the prettiest kitties on Bonaire is little "Tiger" and she has a stunning personality to go with her good looks. Tiger has an unusual coat with stripes and swirls of white, copper and grey fur that's soft and very easy to stroke. Tiger was brought to the Shelter because the temporary home for her can't accommodate her because some of the visitors there are allergic to cats. This cat even gets along well with some gentle dogs. In fact, the dog that she played with so well at her temporary home is very sad and lonesome since she left. So here's an opportunity for someone to adopt a very special kitten who's only three months old and who has been proven to be a



Tiger

great companion not only to people but to certain well behaved dogs. Of course, Tiger is in the best of health, having had her tests, worming and shots. She'll be sterilized when she's old enough. The adoption fee of NAf 75 includes all that. You may meet Tiger and the other pets up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

The Shelter's **Free Sterilization Program** has taken off. **Since the program began on May 15 there have been 42 sterilizations.** This is thanks to the sponsors, the funding and especially to the hard working staff and volunteers (whom we think never sleep!) who even

pick up and return dogs and cats to their owners after the operations. **Between January this year and May 15 there were 109 sterilizations. The aim of the program is to do 500 sterilizations per year.** For more information or an appointment call the Shelter at 717-4989.

Vacation time is coming up and if you'd like to have your **cat or dog board at the Shelter, call now to make your reservation as spaces are filling up.** Boarding one dog is NAf 15 per day; two together is NAf 20 per day. One cat is NAf10 per day; two together is NAf 15. These prices include food. Give your pets a vacation too! ■L.D.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

**Until end of June—Underwater Painting Exhibition by Dominique Serafini.** Spectacular dive sites of Bonaire. At Bistro de Paris. 717-7070

**June 4-7—5th Annual Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival.** Don't miss this exciting annual event.

Opening Concert and poetry at Ft. Oranje Thursday 7:30 pm

Main concerts Friday and Saturday at Plaza Resort starting 7:30 pm

Jazz Brunch at Divi Flamingo on Sunday beginning at 11:30 am

**Saturday, June 6 – Bingo Fund-raising for Grupo di Karnaval Hubenil** (children's carnival group). Ten Games - Big prizes – from NAf 150 to NAf 1.000! Klup Patriotiko in Sabana, 8 pm. Entry fee NAf 25. More information call Dolores Bernabela 717-8951.

**Saturday, June 6-Free full moon walk** from Washington Park entrance. Starts at 8 pm, for about 2 hours. register: 717-8444 or email communications@stinapa.org

**Saturday June 6 - Theatre workshop at BonaireBasics,** Kaya Korona 47 (opposite Botica Korona, the red buildings, entrance on the right through the white gate) 10 am-12:30 pm, 1:30-4 pm. NAf 75 Sign-up. Deadline has passed but contact Ilse Stokman (786-6810), ilse.stokman@gmail.com for possibilities.

**Wednesday, June 10th -Lecture** by Dr. Gabriel Grimsditch from the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) 7pm at CIEE Research Station Bonaire, Kaya Gob. Debrot 26 (bright orange building with tall fence)

**Saturday, June 13 -Classical Music Concert**-organized by the Classical Music Board featuring local musicians and composers. At Plaza Resort, Cacique Hall. See details on page 8. Get tickets NAf 25, children up to 14 NAf 10 at Addo's Bookstore, Plaza Resort, Flamingo Bookstore

**Sunday, June 14 -Presentation** by students of the Skol di Musica of Bonaire at Plaza Resort Cacique Hall : Start 2 pm, entrance free.

**Sunday June 14 – 2nd Annual Bonaire Barracuda International Open Water Swim Competition** (see page 7)

**Saturday June 28 – BWC Mountain Bike Tour** at Washington Park for info: 785-0767 email @bonairewellness.com

## 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 cooler 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, 7:15 pm**— All levels, NAf2,50, at ZeeZicht Restaurant upstairs.

**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 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:

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## BonQuiz Answer



They were made of braided tree branches (bara).

Question on Page 9



# SHOPPING and DINING GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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

## FITNESS

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

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## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

**Bonaire Sunshine Homes** is the realtor with a local touch. Ask them to show you the good value homes they list. Call them if you are thinking of selling your home.

**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.

## RETAIL

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

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## SHIPPING

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## SUPERMARKETS

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

**Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria**—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

## WATER TAXI

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

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## Action At the Bonaire Boat Yard in Hato

*The 48<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."*



(Picture: J@n Brouwer)

*Freek Sijlsing, technical director, fully concentrating, inspects the boat and the trailer, while Harry van den Ouweelen controls the SAME tractor, the hydraulics and the winch which is mounted some 100 meters from the waterline of the sea.*

Bonaire/Hato – It is 10 o'clock in the morning. Not much activity in the most of the time quiet and peaceful neighborhood of Hato. The sea is calm, the wind is supplying just a breeze but there is a tension in the air. An impressive trailer is launched from the ramp at the Boat Yard Bonaire. The trailer is connected to an old SAME-tractor, the tractor is connected with a steel cable to a winch. A boat is approaching the boat yard. The captain is maneuvering his boat very carefully. It is the NB 89 that is trying to approach the trailer that is now mostly under water. *Harbour Lady* of Buddy Dive Resort Bonaire needs to get out of the water for normal periodical maintenance and a little face lift.

*Harbour Lady* is getting closer and closer. Then her position is right above the trailer. Freek Sijlsing attaches all kinds of huge ropes from the boat to the trailer while Harry van den Ouweelen controls the tractor, the winch and the hydraulics. Positive stress and concentration rule the complete boat yard now. Nothing may go wrong, everything has to be completely under control. There is no escape. No space for any kind of failure. The captain, Freek and Harry - they all know exactly what they are doing. Then the hydraulics of the trailer are activated by Harry from the trailer. The boat is getting in a fixed position. The diesel engine of the SAME-tractor is running a little over idle speed. Gears are in four-wheel drive low all the time. The long distance fixed winch is remote controlled by Harry. Tension! Very slowly *Harbour Lady* gets out of the Caribbean Sea. It takes some time to cover the distance over the 15-meter-long ramp with a slope of seven

percent. The 50-ton winch pulls most of the weight of the *Harbour Lady* and the trailer. Then, when the boat appears out of the water more and more the SAME 90 diesel takes over and the winch remains as a security back up.

Since April 2009 the Boat Yard Bonaire, clearly visible from Kaya Gobernador in Hato, is active again. Ruud Koornstra is the owner, Harry van den Ouweelen is director and Freek Sijlsing operates as Technical Manager. They rule the only on-shore shipyard on the island of Bonaire. They are able to maintain, repair and overhaul boats and engines in their dust free workshop. The Boat Yard also trades in all kinds of boats and the yard supplies storage.

A new John Deere tractor is ordered from the States but now Ruud, Harry and Freek still trust their very reliable SAME 90. (In one of the boat houses there is another SAME stored, a model 70 air cooled V-four diesel./jb). The SAME 90 that is the subject of this article is colored blue and orange, supposedly the original colors, and built in the late 50s or early 60s in Italy. Long time ago the machine was brought to Bonaire. The tractor served at the boatyard for ages. It is a solid forced, air cooled four-cylinder in line naturally aspirated diesel engine that delivers traction to the four huge wheels by a gearbox with too many gears to count. High, low, forward, reverse. The engine also supplies the power for the hydraulic compressor. The four hydraulic hoses lead to the lifting system of the multi-wheeled trailer and to the control of the front wheels of the trailer. Nice system and very powerful and effective!

Then the laborers immediately start cleaning the hull of the *Harbour Lady* and Freek in-

forms me about the boatyard and the plans for the future. Harry tells me about his fire brigade vehicle that is under restoration by the pupils from the *Scholengemeenschap Bonaire*. (Luckily still more than 50 subjects for more articles!./jb)

It is time to leave now. I have to write my article. I start collecting all my gear, flung around on the boatyard: camera, diary, pen, apple... The SAME 90 still stands between the trailer with the boat in the rear and the land-mounted winch in the front. The diesel is still idling! Is this a waist of energy warming up the globe and the atmosphere? No. The SAME 90 just loves to idle and she has to idle too to keep the pressure on the hydraulics to control the lift and the steering device of the trailer. That lovely sound of a reliable SAME diesel. Thank you, Francesco and Eugenio!

SAME stands for *Società Accomandita Motori Endotermici*. The brand originates in Italy and now is a member of the SAME-Deutz-Fahr corporation manufacturing hundreds of thousands of agricultural tractors a year. In old pictures taken in the Italy after WW II it is easy to spot a "Same Da," a "Puledro" or a "Sametto." All are varieties of the well known SAME. Some 80 years ago the Cassini brothers, Francesco and Eugenio from Vailante near Cremona, Italy, presented their first Cassini tractor. This was the first factory-produced tractor with a naturally aspirated diesel engine. Later on they became very popular and changed the brand name into SAME. ■

Story & photo  
by J@n Brouwer



## Another BonKarate Class Graduates

BonKarate photo



Recently the BonKarate School under the guidance of Sensei Peter Silberie and Tuki Josephia awarded certificates to their students following examination.

**Yellow Belt:** Blue Burger, Kevin Peters, Dimar Kalma, Andrew Wout, Jursley Jansen, Charles Martijn and Zhihao Wu.

**Orange Belt:** Kayla van Nunen.

**Green Belt:** Alex Heijnen, Miu Ji Xuan, Amber Lensink, Everone Vrutaal and Danique Darmaoen.

Master of Hapkido Combat, Walt Cooper from the US, on vacation in Bonaire, presented the diplomas. ■ *Press release*

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## How to Find the Two Largest Planets Using the Moon as a Finder

This month of June 2009 you have two wonderful opportunities to find the two largest planets easy as pie by using the Moon as a finder, one of them just before sunrise and the other just after sunset.

On Saturday morning, June 13th, about an hour before sunrise face south-east where the brightest thing you'll see will be a 21-day-old waning, that is shrinking, gibbous Moon. And only 4 degrees away, which means only eight full Moons away you'll see the biggest planet, 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter. So

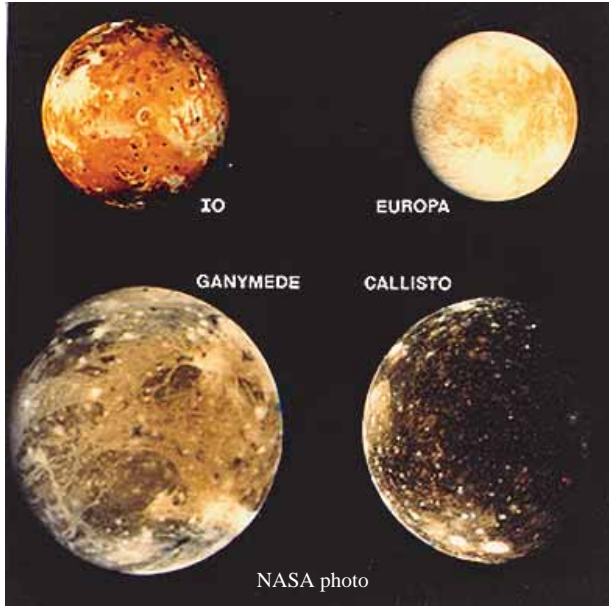
here's your chance to find Jupiter using the Moon. Jupiter will be very bright but not quite as bright as the brightest planet Venus which is off to its side. Now if you have a pair of binoculars you should take a look at Jupiter and the Moon because you'll be surprised at how much detail you'll see.

In fact you'll see all four of Jupiter's four largest Moons looking like pinpoints of light as they orbit around it. Three of the Moons are larger than our own 2,000-mile-wide Moon. And on Saturday morning they will be in the following order in relation to Jupiter. To the far left, Callisto, followed by Europa, followed by Ganymede, with Io on the other side. 24 hours later on Sunday June 14th the Moon will have moved well to the other side of Jupiter. But if you look at Jupiter's four Moons you'll notice a change. While Callisto and Ganymede will still be on the left side of Jupiter, Europa and Io will have changed places.

And it is this Jupiter Moon ballet which first caught the attention of Galileo Galilei in 1610. It was the one piece of early scientific information which really made the modern scientific revolution happen because discovering that Jupiter had objects orbiting about it turned the world of science and religion upside down 400 years ago, an event we are celebrating this year, the International Year of Astronomy.

So you early birds have got a fabulous Moon and Jupiter on Saturday the 13th and Sunday the 14th. But if you don't like getting up with the chickens wait until Saturday June 27th just after sunset and around 9 pm look west and you'll see a magnificent five-day-old waxing, which means growing, Moon. And just up to its right you'll see the second largest planet, 75,000-mile-wide Saturn whose rings are appearing almost edge on to us right now. It is still a dramatic sight through a small telescope, and with a bit of luck you may even be able to see its largest Moon, Titan, which is just slightly smaller than Jupiter's biggest Moon, Ganymede. But remember, to see Saturn and Titan you'll need a small telescope. To see Jupiter and its Moons all you need is a pair of binoculars.

So there you have it - Saturn after sunset and Jupiter before sunrise, the two largest planets in our solar system, although if we include Saturn's rings in measuring it, it is actually twice as wide as Jupiter. ■ Jack Horkheimer



NASA photo



## THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
For June 2009

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Children will be of major concern if you haven't kept the lines of communication open. You can surprise members of your family, which in turn will bring you a pat on the back. Your unique approach to life will interest others. Secret intrigues could get you into trouble. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Be careful if a friend asks you for advice. Your partner's a little jumpy. Hide your cards and learn to say no. You will do extremely well if you get involved in competitive activities this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Your family needs to spend some time with you, too. Don't let your personal partner hold you back or slow you down. This is a turning point. Sudden changes regarding colleagues may surprise you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Changes in your residence will be favorable in the long haul. Confusion is apparent and you'll need some sound advice if you want to do the right thing. Think of starting a new business or emotional partnership. You can sort out any differences you have in an amiable manner. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Avoid any over indulgences. Plan a trip to the country or take a drive to the beach. Be prepared to step into the limelight if you wish to promote your ambitions. Think of starting a new business or emotional partnership. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Take your time; do not make any decisions in haste. Do not let in-laws upset you. You may need to lend an ear to an old friend. Don't overspend to impress others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Jealousy may get in the way of a good relationship. Emotional relationships will be plentiful if you attend group activities.

Make changes that will heighten your appeal. Make any necessary changes to your insurance policy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Enjoy a quiet dinner for two and discuss some of the plans you have for the future. Be primed to use your intellect in order to get what you want. Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you. Exercise your talents and present your ideas to groups you think you can contribute to. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will be emotional when dealing with coworkers or employers. Loss or theft may occur if you are careless with your belongings. Get back into the swing of things. Your mate needs extra attention and is feeling rather insecure when you're not in sight. Your support and concern will help. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may be angry if someone tries to take credit for something you did. Your creative ideas must be put to good use. This is a great day to spend with family. You are best to stick to yourself this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your lover may be annoyed if you have been flirtatious or not attentive to their needs. You need to spend less time daydreaming and more time accomplishing. You can make new friends and experience new things if you do a bit of traveling. You may find it difficult to discuss personal matters with family members. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Be careful not to show your temper when dealing with the boss. A better diet, exercise, or a change to a relaxed atmosphere could be ways to soothe your nerves. Try to enlist the support of your coworkers first. You will need to spend extra time sorting through your work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday. ■

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