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# BONAIRE The REPORTER

January 8-22, 2010; Volume 17, Issue 1

*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

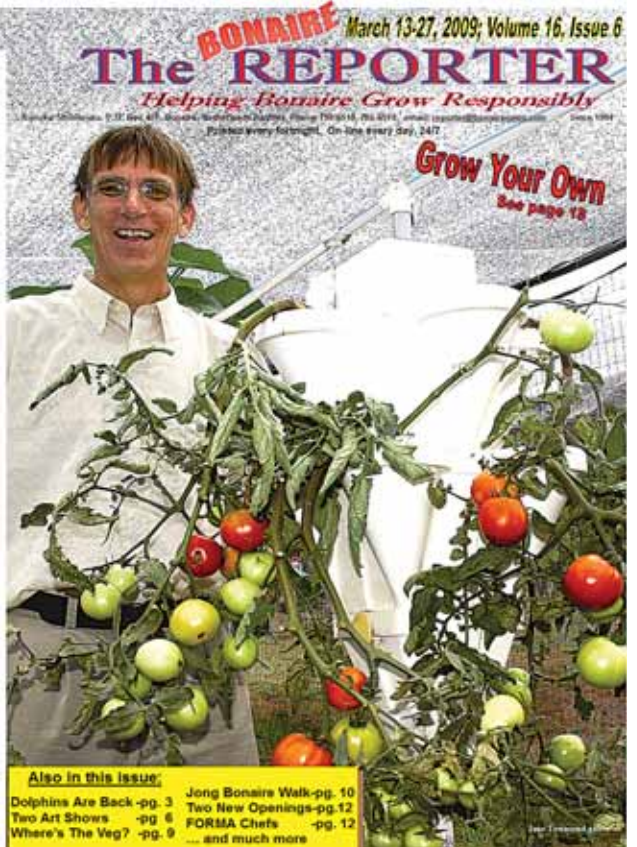
P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-6518, 786-6518, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

Printed every fortnight

On-line every day, 24/7



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# Flotsam and Jetsam

In a brief interview with *The Reporter* BES Commissioner **Henk Kamp** said, "I will do my best for Bonaire."



He remains hopeful that Bonaire's future is as part of the Dutch Kingdom. This despite the fact that important decisions are on hold until the results of the Second Referendum, tentatively set for March 2010.

Radio Netherlands reported that the transition date of October 10, 2010, according to Kamp is "perfectly feasible." "The Netherlands must especially continue on the path," stressed Kamp on January 4, 2010, exactly one year after his arrival.

Because the Bonaire Government, for the most part, has discontinued cooperation with Kamp's Regional Service Center (RSC), the Netherlands has suspended a number of financing projects, including the refurbishment of the airport and paying the debt to the APNA pension. Yet Kamp hopes cooperation can begin again as soon as possible. "To provide a new political structure there is a requirement that we must work together." But, according to Kamp, the concession must come from Bonaire, because the problems come from there. Transforming Bonaire into a public body of the Netherlands is the best solution according to Kamp. "The Netherlands can do much for the people of Bonaire. And that is our job, to do good things for people."

► In cooperation with clinics in Holland, **medical patients recovering from dermatological and other problems will be able to take advantage of the fine Bonaire climate**, Business Class KLM amenities and their own

wing at the Plaza Resort. The first members of this unique Sky Club are set to arrive in mid-May, 2010.

► **KLM will not stop flying to Bonaire**, said KLM regional manager Simone Wickenhagen. The rumors that the Bonaire will be replaced by Aruba as a destination are "... not true at all." "KLM head Peter Hartman had said that KLM wishes to serve Aruba optimally in 2010. Martinair flies to the island and possibly a KLM flight will be added as well. We are currently considering that possibility. However, that has nothing to do with Bonaire. As a destination, the island is much too beautiful to leave out, isn't it?"

Wickenhagen continued, "The renovation of the runway at Flamingo Airport is not certain, now that the Netherlands are putting projects on the backburner while it is unclear what the Bonaire Island Government decides about the governmental structure in relation with Holland. That is no reason for KLM to drop Bonaire as destination. The runway must indeed be renovated. As long as the runway has not been declared unfit, we will continue flying."

► In response to growing demand on the route, **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will resume its Boeing 747-400 service between Amsterdam and Aruba** on 1 February 2010. The twice weekly service will be operated in combination with the existing Curaçao service.

► According to State Secretary for Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations, Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, **the transition from fewer direct to more indirect taxes will have a positive influence on prosperity in Bonaire**, Saba and St. Eustatius. According to the state secretary, it should be taken into account that the average wage of a resident of the BES islands is about 40% of the average income of a resident of the Netherlands. "The price level is certainly not at 40% of that in the Netherlands because almost eve-

► A private memorial ceremony bidding farewell to **Divi Divi pilot Robert Mansell** was held on the tarmac of Curaçao's Hato airport. One of the surviving passengers at the ceremony, Eric Hagendoorn, was emotional, but especially grateful in his speech. Grateful



to Mansell, who died, and especially grateful to the Antillean and Dutch government who took their responsibility for the storage and research. He said, "Whatever the answers to the many remaining questions may be, Robert, you are still my hero."

The ceremony was arranged by the British honorary consul Anthony Owens. Top Antillean leaders were in attendance including Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage, Ministers Maurice Adriaens (Transport), Ersilia "Zus" de Lannoy (Finance) and Magali Jacoba (Justice) along with the surviving passengers and staff of Divi Divi Air.

Following the eulogies, the coffin was lifted from the hearse and placed on a special cart to load onto the KLM 747. Mansell's body lay in a metal box decorated with a British flag and a flower arrangement.

The Boeing flight carrying the 32-year-old's body touched down at Birmingham International Airport around six hours later, to be met by waiting relatives.

Pilot Mansell, from Knowle, England, died when he was forced to ditch his twin-engine plane into the sea just three miles from Bonaire's Flamingo Airport. He was knocked unconscious on impact but his piloting skills had saved the lives of the nine passengers on board. Following a lengthy salvage operation, the wreckage was successfully lifted out three weeks ago.

Aviation accident experts are trying to establish how the tragedy occurred.

rything needs to be imported," she said.

► **It's planned that next year at this time the dollar will be the island's main currency.** To smooth the transition an "Exchange Office" will be set up this month in Bonaire under the control of the Dutch Central Bank (*De Nederlandsche Bank*). It will deal with currency conversion, wages, price control, responsibilities, technological problems and other issues.

► The formerly private **Pelikaan School** is now, thanks to governmental financial assistance, a public school. It was established



in 2004 and its aim has always been to make it a public school.

► Film producer Jasper Schuringa (32), born and raised in Curaçao, **became an internationally-known hero by overpowering a 23-year-old Nigerian suspected terrorist on the Christmas flight from Schiphol airport in Amsterdam to Detroit, Michigan.**

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### How to contact us

**Letters to the Editor:**  
Reporter@bonairenews.com  
**Story tip or idea:**  
info@bonairenews.com  
**The Publisher:**  
George@bonairenews.com  
Box 407, Bonaire,  
Neth. Antilles.  
Phone 790-8988  
Phone 790-6518 / 786-6518  
Available on-line at:  
www.bonairereporter.com

**Printed Every Fortnight,  
On-line Every day, 24/7**

**Next edition printing on  
January 19, 2010.  
Story and Ad deadline:  
January 16, 2010.**

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# 2010-What's In Store

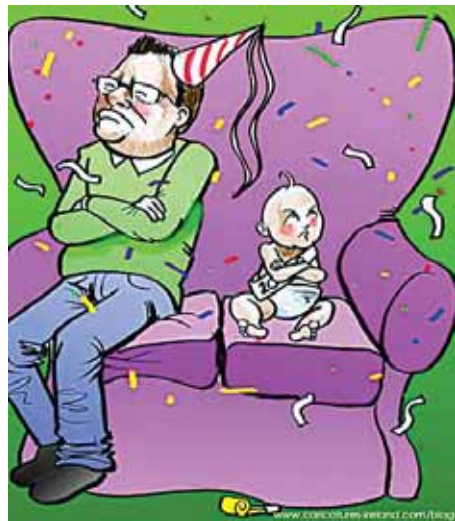
Ever so quickly we breezed through the first 10 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the period we have seen Bonaire experience both unprecedented development and troubling deterioration of its natural environment.

It was a time when speculators could make lots of money, owners saw their property values rise, businesses multiplied and more luxury and costly items became available in our shops. At the same time pollution, violence and drug-related crime escalated, to a point where not only is Bonaire's tranquility threatened, but also its economy.

The questions to ask at the dawn of a new decade:

- Will the people who live on Bonaire become better off in the next 10 years than they are today?
- Can the parents raising families, workers serving the population and tourists, schoolchildren, senior citizens and foreigners living on the island have a more productive and peaceful life?
- What should Bonaire be like at the end of the next 10 years?

This year is pivotal. The "country" of The Netherlands Antilles was, on 10/10/10, supposed to be dissolved into three component parts: Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the Dutch "Special Municipality" of the BES Islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. But Bonaire's new government, now as the date approaches, wants to ask its people if that is really what they meant when they voted for



"closer ties" with the Netherlands in 2004.

The answers to the three questions may lie at their choice of answer in the 2010 Referendum. We've not seen the Referendum questions yet, nor have a precise date for the vote, but hope that the island's voters will be presented with truthful information to make their choice. It's important that the leaders of the respective positions avoid fiery rhetoric, take special care to quench bitter feelings and focus on the benefits that their point of view will bring to Bonaire. Let's make it a truly Happy New Year! ■ G.D.



# 2009- Looking Back

For most of the year the island was supposed to be— a great place to live and visit. That's the real 2009 message

Bonaire's big story of the past year, involves the **island's future**. Since the 2004 Referendum Bonaire and the other BES Islands of Statia and St. Eustatius were headed towards "closer ties" with Holland, which the Island Council endorsed. But in June the **trip toward integration was interrupted** when the island government changed. The new government repudiated its agreement to integrate pending the outcome of another Referendum froze negotiation until after the Referendum.

In January, former Dutch Defense Minister **Henk Kamp arrived on island to set up a Regional Service Center (RSC)** to facilitate the agreed-upon integration of the BES Islands. The militarily labeled *kwartiermakers* (quartermasters) began the efforts needed to transfer Dutch ministry tasks to Bonairean counterparts. In November Dutch officials, frustrated by the pre-Referendum freeze, suspended promised payments of Bonaire's debts.

In November and December, to validate its position, the Bonaire government sought opinions from jurist Bob Wit, the United Nations and others. The advisors, for the most part, supported the government while the UN's report while endorsing Bonaire's right to go back to its people for clarification, criticized some of the Referendum's planned procedures.

There was more than politics in the

news. In February an **alert for Lionfish** was issued by the Marine Park. In November the first of these invasive species was spotted and captured. **Pressure on officials to accelerate sewage treatment** for the coastal zone increased and a treatment plant was promised for 2010.

The Marine Park Manager published a story on the **coral reef crisis** in Bonaire and the rest of the world prompting a hotel sector attempt to squelch negative publicity. **Washington Park, the Caribbean's oldest, celebrated its 40th birthday. Klein Bonaire had its 10th anniversary as a protected wilderness area.**

**Two new bank buildings** opened.

Wind turbines arrived to augment the **electric power needs** of the island. They were promised to be in operation by the end of the year, but that has slipped to next month. Deep roadside trenches were dug to carry new electric and phone cables. In the meanwhile WEB power became more unreliable. Weekly outages became the norm.

**Air travel** was in the news with the ditching of one of the Divi Divi Airlines planes near Klein Bonaire, the inauguration of non stop jet service to Miami, the addition of a Delta flight and the departure of American Eagle.

A big **corruption raid** that was supposed to reveal gold smuggling drug dealing and money laundering seemed to fall flat as incriminating details failed to surface.

In September Bonaire was shaken, but not stirred, by a **nearby earthquake**. ■

G.D.



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# On the Island Since... August 2005

## Eline Kamer

"I was born on Curaçao November 4, 1962. My father was a registered accountant and in 1960 he was transferred from Holland to Curaçao where he worked for Moret and Limperg Accountants. I had a wonderful childhood. Curaçao in those days was just great - its spirit and its nature. Every house was always open, no doors were ever locked. It was a carefree life, not a worry in the world. Nowadays there's nothing left of that anymore. It's one of the reasons why I came to Bonaire.

When I was 17 my parents got divorced and I went to Eindhoven, Holland, to live with my mother's family. I wanted to do midwife training, but the school year had already started. So, my mom decided it would be best for me to become a nurse, although I didn't feel like it at all. I went through several interviews at a hospital to be accepted and I deliberately blew it. I was just very young.

My grandmother was a lady of great influence, very sweet, with a lot of connections and she got me a job as a companion to a lady who was in her 80s. Mrs. Kat had had a photo business and she'd never prepared a meal in her life! So she was deliriously

happy with the arrangement until I told her that I had never cooked one dinner and that was it.

I started working for another friend of my grandmother's in a very fancy crockery shop and at night I studied computer science. I was still living with Mrs. Kat, who had a house you could ride a bicycle through, and during weekends she would claim me completely.

### "Sometimes I wonder how I did it financially, bringing up four children all by myself, but... we made it!"

When my computer science education was finished, I moved to The Hague where I started working for an employment agency. I got a job at a cookie factory, where I was supposed to put jelly on the Christmas cookies in an assembly line. After one day I'd had it. Another thing was that I was terribly homesick. I couldn't get used to Holland; I didn't think much of it.

One day in December I walked through The Hague and saw a Maduro Travel Agency. Sometime before my father had authorized me to use his bank account which I had never taken

advantage of, but that day I bought a one-way ticket to Curaçao. I spent Christmas 1981 with my mother and my brother.

It was great to be back, but of course I had to go to work. My mom knew the director of Fatum Insurance and through him they gave me a job. I had to sit in a basement sorting out bills. My first day was my last day. By then I knew that ALM - the An-

tillian Airline - was looking for people and so I finally became a flight attendant - something I'd always wanted.

I worked for ALM for two years, then I met my ex-husband who was a dentist on Curaçao. He gave me four kids - one after the other - girl, boy, girl, boy. My second child, Marc, who is 24, was born mentally and physically handicapped. He is a critical kidney patient and for the last four years he has to be dialyzed every day for eight hours. He is living, under guidance, in Holland with two other people. He's working repairing bicycles and

he's always happy - incredible! When you see his agenda... full to capacity!

My daughter Sabina is a mouth hygienist and lives on Curaçao. My son Wietse is studying economics in Amsterdam, and my daughter Milene has been working with the dolphins on Curaçao for two years. Now she's going back to Holland to study International Business and Languages."

*Eline Kamer has a real Antillean disposition: she's good natured and easy going, but she's also spiritual and thoughtful. She's creative, hardworking and she has guts - a remarkable woman.*

"In 1993, when my son Marc was running out of options on Curaçao, I decided to go back to Holland. I went ahead with all four of my children and my husband was supposed to follow a bit later. He never showed up! The kids and I stayed in Holland for two and a half years, but after the third winter I had enough of



Eline Kamer

it and so all of us returned to Curaçao. I started painting eggs for the Ostrich Farm. Sometimes I wonder how I did it financially, bringing up four children all by myself, but... we made it! We have a very strong bond and I do miss my children profoundly when they are not around, so much that it hurts me physically.

Then I met Robbert, whose name had been popping up in conversations with friends for over 30 years. I'd never seen him though. One night we met through friends and we spent the evening together. A year later there was a spark. He was living in Holland where I was on vacation and we met through a mutual

(Continued on page 5)

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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)

friend. After I came back to Curaçao we mailed every day and every two months he would come over. The third time he told me, 'I am staying!'"

She laughs: "I thought I'd have a fit! He moved in with a friend, and at the same time my daughter Sabina left to study in Holland. My son Marc was also going because his kidneys were working less than 50% and there was nothing they could do for him. I was living with my two other kids in a rental house and as they are surfers and sailors I had to take them back and forth to Spanish Water all the time. A good friend of mine had a house there, but the rent was way too high for me, so Robbert and I decided to rent the house together."

He was an accountant, working for an accountant's office. I was still painting eggs and had a stand at the cruise ship market where I was selling my art. Also I was arranging exhibitions for different artists and buying and selling Antillean antiques. So then we were living together in Spanish Water with the two kids." She laughs. "But the deal was that he would never interfere with their upbringing and he kept his word very well. All my children are crazy for him – they love him dearly!"

Yeah... and then I felt that too much crime was taking place on Curaçao. I wanted to move to Bonaire where I'd been going every so often and where I'd spent my first birthday at the opening of Hotel Bonaire. It doesn't even exist anymore. I was looking for tranquility, something I couldn't find on Curaçao anymore – something I could still find on Bonaire... then! So Robbert and I moved here and he started working for a local hotel.

It's not in my blood to sit still and I was approached by several people to set up and manage something here for them. Because I had been dealing in antiques I chose to go with Plantation Curaçao. We worked together for one year and then we went separate ways and I changed the name of my business to 'Interiours.' October 2008 we moved to Kaya Amsterdam.

I like to work for myself and I find it also important to add something to the island. If you're looking for that one unique piece – I've got it - everything to make your house more beautiful, to give it that special touch. I am always trying to find something that's one of a kind, incomparable. But I'm also selling practical things and furniture and I'm trying to keep the quality high, which isn't always easy. I've got a purchaser in China and one on

Bali who also travels to Papua, New Guinea, and the islands of Flores, Timor and Java. Purchasing antiques has become more and more difficult everywhere in the world, but even if it's not antique, it's always handmade by professional craftsmen in the old colonial style.

Since I've started here, many others have opened similar businesses - slightly different - but it all comes down to interiors. So," she smiles, "I think it's time for something new. What it will be, I don't know, but, I'll find something. Maybe Robbert and I will start up something together."

We've been here for four years now, and from the moment I arrived, I've seen Bonaire changing rapidly. It's out of balance. I think Bonaire as well as Holland has to give in and find a way to grow together so Bonaire's future will be stable and promising." She looks at me thoughtfully. "I'm not talking about construction or developments or anything of that kind. What I mean to say is that I'd like to see a society that is well balanced so people can thrive and live harmoniously in every possible way." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Eline Kamer

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# Kwartiermakers and Counterparts

The Third of a Series About Dutch-Bonairean Cooperation

## Social Affairs and Employment - Job Programs on Bonaire

For some time now, behind the scenes, people have been working on improvements and projects for the period after the transition date 10-10-10, when Bonaire may become a public body (bijzondere gemeente) within the Netherlands. In several areas of policy, local government and local organisations are working together with the people from the Regional Service Centre (RSC). In the coming months The Bonaire Reporter will describe the activities of the Dutch Ministry Representatives in the RSC and their Bonairean counterparts as they work together so that, at the planned "transition time of 10-10-10," local people, Bonaireans, will handle the tasks of that department. In this issue we describe the progression in the Social Affairs scene.

The *kwartiermakers* of Social Affairs and Employment are Johan van der Graaff and Hans Bor. On Bonaire, Saba and Statia, they are involved in tasks that have to do with

- Working conditions (minimum wage, holidays, industrial disputes)
- Labor control and job permits
- Social security and assistance
- Reducing unemployment (among other things, job programs).

A large part of their job is to change the current rules and laws (*landsverordeningen*) into legislation. This work is done in consultation with governmental organisations on the island, like the *Dienst Economische Zaken* (DEZA), the *Servisio pa Asuntunan Sosial* (SASO), the *Sociale Verzekeringsbank* (SVB) and the *Directie Arbeidszaken*.

### Job Programs

One of the important tasks is reducing unemployment and directing people towards jobs. On Bonaire, the Forma and Mangazina di Rei foundations have already been working together to help prepare youngsters for a job by education and by offering them work experience. The arrival of the *kwartiermakers* has brought an extra energy to this cooperation.

**Danilo Christiaan**, Project Manager at **Mangazina di Rei**, explains.

"There is a need for support in knowledge, experience and financial means. For us, the connection with Social Affairs and Employment can be very beneficial. We know from research that companies do want to invest in the people that they hire. But they want the basic job attitude to be in order: being on time, holding to agreements, taking responsibility for tasks. At Mangazina di Rei we are training for this. We have apprenticeships in different areas, like administration, tour giving, marketing, catering, maintenance jobs, etc. The youngsters can experience which job or jobs they are suited for. Mangazina di Rei was officially recognized as a 'company of apprenticeships' at the beginning of 2009. On average about 15 to 20 youngsters gain experience here with different jobs throughout half a year to a year. If they can qualify for *Sociale Vormingsplicht* they can get financial help for their costs and a compensation for childcare.

Forma and Mangazina di Rei also see other possibilities of helping more people gain employment. An example of this is the EVC certificate: *Erkenning voor Verworven Competenties*, Recognition for Acquired Competences. This is a kind of scan of the abilities the people already have and giving them a certificate. Several certificates together can form the basis for someone to approach the job market without having to follow an extra education. To understand the job market it's very important to work and communicate with people in the business industry. Together with Forma, Mangazina di Rei will try to accomplish this."

### "Forma di Rei"

**Johan van der Graaff** says:

"For every society, also here on Bonaire, it is very important for people to participate. To have a job is meaningful to people: it's good for one's self esteem to have an income, to have contacts with people and to have a daily structure. With



**Johan van der Graaff:**

**Johan van der Graaff** arrived on Bonaire as *Kwartiermaker*, Social Affairs and Employment, in August 2009. In Holland, in different jobs with the government, his task was to direct people to the job market. He also contributed to several laws in this area.

**Danilo Christiaan**

**Danilo Christiaan** was born on Curaçao. He followed his education partly in Holland, where he also worked in different companies in the horticulture area. For the past three years, Danilo has lived on Bonaire and is working as a Project Manager at the culture park, Mangazina di Rei.

this, people may get a perspective for the future. The concept of Forma and Mangazina di Rei is set up very well. Six months of theoretical lessons are followed by six months of training on the job. It is exactly this combination that appears to work for people. Several organisations are working well together: Forma, Mangazina di Rei, governmental organisations on the island, like DEZA, SASO and the *Bestuurscollege* (Executive Council). We've made a plan for a pilot project apprenticeship with these parties. In the beginning of January Holland will decide on this plan, in which 40 people can participate for one year. As of February 2010 Forma and Mangazina di Rei can offer an official Dutch education, *Arbeidsmarkt gekwalificeerd Assistent* (AKA), Job market qualified Assistant. This education will not only be for youngsters, but also for adults under the age of 45. For this project Forma and Mangazina di Rei created a wonderful name, 'Forma di Rei.'"

**Danilo Christiaan**: "The name not only reflects the cooperation between the two organisations but also shows what we want to teach our participants: Royal Manners. Related to our job training this means to have the right work attitude to

find and keep a job."

**Christiaan** continues: "In our projects we have contacts with several *kwartiermakers* in the areas that concern tourism, welfare, job training, agriculture, culture and education. As well we notice a willingness by many organisations to cooperate and an appreciation for our approach. We have a lot of plans for the future and are hoping to benefit from all these forms of cooperation."

**Van der Graaff** says: "The combination of Forma and Mangazina di Rei is a perfect example of linking theory to practice. We are looking forward to expanding this cooperation together with other organisations and are planning to apply for structural financial means for it. Minister Donner of Social Affairs and Employment also emphasized the importance of this during his visit to Bonaire late November." ■ *Story & photo by Inge Vos*

*Inge Vos has experience in Communications and writes for Dutch language newspapers.*



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## BONAIREAN VOICES

### NUTRITION IN SCHOOLS- PART III

As with every other school Kolegio Kristo Bon Wardador Elementary School has had their problems. I managed to interview Mrs. Carinne Thielman who has been the principal of the school for 10 years and has been in the educational field for 28 years.

Mrs. Thielman says, "We have had problems at school and always tried to find a solution. The problems we were facing were connected with the new system of teaching that was introduced in the elementary schools called *Ensenansa di Fundeshi* (Foundation Education). Our teachers weren't prepared for this system. You must have time to prepare in advance for extra materials and that's what we don't have. We have a schedule that we must complete by the end of the school year so the children are fully prepared for the next school year. We struggled for eight years and little by little we got adjusted to the new system. We combine it with the old system, which means that we put what can be used from the old system together with the new system, and it works. We focus on different groups of children, the Papiamentu language, Dutch language and computers. We have more work to do and what makes it a little bit difficult is the need for more school materials to work with, to teach in the Papiamentu language. It depends on each elementary school how they see the new educational system. But as I said before this new way of education is an adjustment of the old system and how you can fit different groups of children into it. Reading in both the Dutch and Papiamentu languages is a must. We need new methods for the Papiamentu language because we believe if a child knows his or her own language very well then he or she can understand and learn another language. This way we can introduce something new to the children.

We realize that at school itself we have a lot of children with social problems. In the past we found problems in children in the 5th and 6th grades. Today the problems start from the time the child starts in school, at a very young age, between four and five. We've had to deal with children who come from broken homes or who are not fully prepared for school life. Every year the problems seem to escalate. These social and emotional aspects need to be tackled in order for the child to fit into school. What we need is a disciplinary team to help the situation.

We had a nutrition program three years ago with the Health Department of Bonaire. Dietitians like Mrs. Sharine Loozen and Miss Angelique Salsbach were in this nutrition program, which was about the eating habits of our children in school. Together we made it work. Our canteen was equipped with healthy foods and drinks, like whole wheat bread, pizza, fruit juices and shakes. We saw a big change in our school children, in their learning habits and behavior. Parents were amazed to see the changes in their child and they cooperated with the program. While the program was going so well someone opened a snack right next to the school where they sell all kinds of unhealthy stuff for the kids. We tried to ask them to start a business of healthy food because of our nutrition program, but they didn't want to listen. Because it was a business outside the school



Mural at the entrance to the school

property, we couldn't do anything about it. The children were lured into the temptation of buying their sodas, candies and chips from this shop instead of the good nutritious food from our canteen. Sometimes they even take the free breakfast that Rotary Club provides for schools and save their money to buy whatever later on at the snack shop. The teachers felt unmotivated and the program came to an end. We have to make the community aware of how this unhealthy food can affect the children's health in the long run, with all the consequences of behavioral and learning problems. The community has to be aware of healthy eating and drinking practices. They are responsible as much as the parents to help our kids."

This is some advice to think about and I'm sure one day people will understand the importance of good nutrition. ■

Story & photo by Siomara Albertus

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com).



## DO YOU SUDOKU?

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. **Answer on page 17.**

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

## BonQuiz #21



Ancient queen conch



Milk Conch

*Strombus gigas* is the Latin name for the Queen Conch, or as we call it on Bonaire, *karko*. This species of gastropod is consumed as a delicacy throughout the Caribbean and has become rare because of over harvesting. They are "farmed" in some areas to ensure a supply. They are found in water from three to over 100 feet deep. They were very common in Bonaire but were "fished-out" and those that are left are now protected. Check out the conch piles at Lac to see what I mean.

I would like to show you something that I suspect many of you have never noticed before.

Recently I found a huge conch (top) that is very, very old. The thickness of the shell and the amount of blunt spikes gives its age away. The lower photo is of the Milk Conch (*Strombus costatus*). What I want you to look at are the holes made in these two shells.....

**Q) Why are there holes in the shells ?**  
**Q) Why are the holes so different in shape and size?**

Answer on page 17

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).





# Letters to the Editor

## OPEN LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BONAIRE, BONHATA, AND THE TOURISM CORPORATION BONAIRE:

Dear Editor:

It is in the best interest of Bonaire, especially the people of Bonaire, that all officials in the government, the tourism business, and the dive business take notice of the "chatter" and "word of mouth" among American divers about the condition of Bonaire's reefs. As I regularly fly to Bonaire on Delta, I have the chance to hear divers talking, and, as an American living part-time on Bonaire, I often have conversations with other American divers and snorkelers. In the last year, more and more are expressing their disappointment with the deteriorating state of Bonaire's reefs from sewage, cruise ship traffic, over-fishing, etc. But there is more than disappointment in their comments; in fact, a number of divers who have visited Bonaire for years are making the decision not to return: as one told me, "This will be our last trip."

Why? They point to decisions by government and tourist officials to prioritize cruise ship visits and ignore healing the reefs that are the basis for Bonaire's dive tourism. They say that they are unwilling to keep spending thousands of dollars each trip to dive reefs that clearly Bonaire no longer cares about, wondering out loud why in 20 years, there is still no sewage processing plant. They are saddened by lax environmental rules and regulations that allow a cruise ship like the *Freewinds* to dump its untreated sewage for free and leave Klein Bonaire and Lac Bay compromised by thousands of tromping feet. They feel that divers are being taken for granted and that the amount of money dive tourism brings into the economy of Bonaire is being minimized in favor of courting the cruise industry, which brings in much less money. One asked, "How much must cruise passengers spend to make up a \$6,000 loss from one diver who does not return?" Finally, they are telling others that Bonaire's reputation for a pristine, marine environment is becoming more of a joke every day, making Bonaire more like Aruba, St. Maarten, and Cozumel where development and cruise ship tourism have destroyed the reefs.

Anyone in public relations knows that "word of mouth" advertising can often be the best strategy for marketing



Cruise ship visitors on Klein Bonaire

a product. However, if the "word of mouth" is negative, no amount of money spent on glossy brochures or splashy ads can shift public opinion. Is this "word of mouth" found on dive boards, Scubaboard, etc. and heard in airport gate lounges to be taken seriously? Or will government and tourist officials dismiss it as "idle chatter?"

Please, pay attention for the sake of Bonaire's people and economy, for if American divers do stop coming, there will be fewer jets coming from Atlanta, Houston, Newark, etc. and fewer and fewer dollars spent here.

Pauline Kayes

### Response from Bonaire's Director of Tourism

Dear Editor:

Thank you for sending this. I've been made aware of the various discussions that have been going on on Bonaire Talk and Scubaboard and such.

I applaud the approach of sending a letter to respective authorities. I sincerely hope that this matter, which is an internal matter, is dealt with at an internal level as well. I think it is good to have dialogue between authorities and visitors/part-time residents.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet on a personal level and listen and have healthy discussions.

Ronella Croes  
TCB Director

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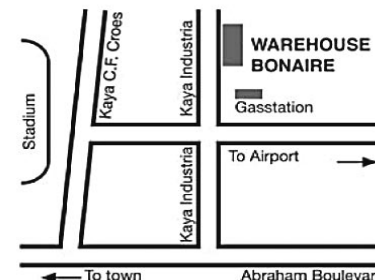
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Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

Schuringa was on his way to visit his sister in Costa Rica when he climbed over seats after spotting a man apparently on fire and jumped him, holding him in a head-lock until help arrived. His parents Bob and Ingrid Schuringa live in Julianadorp, Curaçao.



► **One of the top events planned for January is the 21<sup>st</sup> Bonaire International Fishing Tourney** based at It Rains Fishes. Planned for January 28 the two-day event will attract the top sport fishing yachts from the ABC Islands and Venezuela. It will be a weekend of fishing, parties and prizes. It is a "Catch and Release" event. Top prizes include a Toyota Hilux for the record breaker fish, a Rolex watch for a fish weighing more than 450 lbs, cash prizes of NAf 1.500. NA750 and NA375. **Contact Robur de Vries at 786-1070, 516-1070 or email info@itrainfishesbonaire.com**

► **The Sorobon naturist resort on Lac Bay has been sold** to the present owners of nearby Jibe City. According to our sources its naturist days will be over and it will be reopened as a conventional resort.

► **There were two spectacular parties in December, a month noted for great Bonaire parties.** The first was Nita Gerritsen's concert-brunch birthday party at the Plaza Resort featuring Johnny Kleinmoegig playing compositions by Chopin and famous Antilleans, then the upbeat session with Oswin Chin Behilia's quintet in the Cacique Hall.



► **Does this story in a German newspaper herald a new era for Bonaire?** It talks about Swim Champion Angela Maurer's visit to Bonaire to scope out the possibilities for training and next year's Swimming World Cup. It's no secret that waters perfect for divers are also perfect for swimmers. Travelers, take notice.

Before and after the performances were fabulous hors d'oeuvres and drinks topped off by an authentic Bonairean meal. For the other party see page 17.

► **Welcome new advertisers: Bonaire Sightseeing Flights, Cadushy of Bonaire, Captain Don's Plants Trees, Tours and More, and Captain Don's newest book Reef Windows.**

Check out the fabulous introductory deal at **Bon Bida (Good Life) Spa and Gym.**

► **Happy New Year to all . ■ G./L . D.**

# Body Talk

## CHRONIC FATIGUE

It's a fairly "modern" disease, with many symptoms like low blood pressure, depression, exhaustion, loss of memory, muscle pain, dizziness, headaches, blurring of vision, weight loss or gain, not feeling rested after sleep, which are just some of the many symptoms of CFS.



True to form, you could take medication for the depression, medication for the pain, treatment for the allergy-like symptoms, medication for the low blood pressure and medication for the anxiety. Unfortunately the medical profession does not look for the cause (and they admit they do not know the real cause) and therefore treat a whole list of symptoms with a whole lot of medication. I find it a miracle that anybody actually recovers from CFS (or don't they?).

The cause of CFS lies with two small glands, located just on top of each kidney, that are possibly the most important glands in the body. These glands are the adrenal glands that are responsible for a huge number of functions in the body, and not just the flight or fight response when faced with danger. The outer wrapping of the gland (cortex) are responsible for producing a hormone called Cortisol, which controls inflammation. The level of Cortisol in the body affects allergies, wound healing, asthma, arthritis etc.

The inner part of the gland pours out epinephrine (adrenaline) and norepinephrine. These hormones speed up the body's metabolism and govern how we cope with stress and are almost a direct extension of the nervous system.

Continuous stress and poor nutrition (over many years) lead to altered hormone levels, and an imbalance in endocrine function can lead to various physical and emotional problems.

What are the general signs of adrenal gland weakness? The easiest one to spot is low blood pressure. A blood pressure consistently under 118 systolic is always an indicator of adrenal gland weakness. Depression, chronic fatigue, lack of sex drive, lower

back and pelvic weakness, and on the nervous system problems like panic attacks, anxiety, feelings of inadequacy and asthma are just a few of the health issues you can expect from adrenal gland weakness. Strange how these are also the exact symptoms for CFS.

So what causes adrenal gland weakness? Living with continuous stress, eating meat (yes, there is adrenaline in that juicy steak!), a poor diet (very little or any raw fruit and vegetables), over consumption of sugar and refined carbohydrates, coffee, tea, alcohol, nicotine and prescription drugs. These are all external (and artificial) stimulants to the adrenal glands, weakening them considerably.

Medication will NEVER correct this, but detoxification and a well balanced diet certainly will. If you have been reading these articles regularly, you have probably realized that it is always about WHAT WE EAT! Does your food give you energy, or does it use your energy? We are not talking about the false (or instant) energy from soda drinks and high carb foods.

Some people with adrenal gland weakness also have an overlapping problem with the thyroid, but more on this in the next issue. ■

Stephanie Bennett

Author Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in UK, and now

researches health issues that particularly affect people on Bonaire and other Caribbean Islands.



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# M a s k a r a d a



As their first appearance of the new year the Maskarada group pays a visit to Lt. Governor Thode at his temporary home in Santa Barbara Crown Court. The official governor's house in Playa is being renovated.



Two of the Maskarada, silent and mysterious

Every January 1 in Bonaire a group of mysterious, silent, masked people appear, first at the home of the Lt. Governor. It's the Maskarada – a group of children and adults in colorful costumes and masks who show up to dance and perform short skits. They arrive silently, following a group of musicians – an accordion, a *tambu* (drum), a *raspa* (file) and a *quarto* (large ukulele) – and the skits and dancing begin. It's said good luck will flow to those whom they visit.

Certain characters are the same every year: the policeman who directs the group, the donkey, the shark, the fisherman in

the boat, and old *kunukero* (farmer), the matador and the bull, each personifying his or her character.

From the Governor's home the group goes on to visit the *Kas di Sosiego* (old folks home) and the different barrios. They're welcomed with food and drink throughout the day.

No one knows for sure how the tradition got to Bonaire. Some say it came from Africa, others say it's Indian. Still others say it's South American or even European. So, considering the polyglot makeup of the island although the concept may have come from all those other places, it's turned into some-

thing totally Bonairean.

The Maskarada troupe will again appear on the Saturday and Sunday (January 9 and 10) after Three Kings Day (or Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6). On Saturday, January 9, between 4 and 5 pm they'll be at the *Kas di Sosiego* (old folks home) at the hospital. On Sunday, January 10, they'll appear in the morning at *Selekta Bakery* in Antriol and in the afternoon in Amboina and Nikiboko.

See pg 14 for the following week's schedule. ■ Laura De-Salvo. Photos by Johannetta Gordijn



The fisherman tries to reel in the shark

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DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
1-07	0:30	1.1FT.	8:04	1.7FT.	15:51	1.1FT.	19:37	1.2FT.	61
1-08	8:35	1.9FT.	16:59	1.0FT.	21:33	1.1FT.	23:59	1.1FT.	53
1-09	9:13	2.0FT.	18:05	0.9FT.					49
1-10	9:49	2.0FT.	18:56	0.8FT.					52
1-11	10:22	2.1FT.	19:52	0.8FT.					59
1-12	10:59	2.1FT.	20:33	0.7FT.					66
1-13	11:36	2.1FT.	21:15	0.7FT.					72
1-14	12:06	2.0FT.	21:55	0.8FT.					76
1-15	12:38	2.0FT.	22:25	0.8FT.					78
1-16	13:12	1.8FT.	22:49	0.9FT.					78
1-17	13:37	1.7FT.	23:11	0.9FT.					77
1-18	13:54	1.6FT.	23:29	1.0FT.					74
1-19	13:24	1.5FT.	23:33	1.0FT.					69
1-20	8:11	1.5FT.	22:56	1.1FT.					64
1-21	7:29	1.6FT.	22:15	1.1FT.					57



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# Pet of the Week



Nadine

Jane Disko Madden writes about "Nadine," our Pet of the Week:

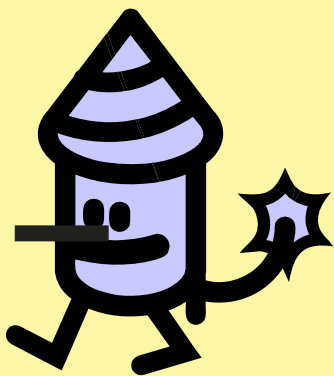
“**W**hat's not to love about Nadine? She is a beautiful, pure white young lady with a small gray spot on top of her head so you can tell her apart from her twin sister, Nora. Both of them have incredibly gorgeous amber brown eyes, which is very rare in all white cats. Nadine and Nora are about five months old and are fun-loving, playful young ladies....but at the same time incredibly affectionate. If you scoop one of them up as they go roaring past you, chasing each other, either one of them will melt into your arms like a warm, vanilla fur-ball...purring and chirping with pleasure. They like nothing better than to fall asleep in your arms. Nadine and her sister Nora would be a loving complement to any home.

If you're considering adopting a kitten or young cat and don't have any other animals in your home, you may want to consider adopting two. If you are not at home all day, kittens and young cats do much better in an environment where they have companionship. Young cats are easily bored and do get lonely, having a playmate will keep them occupied and instead of tearing up your sofa, curtains or knocking your favorite dish off the table they will entertain each other.”

Thank you, Jane!

Don't forget that the cat adoption fee of NAf75 assures you of a healthy and social pet who's been given its shots, check ups, tests for feline leukemia, worming and even its sterilization when it's old enough.

**The Shelter had 209 adoptions this last year (59 of them cats).** This is a record number. The year before, 2008, there were 186.



### Special Note:

The New Year's fireworks are finished but some pets are still missing. There are three dogs that were brought into the Shelter, having been terrified by the noise. They are obviously owned dogs as they have collars and are in good shape. **If you're missing an animal call the Shelter at 717-4989 or if you find one call them too.** The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

# Train Your Dog



**R**ecently, Jos Klamer, “dog whisperer,” dog trainer and owner of the BonBarking dog training company, inaugurated the new dog training facility next to Mangazina The Storehouse at Kaya Gob. Debrot 124B. If the relationship between you and your dog needs to be worked on or if you want to spend some fun time together with your dog doing agility training or if you have any questions considering your dog's behavior... call Jos at 7883624 or go to [www.bonbarking.com](http://www.bonbarking.com). ■

# Driving Dog



**C**harlie, the happy-go-lucky manager of the Animal Shelter's dog department, wishes everybody a very happy and healthy New Year! Also, he wants to express his great gratitude to all the people who are supporting the Shelter in every possible way. We cannot do without you!

By the way, Charlie's Land Rover is for sale, only NAf. 9500.- and part of the money will be donated to the Shelter. For more information call 717-4989. (see page 18). ■ *Greta Kooistra*

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**Reef Windows**  
 Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

*Reef Windows*  
 Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

Reef Windows will be available in reputable book stores and shops around Bonaire

*by Captain Don*

Travel back to the exciting, early days of Bonaire diving. To make you part of these adventures, I have included my Captain Don red ribbon depth gauge as a handy bookmark. Come diving with me and learn the true stories behind the names of Bonaire's dive sites.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Friday	January 8,	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0700-	<b>2446</b>
Saturday	January 9, 2010	<i>Noordam</i>	0800- 1700	<b>1918</b>
Monday	January 11, 2010	<i>AidaAura</i>	0800- 1600	<b>1260</b>
Monday	January 11, 2010	<i>Grand Princess</i>	1200- 1900	<b>3100</b>
Tuesday	January 12, 2010	<i>Ocean Dream</i>	0800- 1600	<b>1422</b>
Tuesday	January 12, 2010	<i>Oceana</i>	0800- 1801	<b>1950</b>
Wednes- day	January 13, 2010	<i>Sea Princess</i>	1200- 1900	<b>2016</b>
Friday	January 15, 2010	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0700- 1530	<b>2446</b>
Tuesday	January 19, 2010	<i>Ocean Dream</i>	0800- 1600	<b>1422</b>
Tuesday	January 19, 2010	<i>Celebrity Millennium</i>	0800- 1800	<b>2034</b>
Thursday	January 21,	<i>Caribbean Princess</i>	1100-	<b>3100</b>
Friday	January 22, 2010	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0700- 1530	<b>2446</b>

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10am until ship departure.

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Saturday, January 9**—Maskarada troupe appears at Kas di Sosiego at the hospital, 4-5 pm. See page 10.

**Sunday, January 10**—Maskarada troupe at Selektu Bakery at 9:30 am, followed by a visit to the nearby Saragoza residence. The next stop is the new FCB houses in Santa Rosa. Then they will troupe farther out on the Lagoen road. they'll be in Tera Kora and Niki-boko., sites still to be confirmed. See page 10

**Saturday, January 16** – Concert: Steven (cello) and Danielle Bourne (piano). Steven played cello solo at the Queens concert in Amsterdam.

**Saturday, January 16**—Wine Tasting at the Antillean Wine Company's warehouse on Kaya Industria, 7-9 pm. Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf 17,50) per person. tel. 560-7539

**Friday, January 22** —Antilles Parliamentary Election

January 28 –29— **Bonaire International Fishing Tourney based at It Rains Fishes.** Two-day event for sport fishing boats. Contact Robur de Vries at 786-1070, 516-1070 or email info@itrainfishesbonaire.com

**Friday, January 15**— New Moon

**Friday, February 12** – Concert: Willem Statius Muller (piano). This will be a historic concert of the 80-year-old Antillean pianist who was on Bonaire for the last time 25 years ago!

**Saturday, January 30**—Full Moon Send event info to: The Bonaire Reporter Email reporter@bonairenews.com Tel:790-6518, 786-6125 or 790-8988

## REGULAR EVENTS

- **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

- **Parke Publico** children's play-ground 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

- **Meet The Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**— Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain's will autograph your copy of his newest book Reef Windows.

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

## 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, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

**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 Wednesdays, 12 noon-2 pm** - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort upstairs in Peter Hughes meeting room above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

**Toastmasters Club** meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein.** In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am. **Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian,** in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk  
Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

**New Apostolic Church: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña**, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379.

**International Bible Church of Bonaire,** at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

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

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

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

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

**Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church** located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, 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: Call 701-9522 for Information

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

**Take The Reporter Home**—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$70; By mail to Europe \$150. By Internet \$35 donation. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising in The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles; phone (599) 790-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com)

**The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at:

[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) **Published every two weeks**

**Reporters:** Siomara E. Albertus, Stephanie Bennett, J@n Brouwer, Christie Dovale, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Jane Madden, Tom Reynolds. Michael Thiessen, Maggie Thomas, Pam Werdath-Teitel, Inge Vos  
Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

**Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elisabeth Silberie (Playa), Divi-Divi Airline

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

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# Sensing For Sewage

The Light and Motion Sensor Program is Bonaire National Marine Park's early warning system to protect reef health. It uses a unique approach called the Rainbow Sensor® that was pioneered on Bonaire.



water has high concentrations of organic components it attenuates blue light faster than does pure water. The effect of this is that very clean seawater appears to be deep blue and seawater with a lot of organic components may appear greener. This is the characteristic of light in seawater that the Rainbow Sensor® uses.

## Construction of the Rainbow Sensor

The Rainbow Sensor® is really three pairs of sensors: a blue pair, a green pair and a white pair. Standard Hobo® Pendant sensors that look like an elongated matchbook are modified to create a Rainbow Sensor®.

Hobo® Pendant sensors measure white light that spans all the colors. However, a special filter that only allows light in a specific wavelength (color) to pass through is inserted into the Pendant's case. A blue sensor is modified with a filter that only passes blue light while a green sensor only passes green light. The third sensor is unmodified and thus passes all wavelengths (white light).

## How the Rainbow Sensor® Measures Water Clarity

Each blue pair and each green pair work in conjunction. The sensors at 12 meters measure blue and green wavelengths at that depth while the sensors at 20 meters measure blue and green at 20 meters depth.

Obviously, in the 8 meters between 12 and 20 meters depth the light has attenuated. The difference between the light levels at 12 meters and 20 meters is the attenuation (reduction in light intensity) that has occurred in the 8 meter water column between the sensors. Thus the Rainbow Sensor® measures light attenuation (light loss) in

both the blue wavelength and the green wavelength over the same 8 meters of water.

Using some fancy scientific formula this reading is converted to numbers (attenuation coefficients) called Kblue12-20 and Kgreen 12-20. How the number is arrived at is not important except to scientists. Simply understand that Kblue12-20 is the attenuation (light loss) in the blue wavelength between 12 and 20 meters and Kgreen 12-20 is the attenuation in the green wavelength over the same span.

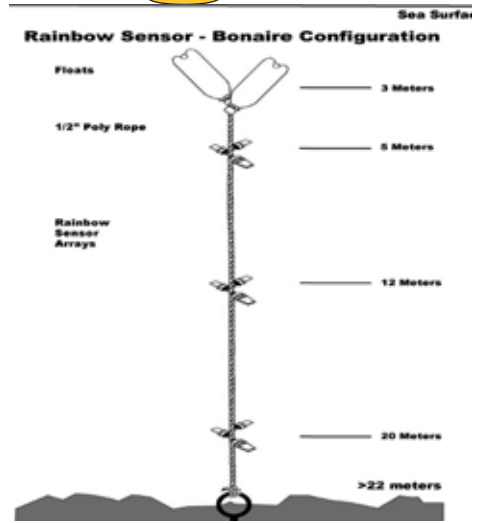
## How the Rainbow Sensor® measures the organic content of seawater

Kblue is a measurement of water clarity. Clear water has a very low Kblue while dirty water has a high Kblue. There are many things that affect water clarity including mechanical things like suspended particles and organic components such as dissolved organic material and chlorophyll that will increase the Kblue.

However, in the green range, light attenuation (increased Kgreen) is generally not affected by organic material but is affected by inorganic material. Therefore if the blue attenuation (Kblue) increases but the green attenuation (Kgreen) does not, the difference is the result of organic material in the water. (In Bonaire most organic material comes from human sewage and animal waste. Ed)

Again, without going through the fancy scientific calculations, that is how the Organic Index (OI) is calculated. An increase of Kblue relative to Kgreen means increased organic content (OI)

**Monitoring the organic content (OI) of Bonaire's reefs is important because dis-**



solved organic material is essentially fertilizer for algae. Too much fertilizer and an algae bloom occurs. The result is that the algae covers the coral and smothers it.

Unfortunately, once an algae bloom occurs it is too late to stop the damage. Fortunately, water quality is an early warning system. If the organic content of the water is rising an algae bloom is in the future.

The Light and Motion Sensor Program gives BNMP management a sound scientific basis for sounding the alarm of future reef damage due to algae blooms. ■

Tom Reynolds

Tom Reynolds loves scuba diving Bonaire's beautiful reefs. Although retired, he began working with USC's Dr. Burt Jones to investigate Bonaire's pollution problems.



**How Seawater affects Sunlight**  
As every underwater photographer knows, seawater attenuates (or dims) different colors of light at different rates. Water attenuates red light the quickest so that more than 95% of the red light is absorbed at 10 meters of depth. Those fantastic reds one sees in underwater photographs are the result of artificial light from camera strobes or an underwater flashlight, not sunlight.

However, what most people don't know is that in addition to the water itself seawater contains particles and dissolved matter that affect how the light is attenuated. If sea-

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**Divi Divi Air.** Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

## AIRTOURS

**The Bonaire Aero Club** invites you to see Bonaire from the air. Take a one-hour flight with up to three persons. Ideal for photography or environmental study or see your house.

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS and COMPUTERS

**City Shop**, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. Fast service and in-store financing too.

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

## BOOKS

**Reef Windows** is Captain Don's latest book and features the true stories of the naming of many Bonaire dive sites. A great souvenir as well.

## CONTRACTOR

**Equinox Bonaire**—A USA licensed contractor for hotels, restaurants, residential. **On Time—Done Right.**

## DELICATESSEN/DINING

**Eli Deli**—World Class delicatessen with 23 kinds of cheeses, hams and salamis from around the world. Have a sandwich or salad there or take it home. Breakfast too. **At the traffic circle at hotel row. 717-3997.**

## DINING

**Bistro di Paris** A real French restaurant with affordable prices and friendly Bonairean ambiance **Owned and operated by a French Chef**  
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**Pasa Bon Pizza** is Bonaire's best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. **780-1111** Call ahead to eat in or take out, Next to Bistro (above)

**Lunchroom de Bonairiaan**—Breakfast & lunch prepared and served by Stichting Project students under professional guidance. Monday-Friday, 9-2. Kaya Gob. N.Debrot, opposite Divi Flamingo.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch

dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

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

## FITNESS TRAINER

**Tina Woodley** is a certified personal trainer, including Pilates, Yoga and is an NLP practitioner. She'll help you improve your body and life! Tel. 700-5488

## FRAMING

**Gladys's Art Shoppe** - Fine framing by experienced craftsmen/artists. Outstanding selection of framing materials for your treasures. Kaya Rotterdam 10, Hato.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

**Captain Don's Plants, Trees and More** sells genuine acclimated Bonaire plants. Take a 30-minute tour too. Strong plants for strong Bonaire gardens.

## HEALTH

**Harmony House**—The herb and mineral center. Help your body heal itself.

**Natural Way Health Store**—The place where all the hard to find natural and healthy products are. Upstairs from Botika Bonaire, on Kaya Grandi.

## HOME CARE

**Bonaire Second Home Care** can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning.

## INTERNET AND CELLULAR SERVICE

**Digicel** has the most subscribers, widest choice of calling plans and interesting phones. Visit their office on downtown Kaya Grandi and see for yourself.

## LIQUEUR

**Taste a Cactus when you try Cadushy of Bonaire Liqueur.** Available in many shops and markets it makes the perfect souvenir of the island.

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

## PEST CONTROL

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

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galleries Shopping Center downtown offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides,

items and services. **Full digital services.**

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

**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

**Benetton**, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

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

## STORAGE

**The Storehouse (Mangazina** in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage For Vehicles, Household Items, Diving And Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?**

## SUPERMARKETS

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

## WATER TAXI

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

## WINES

**Antillean Wine Company.** You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-noon.

**To learn more about these businesses check their ad in this issue of The Reporter**

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## Kayaking The Caribbean For The Environment

To raise awareness of the importance and need to preserve Nature, Ryan de Jongh decided to kayak a quarter of the distance around Caribbean Sea, from St Maarten to Curaçao, a staggering distance of 1606 km. He did it in 22 days.

Ryan believes Nature is life. I don't think that there are many who could argue this statement. Without Nature there certainly is no life. We all make efforts, large or small toward preserving nature, but few are as committed as Ryan de Jongh. He created the Ryan de Jongh foundation, which supports various preservation efforts including Carmabi, which does marine research and maintains Curaçao's parks, most particularly the marine park. The name of Ryan's web site says it all, [www.natureislife.org](http://www.natureislife.org).

Ryan, besides being an activist for nature is also a well known athlete on Curaçao. He combined these talents and took to the sea to raise environmental awareness and raise funds to preserve them by kayaking from St Maarten to Curaçao. He departed St Maarten on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December and despite losing several days due to problems with the engine of the chase boat that followed him, and nearly continuous small craft warnings in the northern islands, he arrived in Curaçao on schedule on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December.

The crew of his 70' motor-sailor chase boat sometimes seemed to have more trouble with the sea than Ryan. Many of the crew had little experience on the sea, and had to learn fast. With 3 – 6 meter high waves on their first days out, many were sea sick yet had to keep close track of Ryan in the heavy seas. With waves this high, it was easy to lose sight of him and tensions got high when he couldn't be seen from chase boat. The bright orange and yellow colors of the ocean kayak, donated by Budget Marine in St Maarten were a big help in keeping track of him.

At one point the crew noted their own dingy was missing, and using their navigation equipment and skill they retraced their path and found it with only a few hours delay. This may not sound like a large feat, but in the open sea in high waves, they considered themselves extremely lucky to have found the small gray dinghy. The stress of towing the inflatable in the high seas snapped the stainless U-bolt holding the dinghy which was considered to be essential in the event Ryan needed rescue. It's unrealistic to expect to bring a large sail boat alongside a man in the water or a small kayak in the open sea.

After quick stops on St Eustatius, St Kitts, Montserrat, Guadalupe, Dominica, Martinique, St Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ryan and the crew were looking for a much needed lay day and restocking on Grenada. But the chase boat engine need major engine repair and had to be rebuilt before continuing. Thanks to



Ryan de Jongh

Pam Werdath photo

the help of the Budget Marine shop on Grenada, they were able to locate the parts in Trinidad and mechanics worked through the weekend to get them out in the wee hours of Sunday night. With the added few days of rest, Ryan was psyched to get back on schedule so started paddling at night catch up.

After the strong winds from abeam in the northern islands, he at last was able to turn west. He expected the trade winds to push him home fast. But while nature cooperated with a fair current, the winds were lower than expected so he had to paddle hard to keep on schedule past Blanquilla, Los Roques, Los Aves and Bonaire before reaching home in Curaçao. Of course the calmer seas were very welcome, but fewer islands during this last 800 km, meant long hours of paddling and sleeping on a rocking boat, rather than resting comfortably ashore on the islands along the way.

When Ryan pulled into Bonaire after 21 days paddling, he looked as if he just came back from a short stroll in the park. After arriving in the late afternoon, Ryan paused only for a meal and a quick nap before heading home to Curaçao at midnight. The crew was grateful for the special treatment they got from the Bonaire authorities, who greeted them at the dock and took care of all of the needed paperwork without having to visit all of the offices for clearance.

Along the way they spotted dolphins and saw sharks and marine life of various sorts. The chase boat, trailing a fishing line, did not have much luck and in a sad footnote to their cause, reeled in two trash bags.

Ryan received much assistance from his many sponsors along the way including, Budget Marine, Caribbean TV, Clarity Administrations, Curaçao Ports Authority, Curaçao Towage Company, Curoil, EcoEnergy, IDF Internet services, Insel Air, Mangusa Supermarkets, Plaza Hotel Curaçao & UTS [Chippie] among others. Since the goal is to raise awareness and money for environmental protection, it is not too late to log on to [natureislife.org](http://natureislife.org) and help. ■ Pam Werdath Teitel

## ORCO Bank Opening



The ORCO bank opening ribbon cutting: Bonaire branch Manager Judy Diaz, young Lex Guis cutting the ribbon, big brother Alexander Guis and ORCO Managing Director Kenny Canword.

A spectacular party commemorated the opening of the Bonaire branch of Orco Bank. It was an evening affair that overflowed with fine food catered by Eli Deli and It Rains Fishes. Most of the speeches were short and in English. Live music was provided by the Latin Jazz Trio and Moogie Music.

The new branch is in an old Bonairean house that has been totally renovated and modernized. For many years it was the Croccantino Restaurant and before that the home of the Abraham family. The interior is tastefully decorated with art by Linda Richter.

ORCO Bank specializes in upscale clients. There are no tellers, only private offices for clients. ■ G.D.



### BonQuiz Answer



Bon Quiz (from page 7):

Q) Why are there holes in the shells?  
A) For fishermen to extract the conch meat easier and faster.

Q) Why are the holes so different in shape and size?

A) The large hole was made with a more primitive tool. Many years ago Indians made these large holes. The small round hole is a modern day hole, made with a screw driver!

### Sudoku Solution

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

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## A Wild Olive Green Land-Rover Among the Animals!

*The 60<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."  
 On course for 100*

Lagoen/Bonaire – So that last Tuesday of the year 2009 two ladies (!) informed me separately about a green Land-Rover, parked at the Animal Shelter, along the Kaminda Lagoen/Road to Lagoen. They did not know a lot about the vehicle but the owner seemed to want to get rid of the car, the car had done only some 3,000 kilometers or miles and the car was supposed to have been built in the Second World War. Enough information for a little bit of serious research.



So the next day, around 12 o'clock, I drove my black four-wheel drive to the Animal Shelter. It was Monique, a third woman, who welcomed me. And I was completely free to take some photographs of the vehicle and she did not know anything about the story, the history or the owner of the car.

I grabbed my camera and shot a lot of pictures to base my article on. The topic of this 60th of a series of articles about interesting vehicles is a British made Land-Rover 88 Lightweight, produced in the year 1976 in Solihull, England. This still heavy Land-Rover had been baptized "Lightweight" because it was "air-portable." The military persons just had to knock down the car completely by taking off the doors, the canvas roof, the windscreen, some other non-essential parts and the tools to make it light enough to be lifted by an onion slicer/helicopter. So officially this is a Land-Rover series III, model 88. In history there had been a series I and a series II model and the number of 88 just refers to the wheelbase in inches: 88". The air-portable Lightweight had only been produced as a short wheelbase model. The long-wheel based military model, measuring a wheelbase of 109 inches only came in the traditional "Daktari" or safari version.

The air-portable Lightweight is also known as "Cut Away" (because of the deeply cut away fenders or mudguards) or as "Get Away" (a weird nickname for a military vehicle).

This Land-Rover was surely produced in Solihull, England, but the car never served the army in Albion because of the fact that the steering wheel is mounted on the left hand side of the dash board. I do not think this car served the Dutch army either because the vehicle is not fitted with the (wrong) Dutch conversions like modified shafts, different tires, different Hella rear lights and a 12-volt system.

Probably this car served in the British Rhine Army in Germany. (The car is fitted with a German made 12-volt Hella "Richtungs- Warnblinckgeber." This complicated blend of words stands for: flasher unit/hazard light.) Up until now we do not know for sure.

This quite original Lightweight Land-Rover, registered: 5814 – B, is in good condition. There is no rust on the chassis and

the aluminum of the body is in good condition. The car is fitted with a reliable cast iron, four-in-line, four-stroke engine with overhead valves and push rods. The engine measures 2286 cc and luckily it is an original gas guzzler, not modified from a petrol power plant into a diesel sucker. The engine is connected by a diaphragm clutch to the four-speed gear box. There is the possibility of driving the vehicle in high gear two-wheel drive and in high gear four-wheel drive. When the low gear is engaged the car is always in four-wheel drive. The car needs at least two wheels on the ground, otherwise it will lose traction and the wheels will keep on spinning uselessly in the air, mud, snow or water. There is also a neutral position to select in the transfer case. This position gives the car no traction to the wheels but to a separate power take off to, for instance, a mechanical winch or a pump.

To me this military Land-Rover looks very original. There are special over riders mounted on the bumpers. There are four military screw on/screw off lenses mounted on the front and two in the rear. The axles are cut off/modified to fit more Land-Rovers in a military ship. The fenders are cut out. There is a NATO hitch hook at the rear, 7.50 X 16". Goodyear tires are fitted. This is all to the British military specifications.

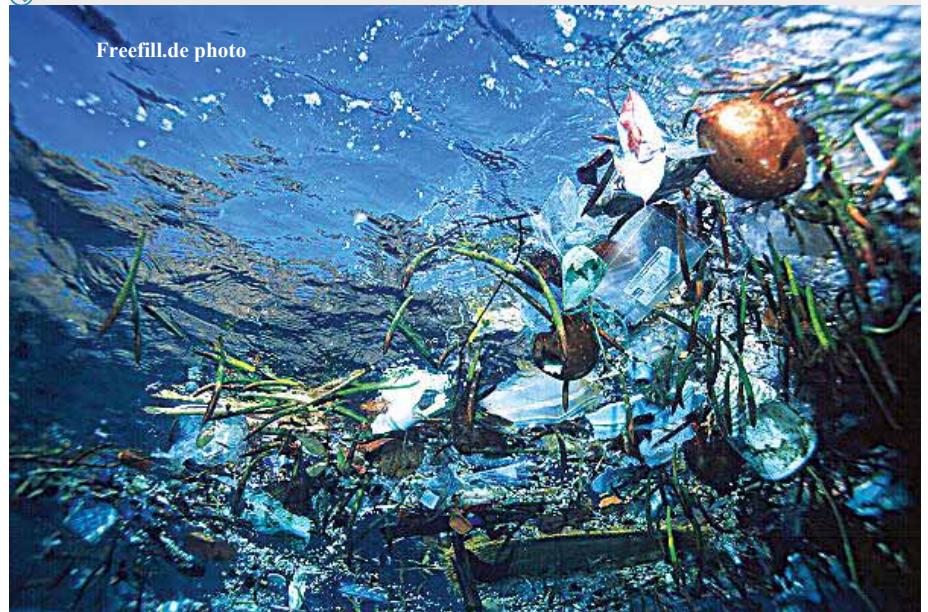
Under the bonnet there is this reliable four-in-line engine. The aluminum inlet reads: "Firing order: 1-4-2-3." This car is really made "fool-proof." There is a nice Zenith IV carburetor mounted, and luckily the electrical system only counts 12 volts instead of 24 volts. The four drum brakes are made of heavy cast iron and they are power assisted.

Behind the steering wheel there is a lot to see. The odometer reads 89.851 kilometers. The maximum speed is 45 mph with a trailer up to 2000 kilograms hooked on. There is a water temperature gauge and a voltmeter.

The rest is pure and Spartan: no reclining seats, sliding windows, no power steering, small split windows in the front, tiny wipes, no plush, no soft material on the dash board. Remember: this is an army vehicle made of the heavy metal of iron and the light aluminum named Birmabright!

The car needs a little bit of attention but it looks great with its mashed grill\* and split window. A real eye catcher! The car is for sale now because the owner is leaving the island. Maybe he or she already left. If you

## Bubbles from the Biologist



Freefill.de photo

Ocean Trash

### Did You Know...

that there are islands made completely of trash? The result of interactions between oceanic currents and wind causes water to slowly rotate in large formations called **gyres**. There are five main gyres around the globe. Water from the Caribbean ends up in the North Atlantic Subtropical Gyre, which is created by water from the Gulf Stream, North Atlantic Current, Canary Current, and the North Atlantic Equatorial Current.

In the middle of this gyre is the **Sargasso Sea**, aptly named for the masses of Sargassum seaweed floating on the surface. This seaweed is thought to be critical habitat for many sea turtles, birds, and other marine life. Unfortunately, because of all the trash, plastics, and garbage being deposited into the ocean, an island of trash is accumulating in the middle of the Sargasso Sea. The exact size of this island is unknown, but what is known is that the trash island will continually get bigger as long as more trash is being dumped into our waters.

Studies have shown that **more than 90% of the trash island is made of plastic items** including water bottles, cups, bottle caps, plastic bags, fish net-

ting, and more. Of that 80% of this plastic originates on land. Some plastic takes hundreds of years to break down and **leach carcinogens** (cancer-causing chemicals) during degradation. These chemicals get into the water column and are then absorbed by marine life. Sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jellies and sea birds eat the plastic shards. Plastic eventually fills the stomachs of these animals and kills them.

**By limiting the use and consumption of plastic, we can stop the growth of this trash island.** Bringing your own bag to the grocery store instead of taking a plastic one and limiting the plastic packaging used in food can help this problem. With your help we can stop the growth of this trash island and protect our marine life. ■

Maggie Thomas



Thomas is a senior at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. She is originally from Sacramento, California, and is very excited to be studying abroad with CIEE on Bonaire.

want to know more about the car, just get in touch with Marlies or one of the other staff of the Animal Shelter. There is a telephone number: 717-4989 and a web-site: [www.animalshelterbonaire.com](http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com).

use this grill in the Australian outback as a re-usable barbecue. ■

Story & phot by J@n Brouwer



*\*The Australians did not like the later type of the series III air-portable Lightweight because of its plastic grill. They could not*



### New arrivals

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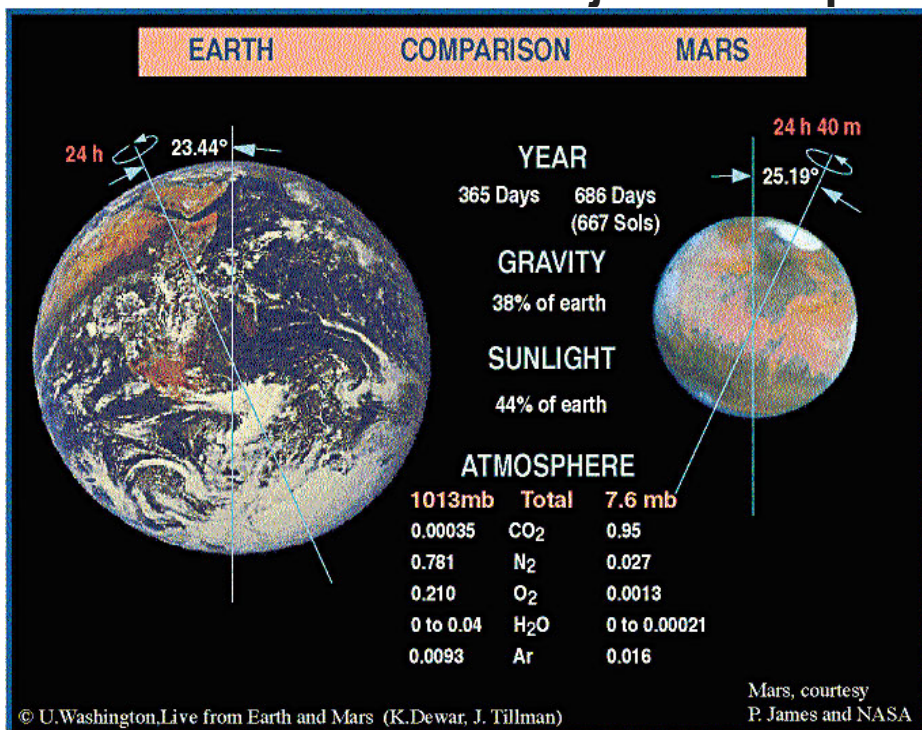
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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up



Have we ever got three nifty cosmic items for you. The brilliant planet **Jupiter** pairs up with an exquisite **waxing crescent Moon** this Sunday and Monday and the red planet **Mars** is getting brighter every night as it races for its super close meeting in just two weeks.

On next **Sunday night January 17th** one hour after sunset face southwest where you will see an absolutely dazzling 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter and just below it off to its right a slender sliver of a waxing, that is growing, crescent Moon complete with **Earthshine** which will look like a grey black full Moon nestled within the bright crescent, a phenomenon which has long been called the "**Old Moon in the New Moon's Arms**". And might I remind you that this is the kind of pairing of cosmic objects that has fascinated human beings throughout all recorded history and I'm sure long before record keeping even began. Don't miss this please.

If you do however you'll have a second chance to see a slightly different and almost as dramatic a pairing 24 hours later on **Monday night the 18th** when the Moon will be just a tiny bit fatter and above Jupiter. Don't miss this please also! And while we're talking about Jupiter let me remind you that 2010 could well be labeled the year of Jupiter because on **September 20th** it will be at its closest, biggest and brightest since 1963, an event of which I will keep you posted throughout the year.

But just how close will Jupiter come to earth you ask? Well let's do some comparisons between now and then. This weekend, when you look at Jupiter and our nearest neighbor the Moon, our Moon will be approximately 252,000 miles away from earth. Jupiter however will be 540 million miles away! But by September 20th it will be only 367 million miles away, that is 173 million miles closer, which is super close for Jupiter. So see Jupiter now while you can because it will slowly drop lower and lower toward the western horizon and by the end of February will disappear from sight and will not return until April.

And now I'd like to remind you once again that in two weeks time the tiny 4,000-mile-wide rouge-gold planet Mars will be at its closest and brightest for all of 2010 and 2011. To find it the next couple of weeks simply look east about two hours after sunset. It will look like a super bright, rouge-gold, steadily glowing light just above the stars which make up **Leo the Lion**. It is easy to spot and believe it or not during the next two weeks you'll actually be able to watch it grow even brighter each night until it is at its closest on the 27th, only 62 million miles away.

So there you have it a chance to watch rouge gold planet Mars as it closes in on Earth and two chances to see the king of the planets pair with a waxing crescent Moon on Sunday the 17th and Monday the 18th. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*

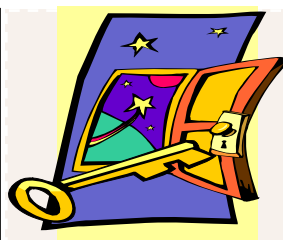
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## THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
For January 2010

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Be careful not to overexert yourself. This may not be the time to lend or borrow. Minor accidents could occur if you don't take precautions. You will be able to borrow money. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) In-laws may cause difficulties. Travel should be considered. Property purchases should be on your mind. You can find solutions if you are willing to communicate. Put your time and energy into home improvement. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) If you can put some work into home improvements, you should. Secret affairs could cause upset. Don't say something you'll live to regret. They will jump at the chance to do something without you if it sounds like more fun. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Any capricious behavior will confuse loved ones and your mood swings will result in loneliness. Avoid joint ventures and steer clear of groups that want you to contribute financial assistance. Pleasure trips or friendly get-togethers will be satisfying and intellectually stimulating. You will encounter those who can help you further your goals if you attend functions that attract prominent people. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Go out with friends and avoid the situation on the home front. Social activity should be on your agenda this month. This will not be the day to lend money to friends or family. Uncertain changes regarding your personal life are evident. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try not to be too harsh with loved ones; there will always be two sides to an Issue. Your emotions will be touched off concerning recent encounters with your lover. Get back down to earth and to basics. Disappointments regarding partners will be subject to the way you react to their personal comments. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't confide in any relatives whom you know have a tendency to meddle in other people's affairs. So smile! Don't be afraid of opposition; your suggestions are valid. Be aware that a female you work with may be trying to hold you back. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Take time to help children with projects that may be too hard for them to do on their own. Try not to be too aggressive or judgmental when talking to your mate. Sentimental feelings may make it difficult to get much done at work. You can expect insincere gestures of friendliness this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You are best to stick to yourself this month. Look for professional guidance if it will help unite the family. Your determination may make you a little overbearing when dealing with others. Observations will be far more productive. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Too many opportunities and too many changes going on. You may have more to do with children this month; keep an open mind. You should make sure that your personal papers are in order. Your personal situation is fluctuating. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Sudden changes of heart may cause disruptions in your domestic scene. Avoid any over indulgences. Your reputation will be affected. You should regain some of your self esteem if you get involved in organizational functions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You need to look into ways to change your self-image. Don't give them the use of your credit card. You may want to put everyone to work on a project that will keep them all too busy to complain. Anger might lead to carelessness and minor injuries. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday. ■

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