

**It's Still  
FREE**

Sept. 10- Oct. 8, 2010, Year 17, Issue 18  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-6518, 786-6125, [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) email: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) Since 1994

Printed every fortnight

On-line every day, 24/7



**Jong Bonaire  
"Discoveries"  
page 7**

Photographers Bart Landheer & Jaqueline Bremmers (center row) join youth leader Judith Meijers (center back) and some of the Jong Bonaire teens who are featured on the 2011 Calendar titled: Discoveries of the Kids of Jong Bonaire.

-Jane Townsend photo



In a joint statement on August 25, Divi Resorts and Bonaire Overheidsgebouwen N.V. (BOG, responsible for Bonaire's island-owned buildings, a subsidiary of Bonaire Holding Maatschappij N.V.), announced that they have mutually decided that the proposed Divi Sunset Resort Bonaire project will not continue to be developed.

The proposed multi-use project was to include condominiums and an all-inclusive resort at Playa Lechi, the location of the former Sunset Beach Hotel. Divi Resorts had promised to build there several years ago and erected a huge Quonset hut-shaped tent (above) on the site. The deteriorating tent has become an eyesore (photo above) on the northern hotel row.

Many local residents welcomed the announcement. They want a public beach on the site rather than another resort. More on page 10.



S. Stapert photo

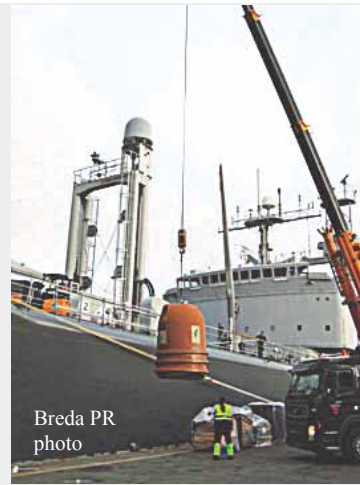
►Because of an accidental error, between 500 to 5,000 liters of oil leaked into Salinja Vlijt and then into the sea on August 20 from the Akkerman auto dealership. It was an unfortunate combination of events. Akkerman was busy with activities on the septic tanks and drainpipes during a tropical downpour. Rainwater subsequently ended up in the oil drain, forcing the oil out into the salina via Kaya Amsterdam. Akkerman immediately reported the spill to the fire department and STINAPA and did everything to limit the damage," said VROM kwartiermaker, Manfred Beckman Lapré. STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beu-

kenboom was quoted as saying, "It was a stupid accident."

►Bonaire is now using wind power as well as fossil fuel for generating electricity on a regular basis. The turbines have been set to generate (only!) 210 kilowatts each, so for now, up to 2.5 million watts is available from the turbines. Because the wind is low these days sometimes they don't reach that point. They are being stepped up slowly to provide a control on electric grid stability. Next step is to phase in wind power as a fraction of total electrical demand. This week one turbine will be set to produce its peak power of 900 kW during a time of the day when there is



►The Dutch municipality of Breda donated 18 used containers for glass recycling to Bonaire. They are currently en route to Bonaire via the Royal Navy ship *Hr.Ms. Southern Cross*. The ship will arrive on Bonaire this month. Breda has changed over to underground containers so these were available. SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management company, will begin separate collection of glass from households next year.



Breda PR photo

sufficient wind. Various tests will be performed before full use will be made of the wind turbines' capability.

►Commissioner Jopie Abraham has issues with Bonaire's Spatial Development Plan Bonaire (ROB) now under review and public comment. "The plan has too little space for the residents of the island. The tourists and the environment are given ample space. That's fine for the tourists and I love the environment, but we must not become reservation inhabitants," he said. "I heard that land is being parceled out at 400 square meters, which means living on top of one another. We need space and that space is available."

Abraham says he won't rush to enact the ROB before the 10/10/10 transition date. "Let The Netherlands deal with the spatial development of Bonaire. There's no need for us to do someone else's dirty work now."

►The Dutch Government's Regional Service Centre (RSC) for the BES Islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) was renamed "Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland" (RCN) -Dutch Caribbean Public Service" which would better fit its mission following the planned October 10 integration with Holland. The new name was unveiled during a RCN-sponsored media breakfast on Bonaire to celebrate International Press Day (September 1). In the photo above RCN staffers



Lucia Beck and kwartiermaker Friso Fennema presented the new name and logo.

►THE HAGUE - The introduction of a new tax on Bonaire in 2011 will yield \$2 million more than previously estimated, wrote the Dutch Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager in a letter to Parliament. That's primarily because there are currently 15,700 people registered as living on the island rather than the "more than 11,000," which is the 2001 figure that the previous estimate was based on. In the same letter, the minister wrote that most Bonaireans will have to pay less tax, except for tourists, Pensionados and 60+ seniors.

►THE HAGUE—Eighteen laws and regulations relating to the new constitutional relations in the Kingdom were published in the Dutch Government Gazette (*Staatscourant*), a required step in the reformation of the Dutch Antilles. The decree can

(Continued on page 8)

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Available on-line at:  
[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com)

Printed Every Fortnight,  
On-line Every day, 24/7  
Next edition printing on  
October 5, 2010  
Story and Ad deadline:  
October 2, 2010, 12 noon

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# 10-10-10 / 99% Sure?



Henk Kamp at the RSC/RCN press breakfast on September 1. Announced was the re-naming of the Regional Service Center (RSC) to the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN)-The Dutch Caribbean Public Service.

Recent events are making the October 10, 2010, integration into The Netherlands of the BES Islands and the "country status" for Curaçao and St. Maarten more certain. Queen's Commissioner Henk Kamp told *The Reporter* last week of his concerns that the actions of the new government in Curaçao and the reaction of the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber may hamper progress towards the breakup and subsequent restructuring of the Dutch Antilles. But developments over the past weekend should lessen his concern.

Between midnight Friday and Saturday night (September 3-4), Curaçao got a new MFK/PS/MAN (political parties) Executive Council, passed the draft constitution for the future "country" of Curaçao and decided to participate in Thursday's Round Table Conference (RTC) on the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles on 10-10-10.

However, the Curaçao Council at the same time passed a resolution instructing its delegation to seek agreement to exclude Curaçao from the Kingdom consensus laws, to include a procedure for their island to become independent and to start a process to change the constitution they just approved by referendum.

In Aruba the members of the Aruba Parliament approved the changes to the Kingdom Charter to permit the breakup of the Dutch Antilles. And in St. Maarten its Island Council approved the last of more than 24 necessary "organic laws."

But in Holland the situation remains murky. Dutch political parties have been trying to form a coalition based on parliamentary arithmetic from the last elections held on June 9. Talks on forming a right leaning minority government collapsed on Friday when the Freedom Party-PVV pulled out. Queen Beatrix is meeting with party leaders this Monday and Tuesday to try to again revive coalition negotiations. The Netherlands has been without a permanent cabinet since the previous government collapsed on February 20.

It remains to be seen whether a majority of the Dutch Second Chamber will vote to amend the Kingdom Charter to allow the breakup and reformation of the Antilles in Tuesday's scheduled debate. The Liberal Democratic Party -VVD, the Party for Freedom -PVV and the Socialist Party -SP, together having 70 of the 150 seats in the Second Chamber, are expected to vote against it. The Christian Union -CU with its five seats, is also considering voting against it.

All this could make for a politically exciting week in The Hague.

While anything is possible, this final RTC can be considered "more of a ceremonial closure," said one delegate, when the final decision on the new arrangements will be signed off by all Kingdom partners.

An ancient Chinese proverb, sometimes referred to as a curse, describes the situation, "May you live in interesting times." ■ G.D.

## Controversial Environmental Laws

Last week the Nature Conservation and the Underwater Park Laws became effective and, according to a government press release, will be enforced vigorously. But they are being opposed by some in Bonaire's tourism sector.



Disappearing photo  
Now a permit and good reason will be needed to cut down a tree like this. And the permit fee may be as much as \$195 for a tree of 95" in girth or more.

The new laws were passed after consultation with stakeholders and the public last year. The legislation is designed to protect the sea and land environment of Bonaire. They formalized the marine ordinances that were in force for many years and added new protections for both land and sea. Additionally, as of January 1, 2011, fees will be charged for all commercial users of the waterfront and Marine Park. The revenues, estimated to bring in between NAf200.000 and NAf300.000 annually, are earmarked for STINAPA, the NGO that currently manages the Bonaire land and sea parks.

The enactment of the law has outraged some resort and dive operators. According to a source in the sector they are being singled out to support STINAPA while other tourism-oriented businesses are not charged. Besides, they say, they already provide significant support to STINAPA by collecting dive-tag fees, providing mooring and facilities for Marine Park boats and more.

In protest of this law, BHG (Bonaire Hospitality Group), BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association) and CURO, (Council of Underwater Resort Operators), the latter usually a staunch supporter of such initiatives, have voted not to sign an (unrelated-Ed.) covenant, initiated by the RSC, called "Na Un Bonaire Mas Limpi" (For a Cleaner Bonaire) at this time.

(Continued on page 16)



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# On The Island Since... October 2003 - Jiri Lausman

“I have only reluctantly accepted the idea that an article about myself would be written in this series. However, I agreed because I would like to express my opinion concerning the future development of Bonaire, which has been the topic in a large number of my guest editorials and letters to the editor in this paper during the past years.

So...I was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and I arrived in Holland in 1967 to work on a big project. At the time there was a tremendous shortage of engineers in Holland. I started working for Ballast Nijdam and worked for that company until my retirement. But two years ago

the best in the world.

Before I came to Holland I worked in Baghdad for two years on a water power plant in the Tigris River, in a town called Samara, about 80 kilometers north of Baghdad. During those years, 1962 and 1963, a party named ‘Baath,’ which was supporting Saddam Hussein, seized power in Iraq.

I’ve worked and lived in countries all over the world: Africa, Asia and



Jiri Lausman at home

**“...the condition of the reef worsened considerably during 2009. It was mainly caused by the building activities along the coast and by the sewage water seeping from septic tanks to the sea.”**

they called me to do a job for them in the north of Chile in a copper mine and I went, of course.

I built up a great career working on bridges, maritime constructions and dredging – everything connected with water – just like my son Robert who also became an engineer and who’s working as a project manager in Mexico for ‘the competition’ - Boskalis - the worlds’ biggest and most renowned company for maritime constructions and dredging. When it comes to dredging technology Holland is

South America.

I married late in life. We met in 1977 in Brazil where I was working at the time. My wife is Brazilian; she’s much younger than I. In 1978 we moved to Caracas, Venezuela, where our eldest son Robert was born. We have two sons, Robert, 31, and Tom, 27, who was born in Holland. They are both engineers. Tom lives in Holland; he’s one of the best surfers in The Netherlands and he invented and designed some major innovations for surfboards.

We lived in Caracas for seven years and during that period we visited Bonaire for the first time. We stayed at Hotel Bonaire (Sunset Beach). It was very good and it had a beautiful beach. I was impressed and thought it would be ideal to live here: the pure nature, such kind people and the perfect climate. It’s never too hot for me!

In 1987 we moved to Aruba where I was the manager for the Americas for Ballast Nijdam. While we lived there I decided to buy land on Bonaire and to build a house here. So, now I’m here – I

live in this house by myself. My wife lives partly in Aruba, partly in Brazil.”

*He smiles, puts a plate of cheese on the table, offers me a glass of wine and says, “I would like to talk to you about the future development of Bonaire. It’s important for everyone on Bonaire and I have always studied all available documents concerning this topic. I am very impressed with the so called Pourier Report, made for the Bestuurscollege in 1992 by a*

*(Continued on page 5)*

							
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*On The island Since* (Continued from page 4) group of experts, led by the Bonairean-born Miguel Pourier, former governor of the Netherlands Antilles. According to this report, the task of the government is to protect the most important asset of Bonaire – the 52-kilometer-long coral reef. All island policies must be focused on this task and it means: no mass tourism, no new large hotels, limitation of the number of divers and other measures necessary for the preservation of the reef. The principle of the Pourier Report was very simple, as Bonaire doesn't have beaches or minerals, or refineries. It has the coral reef, one of the most beautiful in the world. So, the government of Bonaire must take care of the reef, because it's brittle, fragile and it's all we have. Mind you, this was 18 years ago!

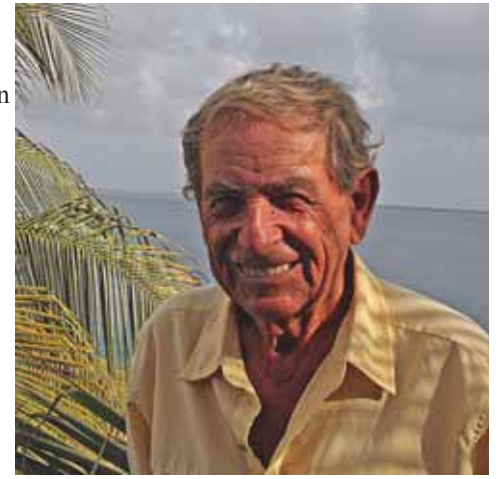
But what happened was that Bonaire's politicians had other ideas about the future of the island. Both main parties thought that large, international hotels must be built in the framework of the development of the island. There have been plans to build two big international hotels, a Divi Hotel at Sunset Beach and a Hilton

Hotel at the Azul Project. Fortunately it didn't happen. Unfortunately, the opinion of the Bonaire politicians and also of the majority of the local people is to build large international hotels. It seems to be that for them the development of the island is construction. Proof of that was shown at a local school exhibition when the children were asked, 'What should be the future development of Bonaire?' They presented paintings and drawings with buildings, large buildings, even on Klein Bonaire.

The Pourier Report has never been integrated into the local society. The politicians and the schools didn't succeed in teaching the people the importance of the coral reef – the main asset of the future of Bonaire. Well, according to the just-published report of the Environmental Commission, established by the *Bestuurscollege* in 1991 in order to advise in environmental questions, the condition of the reef worsened considerably during 2009. It was mainly caused by the building activities along the coast and by the sewage water seeping from septic tanks to the sea.

The Pourier Report is mentioned in the introduction to the Strategic Environmental Evaluation of the Land Destination Plan, agreed by the *Bestuurscollege* in June 2010 and expected to be approved soon. Unfortunately, although this plan also pleads for the protection of the coral reef and the *saliñas*, it advocates the necessity of development of Bonaire in order to accommodate the growing number of inhabitants which, according to the plan, will reach 25,000 in the coming 10 years. About 3,000 new homes are planned to be built for this purpose and new industrial plants and hotels will be constructed. It is evident that by approving this plan, the *Bestuurscollege* will in fact declare that the basic principles of the Pourier Report have been definitely thrown overboard. It hurts me, because I want the best for the island and I think the Pourier Report was the best for Bonaire."

*Jiri Lausman is a man from the old world. He's a man of great intelligence and willpower. He's a ladies' man – old fashioned style. He is a man who can take care of himself – a rare species - and he's a man who will never be an 'old man'.*



**Jiri Lausman**

*Jiri has an excellent memory, but he lives in the present, not in the past.*

"All my life I've traveled and I'm still traveling. I love the wilderness in far away countries. Last year I made a long trip through the mountain areas of Alaska, including the harsh Aleutian Islands. In June and July of this year I visited South Korea and the Russian Far East. In Russia I climbed the volcanoes of the vast Kamchatka peninsula with a small group of much younger Australian mountaineers. Kamchatka is larger than Japan; it has 200 volcanoes of which 29 are active. The population is about 380,000. Japan has 127 million. Afterwards I traveled through the Siberian Taiga in an all-terrain vehicle with a driver and a guide with a gun, because grizzly bears are abundant in that area! I also found the remains of one of the Gulags – Soviet concentration camps – in the vast Kolyma region, the coldest area of the northern hemisphere." *He gets up and shows me some artifacts he found in the Gulag. His house has a collection of paintings, minerals and statues from all over the world. His garden is original 'mondi' – "I left my land the way it was. I only planted two palm trees where construction damaged the original vegetation." He laughs. "Nobody in my neighborhood has a garden like mine!"*

Let me tell you, in my opinion, the assumption that the island's population will grow in the coming 10 years in a large part by retirees from Holland is not correct. It would be strange if now, after the *pensionado* advantage is abolished under the new status of Bonaire, the number of retirees moving to Bonaire would increase considerably. And I think for most people the change from Bonaire being a part of the Kingdom to becoming a part of the Netherlands plays no role. Anybody who's lived in The Netherlands knows that the hot, tropical climate of the Antilles is the main reason why the Dutch retirees stay in their own country or move to another European location with a milder climate." *He grins. "Some weeks ago it was really very hot for three days and all my neighbors were sighing, saying, 'It's so stifling, the heat is already unbearable!' Thus, do not think that the masses of Dutch retirees will inundate Bonaire in the coming years!"*

■ *Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*



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# 2010 Parrot Watch

## Lora Season Wrap-Up

**SU BUNITESA TA DEN NATURALESA!**  
Nos Lora ta nos orguyo. P'esei nos mester proteh'e.



far fewer eggs being laid on average than in previous years. This lower clutch size is an indicator that the adult birds were not able or not willing to invest as

much in their reproductive efforts this year. Long-lived birds such as the Lora need to be in good physical condition in order to reproduce, as it is energetically costly. Loras breed once a year, and will invest six or possibly more months before their chicks are independent. Smaller birds like the Bananaquit live for shorter periods and by contrast will produce several clutches in a year. For a Lora, it's not worth putting its own survival at risk for one breeding attempt when it has the opportunity to continue reproducing for another 30 years.

**Compared to other parrots, Bonaire's Loras are known to have poor "hatchability," which means that relatively few of the eggs that remain intact at the end of incubation, hatch.** This does not include the eggs that have been eaten by rats or cats. Poor hatchability could occur for many reasons, such as inbreeding in the population due to small population size, eggs not being fertilized, or even the conditions inside the nest during incubation. So it was no surprise for us this year when only 63% of the eggs hatched. In other tropical birds an average of 92% of viable eggs hatch.

**Despite Salba Nos Lora's annual campaign to remind people that stealing Loras from nests is illegal, this practice still continues.** This year, six chicks were taken from the nests that we were monitoring. The consequences of being caught with an illegal pet Lora are high as this law is beginning to be enforced again. Look out for Salba Nos Lora's beautiful new campaign posters (at left) for more information, which are due to hit the streets anytime soon!

After an uncertain start to the season, we were delighted to see that 25 chicks made it into the wild population from the nests we monitored. Hopefully in a few years' time we will see them again making their own nesting attempts!

■ Rhian Evans



Once again, the breeding season for Bonaire's Lora has already come to an end. Tuesday was a day of mixed feelings for us when the last remaining nest was found empty as the final chick fledged. Now the hard work starts of processing the data and writing a report. Not quite the same thrill and adventure as collecting the information itself and spending every day in the "mondí" amongst the birds. The interesting part about report writing and data analysis is being able to come to some conclusions about the trends we have seen throughout the season, and to see it reflected in the data.

One of the concerns of the team before the beginning of the Lora breeding season was **whether the Loras would breed at all as there was a severe lack of rain during Bonaire's "winter."**

Despite our concerns, the Loras initiated their breeding like clockwork around the same time as last year. The team even found several new nests this year, and monitored a similar number of nests as in previous years.

The big differences began to appear when the eggs were being laid. Despite monitoring a similar number of nests, there were

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter... at the 2010 RAGBRAI Dubuque, Iowa, USA



Marc Sieverding sent us this photo taken at the 2010 RAGBRAI®, *The Register's* Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, an annual seven-day bicycle ride across the state of Iowa. In its 38th year, RAGBRAI is the oldest, largest and longest bicycle touring event in the world.

The RAGBRAI route averages 472 miles and it begins somewhere along Iowa's western border on the Missouri River and ends along the eastern border on the Mississippi River.

In the picture, from left to right, are Marc Sieverding and Ann Johnson, both residents of Bonaire, together with Jim Petersen, a frequent visitor to our island.

The picture was taken in the last town, Dubuque, Iowa, on the Mississippi River, where this year's RAGBRAI ended. ■

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# Cover 2011 Jong Bonaire Calendar- story Available Soon

For the third year in a row, Jong Bonaire is offering a scenic island calendar for sale in an effort to raise funds for the after school youth center for teenagers. For 2011 the theme of the calendar is "Discoveries of the Kids of



Bart Landheer had to innovate to get some good photos

Jong Bonaire" and features some well-known and not-so-well-known locations on the island that the teens have discovered during their Jong Bonaire activities. Orders are being taken now for the calendar, which will be on the island in late September so that stores will have several months, especially during the high season, to sell them to visitors. "We also hope that all the companies and families who have bought the calendar for gifts over the past few years will continue to do so," said **Rene Hakkenberg**, President of *Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire*.

The teens featured each month on the 2011 calendar are: **Tiffany Dirkz, Jorge Alba, Jenuevieve Casper, Jaywind Cicilia, Jenuediene Casper, Milton Frans, Norvellinne Elizabeth, Alexzino Martijn, Sharzy Anthony, Alexander Statie, Jordan de Meyer and Donya Batta**. Pictured on the cover of the calendar is a group of teens landing on Klein Bonaire, including: **Ashley Beaumont, Alberseeto Cecilia, Giandrick Manuel, Alexander Hart, Ruviano Josephia, Mireyda Winklaar, Sharlina Molina, Aiminelly Cicilia and Joyceline Agostein**.

The photos were taken at locations all around the island including Sorobon, where world champion freestyle windsurfer **Tati Frans** is shown teaching Jong Bonaire member **Milton Frans** how to learn the sport. Other locations include the mangroves, the Butterfly Farm, Seru Largu, the salt pans, Klein Bonaire and other special places. Photographers **Bart Landheer** and **Jacqueline Bremmers** created the calendar again this year just before traveling to Saba and Statia to photograph a calendar

for those two islands. Each year, Jong Bonaire conducts an essay contest among its members and the winners appear on the calendar. The current 2010 calendar hanging in homes around the world featured the cultural treasures that the Jong Bonaire teens learned during a month-long cultural project held at the youth center. The first calendar featured the dreams and ambitions of the teen members at that time. "This calendar has become very important to the Jong Bonaire funding process," said Hakkenberg, "With most of the costs of producing the calendar donated, Jong Bonaire is able to raise money to support many of the after-school activities." The ENNIA insurance company will be sponsoring a radio commercial campaign to help sell the calendars.

Those wishing to purchase the calendar in quantities of 10 or more can send an e-mail to [jongbonaire@sunspotsbonaire.com](mailto:jongbonaire@sunspotsbonaire.com) or can call 786-1357. The calendar makes a great Christmas gift for friends, family and customers and should be very popular with tourists since it shows so many views of the island. The calendar is in the same 30x30 cm (12X12") format as in previous years and makes a lovely wall hanging.

Jong Bonaire is the largest after-school program for teens in the Antilles with over 200 members. The program is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year and more than 1,000 young Bonaireans have participated in the program since 1999. Funding for Jong Bonaire comes from the Island Government, AMFO and fundraisings like this calendar. Each year approximately 1/4 of the budget comes from the Bonairean community and this calendar helps cover some of the community's part. ■ *Jane Townsend*

## Latin Music Classics

A New Reporter Feature



As you might know, Bonaire recently had a great performance of Frank Reyes, one of the most famous Bachata stars.

Bachata is a genre of music that originated in the Dominican Republic in the early parts of the 20th century and spread to other parts of Latin America.

Its subjects are often romantic. Especially prevalent are tales of heartbreak and sadness.

In the 1990s, Bachata's instrumentation changed from acoustic Spanish guitar to electric steel string. The new electric Bachata soon became an international phenomenon, and Bachata's popularity could not be denied.

In the upcoming editions of *The Reporter*, Latin Music Classics will tell something about a classic Latin song or a famous Latin artist and ask a question that could win you a CD.

**This week's question:**  
**Name at least one other famous song of Frank Reyes.**

Please send your answer to: [info@jodysonaire.com](mailto:info@jodysonaire.com) and be entered in a drawing to win a CD of your own choice in Jody's shop.

The winner of this week's contest will be announced in the next edition of *The Reporter*. ■ *Jo Bux/ Jody's F & M*



**Jody's Fashion & Music** is the well known

Fashion Shop at Lagoen Hill #18. In their collection they have the 100% original Nikes and jeans of famous brands like G-Star and Replay! At the cruise ship marketplace Jody's Music is one of the stakeholders and always tries to bring in the best music for young and old at the right moment.

## BonQuiz #37



### The Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Plaque

Waterfront Wilhelmina Park has several monuments and buildings that give it a unique character. It looked quite different years ago and has enjoyed several face lifts along the way. One of its current features is a **plaque commemorating the wartime visit to Bonaire of the wife of the 32<sup>nd</sup> President of the US, Eleanor Roosevelt**.

Her visit was to inspect and encourage the American troops who were stationed here during WWII. In March, 1944, Mrs. Roosevelt embarked on a visit to the Caribbean and Latin American countries to improve relations with countries in the western hemisphere. Recently released documents revealed an astonishing fact regarding this visit. ■

**Q) Do you know what it is?**  
**Answer on page 17**

*Christie Dovale*

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Island Tours. To arrange a tour, contact her via her website:

**IslandToursBonaire.com** Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456  
Email: [christie\\_dovale@hotmail.com](mailto:christie_dovale@hotmail.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.**

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

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**Flotsam and Jetsam** (Continued from page 2) only go into effect four weeks after it has been published in the Gazette. The implementation date of the decree is to be October 10, 2010. But the most important Kingdom Law, the one to amend the Kingdom Charter, wasn't published. Without this law the other laws and regulations, despite being published in the Gazette, cannot go into effect. The debate in the Second Chamber is set for Tuesday, September 7.

► Since 2006 Hendrik Wuyts of Scuba Vision and Gerard van Erp have been recording a **documentary following the progress of Bonaire towards integration with The Netherlands**. There are a number of interviews still to be conducted. The documentary is expected to be available in December, 2010.

► St. Maarten and Curaçao have decided to use a **NEW common currency – the Caribbean guilder- beginning in 2012**. The existing Netherlands Antilles guilder will be used during the transition period.

► **Travelers to the US with a passport from US Visa Waiver Program countries (including The Netherlands) will now have to pay to enter the US**. ESTA is an "electronic traveling authorization" which all travelers from Visa Waiver Program countries must obtain before embarking on a trip over land or sea to the US. This traveling authorization has been mandatory since January 12, 2009. As of September 8<sup>th</sup> 2010, the US will charge \$14 per ESTA. One can only apply for this online and via a credit card. No traveling data is required to fill in the ESTA.

The ESTA is valid for a two-year period, or until the relevant passport expires. The website for registration is <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>.



► According to a government press release, **the fishermen's pier near Regatta House on Playa Pabou is getting renovated**. The structure was battered by waves from Tropical Storm "Omar" in October 2008 and lost both its walkway and supporting timbers. They will be replaced with a system that will allow the planks to be removed in case of heavy seas as done by many waterfront dive operators.

The *Bonaireiaanse Wegenbouw Maatschappij* (BWM) company is in charge of the work. Although completion is not expected until mid-October the south portion will be available for use during Regatta.

► **InselAir announced the start of Insel's service from Miami to Havana, Cuba**, as of Monday, October 4. The flight is scheduled twice weekly at the onset, with the route expected to grow to flights six times a week. InselAir complies with all FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) criteria and has an impeccable track record during its two years of operation in the US. InselAir will also service Charlotte, North Carolina, from Curaçao, twice a week as of November 25. The airline flies non-stop from Bonaire to Miami and return each Saturday.

► **The Consulate General of the US announced the arrival of the new US Chief of Mission for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Ms. Valerie Belon.**



On August 26, 2010, Consul General Valerie Belon assumed her responsibilities as Consul General for the US in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. As Consul General and Chief of Mission, she will remain responsible for the Dutch Caribbean islands throughout the dissolution process as the senior representative of the US Government.

Valerie Belon has enjoyed a 20-year career as a Foreign Service Officer in the US State Department. Most recently, she was the Senior Benelux Desk Officer at the State Department, taking the lead role for all Dutch and Luxembourg issues as well as overseeing the desk officer for Belgium.

Consul General Belon is fluent in French and Spanish. She earned a degree in Economics from Princeton University, a Masters in Business Administration from the University of California Los Angeles, and a Master's degree in International Policy Studies from Stanford University. She was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska, and has family ties to California and France. She resides in Willemstad with her pre-school-aged daughter, Lucy.

► **Tiara Air's expanded schedule for Aruba-Bonaire-Aruba flights will allow for more chances to connect to many US and South America gateway cities**. Check [www.tiara-air.com](http://www.tiara-air.com) for details.



► **The first franchise of The Pastechi House on Kaya Korsow opened across the alley from Zeezicht Restaurant** on Friday, August 27. It was highlighted by the appearance of the popular Dominican singer Frank Reyes. The shop offers a wide variety of pastechis and features **Ben & Jerry's ice cream**. Hours are Monday-Friday, 7am to 6:30pm non-stop, Saturday, 7am to 2 pm. Closed Sunday.

► **There's a new boat available for all to enjoy Bonaire's waters**. The 50'-long *Good Return*, a classic Maine scalloper, will give you comfortable cruises in the waters around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. Their trips include Round Klein Bonaire Cruise, Snorkel Cruise, Good Morning Bonaire Cruise, Klein Bonaire BBQ Cruise or the

## Letters to the Editor



### GREAT PICTURE

Greetings,

This is just a note of congratulations on the publication of the wonderful picture of the young people on the front page of your August 27 - September 10 edition! It is indeed priceless, and should bring a smile to everyone.

Dr. Carlyle Corbin  
International Advisor on Governance  
(Dr. Corbin came to Bonaire to advise the Bonaire Government on Referendum procedures-Ed/)



### THANKS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dear Editor:

This morning I went out to get in my car and - surprise - there was no little red Toyota in sight. My first thought was that my husband had borrowed it but he then walked out of the gate to get into his own car. So where was my little red car? Apparently I was a victim of car theft. I called the police to report the theft and gave them a description and license number. In less than one hour a police car was at my gate to report that the car had been located and what the damage was. I went to the police station to file a report (necessary for an insurance claim) and was helped in a very timely manner. The officer assisting me went above and beyond general procedures by

Boca Slagbaai Cruise. And it's great for parties

► **Correction:** At the end of last issue's article about Jan Jaap van Almenkerk an incorrect website address was listed. The correct website address is [www.stichting-kibrahacha.blogspot.com](http://www.stichting-kibrahacha.blogspot.com)

► **JRA Schoonmaakbedrijf BV, who have worked with The Reporter for over 12 years have added maintenance** to their superb cleaning. Call them for small or big jobs. See the JRA ad in the Classifieds on page 13 or call 700-2296 for maintenance.

processing my report immediately so that I could give the report to the claims adjuster that very day which would allow the repair garage to begin work. Even though having your car stolen was a bad experience the silver lining was knowing that our police department is on the ball and functioning in a caring and professional manner

High compliments and many thanks to the police for their good work.

Dabney Lassiter



Sunset Beach

**SUNSET BEACH FOR BONAIREANS**  
To the Editor:

I understand that Divi may have released their grip on the property known as Sunset Beach. If this be true then the people of Bonaire should truly be thankful and recognize this as perhaps the only reprieve to come their way in a long circus parade of mis-gotten, ill-planned eco-unfriendly projects that have been jammed down the throats of those that call this little rock home.

The developers in hand with the bureaucrats with the support of the financial shakers have contrived to tear pieces of this little place from the hands of those who have long toiled to make a decent life here on Bonaire.

A little project boarding the mangroves, another catastrophe in the making right next door to the grand foil (Plaza), roof lines press higher with no restraint and buildings are placed with no thought of future planning (or parking).

As with an hour glass, the sand of Bonaire falls away beyond the grasp of legacy, the legacy of the People of Bonaire.

The developers and the political tribe along with the financial whiz bangs will all be on the same plane headed to distant horizons as the folks who bore this island on their backs find nothing left to pass on. Nothing to point to with pride.

Sunset Beach may be one of the only opportunities left for the People of Bonaire to hold on to at least a small piece of paradise. Maybe enough to hand over to the next generation, maybe enough to show those next folks to call this place home that we cared enough to save something worthwhile for them....maybe

Brian McCarley

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► In this issue, on page 7, *The Reporter* begins a new series, **Latin Music Classics**. Check it out and let us know what you think.

► **The Reporter is taking a short vacation. The next edition will be available on October 6.** ■ G./L. D.





# BONAIREAN VOICES

## A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER...FRANK REYES LIVE IN CONCERT



FRANK REYES

After more than 10 years Bonaire experienced a big event in the music business. It was in 1999 that the big event at the Kralendijk Stadium was the appearance of the international singer, Mrs. Celia Cruz, who died July 16, 2003, at the age of 77. Celia was the Salsa Queen and until today we haven't known anyone like her.

But now we have gotten to know the Bachata music that's become an international favorite as people from all over the world like it. Even the Dutch women and men have learned how to dance the Bachata. Plaza Resort Bonaire and Mega Hit FM organized an enormous event, starting the Prince of Bachata, Mr. Frank Reyes.

Frank was born on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1969, in the Dominican Republic in a town named Tenares Boba Arriba, some distance from the capital of Santo Domingo. Tenares is a town like Bonaire with much the same climate. In a conversation with Frank we learned that he comes from a very big family of 13 children- seven girls and six boys. At a very young age the singer developed his artistic talent and together with his brothers he formed a musical group, something they enjoyed because music is something that belongs to their country.

Bachata is music that comes from the heart, he says, where you can express your feelings from the depth of your soul. At the age of 12 Frank moved to the capital, Santo Domingo, working several jobs in hopes of having his own business. While he was working in a grocery store he was discovered by a talent scout, Mr. John B. Genáo. Through Mr. Genáo, Frank was able to realize his great dream, his first album. His first production in 1991 was titled, "Tu Seras Mi Reina," and Frank became the self-appointed "Prince of Bachata," beginning his career performing to audiences that love Bachata. In 1997, with his song, "Extreño Mi Pueblo," Frank attained platinum record

sales, surpassing the other Bachateros of the time.

Through the years he's had many successes, and indeed one of the successes is coming to Bonaire for the first time. Living on an island with only 15,000 people we thought this was a dream, but thanks to Mega Hit FM we knew that this was serious business. On Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Mega Hit FM went to Santo Domingo to sign a contract with Frank Reyes, and two months later Reyes was live in concert in Bonaire. Three of his brothers are part of the band that accompanied him: Alfredo is second guitarist, Agustin plays the bongos (percussionist) and Vidal is his assistant.

The Bonaire press got to meet him on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Plaza Resort for an interview, and at the opening that evening of the Pastechi House he was asked to cut the opening ribbon. The Pastechi House was founded by the Lopes family in Aruba. They have a branch in Curaçao and now one in Bonaire, managed by the Director Sipke Posthumus and the General Director Egbert de Vries. Indeed we and all present enjoyed the opening.

On Saturday, August 28, at the Plaza after the great performance of J&R Latino band and DJ Robert 2, Chiki announced Frank Reyes and his band on stage. People from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Vene-

zuela and Holland were in the audience. To our great surprise that evening, Ephrem J. Ocalia, a very famous singer from Curaçao who has performed many songs in Spanish, got to sing along with Frank in one of Frank's biggest hits. Reyes was honored also by the Dominican Republic ambassador here in Bonaire, Mr. Rafael Santana. Mr. Evert Piar of MCB presented the singer with a medal.

The organizers of the concert, Frank Dubbelman, Ron Gijzen and Boudewijn "Bous" Scholts, can look back at a great event and a great success. What a weekend to remember. We Bonaireans will never forget the great pleasure we had to have Mr. Frank Reyes live in concert on this friendly island of Bonaire. ■

Story & photos by Siomara Albertus



Siomara, Frank and Laura DeSalvo at the Pastechi House opening



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



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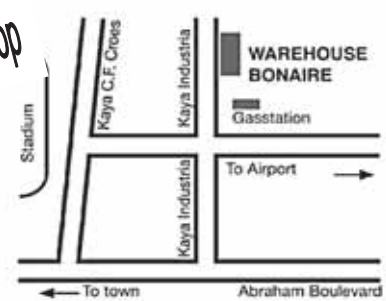
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# Save Sunset Beach For All Our People

Sunset Beach is up for grabs. Divi Resorts abandoned their plan to build on the site of the old Sunset Beach and the long-lease land is back in the hands of the Bonaire government.

Now there is a groundswell of sentiment to make Sunset Beach a recreational area for the people of Bonaire and island visitors as well.

Much of Bonaire's shoreline on the western side of the island is taken up by hotels, mostly owned by people and companies that don't live here. In some cases access to the sea from those hotels has been cut off to people living on the island. Sunset Beach is the last hope for the people of Bonaire to have their own beach in a convenient location.

Think of it – a place to enjoy one of the best beaches on the island, open space with some beautiful old trees – a family place for picnics, barbeques, beach parties, maybe some concession stands, run by local people, selling food and drinks, and most importantly, no gates shutting Bonaireans out.

It can be done. Klein Bonaire, owned by developers, was saved for the people of Bonaire because of the efforts of locals and contributions from the Dutch Government and The World Wildlife Fund.

Klein Bonaire wasn't the only time Bonaire's people got their way. In the 90s there was a proposal to build a refinery on the up-wind side of the island. The people rose up, signed petitions and it was stopped. Sunset Beach can be saved too and this time it won't cost a pile of money since it's already owned by the Island Government. Forget arguments that a new hotel on the site will bring jobs for



*This air view shows the large trees and long shoreline of the Sunset Beach property*

Bonaireans. As with other most resorts, workers will come from "third world" countries and management from "first world" countries. Tax income? Any developer worth his salt will negotiate a juicy tax-holiday.

Anyway there are plenty of other sites available for hotel development to say nothing of developments that have never been completed. Build there.

Bonaireans need a beach they can call their own. But it will take a LOUD voice from the people to make lawmakers listen and turn away from the blandishments of foreign business interests. An action team is being set up this week. ■ L/G. D.



*Sunset Beach is one of Bonaire's best. Income from concessions can make the beach self supporting*

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Go to [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) Raw News to link to the three-question survey or go directly to the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GNWL32M>

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*Please note the Gallery is located on the second floor, accessible by a wide circular staircase*

## Dr. Eugenie Clark Receives Bonaire's Lifetime Achievement Award

Eugenie Clark's interest in fish began at the age of nine when her mother took her to visit an aquarium. She became fascinated by what she saw, especially the shark, and soon enough, she got a job there. The fascination and job continued throughout her life. She is now 88, has been married four times, has four children and remains full of energy.

It was most appropriate to give her a Lifetime Achievement Award on top of the scores of other honors Dr. Clark has received.

Eugenie Clark was born on May 4, 1922, to an American father and a Japanese mother. Tragically, her father, Charles Clark, died when she was just a baby, leaving Eugenie with her mother, Yumiko, who remarried when Genie was a child.

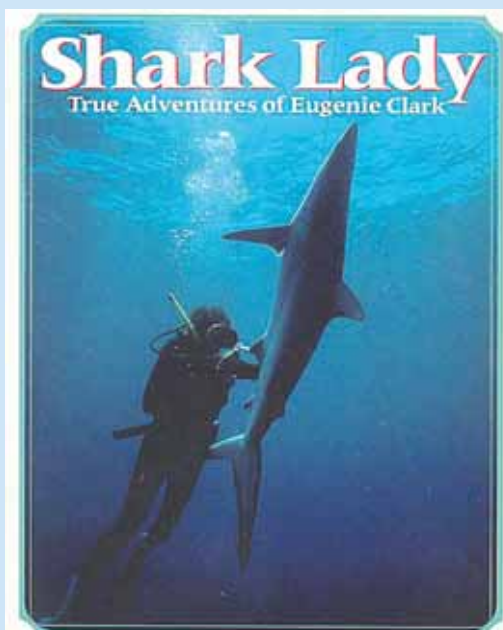
Never wavering in her passion, Clark enrolled in Hunter College in New York City, graduating in 1942, then at NYU, earning her master's degree in zoology in 1946 and her Ph.D. in 1950.

The subsequent success of her lab at Cape Haze and the rarity of being a female marine biologist helped expand Clark's career and gave her the nickname, "Shark Lady," which oddly enough predated her experiments on the large fish. By 1965, Dr. Clark had become so well-known that she was the guest of the Crown Prince of Japan, Prince Akihito, to whom she gave a small, trained nurse shark and a portable testing apparatus as a gift.

Dr. Eugenie Clark has been invaluable to the world of science for many reasons. She has greatly contributed to the scientific knowledge of sharks and further contributed scientific research on a variety of fishes. Perhaps most importantly, however, Dr. Clark challenged the stereotypes surrounding women in the scientific community, proving to researchers and the public alike that even small, diminutive women can greatly impact the scientific community. ■ G.D.



Captain Don and Dr. Clark exchange stories following the presentation of Bonaire's second Lifetime Achievement Award on August 24 at the Governor's home.



### Four fish have been named for Dr. Clark:

- 1978 *Callogobius clarki* (Goren) - Family Gobiidae
- 1980 *Sticharium clarkae* George and Springer - Family Clinidae
- 1982 *Enneapterygius clarkae* Holleman - Family Tripterygiidae
- 1987 *Atrubucca geniae* Ben-Tuvia and Trewavas - Family Scienidae

## Glass Bottom and More



A new attraction on Bonaire's waters is the 32-foot glass bottom boat. It's not just a glass bottom boat – it's a party boat too – perfect for parties for kids, friends and family.

Operated by an enthusiastic young man this stable boat has space for 20 persons; 17 of whom can sit around the underwater viewing box and see Bonaire's most incredible views of undersea wildlife.

Seats are comfortable and there's shade from the sun. For all tours there's an open bar with soft drinks, beer or wine.

Weather and the sea permitting, the boat operates every day. Different tours are offered. There's a two-hour narrated eco tour of the Bonaire National Marine Park with emphasis on the fringing reefs of Klein Bonaire. Half day snorkel tours, to the most interesting and lively spots, are from 9 am to noon. You may hop in the water and join the fish. Sunset cruises from 5 to 7 pm or 5:30 to 7:30. Watch the fish get ready to sleep.

Rate per person is \$35. However, during the month of September if you bring a group of 10 persons, you go free. Children under four are free and there is the Antillean rate is NAf 35. More information is on their website: [www.GlassBottomBoatBonaire.com](http://www.GlassBottomBoatBonaire.com) or call 795-1826. ■ Laura DeSalvo



Glass bottom boat photos

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Every Sunday through Tuesday	From now through Spring 2011	Scientology ship <i>Freewinds</i>	Arrives 0630 Departs 2200	150

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**35th Anniversary of Glenn & Friends**—A series of concerts and events (mostly free) by Glenn & Friends to celebrate their 35-year anniversary and to thank the Bonairean community for all their support for the last 35 years, which began on Sunday, August 15, in Tera Kora.

- **Sunday, September 12**- Wilhelmina Park, 4-to 9 pm.
- **Wednesday, September 15** – fundraising Bon Kune at the Credit Union Lourdes in Rincon 4 – 9 pm
- **Sunday, September 19** – Sentro Bario in Antriol, 4 to 9 pm.
- **Sunday, September 26**-Sentro Bario Nort Salina, 4 to 9 pm
- **Sunday, October 3** – BBQ from 11 am – 3 pm at Kaya Milon 9 Naf 12,50
- **Saturday, October 16** – Big 35th anniversary celebration, Rincon 7:30 pm until dawn.



**Bonaire Regatta Events October 3-9**—see website [www.bonairegatta.org](http://www.bonairegatta.org)  
A unique 10/10/10 ceremony is planned for midnight on the last day of Regatta, October 9.

**Sunday, October 3**— Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire

**October 24** -Bonaire Xtreme Duo MTB race

**Sunday, November 14**- Dia di Gracia— 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Free Giveaway— donations being accepted now at Termotek, Kaya Korona tel. 717-4658, Meredith 786-2024, Jella 510-7412 or Mamita Fox 717-2953/ 796-1919

**November 21**—Tree Planting Festival

## 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 playground open every day into the cooler evening hours.

### Saturdays

- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. **Big Marché first Saturday of the month**—[www.infobonaire.com/rincon](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon).

- **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 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

**Wednesday** - **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 7pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday** at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819)

### 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

**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.

**The Hash House Harriers** running and walking club meets **every second Wednesday** for a one hour walk throughout Bonaire. The location changes each week. The contact number is **700-4361**

**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**, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 701-1100.

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

### CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:** *Kralendijk*, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am.

*Rincon*, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

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

**International Bible Church of Bonaire**, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Por'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.

Send event info to:  
**The Bonaire Reporter**  
[reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125

### Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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**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:** Jo Bux, Siomara Albertus, Stephanie Bennett, Christie Dovale, Rhian Evans, Miranda Filan, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Michael Thiessen, Jane Townsend, Marian Walthie

Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

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

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

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**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.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS, Rentals, Property

**For sale in Hato: The house with the patio, Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas De-brot 166, look for the signs. Email: [digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com)**

**FOR RENT Spacious 2 bedroom apartment** in safe neighborhood. Good location on Punt Vierkant, Belnem. free wireless internet. \$790.—per month excl. utilities **Phone 717-8405**

Miscellaneous

**For sale in Hato: 12 feet inflatable Achilles boat**, including 15 hp Yamaha twin outboard engine and trailer. Asking price: **Ang 4000**, Kaya Gobernador N. Debro 166, [digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com)

**For Sale: LG 6.5 kg washer, queen mattress and box, matching grey 2-seater couch and 1 seater chair, LG 29" TV, Teak furniture:** coffee table, antique TV cabinet, 2 bar chairs, 2 three drawer side tables, two drawer side table. **2009 Cannondale F5 mountain bike -ALL items 1 yr. old** and in great condition. Happy to negotiate prices of individual items or all items together. **Call 788-5604.**

**FOR SALE Double bed 2 persons, mattress + box spring + frame \$ 250. Phone 717-8405**

**Pinball Machine -Jokerz - NAF 495 Call 717-8819** from 8 am to 5 pm

**Antiques and Collectibles Call 795-9760**

**Wanted- Airline Approved Large Dog Kennel. Call 786 3134**

**Te Koop keramische kookplaat \$76. Schuifpui zoNAfsluitende gordijnen nu \$150. Tel.717 2529** Bonaireverhuur.

**Te Huur vrijstaand huisje** op Hato, 2 slaapkamers alle luxe all in \$900 of excl \$690. tel. **717 2529**

**For Sale. BC \$150-Fins** for shoes \$70-Belt \$10-Mask \$24-Weight from 2-8 lb. **Tel 717-2529**

**Shorty wetsuits.** Men's and women's. Various sizes. Used. **Only \$20. At Carib Inn**

Wicho Thode is trying to find a "small" **two cylinder inboard engine** for his boat. His phone number is **786-0125**. If anyone has such an engine for sale they can call him to discuss details.

**NV for Sale.** IT, Hosp, Mktg, Inactive since purchase. Best offer over NA\$ 5.000 plus buyer pays transfer costs. Owner on island 8/21-9/4. [aggiel8d@yahoo.com](mailto:aggiel8d@yahoo.com)

**Writers/Reporters Wanted** (paid by the word)  
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**Lac Bay-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides**

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 10	02:13 / 0.48 ft	08:35 / 0.07 ft	14:45 / 0.88 ft	22:37 / -0.03 ft		6:25	18:40
Sat 11	03:37 / 0.42 ft	09:25 / 0.09 ft	15:41 / 0.98 ft	23:46 / -0.12 ft		6:25	18:39
Sun 12	04:52 / 0.38 ft	10:16 / 0.11 ft	16:34 / 1.05 ft			6:25	18:38
Mon 13		00:46 / -0.18 ft	05:56 / 0.37 ft	11:08 / 0.12 ft	17:25 / 1.09 ft	6:25	18:37
Tue 14		01:39 / -0.20 ft	06:51 / 0.37 ft	11:58 / 0.12 ft	18:15 / 1.09 ft	6:25	18:37
Wed 15	First Quarter	02:29 / -0.19 ft	07:40 / 0.36 ft	12:46 / 0.13 ft	19:03 / 1.06 ft	6:25	18:36
Thu 16		03:16 / -0.16 ft	08:26 / 0.36 ft	13:32 / 0.14 ft	19:49 / 1.01 ft	6:24	18:35
Fri 17		04:01 / -0.10 ft	09:10 / 0.37 ft	14:18 / 0.17 ft	20:33 / 0.93 ft	6:24	18:35
Sat 18		04:43 / -0.04 ft	09:54 / 0.38 ft	15:04 / 0.20 ft	21:16 / 0.84 ft	6:24	18:34
Sun 19		05:23 / 0.03 ft	10:38 / 0.40 ft	15:56 / 0.23 ft	21:59 / 0.73 ft	6:24	18:33
Mon 20		05:58 / 0.09 ft	11:22 / 0.43 ft	16:59 / 0.27 ft	22:45 / 0.63 ft	6:24	18:33
Tue 21		06:29 / 0.16 ft	12:06 / 0.48 ft	18:22 / 0.28 ft	23:41 / 0.52 ft	6:24	18:32
Wed 22		06:54 / 0.22 ft	12:46 / 0.53 ft	20:00 / 0.26 ft		6:24	18:31
Thu 23	00:57 / 0.43 ft	07:13 / 0.27 ft	13:23 / 0.59 ft	21:32 / 0.20 ft	Full Moon	6:24	18:30
Fri 24	02:40 / 0.36 ft	07:25 / 0.31 ft	13:59 / 0.66 ft	22:41 / 0.12 ft		6:24	18:30
Sat 25	04:30 / 0.34 ft	07:29 / 0.32 ft	14:35 / 0.74 ft	23:32 / 0.05 ft		6:24	18:29
Sun 26	06:10 / 0.32 ft	07:25 / 0.32 ft	15:13 / 0.81 ft			6:24	18:29
Mon 27		00:14 / -0.01 ft	06:55 / 0.31 ft	07:58 / 0.31 ft	15:53 / 0.89 ft	6:24	18:28
Tue 28		00:50 / -0.06 ft	06:50 / 0.29 ft	09:11 / 0.28 ft	16:33 / 0.96 ft	6:24	18:27
Wed 29		01:24 / -0.09 ft	06:56 / 0.28 ft	10:14 / 0.24 ft	17:16 / 1.01 ft	6:24	18:27
Thu 30	L Quarter	01:56 / -0.10 ft	07:11 / 0.29 ft	11:14 / 0.21 ft	17:59 / 1.04 ft	6:24	18:26
Fri 01		02:27 / -0.10 ft	07:35 / 0.33 ft	12:15 / 0.18 ft	18:43 / 1.03 ft	6:24	18:25
Sat 02		02:58 / -0.09 ft	08:07 / 0.39 ft	13:19 / 0.17 ft	19:30 / 0.98 ft	6:24	18:25
Sun 03		03:29 / -0.07 ft	08:47 / 0.49 ft	14:29 / 0.17 ft	20:19 / 0.88 ft	6:24	18:24
Mon 04		04:02 / -0.04 ft	09:32 / 0.60 ft	15:48 / 0.17 ft	21:13 / 0.76 ft	6:24	18:23
Tue 05		04:35 / -0.01 ft	10:23 / 0.72 ft	17:15 / 0.16 ft	22:16 / 0.61 ft	6:24	18:23
Wed 06		05:10 / 0.04 ft	11:16 / 0.84 ft	18:47 / 0.10 ft	23:32 / 0.47 ft	6:24	18:22
Thu 07	New Moon	05:49 / 0.09 ft	12:11 / 0.95 ft	20:17 / 0.02 ft		6:24	18:21
Fri 08	01:04 / 0.37 ft	06:32 / 0.14 ft	13:07 / 1.04 ft	21:35 / -0.08 ft		6:25	18:21

# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS 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. Free service and in-store financing too.

## ART & GALLERIES

**The Richter Art Gallery**, located in Belnem, is Bonaire's only fine art gallery, and features original paintings, limited edition archival art prints, and hand made jewelry created by long-time residents Linda, Jake, and Krystyana Richter.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

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## 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.

## CARS AND BIKES

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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.

## ON & IN THE WATER

**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.

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Get a glimpse of Bonaire underwater without getting wet. Safe, comfortable new boat, open bar, free snorkel and mask.



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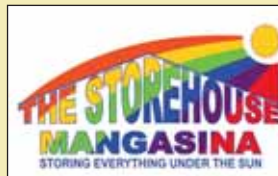
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## RETAIL

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**The Health & Fitness Center Bonaire** is the official Nike outfitter on the island. Footwear and gym wear is available.

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

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# Miss Bonaire Pageant

# Influential Women

Saturday September 4, 2010 –

The venue was fairytale-like for the finals of the Miss Bonaire Pageant 2010. The organization set up a very professional stage and approximately 300 spectators and ecstatic fans enjoyed the dancing and singing entertainment but above all the interest was on the six contestants vying for the ultimate Miss Bonaire 2010, all of whom appeared more beautiful than ever before. Of course, there was a “high prize” to win: a ticket to the Miss Universe Pageant 2011.

The contestants as well as the audience were so nervous. And at the exact moment that the results were going to be announced was **exactly** the moment when all the lights went out, all over Bonaire. At first the audience presumed it was part of the show, but soon they realized it was a total power



The new Miss Bonaire 2010, Benazir Berends-Charles, and her family in a happy moment



Some of the “influential ladies” having fun together



1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up Miss Bonaire- Sharitee Rosalia; Miss Bonaire 2010- Benazir Berends-Charles; and 2nd Runner Up Miss Bonaire - Ana Marcial

And the final “stamp” on the jury’s decision was given by Aniek Schouten, Notary Candidate of Office Maartense: **“The winner of Miss Bonaire 2010 is Benazir Berends-Charles.”**

The Bonaire born beauty had a huge and loud supporting fan club and thanks to them and her outrageous feminine style of presenting herself, she was crowned Miss Bonaire which provides her the ticket to the Miss Universe pageant 2011.

Benazir not only won Miss Bonaire this evening, but also Miss Best Evening Gown and Miss Elegance. In earlier contests during this pageant she was voted “Miss Runway,” “Miss Freewinds” and “Miss City Café.”

Of course the other five amazing looking girls were also very happy, some with tears, others with a big smile. Amongst them were 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up Miss Bonaire - Sharitee Rosalia; 2nd Runner Up Miss Bonaire - Ana Marcial and Miss Congeniality, Loresca Anthony.

Afterwards Miss Bonaire and the other contestants showed themselves to the people in the streets of Bonaire driving through the night. .... relieving their stress. ■ Marian Walthie

blackout. Nevertheless the show went on, the “heat” went up, and the ultimate Miss

Bonaire 2010 was chosen by the professional jury, headed by Bonaire’s First Lady, Mechtild Thodé.

Last year cellphone provider Digicel came up with the idea of holding a gathering to recognize the work of women on Bonaire and to let these women meet and get to know each other better. This year they engaged STINAPA director, Elsmarie Beukenboom to speak on Global Warming and how it affects Bonaire. Digicel used the occasion to launch its BlackBerry 8320 special promotion. Each of the guests received gifts, including free entry for two persons to the Washington Slagbaai National Park. ■ Press release/ Digicel photos

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# MCB Thanks Bonaire's Press



Last Wednesday, September 1, was press appreciation day, and MCB (Maduro & Curiels Bank Bonaire), as they do so often, invited Bonaire's press corps to enjoy a party and dinner. This time it was at Casa Blanca Restaurant. In his speech to the press, bank official Rudy Gomez emphasized the importance of reporting the news to the people in a responsible and correct way and complimented the press on continuing to do that on our dushi island, Bonaire. ■ L.D.

## Cycling Team Bonaire Rocks the National Championship



Dirk-Jan Methorst, Carla Verheggen and Gijs Vermeulen

Team Bonaire came back home with three victories after racing at the Netherlands Antilles Mountain Bike National Championship on August 29. The race took place at the fast and challenging race course of Koral Tabak in Curaçao.

Carla Verheggen of Team Bonaire won the Women's 2010 nationals. With her teammates, Gijs Vermeulen, Frank Bohm, Floris Dullaart and Dirk Jan Methorst, Bonaire was again the dominate force as they came back with three victories with only five riders. Last year, it was Erik Franssen and Rhian Evans who won in the Men and Women's elite category. This year, it was Verheggen who came first in the Women's category. Vermeulen also won first place in the 15-16 year old Boys category and Methorst finished second in the Sub-Master category.

Bonaire Wellness Connexions, which organized the effort, congratulates all of Team Bonaire for their fine Netherlands Antilles National Championship. Pa Bien!

For more information about coming races and Cycling Team Bonaire performance visit [www.bonairewellness.com](http://www.bonairewellness.com). ■ Press release

## Dutch Treat



During the Taste of Bonaire on Friday, August 27, one of the most popular stands was selling Dutch Kibbeling. It's like "fish and chips," but the coating on the fish was extremely light, almost like that of tempura. Running the stand was Pittiula Loth and her son. Pittiula had a fish shop in Holland for 20 years. Holland's loss; Bonaire's gain! ■ Laura DeSalvo

# Body Talk

## OVERFED BUT UNDERNOURISHED?

There cannot be many people in this world who have never been concerned about their weight. Apart from the weather and money, body weight is probably the most talked about subject on this earth and very few people are really happy with what they have, hence all those fad diets out there! We all know they work for a while, but soon after stopping, the weight just comes back.



A weight problem is a nutritional problem. To understand your weight problem, it is essential to understand what happens with the food you eat and the process of digestion, absorption, utilization and elimination. Each one of these processes are of extreme importance to the body, but it is usually the first stage – digestion - where most people fail. Digestion simply means your body is not breaking down your food adequately.

Proteins are broken down into amino acids for building and repair, carbohydrates (starches and complex sugars) into simple sugars for fuel, and fats are broken down into fatty acids and glycerol for building, repair and emergency needs. It is important to remember that we have alkaline digestive enzymes in the mouth for carbohydrate and fat digestion; we have acid (pepsin) digestive enzymes in the lower stomach for initial protein digestion; and we have alkaline digestive enzymes in the pancreas and throughout the first part of the small intestinal tract to finish up the job for proteins, starches sugars and fat.

Unfortunately, most of the foods we commonly eat are acid forming, and when our body (including our saliva and blood) becomes acidic, our nutrition becomes coagulating. In other words, our building materials (fats, fuels, minerals and other compounds) start sticking or clumping together. Most people's intestines become impacted with a thick rubber-like substance called mucoid plaque which develops in the gastrointestinal tract, made up of gluten, mucus, proteins and other food by-products that act more like a glue than nutrition.

It is this very same mucoid plaque that blocks the nutritional components of our foods from being adequately absorbed into the body. Because the body is not getting adequate nutrition, it thinks it is being starved and holds onto everything that you eat. Now what goes in to the body, for the most part, must come out. Easier said than done. I have found, in general, most people with a weight problem do not eliminate every day (sometimes only two to three times a week). Whether you have a weight problem or not, you have to eliminate **every day**, and if you are a meat eater, you should certainly eliminate twice a day.

If we do not eliminate our waste, we build congestion interstitially (around cells) and intracellularly (inside cells), causing further cellular decay and death, making it virtually impossible for the body to perform even the most basic of processes. As we get older, the body also slows down due to cellular weakness. Add inadequate nutrition and elimination to that, and we have a recipe for a health disaster. ■ Stephanie Bennett

**Next issue:** Protein Consumption and Digestion and your Weight.

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 Bonaire health issues. She is the owner of the *Essence Nutritional Center*



### Controversial Law (Continued from page 3)

Supporters of the new law argue that resorts and dive shops have been getting an almost free ride in the Marine Park and should be made to pay for what they are exploiting.


Some of the fees include:

- Use of the Marine Park for business (diving, snorkeling, windsurfing, sailing, etc...) \$840 per establishment per year;
- Using a mooring buoy, kick, riprap, seawall, (private or commercial) or overhanging structure \$280 per year;
- Using a ladder from shore \$140 per year;

- Using an industrial pier or dock \$560 per year;
- Use of a built or completed beach \$140 per meter per year with a maximum of \$16,760 per year.

No fishing zones are set and, in addition to the marine life already protected, the law extends formal safeguards to Bonaire's plants, trees, animals and reptiles. There are also building guidelines defined to protect the environment. And much more.

For the text of the laws (available in Dutch only) go to [http://www.bonairegov.an/index.php?option=com\\_remository&Itemid=54&func=select&id=56&orderby=3&lang=nl](http://www.bonairegov.an/index.php?option=com_remository&Itemid=54&func=select&id=56&orderby=3&lang=nl) ■ G.D.



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# BONAIRE ON WHEELS

## Victor Brouwer Climbs Mount Brandaris by Mountain Bike

The 76<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's inter-

Hato-Washington Park/Bonaire –

So it was not really that early as they had the intention to leave, that they left Hato in the direction of the Washington Park. A group of eight youngsters, consisting of **Victor, Nanouk, Daniela, Seb, Jamie, Margeaux, Derek and Sarah**, and an elderly person had the idea to visit Washington Park and climb Mount Brandaris.

In two pick up trucks they drove the curly road along the coast, heading north. They passed the Goto Lake, and crossed the still sleeping village of Rincon. No time to spoil. The goal was to reach the entrance of the Park more or less on time. It was already getting warmer and warmer and in the Park some members of the group could not resist the dangerous waves of the first beach in the park: Playa Chikitu. On the beach they found the track of what must have been an enormous turtle, creating a nest for some 150 eggs. By the freshness of the track, the digging of the nest and the laying of the eggs must have taken place the night before.

Then the group continued the trip, not really paying attention to the Blow Hole (Supladó), Seru Bentana and Pos Man-

gel. Mount Brandaris was the target! Around mid day (sic!/jb) they reached Mount Brandaris. It is always fun to climb the highest mountain of the island. Once, the oldest member of the group ascended and descended the lump of stone on bare feet. Quite spectacular, but his story does not really fit in this series of articles because he did not use wheels and in fact it was not that special at all because, according to the Park Ranger **George Kultura** (the man with the beard and the shape of the island of Bonaire, including the Brandaris tattooed on the palm of his right hand/jb), those days way back in time the Indians always climbed Brandaris without shoes!

It was Victor Brouwer who got the idea to climb the mountain by bike. The day before the trip he had inspected his bike, a Mongoose Rockadile. He just had to blow some extra wind in the tubes, that was all. So, at around 12 he left on his bike, fighting with big stones, little rocks and the dangerous needles from a variety of cacti. Soon he was far ahead of the group and out of sight. Every now and then the figure in the red t-shirt popped up on the horizon, getting smaller and smaller. It took him less than an hour to reach the top. So within an hour he was able to enjoy the



This historic picture was taken on Sunday, August 22, 2010, mid day. It shows Victor Brouwer, age 19, standing on the black and white marker on top of Mount Brandaris, Washington Park Bonaire, holding the full aluminum Mongoose Rockadile mountain bike which he used to conquer the highest mountain of the island measuring 241 meters/784 feet.

magnificent view over the island and the impressive ocean. The group was still half way, sweating and complaining. Finally they all reached the top and it was time to take some pictures of this young Bonairean hero: Victor Brouwer had conquered the Mount Brandaris on a bike! We all think he might be the first person (teenager) in space who did this job. Congratulations!

The bike used for this exercise was an American designed Mongoose Rockadile, full aluminum, fitted with Vuelta Airline 1 rims with stainless steel spokes. The Shimano gear had three chain wheels in the front and eight in the rear. Grip shifts were mounted and V-brakes were supplied by Avid. The saddle was full leather, produced by the famous Brooks factory in England. Most of the time Victor used the lowest gear possible and some moments he even had to carry his bike because the climbing was really too steep. The whole expedition took some two hours and luckily the bike and its rider did not suffer from flat tires because of the slime in the tubes and the linings between the tubes and the tires.

After this sporty event all members of the group jumped in the two trucks heading for Boka Slagbaai where they all jumped from a 12-meter high cliff, right in the blue Bonairean sea. Nice kids! ■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



## Flamingo Television Apologizes



Patrick Dowling

On Thursday, September 2, Flamingo TV called a press conference to explain why some channels were being lost and to apologize for any inconvenience. Mr. **Patrick Dowling**, General Manager of the company, said he is very aware of the situation. He was born in the Antilles, in Aruba, and knows the Bonairean needs. Flamingo TV has been serving the Bonairean people for 25 years and they want to make the best of their network station.

Flamingo TV has been given the local service of Cable Television, about 65 channels of Digital Television. A lot of these channels are on digital, HD television, cable and fiber internet, local and international telephony services, international private leased line and wholesale IP and telephony services. The channels that are not available are because of the license provider. Some of

these licenses have to go through these countries' councils and this might take some time to renew the license. So if the license is expiring we have to wait until we can renew it, he explained. "But together with the Bonairean people, the Antilles and a good deal with the license provider we can manage to give Bonaire what they deserve because they have earned it."

Mr. Dowling says, "We are looking forward to having more channels with more US and

European content. Soon we will launch our "Triple Plan Play" which consists of Television, Internet and Telephone. By the end of this year and until next year we will be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary."

Last Saturday, September 4, they celebrated their annual hamburger contest with a first prize of NAf 750. ■

Story & photo by Siomara Albertus

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## BonQuiz Answer

Bon Quiz (from page 7)

Q) Do you know what the surprising fact about Eleanor Roosevelt's visit is?



A) The Bonaire visit never took place!

Research of official US government documents in Washington, DC by Antilles archeologist Dr. Jay Havisier proved she did visit Curaçao and South America, but never Bonaire!

### Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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

# Dolphins of the Week



Last week it seemed that everyone was talking about the many pods of dolphins cavorting around Bonaire. But it took an astonishing photo by Huub Marsman to capture the joyous feeling that these beautiful creatures provide for those of us who didn't see them. This pod was swimming between SABEDECO and Klein Bonaire. ■ G.D.

# Pet of the Week

Meet "Jos," a very handsome redhead who loves people. He's a short legged Corgie look-alike. Here he is getting acquainted with Bonaire visitor Colton Reed from Cobb, California. Colton always makes it a point to stop in for a visit to the Shelter when he's on the island. Jos is one of those dogs with a good self image and confidence. Even though he's been at the Shelter only a short time he knows his name and has enchanted the staff with his easy going charm and sociability. Here's a smart dog with who can learn quickly. Jos is about one and a half years old, has been sterilized, has had his worming and shots and is in perfect health. You may see him and the other



Colton and Jos at the Shelter

cats and dogs up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: [WWW.bonaireanimalshelter.com](http://WWW.bonaireanimalshelter.com). ■

Laura DeSalvo

## DISTEMPER ALERT

For the first time ever on Bonaire, according to the Shelter staff, there is a continuing epidemic of the virus, Distemper. They report that 10 to 15 dogs suffering from the disease are being brought into the Shelter every week. This deadly disease affects young dogs and older dogs that haven't been vaccinated against it and is extremely contagious. Symptoms are runny nose and eyes, lack of appetite, diarrhea and paralysis, which may lead to death. Sadly, once one dog in a family contracts the disease it often spreads to the others. And once a dog has it it's almost impossible to cure. So, if you haven't already, please get your dogs vaccinated against this horrible virus. ■

Laura DeSalvo

# Bubbles From the Biologist

Did you know... that Caribbean bottlenose dolphins can be an important provider for animal assisted therapy?

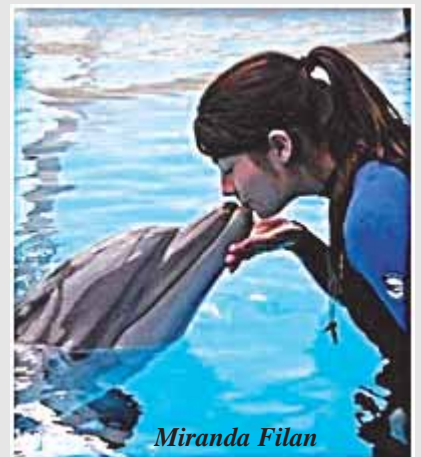
One of Bonaire's most remarkable ocean creatures is the bottlenose dolphin. They have been seen riding alongside the bows of dive boats and birthing young by Klein Bonaire. There has been groundbreaking research suggesting that dolphins used for human therapy are extremely effective. Dolphin-assisted therapy has been known to help children and adults suffering from autism, post-traumatic stress and many other disorders. Interactions with dolphins create confidence and neurological stimulation in the human brain that medicines cannot provide. It is important to protect wild dolphin populations but also to ensure that domesticated dolphins are treated humanely and with care so that we may continue to learn more about how they can be an excellent alternative medicine source.

■ Miranda Filan

Filan is a Biology Major from Washington State University with a focus on ecology. She studied with CIEE Research Station Bonaire this summer and hopes to pursue a career working with dolphins in the future.



Photo: zimbio.com



Miranda Filan

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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

September is the month for close and bright planets, Jupiter and Uranus in the evening and Mercury in pre-dawn skies.

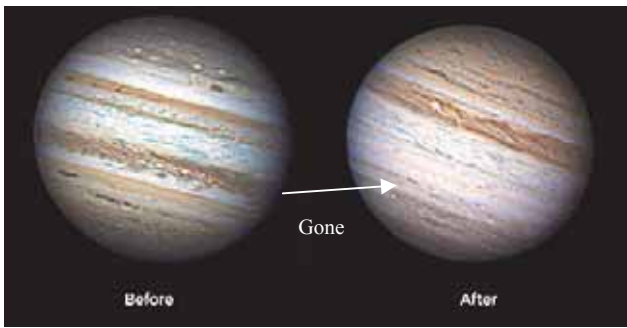
Greetings, Sky Park readers. This column was produced before author Jack Horkheimer passed away on August 20<sup>th</sup> but he still wants you to know what's up in the night sky. Read below.

Get out about an hour before sunrise in mid-September and be sure you have a clear view to the east. Look low in the east just above the horizon for a pinkish light and that will be Mercury. Mercury will be getting higher and easier to find every morning after the 13th and will be at its best around September 18, 19 and 20. If you look at Mercury through a small telescope you can watch it go through phases just like the Moon.

Mercury is the planet closest to the Sun and goes around the Sun the fastest. This means that Mercury quickly pops in and out of view in the morning and evening sky. It's never there for more than a week or two and it never gets very far from the Sun, which means it's never very high in a dark sky. So you have to get your look at Mercury at just the right time.

Meanwhile in the evening, look low in the east just after sunset and the king of the planets, bright Jupiter and the second planet out from the Sun after Jupiter, Uranus, will appear very close together. Jupiter now is closer than it has been in the last 47 years and on September 21 will be at its closest, biggest and brightest of this year. Jupiter is the biggest planet, over 88,000 miles wide, that's 11 Earths wide.

Jupiter will rise higher hour after hour until midnight and will be in the sky nearly all night long. This is happening because Jupiter is at opposition on the 21st, which means Jupiter is opposite the Earth from the Sun and thus closest to Earth. Our Earth goes around the Sun



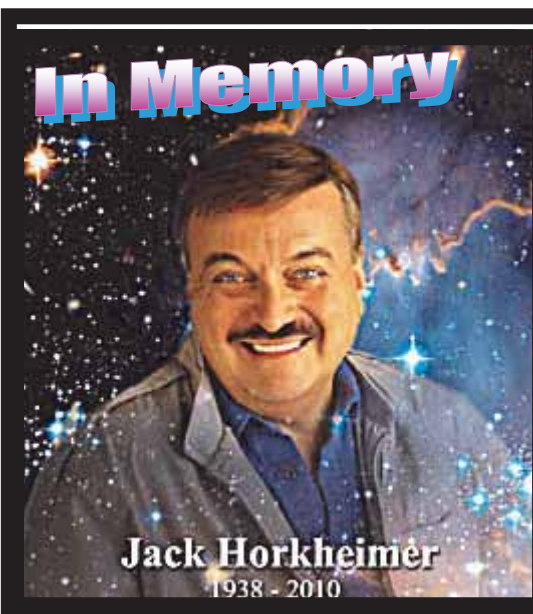
Astronomer Anthony Wesley's photos show that one of Jupiter's two dark stripes is gone. It's a phenomenon called South Equatorial Belt Disturbance, and it happens every three to 15 years.

faster than Jupiter and passes Jupiter every 13 months. But because the Earth and Jupiter do not orbit the Sun in perfect circles they are not always the same distance apart when we Earthlings pass by. This year Jupiter is especially close and will not be this close again until 2022. So this means that this September will be the best time to look at Jupiter for many years!

Another special thing to look for as you watch Jupiter is the blue green planet Uranus, which will be especially close to Jupiter around September 19. You will be able to see Uranus above Jupiter with just a pair of binoculars but using a telescope will be even more fun. Uranus will appear to be so close to Jupiter that only one full moon could fit between them.

But there is something else that is special about Jupiter and that is that it looks different from last year. Jupiter usually has two prominent dark bands across its middle that are visible in even a small telescope but one of them has disappeared! So enjoy Mercury in the morning from September 13th through the 20th and Jupiter and Uranus in the evenings. ■ Jack Horkheimer

And as Jack has always said, Keep looking up!



Jack Horkheimer penned his own epitaph long before he succumbed to a respiratory disease at age 72. His column, adapted for Bonaire's location, has been a feature of *The Reporter* for over 10 years. His astronomical competence coupled with his skill in making the affairs of the heavens come alive has made Sky Park one of this newspaper's most popular features. We will miss him. He wrote: "Keep Looking Up! Was my life's admonition; I can do little else In my present position." ■ G.D.



## THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen For September 2010

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You could lose money or precious belongings if you aren't careful. You may end up being blamed if anything goes wrong. You should get involved with activities that can be enjoyed by both young and old alike. Physical activity will help defuse your frustration. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You can't always have your own way. The information that you gain can be used in every aspect of your life. You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect that is presented to you. You will gain knowledge through your adventure. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Don't overspend to impress someone who interests you. Emotional situations could bring out your stubborn nature. Be sure to keep communication open with those you live with. You could receive recognition for a job well done. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Acceptance will be necessary. Get involved in groups that will help you meet established individuals. Overindulgence may be a problem. This is a great day to start that new health regimen you've been talking about. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You can get support from groups that you belong to if you're willing to step out on a limb and voice your opinions. Beware of colleagues who don't have your best interests in mind. Too many opportunities and too many changes going on. Dinner, theater, or a comedy club may be just the place. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't force your opinions on friends or relatives unless you are prepared to lose their favor. You may be offered opportunities that will result in a higher earning potential. Obstacles may stand in your way where career and success are concerned. Don't be taken advantage of by any fast talking salesperson trying to part you from your cash. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Unexpected bills may set you back. Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. You may want to pull out some of those unfinished projects you've got tucked away. Consider making pleasure trips or participating in entertainment that will require energy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Take time to find out all you can. Make sure any presentation you have is ready. In-laws may cause difficulties. Travel should be considered. Situations in your personal life are moving a little fast lately. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Property investments should payoff. Problems with females you live or work with will try your patience and cause temper flare ups. Take on positions that offer on the job training or pay for courses related to the business. You are best to be accommodating for the time being. Sudden romantic infatuations won't be lasting. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Losses could occur if you haven't been careful when dealing with joint financial ventures. Don't let your anger consume you and don't allow important matters go unattended to. You must not lead someone on or show interest in them for the wrong reasons. Romantic relationships should stabilize. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't try to deal with important issues or make changes that will upset the apple cart. Friends and relatives may not understand your needs. Luck is with you. You may want to plan physical activities that will help burn off some of their excess energy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Heart to heart talks will clear up vague issues. Make changes in your domestic scene. You can make alterations to your appearance that everyone will admire. You will find the perfect outfit if you shop this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

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