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BONAIRE Aug. 19-Sept. 2, 2011, Year 18, Issue 16 **The REPORTER** *Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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Greta Kooistra photo

Wounded Warriors and their families at Pasa Bon Pizza

For the sixth consecutive year, Tourism Corporation Bonaire and the entire island of Bonaire welcomed a contingent of American Wounded Warriors and their families to the island for a week of SCUBA diving and completion of the final step in the process of obtaining their dive certifications as well as recreation.

The seven Warriors, five men and, for the first time, two women, suffered life-changing physical injuries received in combat while stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. They and their partners were kept busy with a variety of activities beginning with the completion of their PADI and HSA dive certifications, on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Once certified, they continued diving throughout the week, both from the dock of Captain Don's Habitat and via boat dives to Klein Bonaire and other Bonaire dive sites. The group en-

joyed shopping, sightseeing, dining, a Texas-style steak dinner and the "Taste of Bonaire" experience on Friday evening. The highlight of the week was a gathering to meet these extraordinary troops and their companions at the reception held in their honor at the home of Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé.

Lara Chirino, the island's recently named Director of Tourism, who was the keynote speaker of the evening, discarded her prepared notes at the podium and delivered a heartfelt tribute to the Warriors. She commented privately that she was so moved by her personal conversations with the Warriors that her prepared statements were unable to express her feelings on behalf of the island. Master of Ceremonies Papi Cicilia then took over and led the short program which presented each Warrior with individual gifts from Governor Thodé, the TCB, and others. In turn Ryan Hendrickson, one of the Warriors, presented the island a token of their appreciation. There was music, folk dancing, food,

drinks but most of all a warm spirit of friendliness and gratitude.

The event motivated a determination that next year, in August 2012, two groups of Wounded Warriors – Dutch (for the first time) and American - will be coming together on the island again and the event is anticipated to be huge.

Following the party at the governor's home the Warriors and their followers were escorted by the Bonaire Bikers to Pasa Bon Pizza, where Joe and Lisa and their crew provided a hearty dinner for them. On Friday morning the whole group went diving at 5 am (!) with Governor Glenn Thodé. Spokeswoman from TCB New York, Marie Rosa, said "We once again have to thank the government of Bonaire for their support and for welcoming them to the island.

All are anticipating next year when there will be three flags flying for the multinational Warriors: the Bonairean flag, the Dutch flag and the American flag.

Sponsors to date of the 6th Bonaire -Be A Diver-Wounded Warrior Scuba Certification trip are: 9Line LLC, Adams Unlimited Public Relations & Marketing, AERIS, Bikers Bonaire, Bonaire KFC, Bonaire-Talk.com, Bonaire Quad Tours, Bonaire Guided Motorcycle Tours, Bonaire Tours & Vacations, Budget Rent A Car Bonaire, Captain Don's Habitat, Caradonna Dive Adventures, Inc., Care Coalition, Caribbean Travel & Life Magazine, Chat & Browse Bonaire, Casablanca Restaurant, Disabled Sports USA, DEMA/Be a Diver, Dive Training Magazine, Henderson, H.S.A. International Training Center of New Jersey, Islands Magazine, Jack Chalk, Jewel Of Bonaire, NetTech, N.V., OCEANIC, PADI, Paradise Moon Bar & Restaurant, Pasa Bon Pizza, Patagonia Restaurant, Princeton Tec, Rum Runners, Scuba Diving Magazine, Sunset Bar & Grill Restaurant, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, Wounded Warrior Project and Bon Photo. ■

Greta Kooistra/ G.D. and press releases

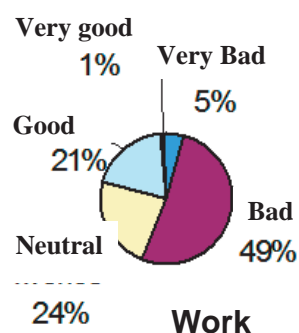
Flotsam and Jetsam

THE BONAIRE REPORTER

Last week Muys Cieremans, the President of the Bonaire Hospitality Group (BHG), announced that **Plaza Resort Bonaire has joined BHG. With the Plaza Resort as a new member of BHG, BHG claims to be the biggest representative of the hotel industry on the island, eclipsing the longer established BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association).**

The General Manager of Plaza Resort, Franc Dubbelman, said, "In the past Plaza was a member of BONHATA, but we decided that we were more flexible being on our own, however, recently we noticed that our interest is better looked after when we join hands with a group with similar thoughts." Board member of BHG and investor, Martien van der Valk, added, "In these, due to many changes and new legislation, economically challenging times, we feel that getting together and speaking with one voice is becoming more and more important."

► A recent survey commissioned by the ABVO labor union, conducted by students of the Inter-Continental University of the Caribbean based in Curaçao, indicated that



a large majority of the island's people, around 70%, are dissatisfied with the direction the island has taken since the 10-10-2010 integration of the BES Islands with The Netherlands. Areas of dissatisfaction focused on working conditions (above graph) prices, salaries and dollarization particularly. For more information contact Marcelo G. Anthony head of the ABVO at kaya-kanari@gmail.com.

► **Mr. Jair Tromp (39) has been named General Chief of the Dutch Caribbean Fire Brigade, effective August 1st, 2011.** Mr. Tromp was born on December 19th 1971 on Aruba. After obtaining his VWO-diploma on Aruba in 1971 he continued his studies at the University of the Netherlands Antilles on Curaçao. There he obtained a bachelors degree in Technical Sciences in the



Continental Airlines

What's Wrong With This Picture? Below are Continental Airlines airfares in the upcoming months. Note: The air travel miles are about the same.

New York/ Newark, NJ (EWR - Liberty)	Aruba (AUA)	\$298
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New York/ Newark, NJ (EWR - Liberty)	Curaçao- Willemstad, Netherlands Antilles (CUR)	\$540
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New York/ Newark, NJ (EWR - Liberty)	Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (BON)	\$700
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area of electrical engineering in 1996. Subsequently between 1997 and 2000 he followed the training to become a fire officer.

► **The Dutch Sponsored Social-Economic Initiative (SEI) has kicked off four Bonaire projects recently.** They include renovating the Sport Halls on Kaya Amsterdam and at Kolegio San Luis Beltran in Rincon, repair of the street lighting on the Sea Promenade (Malekon) and construction of a "WaterPark" on Playa Pabou. See story on page 8.

► **St. Maarten will get a new dialing prefix. 1-721 will become active as of September 30.** Calls to St. Maarten using either the current 00-599 or 1-721 will be accepted until September 30, 2012. After that only the new code will work. The use of country code 00-599 will be discontinued for St. Maarten but will remain in effect for Curaçao, St. Eustatius, Saba and Bonaire.

Local dialing will remain the same and persons and businesses can be reached by dialing the seven-digit local numbers. With this change St. Maarten becomes part of the North American Numbering Plan which includes the US, Canada and most of the Caribbean Region but not the BES Islands.

► **Tropical Storm Emily, which formed on Monday, August 1 in the afternoon, did not threaten Bonaire but marked the beginning of the island's "hurricane season,"** which brings calm winds perfect for diving the island's east side. Look for similar conditions whenever Caribbean storms pass to the north.

► Based on the quarterly report from the Dutch government's Central Bureau of Statistics **inflation on the islands making up the Dutch Caribbean was substantially higher in the second quarter of 2011 than in the first quarter.** The rate was highest on St Eustatius, at 10.5%, up from 7.0% in the first quarter. On Bonaire, it was up 5% following a 4.2% jump in the first quarter. Coupled with stagnation in wages it is making life hard for BES Islanders.

► **This February Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) welcomed Leo Hoogenboom as its new Program Assistant.** Leo is originally from Holland and has been working on Bonaire as a dive instructor since 2007. Leo's enthusiastic love for turtles and the ocean has already been a tremendous addition to the STCB team. The position also provides Leo with the opportunity to be actively involved in the conservation work he believes in.



► The proceeds from the "Haunted House" set up during Halloween each year at Captain Don's Habitat are always earmarked for worthy causes on the island. Last year's funds will be used to **subsidize the purchase of infant (0-2 years) car seats** for people who normally would be unable to afford them. Safety seats for young children are mandatory in the US and Europe but are not common on Bonaire. They have been proven over and over again to protect children in auto accidents. The seats are available through SEBIKI. Call 717-2436 and ask for Mariselle to get more information.



► **Digicel Bonaire continued its strong support for the island's Special Olympics program with a check of \$13,500** in support of the foundation. Head of the local Digicel office, Jursi Marshall, said, "We always give

(Continued on page 10)

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STRIP MINING BONAIRE

Have you experienced the seemingly never-ending flow of trucks running round the island loaded with stone or soil, quite often overloaded and very seldom covered, leaving trails of sand, soil and stone? Excavation of this building material is leaving massive holes all over the island, huge craters all through the countryside as well as along the coastline that includes historical sites such as Boca Onima



Three years ago *Forum Antilles* (radio show and website) made a video called "Destruction for Construction" which was viewed by some 860 people on YouTube and was sent to all the members of the Government. It highlighted the long term negative effect of the action if excavation was permitted without first taking into account the effects on the island's ecosystems.

That's the background. However, recently the Bonaire Island Council called a halt to stone quarrying and strip mining for building materials, supported by the 2008 Nature Ordinance (and other laws like like *Eilandsverordening Natuurbeheer* (A.B2008), *Ruimtelijk Ontwikkelingsplan Bonaire* (A.B 2010), *Wet grondslagen Natuurbeheer* BES and international treaties such as CITES, SPAW and the Treaty of Bonn indicate the exact procedure for making the excavation of raw material possible) that were not enforced until now. This resulted in a protest by the truck drivers and the near complete stop of our construction industry.

Two parties in the coalition government had different views on handling the problem. The PHU (Party for Justice and Unity) wanted to introduce an emergency act that would allow temporary suspension of the Nature Ordinance, essentially circumventing the law that stood in the way of the island's financial development. The PDB (Democratic Party) proposed limited excavation in specific sites (Bolivia and Roi Lamunchi) until a permanent resolution could be found. Meanwhile raw materials are being barged in from Curaçao to meet the

shortage. Interestingly, according to Democratic Party leader/ Councilman Robby Beukenboom, not a single stone has been excavated from these allowed sites since this compromise was

presented. Why? Perhaps it's because the government is asking for an up-front payment (set at \$3 a truckload) by the truckers before excavation can start.

Forum Antilles spokesman Sean Paton realized the gravity of the situation and interviewed Beukenboom. Paton said he was relieved to hear what he had to say.

His first question was why was strip mining continuing in Bolivia and Roi Lamunchi? Beukenboom was quick to point out that these were not long term options. One of his early memories was when spear fishing was outlawed, something he readily

Hendrik Wuyts photos



Soil mining area

admits made him angry at the time. He said, "I understand why now, but in those days we did not know what we were doing. It was just a way of life. Now," he went on, "people do not realize what we are doing with the land. I must consider the people who now can't work but also the future generations to come." Visit www.youtube.com/forumantilles and watch "op=op" for the complete interview and additional information and learn about the new Bonaire Island Coastal Environmental Protection Society (BICEPS) organized by Sean Paton. ■ Sean Paton & Hendrik Wuyts

YOU DUMP IT, YOU DRINK IT USED MOTOR OIL CONTAMINATES OUR WATER

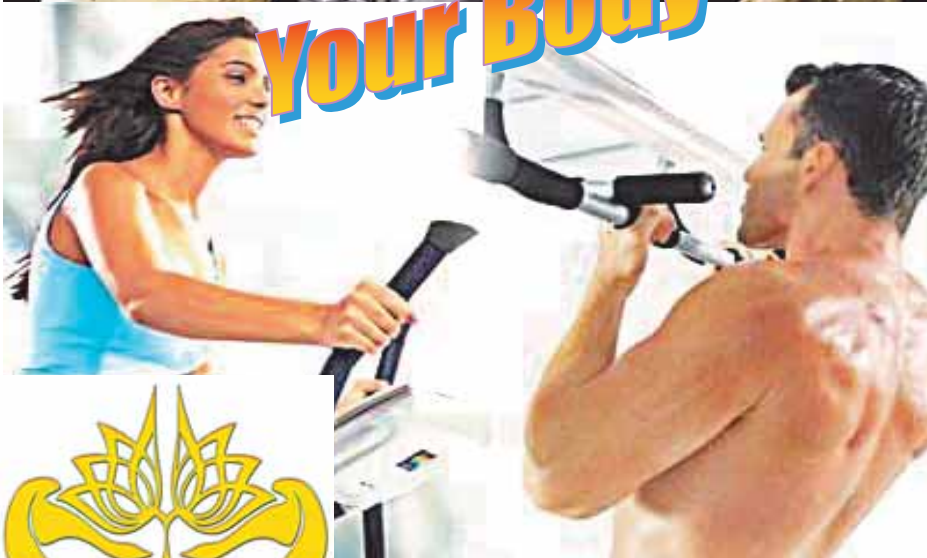
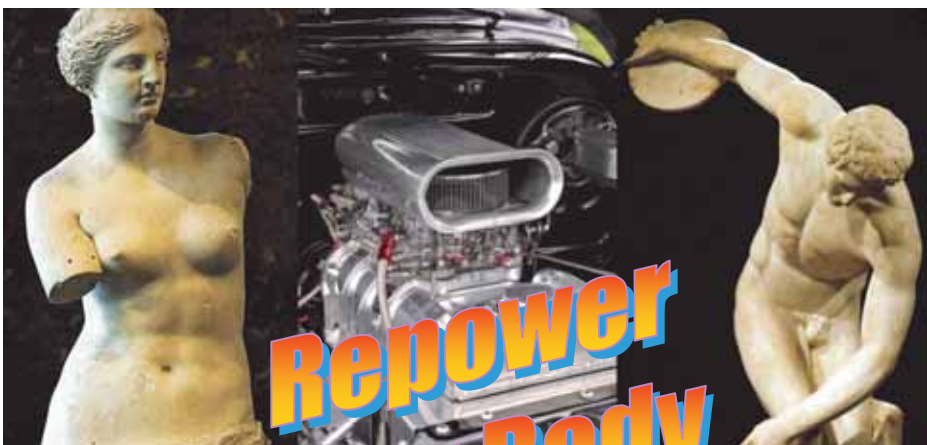
Because whatever is poured into Bonaire's soil eventually winds up in the ocean, Bonaire's government has contracted with SELIBON, Damascus Trucking and Bonrecycling to come up with a solution for the problem of disposal of waste engine oil. The engine oil disposal will cost \$0.27 cents a liter, which will be charged to the company

that delivers the waste oil to the recycler/processor but ultimately it's passed on to the consumer. This means that servicing your car can become a little more expensive.

Bonaire's law states that companies can only dispose of waste oil by sending it to an authorized collection agent. The waste oil will be collected and stored in a buffer tank at Bonrecycling. That company will ensure the removal of the oil to Curaçao for processing.

The Island Waste Regulation also states that used oil from households should be kept separate from the other household waste. An individual who changes his own motor oil is not allowed to include it in his household waste. And used oil should not be flushed down the sink or the toilet. Households can dispose of their oil for free at the SELIBON Kaya Industria site beside Warehouse on weekdays from 7am to 4pm.

The slogan "You Dump It, You Drink It" is totally accurate for Bonaire since almost 100% of the island's drinking water is desalinated sea water. ■ G.D./ Press release



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On the Island Since... November 2007 **Cristina Rood-Bustos**

“I was born in Santiago de Chile and raised by my mom. I am an only child and maybe that’s why friends, family and people around me have been so important to me all throughout my life. After high school I studied to become a kindergarten teacher, although my interests were always about care and health. I’ve worked very little as a teacher because the salaries in Chile were low. Actually I worked a lot of different jobs until I became a boutique manager.

When I was 21 my son Rodrigo was born. I’d already bought my own house and my mom was living with me. Life was very expensive and I’d been working for years without a single break when a girlfriend of mine, who had moved from Chile to Amsterdam, invited me to come over for a three-month vacation.”

She smiles. “It’s unbelievable the way destiny works, because I went for a vacation and then I met

my prince! I was exploring Amsterdam by bike, a map at hand – not to get lost – when one day I was biking through the Vondel Park and I saw this guy on roller skates. He wore canary yellow kick boxing shorts and no shirt and he seemed very tall! I approached him from the back and thought ‘Wow! That’s a cutie, nice looking back too!’ And so I passed him and when I saw his face I thought ‘Handsome! Nice big nose!’

“I saw her and went after her on my roller skates,” Michel says, “and addressed her in Dutch, but... no reaction, then in English, but again nothing. Then she said ‘Sorry, no Dutch, no English – Español!’ So,” he laughs, “I talked to her in Papiamentu!”

“It sounded familiar – sort of...” Cristina laughs, “and I thought, ‘what a funny kind of Spanish.’ Then he explained to me it was Papiamentu and that he had lived on Bonaire, a place I’d never

heard of.”

Michel explains: “I wasn’t happy in Holland. I’d lived abroad for many years and since 1983 I’d spent a great deal of my childhood and teenage years on Bonaire where my mom and my step dad set up the hotel at Sorobon.”

“We kept on seeing each other,” Cristina says, “and after three months Michel spoke Spanish fluently. I wasn’t planning on staying in Holland. I had to go back to my child, my job, my life and my responsibilities. Because of the experience I’d had with my son’s father, I’d become careful and quite tough.

It was a huge dilemma and a very hard decision, but... love



Cristina, Amaya and Michel

conquers all. I called my mother to ask for her advice and she said, ‘Do you love him?’ and I answered, ‘Yes, but what about my son?’ Then Michel spoke to my mother and although they’d never met he told her, ‘I love your daughter very much and I promise you I will take very good care of her and I won’t allow anything bad to happen to her.’ And... that’s what he’s been doing for the last 14 years!

My mom told me she would take care of ‘Roro,’ my son Rodrigo, and that I should live my life. She was happy for me.” Michel continues. “I asked Cristina to

marry me. It was a crazy thing to do as I never wanted to get married, but... she said ‘No!’”

“I didn’t want to,” Cristina says, “not for the papers, not for anything, not at that time. I was careful and I felt we hardly knew each other, so I suggested living together.

One year later, in 1998, we got married. I was taking the course to become a Dutch citizen, but I couldn’t concentrate on my studies as I missed my son so much and I was crying every day.”

“For one year – twice a week - I went to the alien registration de-

(Continued on page 5)

“It’s unbelievable the way destiny works, because I went for a vacation and then I met my prince! ”

			
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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)

partment,” Michel says, “and finally, after two long years which seemed like an eternity, Roro came to Amsterdam in 2000.”

“Roro and Michel hit it off right from the start,” Cristina says, “and Michel acknowledged him and gave him his name. My son was back and life was perfect. I was learning Dutch and paid for everything myself by giving Spanish lessons. I did all kinds of workshops – I wanted to grow!

Then, in 2003, Amaya, our daughter was born. She’s the most beautiful flower of our family – a sweet and stubborn child, but if she hadn’t have been stubborn, she would have never been conceived. It was very difficult to get pregnant but in the end she came in her own time - totally unexpectedly!

Then, one day I saw an ad where a day school was advertising a beautician education. It was on a Wednesday and school had already started one week before – in Dutch. So I had to hurry up and on Friday I stepped into the classroom for the first time. I felt like a little chicken – afraid because of the language – and insecure among all those tall, blond, blue eyed and gorgeous looking Dutch girls. Two years later I graduated as an all-around beautician with excellent papers and certified to do massages, pedicures, mani-

cures, facials, waxing and reflexology.

When Amaya was eight months old we came to Bonaire for a vacation. I had never been here, but Michel wanted me to see the island. It was his dream to come back to Bonaire – the place where he had spent his childhood. We stayed for three weeks, then Michel asked me, ‘how do you like it?’ I said ‘yeah, it’s okay, beautiful, good weather!’ I was a city girl you see. I’d always lived in modern big cities.

However, I can make it anywhere, because I am an optimist and very positive and I have a lot of energy, but I need Michel wherever I go and whatever I do. He is my cane – I lean on him. So we went back to Holland with plans for the future, because this was Michel’s dream and I love him. I thought, ‘if it makes him happy, we’ll do it!’ Because ever since I met him, when he would speak about Bonaire his eyes would start shining.

Four years later we came to Bonaire. Roro stayed in Amsterdam. He was 17 and in high school. Now he’s 25 and studying ICT engineering management. He’s a real computer nerd and we are very proud of him because he did well, very well!”

Cristina, Michel and Amaya make a lovely family; there is a big love between them and a lot of respect for each other. They ac-

knowledge what they have and they are grateful for it.

“We arrived on Bonaire in November,” Cristina says, “and we were living with Lous, my mother-in-law, because our own house wasn’t ready yet. Although my own mom raised me with very much love, she is from her own culture. With Lous I can talk in Spanish and in Dutch and from her I learned almost everything else there is to know. Lous is also my mother and she’s my friend. She filled a part of me and she’s very important in my life.

Then Alda Dirksz of ‘The Touch’, the spa at Divi Flamingo, called me and I started to work for her immediately. My work is my other love. I enjoy working with my clients and colleagues so much, in spite of the fact that it’s a demanding job. In the four years at ‘The Touch’ I’ve gotten to know so many people and so many friendships have come out of it. It’s wonderful!

Let me tell you this anecdote: One day I’m busy with a client and we’re chatting and she says ‘Here everybody reads the korant’ (Papiamentu for newspa-



Vanessa Janga, Alda Dirksz and Cristina Rood-Bustos

per). I stopped putting on the cream and said, ‘Really? Does everybody here read the Koran? But there are also churches, no?’ The lady looked at me as if I’d gone cuckoo and then she burst out laughing! My Papiamentu wasn’t so brilliant in the beginning! It was funny!

Well, nowadays Michel is working on his boat and he has plenty of plans. He loves anything that has to do with the sea. Amaya is going to the Aquamarin School and I’m still growing. I want to learn more about reflexology, palm reading, art and plants. I just have that drive!

I would like to travel, to learn

about other cultures, to learn more and more. I am not ready yet. I’ve got so many plans and ideas and life can take so many turns.

But Michel is very patient and I’m learning from him and here on Bonaire things go poco, poco. That’s my karma, that’s what I have to learn, because the real value of life is spiritual life. I’ve been so lucky to have Michel, my son and my daughter, my friends and family, my work and our house. I am content.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Kaya Internationales#36-Kralendijk-Bonaire-Tel:717/4630-717/3666-Fax:717/4650-Email:infocityshopnv@gmail.com

Bonaire Crystal Tours and Services – A New and Pure Bonairean Tour Operator

“Two years ago I sat with George ‘Cultura’ Thode and Arthur Domacassé at Mentor Snack and Arthur told me, ‘if you want to know something about Bonaire’s history and culture, ask George!’ At the time I was living in Holland and Bonaire, working in real estate and development, but I was also looking for a new challenge on Bonaire. One day I was talking to Ronella (Croes, ex-head of TCB) and I asked her, ‘What can we do for the island?’ Ronella told me, ‘Do something exclusive – think of the combination Land & Sea...’

Although my wife and I are both Bonairean (Johnson Hart and Rachel Hart-Domacassé), we knew very little about the history and culture of our island because at school the subjects were hardly ever mentioned. Then, a flame was lit in my mind: I remembered George Thode from two years ago.

I called George and said, ‘listen, this is Johnson Hart, we met two years ago at Mentor Snack’ and George answered, ‘I was waiting for this moment... I was waiting for someone who will use my knowledge about culture and nature and pass it on.’

So, George and I got together and I was overwhelmed by the amount of documents and photos he had collected during his lifetime.

We started to put something on paper and then George said, ‘we need to get one more person on board, Bòi Antoin, the historian.’ From that time on it was the four of us. Bòi

did what he’s best at and so did George and then I thought, ‘All my life I’ve wanted a boat’ and after living in Holland for 23 years it was time to make my own dream come true as well. So, I bought the *Crystal*, a 38-foot motor yacht. With the *Crystal* we do three different sightseeing and snorkel trips and private tours on request. George divided the island in four areas: south, middle, north and the National Park and for each area we offer a different tour. We went driving through these areas with George and a camera crew and we made a promotion video. Then we fixed all the papers and permits and our flyers and banners.

Our aim is to work together with Bonairean people who have the knowledge, the spirit and the talent to pass on the ‘authentic flavors’ of the island to others in many different ways. The way we see it, it should work both ways. We all do what we love best and we want to share that feeling with the clients, and in the end everybody has an income and the tourists go home with an unforgettable experience.

July 2nd we opened officially, after two years of preparation. We thought about it hard and long because we didn’t want to thwart the existing tour operators and, even more importantly, we wanted to offer something completely new and different. We’ve got two buses and one Jeep and the boat. On the bus we have two spaces for wheelchairs and a wheelchair lift. We have four free-lance tour guides, four chauffeurs, two captains and four helpers. This formula

is new for the Caribbean. It’s very personal as almost anything is possible. We take our time and get off the bus, we go deeper into the subjects, make a stop not only to see things, but also to hear and taste and feel what it is like to be on Bonaire. That’s our service and it comes very close to what the real Bonairean is like: open, spontaneous, gentle and friendly.

And... the Bonaireans themselves are also very interested in our land tours. The tours are in great demand by the people who were born here! And local people get a 20% discount. As a contribution to the island we’re also planning to take a school class once a month for a tour with George Cultura.

After we opened, business got very busy. We get tourists from Curaçao and Aruba who come to spend the weekend here. Hotels, apartment complexes, resorts and companies are very enthusiastic, and tour operators from abroad have contacted us from the start. Bonaire has so much to offer – it’s never boring!

Now this is my home and I was visiting



Johnson and Rachel Hart

four, five times a year, but I could never stay because I had the business in Holland. Now I’m doing what I love to do and I’m not speaking only for myself. It counts for my wife as well and for all the people who are involved! For more info contact: 786-2002 or 717-2970 or go to www.bonairecrystalstours.com or info@bonairecrystalstours.com ■ Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

BonQuiz #56

BES FLAGS



On 10-10-2010, Bonaire, “The Divers’ Paradise,” and the largest BES island at 112 sq miles, Sint Eustatius, (Statia) “The Golden Rock” (8.1 sq miles), and Saba, “The Unspoiled Queen” (5.1 sq miles), became an integrated part of The Netherlands.

Holland brought closer what it always had: an underwater gem around the waters of Bonaire, a rainforest that reaches the clouds on Saba and a dormant volcano with trees as wide as houses, and vines as thick as my thighs in Statia.

Each island has its flag. The photo shows them flying next to the Dutch and US flag.

Q) Can you identify all these flags?


Answer on page 14

BonQuiz is written and photographed by 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




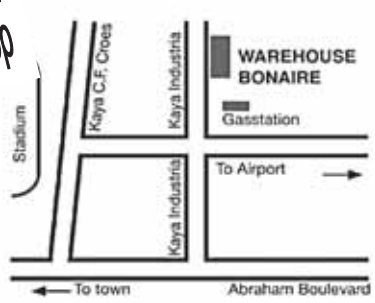


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BONAIREAN VOICES

ON-ISLAND MEDICAL LABORATORY SERVICES



In the last article I wrote about our house doctors. When it is necessary the doctor will send you to the laboratory to do some tests. In the interest of your health you should understand the reasons for doing these tests, and of course you will choose the laboratory that can give you all the service you need: trusted results done by highly professional technicians with modern laboratory equipment. Get to know about your National Laboratory that has been serving Bonaire for more than 75 years. Today we know it as Bonaire Laboratory N.V. (Bonlab). There are 11 employees who are working hard to make it possible for you to get the best service on the island. Make sure you know what to expect from your laboratory. Bonlab N.V. is a Medical Laboratory or Clinical Laboratory.

A Medical Laboratory or Clinical Laboratory is one where tests are done on clinical specimens in order to get information about the health of a patient as it pertains to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. Now, to tell us precisely what the entire Laboratory does, I interviewed one of the youngest but brilliant technicians who graduated a few years ago from Van Hall Institute, Leeuwarden, Holland. His name is Mr. Minguelito P.H. Conquet (26), a Bonairean who finished his studies as a **Medical/Clinical Laboratory Technician**. As Minguelito explains:

“Our Laboratory has different departments:

Clinical Chemistry is a very busy section where instrumental analyses are done like enzymology, toxicology and endocrinology.

Urinalysis tests urine for many analyses.

Coagulation requires citrated blood samples in order to analyze blood clotting times and coagulation factors.

Hematology works with whole blood to do blood counts and blood film as well as many other specialized tests.

Immunology/Serology uses the concept of antigen-antibody interaction as diagnostic tools. Compatibility of transplanted organs is also determined.

Microbiology/Parasitology receives almost any clinical specimens including swabs, feces, urine, blood, sputum as well as possible infected tissue. The work in this department is mainly concentrated on cultures to look for prospected pathogens.

Also sensitive studies are made to see if the pathogen is sensitive or resistant to any medicine the doctors prescribe for the patient.

In **Clinical Biochemistry** we test the serum or plasma for chemicals present in the blood. These include a wide array of substances such as lipids, blood sugar, enzymes and hormones.

Besides all these departments we have a **Water Laboratory Department** where water samples are fully analyzed in a sterilized area on microbiology elements to eliminate any minerals to a standard beyond water norm. Another aspect of our laboratory is to give service in neighborhoods like **Antriol three times a week, Rincon twice a week and home service every day**. If you would like to know more about your National Laboratory, all you need to do is call us at **717-8055** and we are at your service.

Because of our years of service and experience one thing you as the public required of us was a more spacious, fully equipped laboratory. Due to this demand we had to start with a new building where not only could we extend our service but also where we could receive our graduate students who finish medical or clinical laboratory studies, who are eager to come back and work in their birth land, to work with us. Through the years we have had many of these students who came as trainees and who are working with us today.

When we prepare for the future we always need to have two things in mind: the public and our students. Hopefully we have informed you about all we can do. If there's something we can't do ourselves in our Laboratory, we send it to Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Holland or the US. But we guarantee you that what we can't do is only about 1% of what we can do. Approximately 99% of tests are done at the Bonaire Laboratory, Kaya J.B. Vitte #1. We wait for you and we will be at your service with a smile.”

Bonaire Laboratory is open daily from 7am to give you the service you need. Don't hesitate to ask anything you'd like to know about our National Laboratory Bonlab N.V ■

Story & Photo by Siomara Albertus



Big Plans For Mangazina di Aruba



Greta Kooistra photo

In the old days *Mangazina di Aruba* used to be the second most important storehouse on Bonaire, after *Mangazina di Rei* in Rincon. It's located behind *Kolegio Reina Beatrix* elementary school in Amboina and after it was abandoned by DROB, who used the building as a carpenter's workshop, nothing much has happened to it ever since, but... that's about to change!

The Adonai Foundation has rented the building and eight hectares of land from the government and their goal is to restore the building to its original state and use five hectares of the land for agricultural purposes and divide the rest of the land into three parks.

Spokeswoman and member of the Adonai Foundation, Lula Bernabela, says: “We want to do something natural for the island. We want to grow organic vegetables, fruits and herbs so that people can eat healthy and live healthy. Further, we want to create three different parks: one natural park, one for children and one for teenagers. Our plan is to organize all kinds of events and activities for children and adults. In this area we need a place of peace and tranquility for all people and especially for youngsters, a safe place supervised by adults, where they can play, participate in sports and hang out together surrounded by nature.

Also, we want to serve teas, juices and traditional snacks and teach the children how to make them and sell them to locals and tour-

ists. A variety of local art made of all Bonairean materials will be sold on the premises as well.

I've put most of my private income into the project as it seems impossible to get money from the government, so now we're aiming for Dutch funds and bodies to realize the plans.

Not to sit still and wait forever, we've already started cleaning the land and we can use all extra hands available – volunteers who have a love of nature. They can join us any time, any day, and even if you come for one little hour we'll be happy to see you! We're also in need of second hand items: clothing, kitchen stuff, anything! All the time I'm telling people ‘don't throw anything away!’ because there are so many people on the verge of poverty on this island. So, call me, Lula at 561-7305.

And last but not least: Over the last five weeks the Adonai Foundation had 35 children here to spend their holidays and it's been a big success! Today is the last day. We're celebrating with a barbecue and each child will get a little vegetable plant to grow at home. It's been fun! And hereby I want to take the opportunity to thank our sponsors, the Rotary Club, Porta Habri, Astrid Sint Jago, Vanidades Boutique, Photo Paradise, El Mundo Restaurant and La Luna Restaurant, Bamboo Restaurant and Interiours. Thank you all.” ■ Greta Kooistra



Bon Bida photo

Bon Bida Spa & Gym is offering two new activities that are done out in beautiful Bonaire countryside. Every first Thursday of the month at 5pm there's off-road cycling under the guidance of Miguel. Bring your own bike, gear, water and a helmet. And the first Tuesday of the month a Kaminata Group Walk at 6:30 am also guided by instructor Miguel. Both activities are **free** for members of Bon Bida. ■ Press release

Another Illegal Lora Is Saved



Echo photo

Twiggy gets fattened up

Yet another illegally captured young Lora has been confiscated. Just like the large group of chicks rescued in July this poor bird was starving. But thanks to STINAPA, the bird is now safely with the Echo hand-rearing team at Jong Bonaire.

Her physical development and eye colour in particular indicate that she is the oldest of the Lora chicks and yet she weighed a mere 170g (6 ounces). The oldest of the chicks, which have now been under Echo's care for six weeks, by comparison weighs 280g (10 ounces). Even Sid, the smallest chick who is possibly five weeks younger than the new girl, weighs 215g (7 1/2 ounces). Thankfully the hard working Echo team know what to do and now she is gaining weight rapidly.

Let's just take a moment to put this in human terms. A healthy English gentleman, just under 6 feet tall, living on Bonaire might weigh around 75kg (165lbs). If the English gentleman had lost a similar proportion of his body weight as this young Lora chick (40%) he would weigh 45kgs (99lbs). It's pretty shocking isn't it?

This young bird quickly became the topic of much conversation and so it was decided she needed a name because this constant "she" or "her" was far too impolite for such an important endangered Lora. This is extremely unusual for the parrot team who otherwise operate in a

rigorously methodical and professional manner when working with these wild birds. None of the parrots we are here to serve have been named other than: Monty, Fat Sally, The Darling, Isla, Johan, Al, Sue, Sid, Harry, Olivia, Oswald, Bo Peep, Wee Ben. And so it was that we decided to make a rare exception and name this new recruit.

The great honour of naming the new girl was given to parrot hand-rearing expert Phoebe Linden who dropped everything and flew down from California to help the rescue. Realizing the significance of this moment and the great opportunity to make history Phoebe thought hard before declaring: "Oh, Harry (her husband) is so much better at names than I am." Those who had anxiously waited to hear the name Phoebe would come up with were somewhat disappointed by this and so it was decided to wait a day.

In Phoebe's defence she had worked without rest for an entire month and she was taking her turn to feel completely exhausted by the parrot rescue. A cold was taking hold and her voice was so raspy other team members were actually suspicious she had been out screaming at a rock band or something in some dark corner of Bonaire the night before.

To say Phoebe had worked without rest is to say that during her visit to Bonaire she had attended 58 parrot feedings, each taking between two and three hours. During that time she had probably plunged

over 1,000 syringes of delicious baby parrot gloop into the mouths of the screaming Lora and Prikichi chicks. What's more she had then cleaned up the resulting mess that is the consequence of parrot digestion. In between feedings she had gathered the various fruits and other supplies needed for feeding, or perches or done some other task related to the parrot chicks. She had been pretty busy.

On the very next day the parrot team reconvened and various names were suggested with renewed enthusiasm. There was some confusion about the name of a pop star from years ago whose name was neither Skinny Millie nor Skinny Vanilli. This input was sufficiently stimulating, however, to lead to Phoebe choose the name: Twiggy. Older readers will know that Twiggy was a very skinny English fashion model from days gone by. The name is also relevant as parrots of course perch upon twigs. And so it was that "she" became Twiggy.

In the days since being saved from death by starvation Twiggy has rapidly put on weight. She is doing very well and is a receptive recipient of almost any food that she encounters. We'll keep you posted with her progress in the next article, but if you should wish to find out more about Twiggy or other aspects of the rescue you can do so at www.facebook.com/echobonaire.org ■

Story & photo by Sam Williams
http://www.echobonaire.org/Parrot_rescue

The Echo Foundation is supported by contributions from Jong Bonaire, the Storehouse Mangazina and Rent O Fun Drive



WaterPark Conflict



A reported \$400,000 was allocated by the Dutch-sponsored Social Economic Initiative for a "Waterpark" just east of the promenade in the heart of the Playa Pabou neighborhood. Years ago residents of the area waged a successful fight to have the land, formerly holding the office of the island doctor, earmarked for a park rather than for development as have been all the other waterfront parcels.

But when construction began recently local people became upset because they had not been consulted and asked their representatives on the Island Council to investigate.

Councilman Clark Abraham, in turn, asked Tedrowe Bonner, an American long-time island visitor who has been active in urban planning, to consult with the locals as to what they believe their park should contain.

In a well attended meeting on August 4th at CIEE their comments were received and passed on to the Island Council and the architects. In general, the wishes of the people and the specifications of the architect seem to be the same :

- It is a park for all ages
- Open space.
- Place for children.
- A place for relaxation and reflection.

A meeting has been scheduled to work out the details to everyone's satisfaction. We plan a follow-up story to report on the outcome. ■ G.D.

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Carving Lionfish

“For heaven’s sake, honey, let the chips fall where they may.”

This prophetic cry is uttered continually by Irwin Spector to his wife, Jacqueline, as he pursues his hobby of carving marine creatures to life in wood! Irwin and Jackie visited Bonaire first in 1980 and purchased a home at Sand Dollar in 1989. “We have visited twice a year ever since. In 2007 we stopped diving and just enjoyed the island. I retired in 2000 and had plenty of time to spare. I have always loved working with my hands and wood and built a complete shop in my home in the US. Four years ago I watched wood carvers on TV making beautiful forms and creations. I could see that this was a way I could be more connected to the wood by using hand tools instead of electric power. It was a way for me to relax and focus on what I was carving.”



Professor Caren Eckrich with sculptor Irwin Spector

Photo by Alan Zale

Irwin just finished a carving of a lionfish. While it is a beautiful creature to look at, it also is sinister predator that, unchecked, can destroy a fishery in short order. Bonaire was prepared for the onslaught and took firm action to limit its numbers. STINAPA trains volunteers in the use of the ELF, a mini spear gun that has been approved for use on the island. It is strictly monitored by Bonaire Marine Park Staff and appears to be helping to keep the numbers somewhat in check. “I was awed by its beauty and felt the challenge to bring it to life in wood. I thought to display it in my home here on Bonaire but when I told Michael at Chat ‘n Browse about it, he suggested I ask CIEE if they would put it on permanent display. (CIEE is a non-profit, non-governmental international exchange organization with a campus on Bonaire.)” Irwin explained.

Visitors can now see *Dendrochirus biocellatus ligni* hanging on the wall in mute testimony to his brothers and sisters whose carcasses have been dissected and studied by the researchers and students who have passed through the labs at CIEE. Hopefully this petrified image will be the only way a visitor will be able to see a lionfish on Bonaire in the future. However, mother nature, being fickle as she is, we will just have to continue spearing and eating these ominous denizens of the deep! It also has been rumored that Irwin’s next project is a whale shark...if he can find a big enough piece of wood to carve and a wall to put it on. ■ Michael Gaynor

The Biggest Sorsaka On The Island

They don’t have a kunuku, just a regular piece of land around their house like everybody else, but in four years’ time the Sanchez family managed to change their plot of bare Bonairean soil into a Garden of Eden!

Victor Sanchez (almost 60+) and his lovely wife Mary who’ve been on the island for over 12 years are both working jobs six days a week, but still they found the time to grow their own fruits and vegetables in such an abundance that it’s really amazing!

“When I built the house,” Victor says, “I made sure that all the water pipes from the wash basins, the showers and the washing machine run out in the garden. Then I dug the holes and filled them up with a mixture of sawdust from wood that has not been treated with chemicals, potting soil and dried leaves. And then Mary took over... she’s the real artist!”

We have soursop – a fruit of which it’s lately been discovered to be a very good cure for at least 12 different sorts of cancers. But it’s also a fruit that tastes really good - sweet and sour- and it’s very juicy. We have the Peruvian tuna which gives big and tasty fruits, and we grow sugar cane, sweet potato, yucca, pomegranate – also good to fight cancer. And we have papaya trees and molle, a Peruvian feathery tree which gives little fruits like grapes from which we make *chicha de molle*, a refreshing drink with a little bit of alcohol. And we grow noni plants with fruits that are very good to improve the immune system. We also keep our own chickens and, putting the icing on the cake, Mary also grows her own beautiful yellow and purple orchids!

So, I would say: No need to import so many things – just grow them around your house – it saves you many trips to the shops and quite some money!” ■ Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



Mary and Victor Sanchez

Farmers’ Market

Thanks to the support of the public and the sellers, the Bonaire Farmers’ Markets continue. Begun by an initiative of Go Green’s Tina Woodley, every last Saturday of the month local farmers and growers gather to sell their produce. Since last month the market is held in the parking lot next to Telbo, across the street from Go Green.

Although there were fewer sellers at the last market, the quality of the plants and other items for sale was very high. Just a few examples on sale were plants (broccoli, bananas, papaya, different kinds of herbs, kalbas, eggplant, lettuce, decorative plants), Bonairean honey, tamarind jam, fertilizers and more. Please support these farmers and growers. They need to sell their wares to make it worthwhile for them to continue to grow and produce. **The next Farmers Market will be the last Saturday of the month, August 27, from 8 am to noon.** Come early as the items sell fast. If you want to participate and reserve a table, call Tina Woodley at 700-5488. ■ Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo



Carmo and Mem Janga sell plants

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Sat 20		01:56 0.07 ft	06:19 0.29 ft	11:50 0.11 ft	18:24 0.82 ft	6:24	18:53
Sun 21	Last Quarter	02:38 0.03 ft	06:59 0.26 ft	12:13 0.09 ft	18:57 0.88 ft	6:24	18:52
Mon 22		03:19 0.00 ft	07:34 0.22 ft	12:39 0.07 ft	19:30 0.93 ft	6:24	18:52
Tue 23		03:59 -0.02 ft	08:08 0.20 ft	13:08 0.05 ft	20:06 0.97 ft	6:24	18:51
Wed 24		04:39 -0.02 ft	08:45 0.19 ft	13:43 0.04 ft	20:45 0.98 ft	6:25	18:51
Thu 25		05:18 -0.02 ft	09:26 0.19 ft	14:26 0.05 ft	21:26 0.96 ft	6:25	18:50
Fri 26		05:55 -0.02 ft	10:15 0.22 ft	15:19 0.07 ft	22:10 0.92 ft	6:25	18:49
Sat 27		06:31 -0.00 ft	11:12 0.29 ft	16:27 0.12 ft	23:00 0.83 ft	6:25	18:49
Sun 28	New Moon	07:07 0.01 ft	12:14 0.38 ft	17:55 0.16 ft	23:57 0.73 ft	6:25	18:48
Mon 29		07:43 0.02 ft	13:16 0.51 ft	19:38 0.17 ft		6:25	18:48
Tue 30		01:03 0.61 ft	08:21 0.03 ft	14:14 0.65 ft	21:19 0.12 ft	6:25	18:47
Wed 31		02:19 0.51 ft	09:03 0.04 ft	15:09 0.79 ft	22:45 0.03 ft	6:25	18:46
SEPT. Thu 01		03:36 0.43 ft	09:47 0.04 ft	16:03 0.92 ft	23:57 -0.06 ft	6:25	18:46
Fri 02		04:48 0.38 ft	10:35 0.04 ft	16:54 1.03 ft		6:25	18:45

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
back to our community, but we must admit
that Special Olympics athletes have a special
place in our hearts." Digicel has been a
strong supporter of Special Olympics dating
back to before the Special Olympics games in
Ireland (the home base of Digicel) in 2003.



►For the 11th time Jong
Bonaire will organize its
annual fund raising Swim
to Klein Bonaire event.

This year it will take place
on Sunday, the 2nd of Octo-

ber, at the start of Regatta Week. Last year,
almost 350 people swam from Eden Beach to
Klein Bonaire and part of them swam back as
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ARE YOU A PLAYER OR SPECTATOR?

This is a true story. Long, long ago in a far away land my real estate mentor introduced me to Mr. Smith.

Mentor: I want you to meet Mr. Smith and to take great care of him. He is one of the most successful businessmen in the world. If you learn what he has forgotten in real estate you too will be very successful. Mr. Smith has been looking for the perfect home for many years. His price point is \$1,000,000.

This happened so long ago that \$250,000 was a huge price. Million dollar homes were almost unheard of. I was excited. We began the next morning. By noon I already recognized a pattern in our process. At every home we had the same conversation.

Me: Mr. Smith, this home meets or exceeds all your criteria. I know you will like it.

Mr. Smith: I know this house. I saw it years ago when I could have bought it for \$250,000. It was overpriced then and is way overpriced at \$1,050,000.

Me: You are one of the world's best business people. If you bought this home when you first saw it you would have made a lot of money and enjoyed living in a beautiful home.

Mr. Smith: It is a vacation home to me for three to six months a year.

We looked for three days and the same speech was made at every house. A few months later Mr. Smith called and asked to see more homes. History repeated itself. In fact it repeated itself two to three times a year for two years. I finally told Mr. Smith what he already knew. Prices were rising and rising and he was never going to find his dream home for \$200,000.

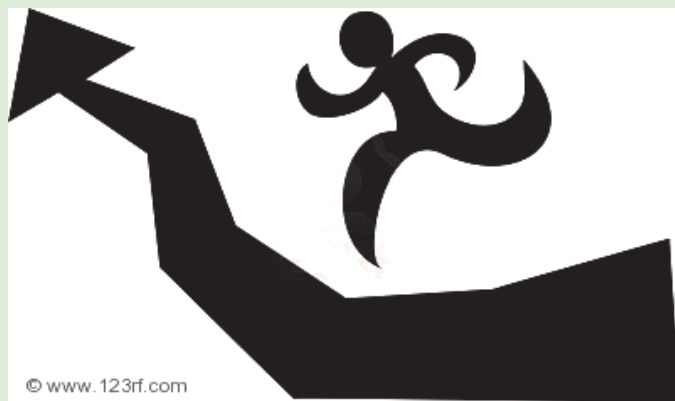
Every time there was a blip or hiccup or bubble in the market or the economy I would immediately call Mr. Smith. No matter how much the prices had dropped or how willing the seller was to negotiate Mr. Smith was not interested.

Mr. Smith was stuck in a 1975 time warp. Any price after 1975 was too high and he was going to wait for the market to "correct."

One day I asked my mentor "Why did you send me to Mr. Smith?"

Mentor: Do you remember I told you he was a hugely successful businessman and you would do well to remember what he forgot about real estate?

Me: Of course. I know he is a billionaire many times over. He knows how to make a business deal, how to motivate and inspire people and all the things it takes to become one of the world's richest men.



© www.123rf.com

Mentor: What did he forget about real estate?

Me: He forgot you cannot enjoy a home or make money if you do not own it.

Mentor: Exactly, that is the lesson I wanted you to learn. Everything in life goes up in value and down in value. It may be your salary, the price of a computer, car or a house. It may be your health or a relationship. Change is inevitable in life. You have to live life in order to enjoy it. The game of life is very different if you are on the playing field, sitting on the bench or sitting in the stands.

I called Mr. Smith many times after that conversation. Mr. Smith was a world-class player for many parts of the game of life. Having a great vacation home to enjoy with his family was not his strong game.

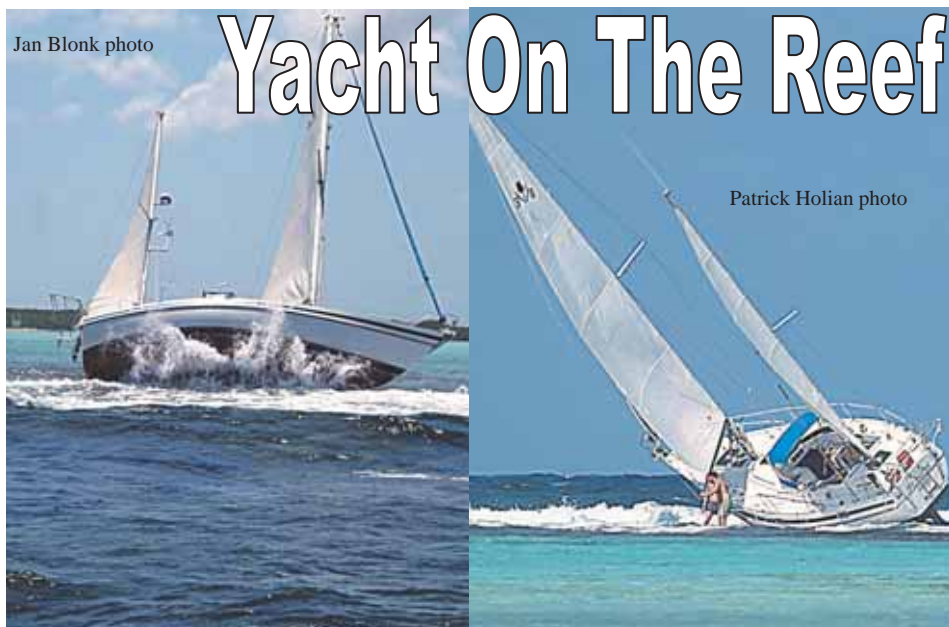
I called Mr. Smith a few years ago when the housing bubble burst. I was saddened to learn that his health had deteriorated dramatically and a family vacation home was out of the question.

Bonaire is a fantastic buyer's market right now. It is the best buyer's market in decades. Is it going to return to 1980 or 1970 prices? No, but the values are the best in many, many years.

You have a choice. You can be Mr. Smith and sit in the stands and wish you were in the game or you can get in the game. Is there some risk? Yes, the game of life has risk. You cannot enjoy your vacation home if you never buy it. You cannot profit when the market turns if you do not own. ■ **Anna & Art Kleimer**

The Kleimers are founding partners of Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. In 1993 they were "America's Outstanding Realtors."
Email:

Anna@Bonaireislandrealestate.com



On Saturday night, August 6, the beautiful Dutch-built Contest 38 yacht, *Tea Time*, went up on the reef at Lac Bay. It has been several years since a similar incident has occurred. Before GPS it was an almost annual event. According to published reports the yacht had a two-inch plus hole in its bottom. Early attempts to pull the vessel off the coral were not successful and the boat cannot float over the reef. On Saturday, August 13, after repairs were made to the hull, another attempt, with a more powerful commercial vessel, was made to pull off the boat.

Jan Blonk reports what happened, "This morning an attempt was made to pull the boat off of the reef at Sorobon, to drag it to Kralendijk. Sadly, while dragging it over the reef, the repairs that had been made earlier were in vain because new damages were incurred. Because of this they decided not to pull the boat into Sorobon to pull it out of the water with a trailer, but instead to support it with airbags and tow it all the way to Kralendijk. Unfortunately, the large waves tore off the supporting airbags. The boat started to sink and finally it was released next to the Willemstoren lighthouse." (see photos below). Our condolence to the captain. ■ **G.D.**



Picture Yourself With The Reporter at the... Sun Life Stadium in Miami Florida



Here's Pursley Bernabela (Tio Pepe) in Miami, Florida, at Sun Life Stadium. On Thursday, July 21, he was there with *The Bonaire Reporter* to watch the Florida Marlins vs San Diego Padres. When the game was over the score was Padres 5, Marlins 3. ■

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

SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

Bubbles From the Biologist

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. In-store financing too.



BEAUTY PARLOR

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

BAKERY & CAFÉ

Exito offers fresh homemade breads and pastries, fruit shakes including fresh orange juice maker on the island, freshly made sandwiches, an expanded salad bar and other take-out items—at affordable prices.

CARS AND BIKES

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

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

DINING

Pasa Bon Pizza is Bonaire's best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Nice bar too. Very cool jazz music! **780-1111** Call ahead to eat-in or take out.

ON & IN THE WATER

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if its not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems.

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Dive Friends has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training.

UNDERWATER VIDEO

ScubaVision - Pro video of your Bonaire vacation, above and/or below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

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

HOME CARE

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

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's creative video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. ScubaVision, Kaya Grandi 6, see website scubavision.info or YouTube

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. Brings personal attention, experience and integrity to property transactions. In 1993 they were "America's Outstanding Realtors."

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



RETAIL

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

SECURITY

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

STORAGE

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



SHIPPING

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



SPAS/GYM

Bon Bida Spa & Gym World Class fitness and health facility—Classes, top notch machines, trainers. Day, monthly or annual rates.



SUPERMARKETS

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



More for Less

Bonaire's "boutique" supermarket with a wide selection, specializing in organic fruits and vegetables, unique products and fresh flowers. On the Nikiboko Road North

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with built-in ramp

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-1 pm.

Fortnightly Advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter are included in this guide. Free! To place an ad call 786-6125, 786-6518 or email laura@bonairenews.com



Upside-Down Jellyfish

Did You Know...

that a certain type of jellyfish called an "Upside Down Jellyfish" seems to thrive when living near humans? All over the world, jellyfish blooms seem to be occurring more frequently and many scientists believe the cause could be human activities. Many of the threats to the oceans can be blamed on humans, including overfishing, coastal construction, nutrient and sediment runoff, global climate change and invasive species.

Upside Down Jellyfish lie on the sea floor near the coast with their tentacles facing upwards. They are typically found in waters near mangroves and shallow salt flats. In a study done in the Bahamas, researchers found that Upside Down Jellyfish were more abundant and larger in waters surrounding heavily populated areas than less populated areas. The jellyfish need certain nutrients to live and reproduce and those tend to be more abundant in areas of high human populations. When people develop on coastal lands, litter, and pollute, chemicals and nutrients can leak into coastal waters and harm most marine life. However, Upside Down Jellyfish and possibly other jelly species just grow larger and reproduce faster. ■ *Suzanne Ball*

Suzanne Ball is a third-year student at the University of Vermont majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. She was one of 11 students studying at CIEE Bonaire this summer.



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

Sudoku Solution

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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Ongoing Exhibit at Kas di Arte—with different artists. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 9am-noon, 1-6pm, on the sea boulevard.

Thursday-Saturday, August 25-27—Bat Cave Census/Mapping Workshop. Contact STINAPA 717-8444.

Saturday, August 27—Farmers' Market, see page 9. At Telbo lot.

Thursday, Sept. 1—(Every 1st Thursday of the month) Off Road Cycling, with instructor Miguel, 5 pm. Free for Bon Bida members. Call 717-7224.

Saturday, Sept. 3—Big Rincon Marche, 8 am to 2 pm. Local foods, drinks, crafts, plants, more. Friendliest people on the island.

-Monthly Flea Market at We Dare to Care Playground, 2—6 pm. Rent a table for \$10. Info. Marissa Jansen (701-1103) or Kim de Raadt (787-1475)

Tuesday, Sept. 6—(Every 1st Tuesday of the month) - Kami-nata Group Walk, 6:30 am, with instructor Miguel. Free for Bon Bida members. Call 717-7224

Art Exhibit at Plaza Resort in September, by local artist Monique Reekers. Visit www.boniareverhuur.com

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **We Dare to Care Park children's playground** open every day in the cooler afternoon-evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Rincon Marshé**—8am-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.

- **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale" every Saturday,** 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Lots of free parking. Tel. 717-4989

- **Monthly flea market at "We Dare To Care" Playground, 1st Saturday of the month,** 2– 6 pm. Rent a table for \$10. Information: Marissa Jansen (Tel: 701-1103) or Kim de Raadt (Tel: 787-1475)
- **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 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](#).

Thursdays

- **Bonaire Chess & Draughts (checkers) players get together** on from 19.00 till 21.00 at the SGB-school: Kaya Frater Odulfinuz z/n

Fridays

- **Jong Bonaire Chess & Draughts players** get together from 17.00 till 19.00 at the SGB-school. Kids can start at age six. Tourists are welcome. Contact Serapio Pop, at 701-9660

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday— Creature Feature— John and Suzie Wall of Buddy's Digital photo center present a multimedia slide presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar Buddy Dive, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

Monday -- Touch the Sea -- Dee Scarr, honored as a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame conducts Bonaire's Touch the Sea programs of personalized dive guiding. She presents a unique perspective on critters and corals, plus an updated Bonaire lionfish report, every Monday **when she's on-island** at 8:30 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Habitat, Call 717-8290.

Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, **every 2nd and 4th Wednesday** in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

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: 790-7001 and 796-4931

Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:15 pm— All levels, NA\$2.50, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

Darts Club plays **every other Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, **every other Tuesday,** 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every **2nd and 4th 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 Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:

Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10am.

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 Corona) 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.

Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente, Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 p.m. Preaching in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$75; By mail to Europe \$170. By Internet, Free (asking a \$35 donation.) For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising in The Bonaire Reporter,** PO Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean; phone (599) 786-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

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Pet of the Week



Here are "Iron" (pronounced "Eye Ron") and long time Shelter employee, Kenneth Piar. As you can tell by the expression on Iron's face, Kenneth is a good friend. Iron is a comical looking dog with his cute face – one ear up, one ear down and that wiry fur. If the Hollywood movie producers saw him they'd hire him in a minute. He's even cuter than

the dog, Sandy, in "Annie!"

But Hollywood may not be for him. He'd rather find a nice friendly and adoring master or mistress and perform for them instead. When he was just a puppy someone put him in the drop off cage (*Kouchi Pa Bestia*). He was very skinny and malnourished. But look at him now. What a guy. He's friendly, not aggressive, but full of energy and lots of fun. He's a smarty too and should be easy to train. At one and a half years old, he's healthy, sterilized, has his microchip and is ready to go. (Do we hear Hollywood calling?)

You may see Iron at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Check out the website. It's amazingly up to date with all sorts of new and historical information: www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com.

Good news! Former Pets of the Week, **Louis, Eveline and Lily Marlene have all been adopted!** Congratulations to all – pets and their new owners. May you enjoy many happy times together! ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

New Shelter Employees, Hanny and Regina with "Farah"



These are two familiar (human) faces – **Hanny Hoogerkamp and Regina Schouten** – because both ladies have been faithful volunteers at the Shelter for a long time. But now they're on the staff and continue to do a great job. Congratulations! ■

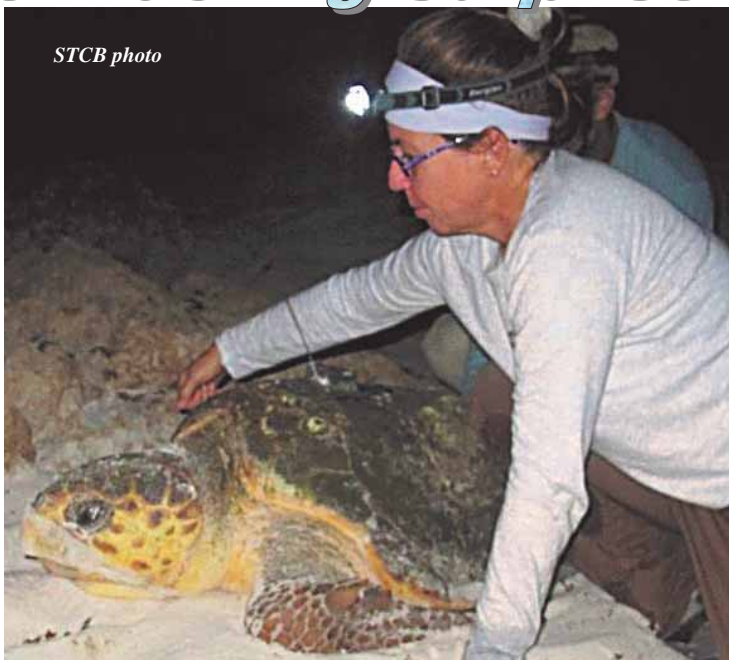


Adoption Drop Off (*Kouchi Pa Bestia*)

Did you know that you can drop off unwanted, stray or found cats or dogs at the Bonaire Animal Shelter at any time of the day or night, no questions asked? There's an animal cage (*Kouchi pa Bestia*) right outside the Shelter gate. It has two separate compartments with water bowls and it's checked every few hours during the day. The Shelter receives an average of 1,200 animals each year and the idea is to make it easy as possible for people to put the animals there rather than dump them in the *mondi* or by the side of the road. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

Turtle Tracking Surprise

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's (STCB) team of staff and volunteers intercepted a large female loggerhead turtle at 2:45 am on Sunday, 1 August at Playa Chikitu in Washington Slaagbai National Park. The team released her with a satellite transmitter attached to her carapace in order to track her migration home*.



STCB Coordinator Mabel Nava checks Toyo before she leaves

Toyo was the surprise of the night, as the STCB team expected to deploy the transmitter on a green turtle. In the nine years since STCB began systematic beach monitoring, only green turtles have been recorded nesting at Playa Chikitu. But Toyo is a loggerhead – so a surprising first for Playa Chikitu and STCB.

The fact that Toyo has not laid other nests on this beach (this season or during the past nine) and that this is the end of the loggerhead nesting season on Bonaire indicates that she may have been returning from a nesting site elsewhere to her home foraging grounds, and that she suddenly felt the need to lay one more nest, finding Playa Chikitu on her way.

STCB's satellite tagging program helps to track the migration routes of sea turtles as they travel from their nesting beaches on Bonaire to their adult feeding grounds elsewhere. This research helps determine effective management and protective measures for the conservation of sea turtles throughout the region. To date, STCB has tracked 22 turtles across the Caribbean.

Toyo's name is a combination of "Ton" and "Hayo," in honor of Quartermaster Ton Akkerman and Policy Advisor Hayo Haanstra of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I), who have sponsored the costs of this satellite transmitter to support STCB's ongoing sea turtle satellite tracking program. RCN-EL&I is responsible for national obligations related to various biodiversity treaties, including the Inter-American Convention for the Protection of Sea Turtles. STCB's work plays a vital part in the local and national governments' ability to fulfill treaty obligations related to sea turtles. ■ *STCB press release*

*Since the radio tag was affixed Toyo headed east and reached Las Aves on Saturday August 7th. Las Aves is an archipelago (group of islands), part of the country of Venezuela, located 60 km east of Bonaire (between Bonaire and Los Roques). This archipelago has two groups of islands: Aves de Sotavento (western) and Aves de Barlovento (eastern). Toyo spent about 24 hours in Aves de Sotavento and then kept on swimming east until she reached Aves de Barlovento where she spent another day. She then headed south then east and at last report was approximately 20 km north of La Tortuga Island, Venezuela (~360 km southeast of Playa Chikitu). La Tortuga Island is located just 86 km west of Margarita. In 2008, Greggy Girl, also a female loggerhead swam 740 km from her nesting grounds of Bonaire to Margarita Island - her home foraging grounds. Could Toyo be heading to Margarita as well? For daily updates on Toyo's migration please check the STCB Facebook page - www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles

BonQuiz

Q) **Answer**

Can you identify all these flags?

The flag on the left is Bonaire's, next to it is the Saba flag, the Dutch flag is next, on its right is the St. Eustatius flag and the rightmost is the USA's

Question on page 6

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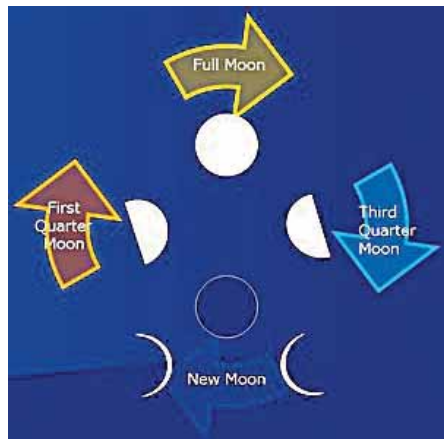
*to find it... just look up

FOLLOW THE MOON FROM JUPITER TO MARS

Have you ever noticed that sometimes you can see the Moon at night but not in the morning? And sometimes you can see the Moon in the morning but not at night? I can explain, with a little help from the Moon

Next week you can best catch the Moon in the morning skies. We have our skies set up for Saturday, August 20, at 5 am, looking high in the southeast. You can't miss the **third quarter Moon** just above the second brightest object in the pre-dawn sky - the stately **planet Jupiter**. This conjunction between the Moon and Jupiter is only temporary. Every day the Moon shifts about 13 degrees across the background stars -toward the east. That means that if we look at the sky the very next morning, same place, same time, the Moon will appear about 13 degrees away from Jupiter. The next morning, Monday August 22, the Moon will be another 13 degrees farther east and shine between the **Pleiades (Seven Sisters) star cluster** and the face of **Taurus the bull**. This apparent movement is caused by the Moon's orbit around the **Earth**. It takes the Moon 27.3 days to orbit the Earth and return to a similar place among the stars. So 27.3 days after August 20, on September 16, the Moon will be close to Jupiter again. To complete a full orbit in 27.3 days it moves pretty fast - about 1 kilometer per second through space. And to cover all 360 degrees of the orbit in that time, well, this Moon motion averages out to about 13 degrees per day. Where the Moon lies in its orbit tells you the best time of day to view it.

When the Moon is **new**, it rises and sets with the **Sun**. It's up during the day and you just can't see it. If you wait a day or two you can see a **waxing crescent Moon** in the west just after the Sun sets. You can see a **waxing and first quarter Moon** after sunset. The **first quarter Moon** rises about 6 hours after the Sun and the Sun sets 6 hours before the Moon. So you can see the Moon right after it gets dark. The classic **full Moon** rises as the Sun sets because the Moon has arced around in its orbit to the opposite side of the sky from the Sun. You might see this if you're driving east at sunset. As the Sun



goes down in the west, a big full Moon rises on the opposite horizon. In the morning it's the **waning Moon** that you see - sometimes even after the Sun rises. During a **third quarter Moon**, the Moon is three quarters of its way around the Earth and heading back to new Moon. The Sun, Earth and Moon make a nice 90 degree angle in the sky with the Moon rising about 6 hours before the Sun. Once you get good at recognizing the Moon phase and its position in the sky, you can even start telling time with just the Moon.

Let's get back to the sky to watch where the Moon goes next. On Tuesday August 23, the Moon is most definitely waning, or getting smaller, and will be a **waning crescent**. And it has shifted closer to that most famous **constellation, Orion the hunter**. There he is right below the Moon with his belt of three stars and his up-raised arms. It almost looks like he's about to catch the Moon! The next morning, Wednesday August 24, the Moon has continued in its orbit around the Earth and shifted another 13 degrees closer to the eastern horizon. And now, instead of catching the Moon, Orion looks like he's decided to whack it with his club. Don't worry. He'll miss it because the next morning, Thursday, August 25th, a slimmer crescent Moon will cozy up next to a **planet of a redder color, Mars**. So, watch the Moon move next week and it will lead you from giant Jupiter on August 20 to rusty Mars on August 25. And in between, it dodges the Seven Sisters, the Bull, and Orion's bat. evening. ■ James Aulbury

Café Astrology August 2011

Aries March 20 - April 19 : The stimulating Sun and the accommodating Venus are welcome visitors in your romance zone. This month the emotional Moon links in as well. Can be super lucky if you are born this week. The only way to really test the water temperature is to immerse yourself in it. Life can be dealing a good hand.

Taurus April 20 - May 20 : Get to know real opportunity when it is looking you straight in the eye. You may have to discard a security blanket to take the option, so weigh up the consequences. It is not the only gift ball that is thrown your way though. There is a second dip on this. On the more difficult side someone's behavior can be over the top.

Gemini May 21 - June 20 : Getting lost in a book can totally transport us away from our immediate concerns. It proves that the feeling is a state of mind. You're discovering that getting engrossed in a hobby, studies, or writing things down can be a healthy pathway. As you think, so you are, and you can be linking with those of like mind. Your learning curve may be steep, but it's bound to lead to a beautiful outlook

Cancer June 21 - July 22 : A week of dynamic and accelerated changes. Thinking before you act is tough, but think you must. Otherwise suppressed situations can find a sudden, possibly explosive release. You may have access to improved finances, or better earning potential. It's how you use these added resources that will determine their ultimate benefit.

Leo July 23 - August 22 : The law of attraction is working for you. Desires may be suddenly manifesting, which may have you wondering, why now? Well perhaps this law was always working, but you were just putting out the wrong signals. Take advantage of new opportunities around love and money.

Virgo August 23 - September : Oscar Wilde once wrote that one's real life is often the life that one does not lead. We regret over actions we did not take, or we lament the actions that we have. The words, 'if only' are of no real use now. You have a choice to leave something behind and start anew, or to take a sudden and liberating diversion. And the important thing is to recognize that future.

Libra September 23 - October 22 : Something out of your control, that seemed

an inevitable development, has been put on ice. This gives you greater breathing space, perhaps an extra month, to reconsider your actions. A supportive alignment between Sun-Venus in your house of friends and corporations suggests help and assistance.

Scorpio October 23 - November 21 : You can find yourself increasingly in the spotlight for past words or actions. You're learning that moderation may do the trick, and you can still change tack to this approach. Philosophical differences are being sorted out now. It's important you get your message directly across, but without bruising egos. Any publicity is good publicity doesn't always sit well.

Sagittarius November 22 - December 21 : Shoot for the moon, for if you miss you're certain to land among the stars. The answers, or the contacts, you need are found by moving away from your usual haunts and habits. Going the extra mile, meaning out of your comfort zone, will produce surprising results. In the mundane sense these are great travel indicators, but your journey is not restricted to the physical.

Capricorn December 22 - January 19 : When one cat enters another's space, backs arch and sometimes fur flies. Humans are less hirsute of course. But if someone is literally getting your back up, its because you're not giving each other territorial respect. I did forget to mention that we're a fair way up the food chain from our feline friends, which allows you greater options than fight or flight.

Aquarius January 20 - February 18 : True love is unconditional. On the way to that lofty goal we have a lot of other versions. But the more we build moats of self-interest around ourselves, the less we can surrender our heart to the real thing. The Sun and Venus in your partnership zone are breaking down barriers, and peeling off layers of self-sufficiency.

Pisces February 19 - March 19 : The best laid plans of mice and men are apt to go astray at times like these. It's not because of faulty strategies, as much as a general confusion surrounding them. This is why it pays to be clear and concise regarding all communication with others. It seems that if they can screw it up - they will. The easy alternative is to say nothing, stay out of the discussion, planning etc. Or try a little harder at getting it right? ■ Annie

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