

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Oct. 28-Nov. 11, 2011, Year 18, Issue 21
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

Kunuku Arawak Opens



It's
Hot
&
It's
Here
See
page
15

The staff at Kunuku Arawak, a great new place to relax and bring the family. It's the fulfillment of a dream of Tony Leijnse (at right) that took five years to complete. It's at Puerto Spaño on the main road to Rincon about 9 km from Kralendijk. Complete story in the next edition of *The Reporter*.

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER



The MPs meet the people of Bonaire outside the Passengrhan

The people of Bonaire are agitated. Several elements have come together to motivate public demonstrations (*manifestashon*) to highlight the failure of local government, the difficult economic situation on the island, the adoption of the dollar and the granting of a large portion of the harbor facilities to a local businessman for a "cruise ship shopping mall."

Several demonstrations focusing on these issues and Bonairean rights and the were organized. The latest, in Wilhelmina Plaza, followed a meeting in the Island Council chambers between a group of important visiting Dutch Parliamentarians and representatives of the government and various island groups.

Upon leaving the building the Dutch parliamentarians were surrounded by a vocal, but peaceful, crowd carrying placards, mostly in Papiamentu and English, expressing their dissatisfaction. The Dutch MPs cut short their visit because they had to be present in The Netherlands for an important vote. Later persons unknown sprayed slogans on the walls of the nearby government buildings. This graffiti greatly annoyed most locals. "Very sad... very negative... not a Bonairean thing, said a local woman. The graffiti was painted over almost immediately.

Compounding the discontent is a past business deal that granted a



Christie Dovale photo

Graffiti covered the wall of the area the next morning.

corporation, the Bonaire Beta NV, a long lease on a section of the shipping container and cargo area on the south pier to be converted into a cruise ship shopping mall.

There were allegations that a large payment was slipped to government officials to secure the lease. And recently, when the current government could have objected the deal, it did not show up in court. The harbormaster said he is especially concerned because there will be no place to store bulk cargo and building materials.

The public agitation is supported a recent survey by Radio Netherlands done in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, It shows that the majority of people feels things have gotten worse since the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles a year ago. The average grades (out of 10) given by respondents to their respective Executive Councils (Local Governments) in Bonaire, Statia and Saba were 4.7, 4.2 and 5.9. The Kingdom Service Caribbean Netherlands (RCN) did not fare any better and received scores of 5.1, 3.7 and 5.8 respectively. The optimism that reigned when the new constitutional relations within the Dutch Kingdom took effect did not result in greater prosperity, concluded Radio Netherlands. In fact, three-quarters of the people of the BES islands feel their spending power has gone down.

concluded that after international research involving almost 100 countries.

However, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) most people on the island earn a monthly salary of between 2,000 and 3,000 Aruban florins (1.78 to the US dollar) of which they pay approximately 9.5% to 10% income tax.

Other countries in the top 10 are Sweden (57%), Denmark (55%), The Netherlands (52%) as well as Austria, Belgium and Great Britain (all 50%). Besides Aruba, Japan is the only country outside Europe with a maximum rate of 50% or more.

Acting on a negative decision from the American Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), US Airways temporarily suspended its code-sharing agreement with InselAir last week.

(Continued on page 9)

The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation amended the BES Islands' Chambers of Commerce and Industry Law as well as the Law on Establishment of Companies in the BES islands. Last week's amendments were the result of remarks received as a result of Ministry consultations with the Chambers of Commerce and Executive Councils.

Primary changes removed the requirement to be Dutch to vote or hold office in the Chamber of Commerce and modified the procedures to start new businesses so they could be approved faster.

Recent BES island tax law changes say that adult travelers can bring in up to \$500 worth of foreign, including Curaçao and Aruba, goods (\$150 for those 15 or younger) when arriving in Bonaire.

On October 19 the Dutch Water Resources Ministry (*Rijkswaterstaat*) began work to renovate Bonaire's lighthouses at Willemstoren, Spelonk, Wecuwa, Seru Bentana and Klein Bonaire. On Wednesday, Commissioner James Kroon, DROB head Minguel Martes and manager Paul Wichers on behalf of *Rijkswaterstaat*, launched the work at Willemstoren. The lighthouses are to be restored as monuments and continue their function as aids to navigation. The *Rijkswaterstaat* is responsible for the operation of the lights, a task contracted to Radio Holland. The structures themselves are the responsibility of the island government.

While Aruba is sometimes seen from abroad as a "financial paradise" it, in fact, has the highest rate of income tax (59% for its highest wage earners; it previously was 60.1%) in the world. Accounting firm KPMG

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On the Island Since... April 1st 2011 *Lara Chirino*

"I'm a daddy's girl, an only child, born on Father's Day, June 18th, 1978, in Gouda, Holland. My dad, Wesley Chirino, is from Bonaire.

When I was a toddler we moved from Gouda to Curaçao, where my mother's family lived and still lives and where I spent my youth. My parents separated when I was very young and I went to live with my mom who always kept a close-knit relationship with my Bonairean family. My mom loved Bonaire passionately and she planned on living here after she retired. Sadly she passed away from cancer in 1998... c'est la vie." *She looks out over the sea and smiles.* "But you know what, the wonderful thing is that my best times with my mom, the real quality time we've spent together, has always been on Bonaire.

I was 19 when I went to Holland to study. Both my parents had lived and studied in Holland, so for me it was a logical thing to do. I also knew that I had to work very hard if I wanted to accomplish something in life; you get nothing for free and you're responsible for what you do and what you don't.

Because of the upbringing my parents gave me I have always

been very much aware of the choices I made in my life and I am also happy and grateful for all the chances I got. My parents taught me to be open. They also told me, 'you make your decisions, but you also carry the consequences,' and 'it's you who makes your own life, not us'. It gave me a solid foundation, especially when my mother wasn't there anymore... I couldn't have wished for better parents.

When I encountered hard times in Holland, I had enough reason to sit in a corner and cry my heart out, but instead I thought 'It's time for a change!' And I booked a one-way ticket to Australia. It was 2005. The thing is that people often get held back by fear and it stops them from taking a leap. But what I found was, when something is unknown, it does not mean it is bad for you, so why would you fear it... I had never been to Australia, I didn't have any friends there and no job but... I did have one cousin who'd been living there for some 20 years.

So, I got reacquainted with my own family member and I grabbed whatever chances I'd been given to work. I had to scout, to go out and I ended up getting a work visa and I stayed in Australia for five years. I worked for a company as the customer service manager with responsibilities in the marketing side. In 2009, when I was in transition between my old job and a new one, I had another surprise. They told me my time in Australia was up! Because of the global financial crisis Australia had closed the tap on foreigners. Fair enough, because the Australian government had to protect the jobs for their own people. When they say 'No!' in Australia you have to accept it. It means time's up and out you go! I had a great time there, but it wasn't meant to be.

Everyone expected me to come back to the Caribbean, but instead of making a safe decision, looking for some tender love and care from my family, I went to the south of France, Antibes. Why? I

wanted to go to a place with no visa issues, so it was either home – the Caribbean – or Europe. Home was too easy and the one thing I've always loved in the Caribbean and during my time in Sydney – actually the one thing I need in my life is... the sea. So, this time it was the Mediterranean and looking at the fact that I wanted to polish my French, I thought this would be the way to do it.

I worked pro bono for the World Peace Organization, living in the most expensive part of Europe. We, the volunteers, were scattered all over Europe and the States, working from computers at home, so the work did not create an environment that expands a social life. Not making any money and not having any friends or colleagues could have created a setting to feel alone and depressed, but again, I made my own decisions and carried the consequences and I started giving English lessons to students. In a way it was a spiritual time because I felt I had no security. I



Lara Chirino at the shore

had no people who were there for me and no money to back me up. When you expose yourself to fear, you're testing your faith in yourself and in a higher power and you get to learn how strong you are.

During my time in France, from September 2009 through January 2010, life pulled a big fat joke on me. I was living in God's country of wine and cheese – the things

(Continued on page 5)

"I came back to Bonaire and the first thing I learned is that the beauty of its nature surpassed all my memories..."

			
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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)

that I love – and I had no money to indulge! It was cruel! Ha! But it was a great experience and I survived. Then I had an honest chat with myself: ‘It’s time to go home!’ I rang dad and said ‘Get me out of here!’”

Lara Chirino is a warm hearted, greatly charismatic cosmopolitan with a true Antillean soul. She is a free spirit but a responsible one, a wise and talented young woman, and when it comes to her job it’s a great relief to hear her talking about people instead of numbers...

“I went to Curaçao where my mom’s family and my cousins whom I grew up with are. I love my family to bits; we are like a tribe. Then the word got out that I was back and before I knew it I was offered a job as a marketing client relations coordinator at one of the top law firms in the Caribbean, VanEps Kunneman Van-Doorne. I was very lucky, because to do marketing for a law firm, that’s niche marketing! I worked for them a little less than a year and then I was asked by Bonaire if I wanted to become the director of the tourist office, the TCB.

It was a wish come true! Awesome!

I came back to Bonaire and the first thing I learned is that the

beauty of its nature surpassed all my memories.

I am Gemini, a people’s person. It’s my thing and I love it and Bonaire’s slogan, ‘Once a visitor – always a friend,’ reeks of client relationship. Now, for me it’s a challenge to establish what the slogan stands for! I have a passion for customer service and I think that under this current economic situation the client relationship is very, very important! And I feel that by making sure the visitors fall in love with us – the islanders – you connect them to the island. So, marketing and client relationships cannot exist without each other. The challenging part is that in a client relationship in the tourism world, those out there dealing with the visitors – that’s us. All of us. So, it’s not up to a handful of people, it’s up to the whole island.

And then there were the challenges: financial challenges as USONA stopped the development funding due to constitutional changes, the financial crisis especially affecting the American market with a massive drop of tourist arrivals from the States, crime on the island, prices that went up, turbulent political times, unhappy islanders - and remember: ‘Once a visitor always a friend...’

Those are the challenges and there’s one more, a personal one:



Lara Chirino at her desk in the TCB Office

I’ve never worked in the tourist business before.

It’s a lot to deal with. I think that every marketing dollar I’m spending should be spent as well as possible. Furthermore, I’m talking to the private sector, which has been doing this for years, and I’m talking to the politicians, but the way I see it is: the strongest point of the island is its nature and its people, the Bonaireans. I know they’re having a hard time, but we have to go back

to the smile and the unity amongst our people. We have to go back to ‘Once a visitor, always a friend’. Tourists need to feel this is a friendly place and I want to be friends with these people. All of us are involved, and if we care we have to do something about it, because we are the people the visitors want to connect to. Let me tell you something. This is about our income, our life, this is about the way people see us, about the reputation of Bon-

aire and our pride and... you’re not making friends by robbing a tourist, by stealing from a tourist. That is not ‘biting the hand that’s feeding you’ it is brutally killing it. It is killing all of us! So, let’s take responsibility – you have a choice, choose wisely!” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Bio Hot Spot

This past June, Sabadeco residents Dennis and Tamara Brown were taking their daily hike when they came upon what the couple thought were wild orchids. The blooms were visible due to a new road that was being cut through the development. Afterwards, the Browns spoke with Sabadeco neighbor and local plant enthusiast, Marlene Robinson. "I wasn't convinced they were actually orchids so I waited for two weeks before I went," confesses Marlene. "When I finally did go I saw the first orchids in a tree and then noticed all these bromeliads."

The law under Bonaire's Island Nature Ordinance protects two of the species Robinson observed, the Humboldt's orchid and the bromeliad, *Tillandsia flexuosa*. The other bromeliad, *Tillandsia balbisiana*, does not have protected status since this was the first time it had been observed on the island.

"I was happy just seeing that first tree with orchids," continues Robinson. "And then when I walked and saw the bromeliads, that was really thrilling. Later that morning, I located over 15 large trees populated with orchids. If there are these three incredible finds in this place, what else is here? And what does it mean about this place?"

Part of the answer has to do with island biogeography, the concept that explains why islands have such richness of species due to their geographic isolation. "Bonaire has been out of touch with continental land masses since it was first created," explains Kalli De Meyer, executive director of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance. "What that means is that you can expect to find species, subspecies or varieties that don't occur anywhere else on the planet. We have over 200 endemic species on Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao alone that occur here and nowhere else on the planet. And now, we just found a new variety."

Another reason why these rare plants exist is that Bonaire offers unique micro-environments where interdependent relationships between organisms exist. For example, the Humboldt's orchid on the rugged Sabadeco hillside has specific relationships



Photos: Marlene Robinson and Patrick Holian

A Humboldt's orchid growing in a tree with a close up (inset)

with ants for pollination and with fungi for nutritional transfer. Few habitats support these relationships, which may be part of the reason for the rarity of these species on Bonaire. While the Humboldt's orchid can be found in a few private gardens, its presence in the Bonaire wilds is unusual and diminishing. Ecologist Dolfi Debrot from the Dutch research institute, IMARES, concurs. "Humboldt's orchids are quite endangered on Bonaire largely due to overgrazing by goats. The best option is to draw property lines to avoid the plants. However, unless that area remains ecologically connected to a more expansive and suitable natural habitat, just bulldozing around them will be only a stopgap measure. The plants will not be able to reproduce or expand much from a small fragment of natural habitat."

Debrot is talking about the effects of habitat fragmentation, how checkerboard development can rapidly alter an environment resulting in species elimination. Marlene Robinson realized this too and alerted DROB, the RNC and STINAPA about the rare plants at risk in this soon-to-be developed area of Sabadeco. After discussions, DROB recommended to Sabadeco (the Santa Barbara Development Company) that a comprehensive plant survey was needed to ascertain what is at stake. Botanist John de Freitas from CARMABI, the biological research station in Curaçao, conducted a survey that was completed last month. Results will be released this November, and thereafter, orchid and bromeliad experts will advise on the next step.

One scenario could be the establishment of a nature reserve within Sabadeco that would protect the rare orchid and bromeliad

species from grazing goats and further development. This would be beneficial to the entire community. Sabadeco would gain community goodwill and status as a champion of Bonaire's natural assets in return for relinquishing potential development within the rare plant habitat. Value would be added to surrounding lots and neighborhood property values would increase by having an on-site rare plant sanctuary. Sabadeco residents would have a nature reserve at their doorsteps to enjoy. Local children could learn about ecology, botany and biology through organized school field trips. Senior citizens like the "Sixty-Plus-ers" could take pleasure in leisurely strolls through the reserve when the plants are in bloom.

"People need to know what is there and outreach is important," concludes Kalli de Meyer of DCNA. "It has always been the ethos of our islands to protect and preserve, and live in harmony with nature and culture. But if you don't know that these rare plants are there in the first place, it's just another hillside covered in 'green stuff'. That changes once you understand the specialness of the place and the fact that there is at least one variety that occurs there and nowhere else in the world."

While a nature reserve would benefit many people, the rare plants in question would be the immediate beneficiaries. These botanical wonders are just a small, but incredibly important part of what makes Bonaire so unique. Perhaps Marlene Robinson sums it up best; "There is just this incredible feeling of happiness to see something so special and new on Bonaire. No matter how long you live here, there is this sense that because we have a small island,



This bromeliad is a new variety of *Tillandsia balbisiana* discovered for the first time this summer by Marlene Robinson.

maybe there is not much going on. But the more you know about Bonaire's natural world, the more you realize it's extremely complex. It's just this amazing, happy accident of circumstances and it's obviously quite rare."

One thing is certain. The fate of this unique, biological community lies in a committed and creative partnership between the public and private sector. Time is of the essence. If that partnership happens, then this biological hot spot of rare earth will be enjoyed for generations. ■ Patrick Holian



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Body Talk

ANTI-PERSPIRANTS AND BREAST CANCER – THE ‘OFFICIAL’ VERSION

Breast cancer is a multifactorial disease but one area of clear agreement is the role of oestrogen in the growth and development of the cancer, and clinical treatments continue to use oestrogen blockade and suppressions.

It is important to understand that women need the oestrogen that is naturally produced by the body, but it is the very delicate balance between oestrogen and progesterone that is so important. In our industrialized world, we are exposed to environmental (and man-made) oestrogens that are different from naturally occurring oestrogens, but mimic their effect on the body.

As I said in the previous article parabens are environmental oestrogens and are mostly absorbed through the skin and it seems that parabens ingested through food have a limited effect on the human body. However, parabens absorbed through the skin are able to stay intact and to accumulate in the body. Could the increasing use of skin care products and cosmetics possibly also be responsible for an increase in breast cancer in men?

Reading about antiperspirants on the FDA website should make you feel much better. The FDA starts reassuring you by giving the ‘Antiperspirant and Cancer’ section the title ‘The Cancer Myth’!

A few quotes from the FDA web page I am referring to:

The rise of the Internet has made it easy for false health claims, scary stories, and rumors to reach millions of people in a matter of minutes. One such myth says that antiperspirants may cause breast cancer.

...the National Cancer Institute says that no existing scientific or medical evidence links the use of underarm antiperspirants or deodorants to the subsequent development of breast cancer. The FDA, the Mayo Clinic, the American Cancer Society and the cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association agree. (They would, wouldn't they!)

The FDA does not mention the harmful effects of aluminum, but more importantly,

the FDA does not state that it found antiperspirants to be harmless! It instead refers to the opinion of the National Cancer Institute, which in turn refers to the FDA as an ‘authority’. As with many health issues, for many people it is incomprehensible that organizations like the FDA and the American Cancer Society might be wrong, but as long as they all continue to deny the possibility of that vital link between breast cancer and antiperspirants, we are left at their mercy. Is it mere coincidence that since 1926 the incidence of breast cancer has risen with the sales of deodorants and anti-perspirants.

So what are we to do? Some ‘natural’ products contain potassium or ammonium alum (slightly less harmful?), but most ‘natural’ antiperspirants/deodorants do not work! It is getting increasingly difficult to see exactly what is in any store-bought products as most of them now have a ‘protective label’ (against whom?) that makes it impossible to see the ingredients!

I do not have an answer to these problems. What I do know is that none of us should use an antiperspirant. I also know that here available on Bonaire is a speed stick for men (regular) that contains no aluminum, but the exact same product brand for women – contains aluminum! WHY?

I would welcome comments and queries at stephanie@essentialsbonaire.com

■ *Stephanie Bennett*

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 the UK and now researches Bonaire health issues.



Dive Friends Retail Store Reopens

If you enjoy shopping for dive and snorkeling gear in nice surroundings with a very wide selection of styles and brands, then you will love the new Dive Friends shop on Kaya Grandi, in the heart of downtown. The Scubavision counter is at the rear.

The old shop was gutted from the floor to the roof. A vaulted ceiling is overhead and great lighting makes for easy viewing. Pass by and visit. ■ G.D.



Chris Verstappe, Pascal DeMeyer, Carolyn Caporusso, Asko Zuidam of Divr Friends and Hendrik Wuyts of Scubavision at the new shop

Happy Second Birthday November 3 Ava Rose Wuyts



Love From
All Your Fans

Melchior Martijn's 1st B-day. How time flies...our sweet baby boy turns 1 on 23th Oct. 2011!



Congrats to Melchior from: Opa, Oma, Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews in Holland, Surinam, St. Maarten, Curaçao and Bonaire. Especially from Mama S10 & Papa Edwin. Have a wonderful B-day. God bless you, We love you very much!! XOXO

Nazario Walks For Cancer Fund



At the finish

Amazing walker, Nazario Alberto, and some of his friends made a 108-km walk around Bonaire recently in support of the Stichting Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds campaign against breast cancer.

Nazario Alberto, Herman Manguès Winklaar and Felipe Melaan left Friday night at 9 pm from Wilhelmina Park. It was a rough trail with rocks, mud, areas covered with tuna (very nasty cactus) and

bushes. Reina, Sonia, Bilchi and a member of the Red Cross, August Albertus, followed the athlete during the entire trip.

They arrived back at Wilhelmina Park the next day, Saturday, at 8:10 pm.

Nazario says thank you to supporters Xerox, RCN, George Thodé, the Red Cross and his friends Manguès and Felipe.

■ *Story & photo by M. Wanner*

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BONAIREAN VOICES

BONAIREAN RIGHTS— WHAT ARE THEY?

What do you, as a reader, understand about your rights? Let's try to understand the meaning of the word, "rights." According to the Wikipedia encyclopedia there are different explanations. Rights are legal, social or ethical principles of freedom or entitlement. Rights are fundamental, normal rules about what is allowed to people or owed to people according to some legal system. Rights are often considered fundamental to civilization, being regarded as established pillars of a society and culture. So the connection between rights and struggle cannot be overstated.

Interviewing Mr. Endsly (Endy) Martinus (34) and Mr. Aquiles Francees (32), two brave men who belong to the group *Derecho Boneriano* (Bonairean Rights), lets us understand that rights are very important to Bonaireans. Actually, as they said, their group is not only struggling for Bonaireans but for the rights of all the people living on Bonaire.

Endy came back to Bonaire in 2005. Seeing the constant conflicts between Bonairean politicians made him take another direction for Bonairean rights because at the end of each election the people themselves must bear the consequences. So he decided to search for what exactly the Bonairean rights are and to give information to those who really want to know about their rights. Soon he got others who were

willing to help out, like Aquiles Francees.

Endy with his group, *Derecho Boneriano*, wants to come to a solution. "The changes after 10-10-10 have made a big impact on the economy," Endy explains. "The prices went up and Bonaireans don't have enough money to live on by the end of the month. RCN has to come up with more stability in giving information, not only in Dutch, but also in Papiamentu. The taxes need to be regulated. The mentality of the people needs to change so our Bonaire can progress."

"We have to ask as Bonaireans who we are and what we want to achieve for our Bonaire," says Aquiles. "The world is indeed changing but still we need to take into consideration some of our ways of living. Fishermen live from the sea and the farmers from their kunukus. Friends of nature can't install more laws than these people can bear. Holland is making decisions and our governor can hardly participate. A referendum is necessary so the people can express themselves about the changes.

Everybody has the right to health care and specialized health care. The system won't work if people use their power in the wrong way. This could cause people to lose their jobs, to get into financial difficulty, crime can increase as well as families breaking up. Some people today have to have two jobs to support their family,

with all the consequences. Parents don't give their children enough attention. The kids go out with bad friends and get involved in many problems. Parents need to be very alert about underage drinking. Encourage youths in sports. Build a sports center. Create activities for our young people.

As a volunteer group we want to bring information to the public about their rights in all the occupations and circumstances. People have the right to have more money in their hands at the end of the month.

We started working in collaboration with DEZA (*Dienst Economische Zaken*) to check on price instability. This coming week we are going on a business trip with DEZA to Aruba and Curaçao to analyze the prices on the three islands. We are paying taxes but where does the money go?

Salaries need to improve; people get discouraged and commit suicide or destroy buildings. We, as a volunteer group that's separate from politics, want to bring about the changes."



Endsly (Endy) Martinus and Aquiles Francees

Endy says, "We want people to support us to find a solution." Aquiles adds, "Bonaire has to be Bonaire and we have to set a good example for the youth. They are our future as we always say, but what are we doing for them today?"

Endy and Aquiles are two young men supported by others who want to see the changes for today and tomorrow. Do you have the same feelings too? If you want to make some statement you can E-mail them at derecho_boneriano@hotmail.com They will be willing to help. ■

Story & photo by Siomara Albertus



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Greta Kooistra photo

The normal east wind suddenly switched to the west on Friday, October 21, as a cold front pushed over our islands from the north. The seafront promenade experienced spectacular waves which caused minor damage on shore but caused the unattended sailboat, Utopia, to slip her mooring and break up on shore despite efforts to save her.



Karin Blonk photo

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
The FAA advised US Airways of its decision last month to give the Civil Aviation Department of Curaçao 90 days to make concrete changes to avoid being downgraded from a Category 1 standing to a Category 2 territory. Although the 90 days have not expired, US Airways decided to suspend its code-sharing agreement with InselAir, and InselAir is no longer listed on the US Airways website as a code-share partner. Edward Heerenveen of InselAir said everyone must realize that a Category 2 rating is on the same level of Botswana and Haiti. With Category 2 rating, Dutch Caribbean air carriers **cannot establish new service to the US**, although they are allowed to maintain existing service.

► **THE HAGUE--Money reserved for the new website of the Dutch Royal House should be used for the new wastewater treatment plant in Bonaire, according to the green left party, GroenLinks.** Member of the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber, Ineke van Gent (GroenLinks), submitted an amendment to transfer €190,000 for the website to help cover the development cost of the plant in Bonaire. The island needs the money to start up the wastewater treatment plant. The island's coral reefs are being threatened by the discharge of untreated wastewater.

► **THE HAGUE--The Dutch Parliament's First Chamber put the complicated and extensive Public Housing and Environment (VROM) law for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba on hold Tuesday**, because the islands lack the ability and financial means to enforce and implement this law.

Senator Marijke Linthorst (PvdA) expressed concern about the extremely high fees that the people in Bonaire will have to pay for wastewater and sewage treatment. The wastewater fee would be around \$125 per household per year and the sewage treatment fee between \$250 and \$750. A temporary wastewater plant in Bonaire has been completed, but the island government doesn't want to take the responsibility for its operation because of the high cost that residents would have to pay. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Environ-

ment (I&M) will help pay for the construction of a larger sewage treatment plant in Bonaire which should be ready by late 2012. Sewage lines are being laid in Bonaire. The Ministry will pay for the preliminary cost of the new waste water plant until January 1, 2012.

► **On Monday, October 31st, Her Royal Highness Princess Maxima will visit the remodeled building of the Center for Youth & Family and the Caribbean Netherlands Family Supervision Services.** During this visit she will officially inaugurate the building. During her visit Princess Maxima will be told about the services provided by the center. After the visit, the building will be opened for the public for whom the staff will conduct a tour. On November 4th an opening reception will be held for invited guests.

► Budget Marine, BSaF, Fun Miles and many more supporters were **pleased with the positive energy shown at the Boat Party at the end of the Regatta.** The bands got the crowd moving and lots of fun was had by all. Budget Marine placed a rope along the shore from Karel's bar to the town pier where many boats tied in stern to the shore so that they could hang out and listen to the bands set up close by on shore and enjoy the festival atmosphere of the final day of the Regatta. Budget Marine, being the newest Fun Miles partner on Bonaire and both celebrating their 10th anniversaries here, teamed up and gave out beach balls, sport cups, t-shirts, tattoos and more. A raffle for Budget Marine Fun Miles customers was held and long time Budget Marine & Fun Miles customer **Salomon Theodora** took home a bright yellow kayak.

► **Correction:** In a past edition we reported that **Eric Soleana** is part of "Movemento Boneiru Liber." That was incorrect. He is part of the "**Movemento Lucha Boneiru.**"

► **Help to continue To keep The Reporter "Still Free."** Tell the owners of the places you shop to advertise. Have them call Laura at 786-6518 or Marion at 717-8454 / 785-1790 for details. ■ G./L.D.

Another Turtle Tracked

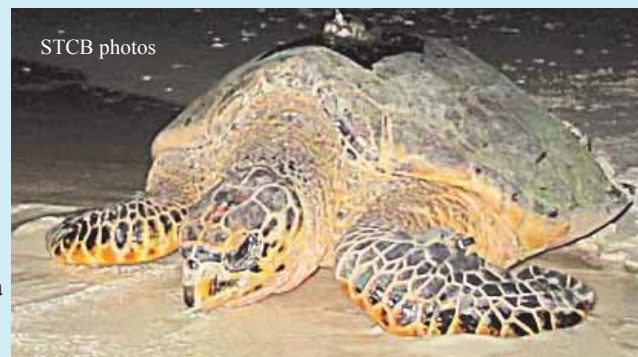
Jklynn has arrived, and she's a hawksbill. STCB has attached a transmitter to the second and last turtle to be tracked from Bonaire this season.

This time the team had to spend three nights on the beaches of nearby Klein Bonaire before a female sea turtle crawled onto the beach to lay her nest.

At 12:30 am on the morning of October 14, a beautiful adult hawksbill female emerged from the waves, clearly visible in the light of a bright full moon. The turtle made a first nesting attempt on a steep rubble bank, but she quickly rejected that location. As the team watched quietly, she returned to the sea and paddled in the shallows to another location several dozen meters down the beach. This time the high sandy dune she encountered met her expectations and she settled in to dig, lay her eggs and then cover them for their 60-day incubation.

Following standard protocol, the six-member team allowed the turtle to deposit her eggs and then moved in to collect data, gently detain her and attach the transmitter. Once the transmitter was secure and switched on, the hawksbill was released to the sea.

This turtle's name was the result of a raffle held at SGB, the island high school. The winning student, Jacquelyne Bernabela, shared a version of her own name with her turtle counterpart, and the result is Jklynn.



STCB photos

Now we hope to track Jklynn to her home foraging (feeding) grounds. This is only her second nest of the season so she will likely stay around Bonaire to lay two or three more nests before her journey.

Satellite tracking of Jklynn is made possible by a grant from the Valley Foundation, a family foundation dedicated to providing access to fresh water for nature and for humans and to demonstrate the international need for cooperation in the protection of migratory sea turtles.

To follow Jklynn's journey, go to the STCB website www.bonaireturtles.org. ■
Mabel Nava



Enjoy Our Reef Fishes
Let's Not Eat Them

A message from
Caribbean reef pioneer
CAPTAIN DON STEWART

Captain Don

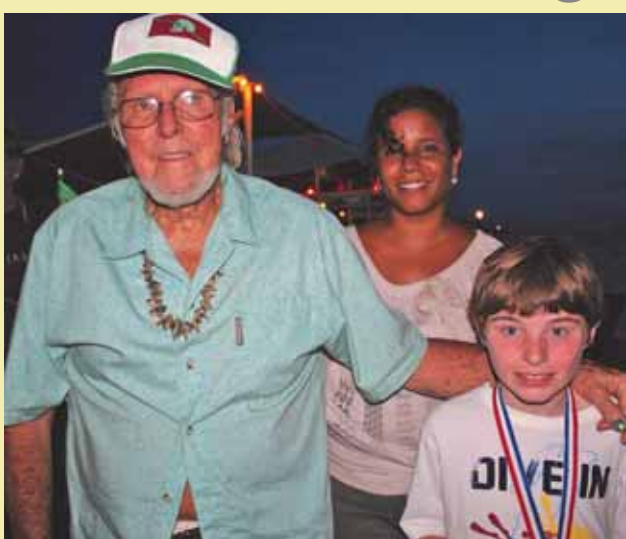
Remember, reef fishes include
○ barracudas, ○ snappers
and ○ groupers

Artwork by Dominique Serafini



10 Years and Counting!

The Bonaire Ambassador Award took on a special meaning when its youngest recipient received recognition for his 10th visit. What makes it so special is he is only 10 years old! Benjamin Dodge Corbell first visited our island when he was just six months old. His mom, Ruth, is an avid diver as is the whole extended family and the charm of the island has kept them returning year after year.



Captain Don, Lara Chirino of TCB and Ben

The award ceremony took place at Captain Don's Habitat with the Captain himself making the presentation. Helen Thodé and Lara Chino, representing The Tourism Corporation Bonaire, were also there to congratulate Ben along with Grandma Sylvia Dodge, Uncles Captain David Dodge, Clayton and Ruth Dodge Corbell, who have already been made ambassadors for Bonaire.

In his acceptance speech Ben said, "I love Bonaire because of the wonderful fish and great weather, warm water and kind people. I have been coming here all my life and spend most of the time with my family. I love the donkeys, snorkeling in the warm water and identifying fish. I did my first dive today and saw a sea horse. I FOUND IT!" ■ Story & photo by Mike Gaynor



Duo Xtreme Race

Bonaire's biggest international mountain bike event was held on Sunday, October 16th with contestants from Aruba, Curaçao, Venezuela, Colombia, The Netherlands, the US and Bonaire.

The 116 contestants (58 teams) conquered an extreme and challenging trail of 79 kilometers in pairs, hence 'duo extreme'. There were several teams in five categories:

- Men (Combined age: 50 - 100)
- Woman (Combined age: 50 - 100)
- Mix (Combined age: 50 - 100)
- Junior (Combined age: <50)
- Senior (Combined age: ≥100)

At 6:20am on race day all teams gathered at the start/finish-line at the Divi Flamingo Resort side entrance. And after a short - but important - briefing the countdown to the start at 6:30 am sharp. "3 - 2 - 1" And off they went. A small but enthusiastic crowd was on hand to cheer them off.

For some it was a race against the clock, for others it was a race against the challenges of the trail, for some it was a race against



... and they're off



Junior Class winners: Ruig-geri Pinedoe, Gyasi Sulvaran



Fastest riders: Aruba's Ignar Bareno and Jean Carlos Ras win in the incredible time of 3:33:57



Women's Class winners: Roxine Thielman and Debbie Pichardo

the elements, but for all contestants it was an extreme mental and physically challenging

(Continued on page 13)

Some of the Bonaire Teams



Albert Schlumperli and Carla Verheggen



The Sunbelt Realty Racing Team: Martijn Eichhorn and Jan Henk vd Wier



Mabel Nava and Bruce Brabec



Patrick Hulsker and Yke Constandse



Mocky Arends (riding with Andrea Magni)

Other Bonaire riders included Leo Hoogenboom and Sedney Marten and 3rd place finishers Brat Breukelmans and DJ Methorst

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A Smart Investment - Flamingo Garden Estate

On a sloping hillside in Antriool an exciting new housing project is underway. The basic infrastructure which includes all the underground electricity, water supply and data/voice communications as well as the paving of the roads, is complete. **Flamingo Garden Estate**, a Florida style development, is arising at the intersection of Kaminda Djabou and the newly-paved Kaya Gris-telchi. The Bonaire Business Development Corporation NV, the developer, invites you to take a look or visit RE/MAX Paradise Homes, the exclusive agent for Bonaire.

The developers are about to start construction of 29 villas in what will be a high end gated resort with 24-hour security, splendid landscaping and comfortable homes.

The area is not flat and extends from two meters (street level) to about seven meters above sea level which will offer a splendid view towards the sea and beyond for most of the houses on the resort. Due to the difference in altitude there will be a good breeze to provide natural cooling.

Completion of the surrounding wall, entrance, street lighting and recreation area will start soon after the first houses are built and sold.

Data and voice communication will be done through high speed fiber optic cables and will provide telephone, internet and TV in a total package from Bonaire's phone company, Telbo.

All the electrical connections and transformers, the water supply and junctions are in place so the project is ready for construction.

The developers foresee a cozy high end resort with a central recreation area including a community swimming pool, fitness and barbecue areas. However, individual owners will have the option to have their own pool as well.

The landscaping will be done by the well-known Bonaire landscaping company, Green Label .

The front gardens of all the houses are collectively landscaped and maintained by the association of home owners. The association will also take care of the maintenance of the commonly owned parts such as the recreation area, the entrance and exit gates and the security of the resort.

There are three basic home models to choose from- two, one-story houses and a two-story house. The homes feature a large porch that is fully integrated with the living room with sliding or folding doors on two sides to create a large area when the doors are open

On request the houses can also be fully furnished and provided with Brugman kitchens and bathrooms.

Most importantly, the homes can be placed in a rental pool when the owners are not permanently living on Bonaire or purchased as an income-generating investment. It is easy to own your own place in Flamingo Garden Estate because the developer is offering early buyer discounts and has arranged for special financing and insurance package through Banco di Caribe and Ennia insurance. See the advertisement below for more information. ■ G.D./press release



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*Only valid for residents. If you are not a resident please contact Banco di Caribe for special options.

For more information contact Banco di Caribe (599) 717 75 7595 or visit the office at Kaya Grandi 22 in Kralendijk, Bonaire.

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FOR SALE: Mitsubishi Montero 4WD, built in 1996, in good condition. \$4500. For information call **788 1763**

Pen Pals Wanted- Young woman from Ghana, Africa (28) would like Bonaire-ans of any age to correspond with her to exchange information on culture and life. Jessica Eshun- Jasbos@yahoo.com

Looking for a Dive Buddy? I'll dive with you \$35-1 dive for 1person. \$50-2dives on the same day, or \$50 for 2 persons on the same dive. **Call 717- 2529 or 796-2529** Monique

Bonaire-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
October Fri 28	02:56 0.26 ft	06:47 0.19 ft	13:50 1.22 ft	22:38 -0.24 ft		6:27	18:11
Sat 29	04:14 0.30 ft	07:57 0.24 ft	14:47 1.22 ft	23:29 -0.28 ft		6:27	18:11
Sun 30	05:15 0.37 ft	09:14 0.27 ft	15:43 1.19 ft			6:27	18:10
Mon 31		00:16 -0.29 ft	06:05 0.43 ft	10:30 0.29 ft	16:38 1.13 ft	6:28	18:10
Novem- ber Tue 01		01:00 -0.27 ft	06:50 0.50 ft	11:43 0.30 ft	17:30 1.04 ft	6:28	18:10
Wed 02	First Quarter	01:40 -0.23 ft	07:33 0.58 ft	12:53 0.31 ft	18:20 0.93 ft	6:28	18:09
Thu 03		02:17 -0.16 ft	08:15 0.65 ft	14:04 0.30 ft	19:09 0.79 ft	6:28	18:09
Fri 04		02:50 -0.09 ft	08:54 0.71 ft	15:16 0.29 ft	19:58 0.65 ft	6:29	18:09
Sat 05		03:18 -0.01 ft	09:31 0.77 ft	16:32 0.27 ft	20:49 0.52 ft	6:29	18:08
Sun 06		03:40 0.07 ft	10:06 0.82 ft	17:51 0.22 ft	21:49 0.39 ft	6:29	18:08
Mon 07		03:55 0.15 ft	10:40 0.86 ft	19:11 0.16 ft	23:11 0.29 ft	6:30	18:08
Tue 08		03:57 0.20 ft	11:13 0.89 ft	20:24 0.09 ft		6:30	18:08
Wed 09	11:47 0.92 ft	21:24 0.02 ft				6:30	18:08
Thu 10	12:22 0.94 ft	22:12 -0.04 ft			Full Moon	6:31	18:07
Fri 11	12:58 0.96 ft	22:52 -0.09 ft				6:31	18:07

For sale. Coconut trees from \$6-\$20 in pots, mountain bike \$200 with lights, locker, with carrier. 717- 2529 Kaya Utrecht 25.

Wanted I'm looking for books about **Foot massage Reflextherapy.** 717- 2529

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Wanted: furniture (modern) in good condition, double bed, couches, dining chairs, kitchen inventory. Please phone: **786-7440**

WANTED: dinghy suitable for 8/15 HP outboard. buy or rent, contact Kim, SV *Gabrielle*, VHF-16 or **788-1939**

WANTED: freelance magazine writers New bi-monthly Caribbean tourist magazine is looking for freelance writers on all the major Caribbean islands. If you have writing and photographic skills and are interested in working freelance please email your CV to: editor@CaribbeanBeachNews.com

Girl, 47 years-old looking for a skipper with (sailing) boat, to join for a few days at sea in the Caribbean. I dive, catch-clean-cook the fresh fish.

Did a 14 days sailing trip last year round Curaçao, and had some sailing lessons. Little technical background, motivated to learn and do maintenance on the boat. Resident of Bonaire since 2002.
Tuinontwerpburo@gmail.com



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Bonaire Real Estate Reflections

FORECLOSURE SALES

The good and the bad of the world real estate bubble have come to Bonaire. In the past, foreclosures on Bonaire were few and very far between. For good or for bad foreclosures are now a part of the real estate scene on Bonaire.

Before 2009 and 2010 foreclosure were rare on Bonaire. In most years you could count the number of foreclosures on two hands. The properties were almost always small local homes and of low value. Bids at auction were rare.

In 2011 foreclosures increased and the value of the foreclosed properties has escalated as well. Foreclosure on Bonaire follows the Dutch system. It is very different from the American system. If you are interested in buying a foreclosed property we strongly suggest you schedule an appointment with the Notary before you bid on a property.

The Notary is completely in charge of foreclosure sales. Foreclosing creditors must use a notary practicing in the location where the real estate is situated. The foreclosure must be advertised locally.

When a lender decides to foreclose, the lender and the Notary send the debtor written notice that a foreclosure is about to begin. The notice typically allows for two weeks until the formal process starts.

The Notary will then publish in the local



papers a Notice of Foreclosure giving the property's location. Usually the sale will be four to six weeks in the future. The sale is in the Notary's office, not at the property.

At an appointed hour and date the Notary will conduct the auction. The initial bid is set by the lender and is at least the execution value of the appraisal.

For example let's say you have a million dollar house, and the debt is only \$50,000, then the auction begins there rather than the appraised value. The bidders then bid the price up.

If there are no bidders and, only if the creditor wants to lower the starting price, they have to start a new auction all over. If there are bidders they will bid the price up. If there are no bidders the Notary will start the process again a third time at a still lower price until there are bidders. The auctions can continue with whole procedure starting all over again if requested by the creditor, of course.

For example, if the foreclosed property is appraised for \$100,000 the initial bidding begins at \$100,000 and goes up. If there are no bids the auction will be closed. If the Notary is requested to foreclose on the same property for the second time he may start the second auction at a lower price, say \$80,000. If there are no bids the Notary will start the third auction at \$60,000. These lower starting points are solely within the discretion of the Notary (in consultation with the lender).

The process continues until a bid is received and the interested parties begin to bid up the price until there are no more bids. It is important to know the high bid is NOT the end of the auction. It is the beginning of a second auction that begins immediately.

If Frank and Jim finally bid the property to \$110,000 and Frank is the "high" bidder, there is a second auction and Jim still has a chance to buy the property. The Notary will announce the new "bid" ask (for this example) \$125,000. If there are no bids the Notary will "ask" down to \$124,000.

The Notary will continue to "ask" down until a bidder shouts out "mine." Whoever shouts "mine" is the final winner of the auction at the "mine" price (unless the price of \$110,000 is reached without anyone shouting "mine," in which case the highest bidder (Frank) is the winner). It may be Frank or Jim or someone who did not bid in the first round! A few years ago two people shouted "mine" seemingly simultaneously. It took some moments to decide who had won by a millisecond.

The winning bidder must deposit the anticipated closing costs with the Notary within 48 hours of the auction. The purchase price must be paid in full to the Notary within 14 business days.

When the full price is paid the Kadaster

enters a full deed into the record and the winning bidder is the official owner of the property. The auction deed can only be registered at the Kadaster at the same time as the deed of conveyance.

Very special thanks to our local Acting Notary Aniek Shouten for her help and assistance. ■ 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



BonQuiz #67

OPEN AIR MASS



Even though we have been a Dutch island for centuries, the predominant religion of Bonaire is Roman Catholic

The photo depicts a roadside shrine. There is one in Antriol another in Nikiboko

Q) What are they used for?

Answer on page 18.

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



Duo Xtreme (Continued from page 10) race with themselves. The mountain bike trail of 79 kilometers covered a large part of the roughest terrain of Bonaire. Starting at Kralendijk over Kaya Grandi via Hato to Sabadeco, Goto Lake, through Washington Slagbaai National Park, Pink Trail, the wild coast of Bolivia, over Seru Largu and Kralendijk again to finish at the Divi Flamingo Resort. It was a hot day and there were five water stops along the route for water and Gatorade.

The light rain of the previous night kept down the dust and mud, but that certainly didn't make it a 'walk in the park'.

The first team finished in the incredibly fast time of 3 hours, 33 minutes and 57 seconds, 10 minutes ahead of their rival team also from Aruba. Just behind them were Bonaire's Dirk Jan Methorst and Brat Breukelmans. The first prize for both men and women in the 50-100 group was \$600, second prize \$300 and third prize \$150. Mixed coupled first place \$400, Junior \$400 & Senior \$400.

The 2012 Duo Extreme Race will be on October 21st. You are invited to ride or watch. More information is on Facebook under: [Bonaire Xtreme MTB](#)

Sponsors included: Van Eps Kunneman & VanDoorne, Insel Air, Firgos, Divi Flamingo, Budget, Rent a Car, Bon Bida Spa & Gym, De Freewieler, Brugman Keukens, Alcon Wines & Spirits, Tafkah.nl, GAIA Pro and MCB Bank. The event wouldn't have been possible without the help of the many volunteers.

Six people were key to organizing the race:

- Frank Böhm (De Freewieler, Bike shop)
- Robert Smaal (Bon Bida Spa & Gym,



Organizer Frank Böhm of De Freewieler, rode with Gijs Vermeulen

BonFysio)

- Dirk-Jan Methorst (Budget Rent a Car)
- Sara Matera (Divi Flamingo Beach Resort)
- Albert 'Mocky' Arends (Alcon Wines & Spirits)
- Marjolein Rijpkema (Bon Bida Spa & Gym & BonFysio)
- Harrie Schoffelen (Singer-Guitarist: [Tafkah.nl](#)). ■

Story by Harrie Schoffelen, Photos by Dennis Lensink and Reporter staff

Art and Crafts Day At Kon Tiki

The weather was perfect for the 21 artists participating in Arts and Crafts day at Kontiki Restaurant. Featured were oil paintings, driftwood creations, jewelry, and a myriad of handmade gift items. Toward evening, Corine Gerharts of Bonaire Tours held an auction and raffle of items donated by several of the artists and raised \$645 for a music sound studio at Jong Bonaire. Musicians Robbie Swinkels and Olvin Bart added a festive air with Caribbean sounds on their keyboard and guitar. Kontiki management hopes to make this an annual event. ■ Helen Dovale, photos by Christie Dovale below



Artists Wil Dyskstra (above) and Sipka and Dianier Steapert (right) had interesting exhibits.



The Antillean Wine Company Marjolein and Noel Hayden

“Excellent knowledge of fine wines suited for the Caribbean”

“We started on July 26th, 2000. We were planning on taking over the mini market at Plaza, but it was virtually dead and we needed an immediate income. So, the wine company was on the market and Marjolein knew a lot about wine,” Noel explains. “It turned out to be a perfect combination! In the beginning Mar was doing the mini market and I did the delivery of the wines, but the business started booming after a year or so and we decided to go full time with the wine. First we just had storage and ‘You ring & we bring’ and everybody loved it!”

Then, Mr. Richard Berends, our landlord, built this complex in 2005 and he gave us first choice. Before we’d looked in town to see if we could open a shop, but the rents were very high with no access for suppliers and customers, so this location at Kaya Industria #23 was and is perfect.

In the beginning we went to show off our samples at the restaurants, but we had too many different varieties – like about 130 wines – and you can’t bring them all around, so we tried to get the customers in to have a look.

Then many others jumped into the business and we saw a lot of them come and go. But we stayed and the shop was going well. We saw a fast increase in private customers. We still have some very loyal restaurants who have been with us from the beginning like Kon Tiki, Pasa Bon Pizza, At Sea and sometimes Mona Lisa and Sunset to mention just a few.

The private sector got bigger and bigger and then we got requests for wine accessories like coolers, glassware and bottle openers. That’s how ‘the other thing’ started! The people who ordered with us when we just had the warehouse came in when we opened the shop and they looked around and started ordering different things like accessories.

‘Mr. Shippers’ – Henk Schippers – shipped everything in for us and that’s basically how it began. We would have coffee and a chat with Henk and then one thing led to another and he said, ‘You have space and I have stuff. Let’s join!’ It became ‘Le Garage’ – a knife, a fork, a bottle and a cork – that’s how it started. It’s separated from the wine, but we are doing Le Garage together with Henk. It’s fun, because we feel we are making people happy with items you couldn’t get here before – quality stuff like dinner ware, cooking and kitchen ware, towels, children’s stuff, lamps, photo frames, quick set pools, generators and TVs - over 200 items... all sorts of things. (See Le Garage ad on facing page 15)

Regarding the wines, we do special requests as well. If I can get it, as long as it’s not blocked by somebody else, you will have it! We get our wines from Europe, mostly Italy, but that includes wines from all over the world. It’s just easier to get them through Europe. It’s very hard to keep up with the trends. The trends come from Holland. The Americans are more conservative – they stick to



Noel and Marjolein Hayden at the AWC 10th Anniversary celebration



what they know and like, but the Dutch go very much with the trends. It takes about six months before the trend arrives here, but at least our suppliers know what’s going on.

November through April is the busiest season for us; some of our Holiday Hits are the Bonaire Brut Champagne – a real Champagne. We also ordered a whole pallet of the pink Prosecco Raboso – a bubbly pink wine- and of course the better Italian and French wines.

We’ve been on the island for 11 years and we’ve worked very hard. It hasn’t always been easy with the kids, but now two of them are in Holland and doing fine. We try to see them twice a year and we still have one here who will probably leave next year. The other two are coming home this Christmas! That will be great because we just miss them so much! But you know, they came here with one language and went back with five... that’s a good one!”

Noel continues: “Two Christmases ago, in 2009, our daughter Megin was here and we were all chatting and she was sitting across from me on the floor with her legs crossed and a glass of wine in her hand and all of a sudden she said, ‘Thank you, Dad, for bringing me here, because it opened my eyes to the world.’ I nearly fell off my stool... it was just so cool! You see, you always wonder and so it made things so much clearer... We did make the right decision by coming here.”

■ Greta Kooistra

Art, Culture and Education At Kas di Arte



On Saturday October 8th, the radio program “Di Nan Pa Nos” celebrated its fifth anniversary at Kas di Arte on the seafront promenade. The program airs every Saturday between 5 and 6 pm on radio station BON FM 102.7. It’s full of educational information like how you can learn more about our ancestors, Bonaire nature and history. Sandra Johnson, from the island of Saba, is the recently named coordinator of Kas di Arte. Sandra wants to bring Kas di Arte alive and thought that radio broadcasting from Kas di Arte would be a helpful thing. The “Kas” can be important in raising the awareness of Bonaire’s cultural heritage for both locals and visitors, she says.

On the anniversary day six people who started with the radio program were honored for their efforts in contributing to its longevity: Dolfi Davelaar, Boeboei Cecilia, Toontje Nicolaas, Felix Nicolaas, Reynold Cecilia and Frans Booi (photo

above). Boeboei Cecilia is director of Radio Bon FM and Reynold Cecilia, his son, is the station’s technician.

Bon FM has been a supporter of this program since it began in October 2006. Many others have contributed to the program like poetess Tica Sealy-Nicolaas and historian Arthur Sealy. Loyal listeners to the radio program, Jenny Reina, Ani Francees and Papa Francees, always call in to give their contributions and suggestions.

Hubert Vis, head of SKAL, the cultural department, said, “Our roots are the things that will bring us back to the real Bonaire and we can’t forget our past. Young people need to be educated; there is a lot to be learned.” The program was concluded with a prayer by International Bible Church Pastor Baran and an inspired poem about Bonaire by Mrs. Oechi. ■

Story & photo by Siomara Albertus

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in...

Friesland, The Netherlands

Marten and Erica Hager write: “This photo was taken in Friesland (Netherlands) at the famous Eleven Cities bridge. Half of this bridge is faced with ceramic tiles. On each tile is a photograph of a person who once skated the famous Eleven Cities Ice Skating Tour. Can you see the silhouettes of the skating event in this photograph?”

Marten and Erica have been living on Bonaire in October 2010. Marten’s is employed by the RCN. They were recently visiting family in The Netherlands. ■



WE NEED MORE PHOTOS!

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

Bushi Tattoo - Three Awards for Bonaire!



Carsten Cilissen (white shirt) with a few of the bikini contest girls and a tattoo client

The first Caribbean Tattoo Convention took place in Breezes Hotel in Curaçao on October 1 and 2. It was organized by Byron's Tattoo from Curaçao and the participants came from Italy, Holland, the US, Venezuela, St. Martin, Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire.

Carsten Cilissen from Bushi Tattoo, Bonaire, says, "It was a meeting for all tattoo artists to get to know each other better and to introduce the public to the world of tattoos. Every professional had his own stand - his portfolio, photos and sketches and his ink and needles, chairs and light, the complete tattoo shop - and hygiene was the number one issue!

The whole ambiance was like one big party. The tattoo artists were working, bands were performing live music, there was food and drinks and a bikini contest, an airbrush show, body painting, DJs came to play, there were biker's shows... You know, it was so busy, but with all kinds of people - lovely families with children, tough guys and everybody in between - but it was so well organized that there were no problems whatsoever and everyone was having a super time!

The marines who had participated in the waterfront show in Kralendijk came to my stand, they asked me if I spoke Dutch and I said, 'Yes Sir! And bam! The whole Marine Corps had themselves tattooed at my shop!

The contests for the best tattoos took place during the whole weekend. There were several categories like freshly put tattoos, healed tattoos, best color tattoo, best portrait tattoo, best tribals, best black and white shade work. The jury consisted of guest tattoo artists, journalists from tattoo magazines, photographers and film makers. I won three prizes: all three for my black and white shade work - great feeling! But you know what? The best feeling was the brotherhood I felt amongst the tattoo artists from the Antilles and no prize, no money can pay for that!



More info: bushitattoo@hotmail.com or go to face book: bonairebushitattoo.

Greta Kooistra

Uniquely Bonairean A Spicy Line Of Products



When a Michelin Star chef decides to create a line of sauces, rubs and fruits to produce on Bonaire you know it will be special.

Wil Heemskerk, who is the chef and owner of Wil's Tropical Grill on Kaya L.D. Gerharts, drew on his experience to come up with a product that would have a strong appeal to Bonaire visitors and residents alike, under the name, "Flaming Flamingo."

There are five hot sauces, two barbecue sauces, two glazes, two marinades, six barbecue dry rubs and five dried fruits. All the products are based on tropical fruits, peppers and even rum. (see photo at right)

Every one of the items were there for sampling at the opening, and very appreciative guests enjoyed tasting and comparing. Some are spicier than others, but all products have a full rich flavor.

Wil comes from a food, beverage, restaurant family, and to help him and his wife Sue celebrate and launch these spicy new products, his mom, sister and brother in law were there to help. Flaming Flamingo products are sold at Wil's Grill and at their stand at the Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days. ■/LGD



It's a family affair! Wil's mom, Wil, Sue, Wil's brother in law and sister at the tasting



Flaming Flamingo selection and price list

SALE

LE GARAGE

Mon - Sat 9.00 - 13.00

Come visit the nicest store in Bonaire.

Located at Antillean Wine Company, KAYA INDUSTRIA (look for the sign)

DIGITAL PRINTING
Graphic Design
Banner - sticker printing,
sign & advertising displays

Kaya Industria #15 C/5-6
Tel. 717 3505
email: info@gaiapro.com

10% Discount
Premium Logo Concept

- 3 Logo Revisions
- 1-Set of Company Stationery (Business Card, Envelop, Letterhead)
- 100 Business Cards Printing

*Promotion valid until November 30th, 2011

Celebrating
2001<10>2011
years

SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

Bubbles From the Biologist Did You Know...

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/ 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.



BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention., personal banking works. Each client is a client, not a number. Office in the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

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.

ECOLOGICAL PRODUCTS

Bon Eco Solutions has the products you need to save energy and money. They coordinate with other island businesses for a complete sustainable solution.

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. Rremodeled shop open now

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. Off Kaya Industria, behind TIS.

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.

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.



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



Flamingo Garden Estate is Bonaire's newest gated community. It offers a hillside setting, a selection of homes and inviting mortgage terms. Paved streets and infrastructure complete. Ready for construction.



RETAIL

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

Le Garage has lots of the quality things everybody needs which weren't available here before at great prices: household, garden, children's.

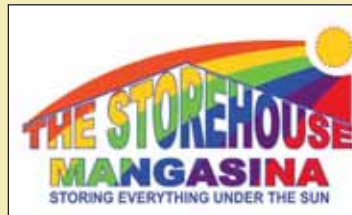
Gaia Productions can provide all your digital printing needs. Including banners, stickers, cards and other advertising items. Celebrating 10 years in business.

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?



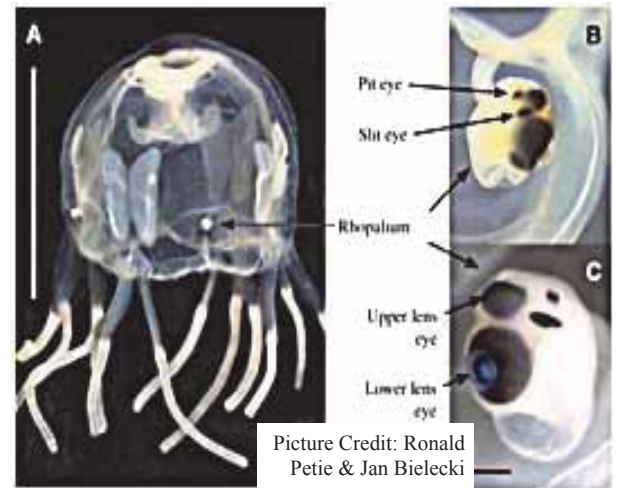
SPAS/GYM

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.



Picture Credit: Ronald Petite & Jan Bielecki

That box jellies have eyes! It turns out that this extremely venomous jellyfish has a visual system of 24 simple eyes. Instead of two eyes, oriented outwardly, the eyes of a box jelly are actually focused inward, looking through their transparent body. The eyes are clustered in four groups all facing different directions. This allows the jellyfish to orient itself toward or away from an object. If it intends to swim towards an object, it simultaneously contracts the three sides furthest from the object and propels itself forward. This visual mechanism helps them navigate and avoid bumping into mangrove roots and other obstructions. It also helps us understand how they sense and are attracted to light.

The next time you are on a night dive and receive a painful sting from a box jelly, you will know the jelly saw you coming and stung you anyway! ■ Tessa Code – Edited by Caren Eckrich



Tessa Code is a Biology and Environmental Sciences major from Santa Clara University in California. She is studying on Bonaire for the fall semester at the CIEE Research Station.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Wednesday October 26th, Lecture by Caren E. Eckrich, and M. Sabine Engel, 7 pm at CIEE, Kaya Gobernador N Debrot 26. Topic: Coral overgrowth in Lac Bay by an encrusting red alga: overgrowth rates, frequency of colony overgrowth and inhibition of coral recruitment

Saturday October 29 - Farmers' Market in the parking lot by the Pakus di Pruga, 8 am-12 noon

Sunday-Monday, October 30, 31— Visit of Queen Beatrix and the royal family to Bonaire.

Saturday, November 5 - Marché di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am-12 noon

Sunday, November 6—Art Exhibition opening in the Plaza Resort lobby. Works by Chilean artist Alejandra Riquelme. Website www.requielme.tk

Saturday, November 19— Classical Music Board presents alto Nicole van Eer and pianist Armond Simon at Cacique Hall .

Sunday, November 20—Dia Di Gracia (Bonaire Thanksgiving). Donate items in good condition for free donation to unfortunate Bonaire families. Call Meredith Nicolaas, 786-2024, or Shela Winklaar 510-7412 or Mamita Fox 796-1919. Drop donations at Kaya Jhony Nicolaas 2 (across from WEB office next to the snack) Give-away will be in the playground of St. Dominicus school behind the Catholic church in Playa.

-UN Universal Children's Day - "We were all children once. And we all share the desire for the well-being of our children, which has always been and will continue to be the most universally cherished aspiration of humankind."

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.
- **Kas di Arte—Ongoing exhibit with different artists.** Open Wednesday-Sunday, 9 am-noon, 1-6 pm. On the sea promenade

Saturdays

- **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) 1st Saturday of the month,** at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon.
- **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.

Wednesdays

- **Ben & Harrie Acoustic Guitar Duo** at Spice Beach Club, 6-9 pm, Eden Beach

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 Cruxita 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 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.

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

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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The 96th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels." On course for 100+

Nick Madlener and his Safe Quad

Bonaire/Tera Kora – During my 55 years of life far more than five relationships I have had with two-wheel, engine-powered vehicles, and loads of four-wheeled man-made creatures. And I never liked the quad: a weird mixture of a motorcycle and a car. Not meat, not fish. Not he, not she; something fish. Until I met Nick Madlener from Tera Korá.



Since 2009 Nick and his wife and two daughters live on the island of Bonaire. (To be very honest: one of his daughters just left to fulfill a job on a private yacht, cruising the Caribbean and the Mediterranean) For 38 years Nick is an optometrist. He is born and raised on Aruba and that is one of the reasons why he and his family came back to the to the tropics. On a regular base you can find his Eton-engine powered Yukon quad parked on the sidewalk right in front of *Optica Antilana*, on Kaya Grandi in Playa.

When I met Nick for the third time I asked him if he was in for an interview about his quad. And he was. I immediately made provocations by informing him about my opinion. In my belief a quad was dangerous and should, at least, not be driven on public roads. And they do not belong in nature too! But Nick kept friendly and smiled. "It is not the Quad that is dangerous", he said, "it is the driver! It is the human being who controls the vehicle. You have to run it the normal way. If not, it can change into an uncontrolled projectile. Then you cannot follow the ideal line of the curves of the road and you end in the bushes. If you are lucky. Do not even think of meeting a tree or electricity pole!"

Nick bought his Quad from Jack's motorcycle enterprise in 2009. The quad was brand new! Nick's car was still on the boat from Europe to Bonaire and Nick seriously needed a special vehicle. Nick: "When I was about seven months old I got poliomyelitis. My legs and feet do not really function as they normally should do. That is why I use a walking-stick and I need a vehicle I can control with my hands instead of with hands and feet. It is hard to find a vehicle which fits me. Especially on a small island like Bonaire. Then I ran in to this lovely red Yukon. It is completely street legal. Equipped with front beams and rear lights. It has a license plate and it is insured. Everything functions as it should and I can control it with my hands!"

The Yukon CXL 150 is equipped with an E-ton made 149 cc single cylinder four stroke over head camshaft engine. The engine is connected to an automatic CVT-

transmission, using a V-belt. Shifts are on the right. The indicator just says: "F N R", Forward, Neutral, Reverse. There is an electric start and a kick start. A Kei-Hir carburetor and electronic cdi ignition are mounted. The engine is in the centre of the tubular frame. There is an oil cooler mounted and a chain delivers the power to the rear wheels. The Yukon is a two wheel drive. To the frame two bumpers, fenders, foot rest bars, three shock absorbers and three swing arms are mounted. The quad is equipped with rural steel rims and tubeless tires. Maxxis 21X7X10 in the front and Maxxis 22X10X10 in the rear. A sticker says: "Maximum Vehicle Load: 133,3 kg (250 lbs). Includes weight of operator, cargo and accessories." Fitted accessories are a home made luggage carrier and a metal construction in the rear to tow something.

Nick is very pleased with his quad. It is street legal, handy, economical, small, simple. As long as you use your brains the risk on this vehicle is low. Compared to an army tank of course it is high. But Nick is a smart guy, using his brains. Wearing glasses his vision is more than ok as he is his own optometrist! ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



BonQuiz Answer



Q) What are the shrines used for?
A) Open air churches, with masses said by the catholic priest
Question on page 13

Pets of the Week

No matter the age or gender, it seems no one can resist giving and getting a little love from the friendly felines at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Two of the Shelter's strong, young male helpers took some time out from their Shelter duties to enjoy some kitty love. Pelikaan school students, **Justin and Jordan** are enjoying the soft and gentle affections of "Ursula," "Maurice" and "Grover," three very special Shelter cats. Ursula, the 10-week old red tabby kitten in the arms of Justin, is a rarity. The majority of all red tabbies are male, but Ursula, as her name indicates, is all girl! She has recently become the very best friend of Maurice, the red tabby male in the middle of the boys, who was recently featured as a Pet of the Week. Seems Maurice realizes what a rare beauty Ursula is and has decided she is the girl of his dreams and they are constant companions. Jordan is holding Grover, a black and white kitten with his own special story. He and his sister Banjo arrived at the Shelter motherless at only three weeks old. Shelter staffer Regina Schouten took them home and hand fed them every four hours until they were old enough to eat on their own and join the rest of the Shelter's cat family. The result, Grover and Banjo LOVE people. Their purr engines are up and running at the first sign of human touch. Each of these lovely cats...and plenty more...are available for adoption and ready to share that special feline love with you and your family. *¢Jane Madden*



day afternoons helping out. They especially like playing with the cats. Why do they do this rather than playing video games or fooling around? It's because, they say, "Animals are important and they need our help." Great words for all of us!

There are all sorts of jobs that volunteers can do from just playing with the dogs and cats ("socializing" they call it) to walking them and giving some obedience training, feeding, giving medications, cleaning up. For a full list of what's available to do give them a call at 717-4989.

The Animal Shelter's Pakus di Pruga (Flea Market) continues to thrive. This little shop, run by volunteers from the Animal Shelter, is bursting with "stuff" - clothes, books, children's things, even appliances and some furniture. It's on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar, across from Jong Bonaire and Brandaris Café. It's open Saturdays, 8 am to 5 pm. All proceeds go to help keep the Shelter open. **This Saturday coming up, October 29, there will be an added attraction—a Farmers' Market set up in the parking lot during the morning hours.** ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

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MYSTERY EVENT EXPLAINED

A Sky Park reader writes: "This morning around 5 am, I saw an amazing sight. I was sitting facing southeast looking at the stars. A little above Orion a star just "swelled up" and seemed to burst! There were a few faint "sparks" that traveled up and to the right, then nothing – nothing where the star had been a moment before. I am sure of what I saw. Can you comment on this? Or you can just call me crazy, and I won't be offended.

My response: "No, I don't think you're crazy. I'm guessing you happened to see a meteor coming directly in your direction before it broke apart and burned up. Meteors "falling" and burning up in our atmosphere are a common occurrence, and meteors breaking up before burning up, although less common, aren't rare. But, given that I've heard of so few reports, I'd say your experience is rare. "Given that one must be viewing in the right direction at the right moment from the right location on Earth to see what we saw, I'd say we were pretty lucky – and you were even luckier as your meteor broke up before disintegrating. Of course, we might be lucky in yet another way – had the meteor not completely burned up, and it was heading directly toward us..." Thanks for sharing your experience."

Most people have seen meteors, also called "shooting stars" and "falling stars," and stargazers who spend hours under the stars see countless meteors from the ordinary to those that make you gasp. And while seeing a meteor break up is far less common, it's not rare – I recall seeing three or four.

But seeing a meteor coming straight toward you – I would consider that pretty rare. And having a directly incoming meteor break up – extremely rare.

While meteors can usually be seen any clear night of the year and any time of night, seeing them still takes a bit of



Exploding Geminid meteor

luck. One has to be looking in the right place at the right time, and they are usually so fleeting there's not time to point them out to a companion.

There are, however, ways of increasing the odds of seeing meteors. More will be seen under dark skies, away from light pollution, and when the Moon isn't up to wash out all but the brightest. And comfort is important. You'll probably want to stretch out on a blanket or reclining lawn chair as standing or sitting in an ordinary lawn chair can be tiring and will quickly make your back and neck ache. When that happens, you'll not want to watch long, reducing your chances of seeing meteors. When looking, slowly pan the skies in the direction with the least light pollution which is usually directly overhead. And while it's not convenient for night owls, more meteors are visible in the morning than evening with the best hours being from midnight to dawn.

Finally, more meteors are apt to be seen during annual meteor showers, two of which occur this month. As Earth speeds around the Sun at 67,000 mph, it regularly passes through the debris-strewn paths of several comets. When some of the debris enters Earth's atmosphere, friction causes it to burn and momentarily glow brilliantly as meteors in our night sky. **Meteor showers coming up this year are: Taurids – Nov. 12 / Leonids – Nov. 17 / Geminids – Dec. 14 / Ursids – Dec. 14.** Unfortunately, this year the moon is bright for most of these events. ■ Paul Derrick



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
End October 2011

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will feel compelled to do some travelling. Physical limitations are possible if you aren't careful. You'll communicate easily and develop new friendships. Stubborn about making changes around your home. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Avoid lending money or belongings to friends. You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make. A residential move may be in order. Social events may lead to a romantic interlude. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Hassles with female colleagues may lead to problems with your boss. Be careful; you may say something you'll regret later. Your energetic personality will make you the center of attention at social gatherings. Try to compromise rather than having an all out battle. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will have an interest in foreigners and their cultures. Stop telling others about your problems. You need to clear up some important personal documents before the end of the year. Don't be too hard on your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Help if you can, but more than likely it will be sufficient just to listen. Your diplomacy will be of utmost importance this week. Be careful disclosing information. Do your own research and be prepared. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try to curb your bad habits. You will have extra energy; put it to good use. Unique forms of entertainment could capture your attention and bring about a romantic interest. Don't overlook that fact that someone you care about may be hiding something. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Be cautious while travelling to foreign countries.

Focus your efforts on details, and keep to yourself in order to finish your work. You can make financial gains through investments and dealing with other people's money. Do not overspend on entertainment. You could find that children will be a handful. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov.2) Unexpected changes in friendships could occur. Don't forget to read the fine print. Talk to someone with experience about budgets or consolidating debts. You can make moves, but they won't be settling. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Get busy doing all those things at home that you have been putting off for so long. Get on with business. Drastic financial losses may be likely if you lend money. Be prepared to make changes to your personal documents. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Your boss may be on the rampage and you certainly don't want to be the one to take the brunt of a bad situation. You could lose a good friend because of it. You will have to be sure not to burn the candle at both ends. You might find added popularity with those around you this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Trips will be exciting. Don't be too quick to judge. Make sure that you have covered yourself legally and try not to let your temper get out of hand. Take things slowly, especially for the sake of those you love. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You may be somewhat emotional concerning a rather private matter. Talk about your intentions and confirm that you both feel the same way. Passion is about the best way for you to relieve tension. You should put a little extra effort in at work. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

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Asking price US\$ 595,000

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