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**BONAIRE**

Jan. 25- Feb. 8, 2013 Year 20, Issue 2

# The REPORTER

**BES Island News Too**

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



**Fishing X 2**  
See Page 18

In the photo: Chris Morkos (*Piscatur*),  
Lita Morkos and Louis Posner



# Flotsam and Jetsam

Bonaire has once again swept top honors receiving 17 different awards in *Scuba Diving Magazine's* Readers' Choice Awards, more than any other destination in the region, including five #1 ratings, proving the island's



David Colvard photo

dominance as the premiere dive destination in the Caribbean and around the world. For the 20th consecutive year, Bonaire has taken first place for the #1 Shore Diving Destination.

In the Caribbean/Atlantic region, the #1 rankings received by Bonaire include Best Macro Diving, Best Advanced Diving, Best Beginner Diving, Best Shore Diving, and Best Underwater Photography. The #2 rankings include Best Overall Diving, Best Value of Diving Dollar and Best Marine Environment.

In addition to its high rankings, the island also was awarded nine slots out of 100 in the Top 100 Gold List, as voted upon by readers of *Scuba Diving* magazine. "These honors once again reflect how Bonaire's visitors feel about the destination and what they experience while they are here. It is a world-class dive destination in their books, and their voting for Bonaire in so many of the categories and to such high degrees indicates the loyalty of the Bonaire diver," commented Anja Romeijnders, President of Tourism Corporation Bonaire. "Bonaire promises to continue its unwavering commitment to preserve its reef habitat and to provide divers with a first class dive experience as well as added value whenever they come to visit," Romeijnders continued. For the Readers' Choice Awards, thousands of Scuba Diving subscribers and web users rated their dive experiences on a scale of one to five. See the January/February 2013 issue.

For a delightful and delicious experience dine at **The Chez Nous restaurant**. Chez Nous is part of the high school's culinary arts training facility. Dinners are scheduled to be served every Wednesday from now through the end of February. All dinners consist of three courses, elegantly served. The price for this dinner is \$20 excluding drinks/tips. Since the dining room is small there are only a limited number of places available (maximum 12 guests), you must book in advance, preferably by e-mail to [secretariaat@beroepsonderwijsbonaire.org](mailto:secretariaat@beroepsonderwijsbonaire.org) or phone 717-8142.



SGB photo

#### Some points:

- Be on time. The meal time is 18:00-20:30
  - There is only the option to pay in cash
  - Reserve from 1 week up to 3 weeks in advance. Best by email address: [secretariaat@beroepsonderwijsbonaire.org](mailto:secretariaat@beroepsonderwijsbonaire.org). You will then receive a confirmation email
  - If you must cancel your booking do it 24 hours before the dinner. Otherwise you will be charged.
  - During school holidays, key weeks, excursions and weekends the restaurant is closed.
  - Groups are distributed over several small tables in order to enhance the learning experience of our students.
  - Dietary requirements such as lactose free or gluten unfortunately cannot be accepted.
- The menu for January 30 includes: Pasta Salad, Baked salmon fillet, Dill butter, Fillet of grilled vegetables, Pommes frites and for dessert, *Appelflap* with vanilla sauce.

► **Following the public outcry about changes in the health insurance rules last week** the BES Health Insurance Office gave more clarity on the transitional arrangements with regard to physiotherapy. **It was decided that during the transition period from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2013 physiotherapy claims will be treated the same as the claims package offered during 2012. This also applies to new clients or new treatments as well as current treatments.**

**But next July the original provisions will apply. In the opinion of the Executive Council of Bonaire** this means that the changes in the health care package for the Caribbean Netherlands, especially regarding physiotherapy and dental correction for children, will be inaccessible for approximately 65% of the population. They cannot afford to pay these costs without a supplemental insurance (not available in Bonaire) and sufficient income.

► **Beginning on January 21, 2013, BES Island Public Prosecutors (among others) initiated a new policy to collect unpaid fines.**

The Royal Military Police will check travelers arriving or departing at Bonaire International Airport. Simultaneously, the Prosecutor, in cooperation with the Island Tax Department and the Police Corps elsewhere on the island, are also pursuing people who owe money. Non-payment can result in jail time. An example provided said that for every \$28 due, a day in jail would be

substituted.

► A government press release announced that, beginning February 13, 2013, **new automobile license plates and renewal stickers will be available.** You can get them and pay your car tax at the tax office in Kralendijk during office hours. Rates are different for various types of vehicles. It is possible to renew for a full or half year. When paying for the whole year you get a sticker and the plates. In payment for a half you get only the plates. The price of the new plates is fixed at \$8.60 and \$2.25 for the sticker. The road tax is on top of that. A valid insurance certificate is required to renew.



► **The Men's Heaven brothel, we reported on** in the last edition of *The Reporter* on Boulevard Gubandor N. has **not** opened. A groundswell of opposition from local residents, the non-approval of the requested permit and general repugnance for that type of establishment in a dive tourist area may block its ever opening.



► From Thursday, January 17, to Friday, January 25, a scenario for a **Dutch Army military assistance exercise will be played out on Bonaire.** The exercise is part of the regular training pro-

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 2)  
gram for the company, which is changed every four months on Curaçao. The primary goal is to get acquainted with the island of Bonaire, the local authorities and emergency services and be able to work with them to train and share experiences.

► The Caribbean Netherlands judicial service implemented a **juvenile crime intervention plan, named HALT**, in August 2010 to keep youngsters (12 to 18 years) from having to appear in court and getting a police record.

The 2011 annual report for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (BES) by the Public Prosecutor shows that all three islands used HALT. There were 150 reports on extrajudicial resolutions in 2011; 106 cases had gone to the HALT sessions, of which 97 had been concluded with a punishment, task or reprimand.

► **Be very careful using ATM machines advised one of our readers.** Local banks have been lowering withdrawal limits because of "skimming" and other illegal activity. There is a story going around that there was an illegal camera above a local ATM machine that could take videos of people's hands using the keyboard and screen of the machine. The bank spotted it and removed it a couple of months ago. ATMs can also be sabotaged to block the discharge of money. If anything unusual happens when using a machine, talk to its internal monitor immediately. All transactions are recorded by bank cameras.

**And of course make sure no one is near you when entering your PIN number.** Even block the keystrokes with your body or hand. Do not enter the PIN more than once for a single transaction.

► The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) and Bonaire Holding Company (BHM) have announced the appointment of Mr. Ethsel Pieternella as its new TCB director and Chief Operating Officer last week. Mr Pieternella will temporarily also serve as the interim Chief Marketing officer of the TCB. Mr. Pieternella, who has been residing in the Netherlands, is a native of Curacao. Most recently he has served as president of MAAS Rotterdam foundation and as a business consultant at Intent Den Haag, where he organized several businesses in the tourism sector.



► **NEW YORK-Early this month 189 passengers and 31 crew members on the Emerald Princess came down with an unknown illness suspected of being a norovirus.** The symptoms are those of a contagious microorganism that can be acquired from an infected person, contaminated food or water, or by touching contaminated surfaces, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vessels are required to notify the agency when 2% of those on board develop a gastrointestinal illness.

Norovirus causes an inflammation of the stomach or intestines called acute gastroenteritis, producing stomach pain, nausea and diarrhea. **The next call of the Emerald Princess to Bonaire is January 22.**

► **It's now possible for disabled people to comfortably enjoy the delightfully warm sea water around Bonaire.** There are two beach wheelchairs in service at the Hang Out Bar on the Jibe City beach at Sorobon. It's totally free to use. The easy beach accessibility and the shallow water make it most convenient. Users must accept full responsibility, have a companion and leave a deposit of \$20 or car keys. It's another step in making Bonaire the Caribbean's most handicapped accessible island. (Thanks to Mike Gaynor for this info)



► **If you're tired of paying all those exorbitant baggage fees on the airlines,** why not consider storing your dive/windsurf/kiting equipment here on Bonaire for your frequent visits. **Mangasina: The Storehouse** in Hato now has 5 ft. x 5 ft. units available for a very reasonable monthly rate. The self-storage center has been sold out of these sizes for some time, but a few have recently become available. Stop in and see them or call 700-1753 for more information.

► **Willemstad – The Board of financial supervision Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (College financieel toezicht Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba - Cft) says that important progress has been made with regard to the budgeting processes for the BES public entities and that financial supervision is paying off.** However,

(Continued on page 7)

## News from The Netherlands directly affecting Bonaire



THE HAGUE--A proposal being discussed to change the Dutch Electoral Law will make it easier for new political parties in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba to participate in the elections for the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament. The minimum number of support declarations for new parties in voting district 20, comprising Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, would be cut from 30 to 10.

THE HAGUE—Dutch State Secretary of Economic Affairs Sharon Dijksma has reserved 7.5 million euros for nature in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. This agreement was reached in a meeting that the State Secretary had with the Provincial States on January 14. Dijksma said she wanted to stimulate the sustainable development of nature on the islands. Earlier this year, the islands were promised 10 million euros for nature management and sustainable development. The islands were deeply disappointed when they heard that the new Rutte-Asscher cabinet had scrapped these funds.

NIJMEGEN—Fireworks set off during New Year's celebrations led to 23 people becoming blind in one eye, the Dutch eye specialist association NOG said last week. In total, 101 eyes were permanently damaged during the festivities, NOG said. Over the past five years, 111 eyes have been blinded in New Year's firework accidents in The Netherlands. In Bonaire a school-age child was seriously hurt by fireworks this year.

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# On The Island Since... March 21st, 2001 - Albis Julieth Rivera Leguia

I was 13. I came from Santa Marta, Colombia. Before, in 1999, my mother had gone to live on Bonaire where she'd found a job as a help for a Bonairean family. Then she remarried and in 2001 she came to fetch me. One brother and one sister remained in Colombia, but they were already married themselves. Here, everything



Albis at work at 6 o'clock in the morning after her night shift

was new for me and especially the languages, Papiamentu and Dutch. The first month I did nothing but cry, telling my mom I wanted to go back home to Colombia. I stayed in the house for four months and finally, in June, I started with Papiamentu and Dutch lessons at *juffrouw* (Miss) Cynthia's in Antriol. I picked up a little bit of everything but it wasn't enough so my mom decided I should change teachers and go to Mrs. Piek. And there it was fun and it was cozy!

In August that year I went to elementary school, to Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador, the sixth grade with *juffrouw* Jet. Luckily my cousin Steffie was in the same class with me and she told me, 'Albis, first you have to listen to be able to understand and only then can you start talking!' She was right because that was how it went, but Mrs. Piek kept on tutoring me until I was in the second grade of high school.

4, from 4-12 and from 12-8. Special Security Services is a very big business. Not only do we do alarms on private properties but we also take care of money transports and the security of lots of companies on the island. It's a very demanding job, but in spite of that I am going to pick up my studies again in March, starting with SBO, 2d level at Forma in the evening.

I met the father of my little boy at work on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Rodrigo came from Cucuta, Colombia, to Bonaire in 2006 when he was 20. Originally he was a carpenter and a painter. When Rodrigo and I wanted to become pregnant, it wasn't easy and I told my mom 'If God wants to give me a child, he will give me one - I will leave it up to Him.' Then, in April 2011, when I was on vacation in Colombia with my mom I became severely ill. I couldn't stop vomiting and I thought I'd caught a bad flu. When I came back in June I did the pregnancy test



Albis, Rodrigo and baby Matthew



Wela (Grandma) Laudice, Albis and beautiful little Matthew

**“I hardly hear any Papiamentu in the street. It's now mostly Dutch and English and that's weird because Papiamentu is 'nos idioma' - our language.”**

I went to high school - PBL/care and welfare - in 2002 and there I found my friends: Darwin and Tony, Aleixandra and Paola. They were from Colombia and Venezuela and except for Darwin they are all gone now. I liked school and it went well, no problems at all, but then I found out that I couldn't become a nurse. I have asthma and I am allergic to dust and bleach. It was a big disappointment especially because the financing for my study had been already approved. It was hard and I cried a lot.

In 2008 I went to the first level of SBO, study center for business and government. I finished then I started working for Benito Dirksz' Special Security Services. I wanted to be able to pay for my own things! My mom, Laudice, had already started working for Benito in 2003 and she's still there. Rodrigo, the father of my son, also works for SSS as a guard at the Giro Bank and presently I am an operator. When an alarm comes in I have to coordinate everything: send the patrol people out and quickly call the police so the problem can be solved as soon as possible. You really have to make sure you never miss an alarm because that's unforgivable! Well, I also make the daily reports and the work schedules for the other people, so that all stations are always staffed. I've worked all three shifts: from 8-

and July 4<sup>th</sup> I got the results from the doctor: It was positive, I was eight weeks pregnant with this beautiful little boy! We were so happy! Rodrigo went with me to all the prenatal classes at Sebiki and we walked the boulevard - he and I with my big belly. I had a wonderful pregnancy. Rodrigo and my mom were always there for me. We are all Colombians, my mom, Rodrigo and me, except for this little boy here, Matthew, who was born on Bonaire on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2012, he's a 'yiu di tera' (a child of this land).

My mother, who got divorced in 2004, lives with me - with us - but now she's looking for her own apartment because she says that I have my own family and that we have to live our own lives. That's what she feels, but for me it's a bit hard as I have never been without my mother. You see, we've always stayed together. And"... she laughs, "for Matthew it's also a bummer, because first thing he does when he wakes up is go into my mother's room..."

Matthew doesn't go to crèche yet. He stays with my mom during the daytime and his daddy looks after him in the evening. But Matthew loves other children. He gets so happy when he sees them and he starts babbling and laughing, so we decided that he will go for half days to crèche Cuchi Cuchi in February. Let's see how it goes!

We're always thinking about Matthew's future. At the bank we opened a Lito savings account for him to pay for his studies later, and we just finished the whole procedure to apply for a piece of long lease land and we've paid for everything up to now. It was the first step of our life together and we want to build the house for Matthew. Rodrigo is a wonderful man, the best of dads. Everything he does is for Matthew. He is a very quiet person, only when he knows you better will he open up. He has a lot of respect for other people. Rodrigo is a Jehovah's Witness and I am a Catholic." She laughs. "And so there is some irritation sometimes, but it's not important because we are doing well. Next month we're going to Colombia to introduce Matthew to Rodrigo's family who haven't seen him yet. It will be the first time for them!

Many people say that Bonaire is very boring, but not to me. I came here when I was 13 and now I am 25 and to me it is my second home. And I especially love its quietness. When I go to Colombia I get a headache from all the people, the traffic, the quarrels, the fights, the hustle and bustle. I know I have to go there to see the family, but to live...NO!

Bonaire is not like it was 10 years ago. Last year someone broke into my house and took away all the electronic apparatus and that never happened before when I lived in Antriol. Also, I hardly hear any Papiamentu in the street. It's now mostly Dutch and English and that's weird because Papiamentu is 'nos idioma' - our language. Why can't we keep it? And... before the dollar,

we were able to buy lots of clothes and we used to go out for dinner to places like Patagonia and to all the happy hours and we would see all our friends and all the familiar faces, but now...tsss! Since the dollar everybody has disappeared including us.

You know what? I cook a soup for Matthew from spinach and broccoli and I pay almost \$10 for two pieces of broccoli! We live in this house with three grown-ups and all three of us work a full-time job, but after the rent and the utilities have been paid and the car is filled up with gas I have \$50 left for the whole month and my man just a little bit more. The house we rent costs \$750 and it's not too much, because it's a big house, but boy, it is a lot of money! By the end of the month I have nothing left and my friends say the same. But you know... all in all... I will stay on Bonaire; it's my island! It's good for me; I have a house and I make it till the end of the month. I go with my baby to the sea. I am from Bonaire now and I will only go to Colombia for vacation... That's how it is! I don't know of a place that's better than Bonaire. I want Matthew to grow up here and I tell him, 'Bonaire is your first country and Colombia the country of your heart, but you will grow up according to the culture and traditions of Bonaire.' And I do have the hope that Bonaire will survive and prosper... ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra







Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of *The Reporter*

**KUDOS FOR ONLINE EDITION**

Dear *Bonaire Reporter*:  
Just paid my \$25 online subscription donation but it's really a thank you for all you do.

I will be snorkeling in Bonaire for the first time in another week.

Your news gives me the information I need to make my way around while I'm staying on Bonaire.

I particularly appreciate the merchant ads and information and even more the cruise ship landing schedules and the tidal schedule.

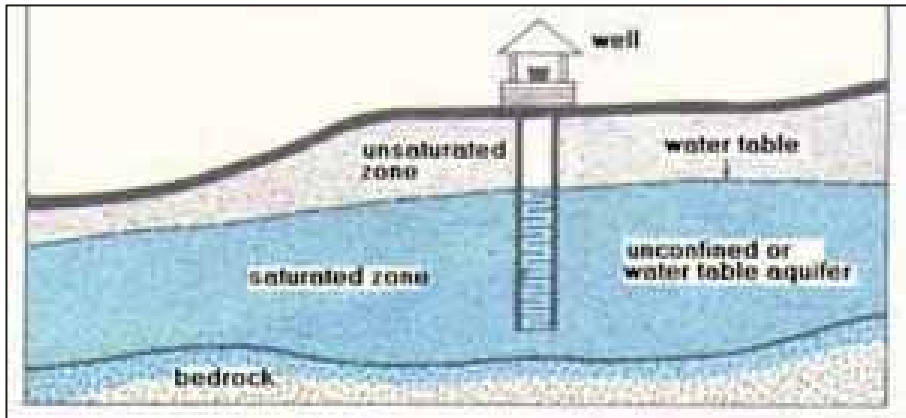
Next to that the news of what's happening all over the island gives me priceless insight into what residents are doing and concerned about. Something I would otherwise have no access to.

I can go on and on about all of the sites and sights you've brought to my attention that guide books, in hardcopy or online, just don't cover.

Many thanks. You are quite a bargain.  
*Bill Jones, Cleveland OH USA*

**THE MAGIC OF THE AQUIFER**

Dear Editor:  
Beneath our feet is a river, depending



on soil: sand, clay, gravel or stone. Sweet water is found there. Often it is thought that the dumping of sewerage in the LVV finds its way to the sea. Therefore, if so, it implies that there is a working aquifer in existence, at least on the southern end of the island.

I have found [www.vvtex.com](http://www.vvtex.com) which has given me the best understanding of an aquifer. Go to search • Aquifer, then images

Assuming that such an aquifer exists, then what? If part of the recovered water at LVV is channeled by force (meaning pumping) down into this system, it will act as an injected re-charging of the available water. Thus, it would provide numerous kunukus the availability of this water, pure, clean, and free of damaging minerals.

Here's a possibility of food production without the usual excuses of too little water being available, thus turning a dream into a reality. Developing more locally grown crops starts with a dependable water supply.

After WWII in 1946 and for several

years afterwards, I lived in Southern California in an area to the south of Los Angeles called Orange County where in the early 1920s they had discovered the value of a working aquifer.

By the mid 1950s, more than 2 million people depended on that sweet water river beneath their feet. However, the same as a bank, to withdraw you must deposit; thus, a recharging system was developed. They recycled the city's re-cycled wastewaters and pumped those waters down into the vast aquifer. Look it up. Orange County Aquifers.

My retirement involves raising ornamental plants. I am a grower. I have 21 sizable, potted gardens on a full hectare of land. My water requirements from both WEB and our well is 2 1/2 tons daily. Our well is constant and has never been dry since 1990 but is, however, laced with iron. Put that recycled water down into the aquifer and let us all have a crack at it.

*Captain Don*

More info email me at [callinginthe-clan@yahoo.com](mailto:callinginthe-clan@yahoo.com) I have a DVD on the subject. Just ask, no charge. -Don

**HELMETS MANDATORY—NO!**

Dear Editor:

I would like to react on your reasons for wearing helmets.

I don't mind if you want to warn people that riding a bike is a vulnerable way of transport and that wearing a helmet reduces that vulnerability a bit. But I do object strongly against your wish to make it obligatory.

Let people decide for themselves please.

You cannot ban everything dangerous in this world. You know what is the most dangerous thing? That is being alive. One day you will die!

I really get mad about people who think safety is the most important thing in life. I thoroughly enjoy riding my scooter on the island. The traffic is much safer than in Europe by the way. When I would have to wear a helmet all the fun is gone.

Even in Europe I hate wearing a helmet, but in this climate it is far from comfortable.

And problems I might create for my family are not YOUR concern. They are mine and my family's.

When will you ban walking without a helmet? Would it not be much safer to walk in a harness? When will you oblige people to wear further protective clothing on scooters? Why not ban all cars?

There are so many things that can go possibly wrong...

If you want to protect children under a certain age.... you MIGHT consider making wearing a helmet obligatory up to a certain age when their brain is full grown and when they should be able to comprehend the dangers involved..

Please don't try to take away the feeling of freedom on Bonaire....

*Laguna Aquamarijn*

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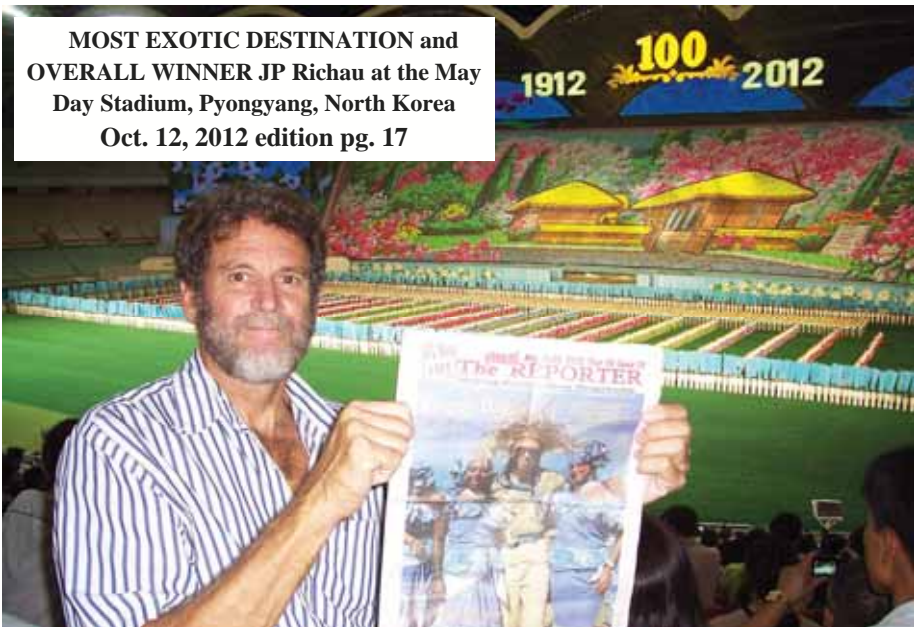


# Picture Yourself 2012 Winners

Our readers are getting more and more creative because the 2012 entries of Picture Yourself with *The Bonaire Reporter* were so amazing that the judges had to create new categories this year.

Copies of *The Reporter* were carried and photographed all over the world: in Amsterdam, Charlotte, North Carolina, British Columbia, New York City, Mt. Elbrus, Rome, Iceland, Sweden, Panama, Hunancayo, Peru, Sheffield, UK, at the Liberty Bell, Philadelphia, Lake Tahoe, Tahiti, Australia, Yosemite, Spain, New Jersey, Egypt, Washington DC, Chile, Quito, Ecuador, Madison, Georgia and even Bonaire in a backyard! Lucky *Reporter* – getting to go to all those places. The winner:

## Pyongyang, North Korea



**MOST EXOTIC DESTINATION and OVERALL WINNER JP Richau at the May Day Stadium, Pyongyang, North Korea Oct. 12, 2012 edition pg. 17**

Bonaire resident JP Richau brought a copy of *The Reporter* with him when he attended the Arirang mass Games in North Korea's May Day Stadium. This is no ordinary show in the largest (150,000 seat) stadium in the world. Witnessing over 100,000 performers in total for a 90-minute themed high energy non-stop intense synchronized gymnastics, acrobatics and dance performance the likes have never been seen anywhere else, nor ever will. The ever changing backdrop, as seen in this photo, is created by over 10,000 school children each holding colored pages of large books in absolute perfect synchronization! It's nothing short of immense! It will blow your socks off ---or the roof off the place when they feature larger than life portraits of the Dear Leader! That must be why it is open air. → → → → → → → →

# The Fool On The Hill

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter short articles by J@n Brouwer about helmets and helmet awareness.

Bonaire/Hato/Sabadeco –  
So about one and a half-years after my 20-year-young son passed away because of an accident with his long board down-hilling Sabadeco Terrace, not wearing a helmet, I picked my mountain bike out of the shed behind my house in Hato. I repaired the tubes and did some fine adjustments and other little maintenance. Then I grabbed all my courage and went up the hill of Sabadeco. My Mongoose mountain bike still appeared to be sturdy and reliable. Soon I found out my physical condition had to be improved a lot. When I almost reached the top I had to stop for a little while. Two or three mountain bikers passed me...



Ex-fool mountain biker wearing protective gloves and aerodynamic helmet.

The next day I drove my bike over the flats in the direction of Kralendijk where I met Martijn from Sunbelt Realty. He appeared to be one of those two or three mountain bikers from the former days and he said he recognized me. He was surprised at seeing me on the road again, not wearing a bicycle helmet! Then I realized I was the fool on the hill. (I've worn helmets for over 40 years, riding motorcycles. But I never did on a racing bike or a mountain bike!) No words for it. So I continued my trip and I found a suitable light weight helmet which I adjusted and which I sprayed black. The next day I climbed the hills of Republiek and by accident I met Martijn again. He grabbed me and shook my hand. He congratulated me on my new helmet. Let's hope I still will have a sufficient active brain left never to be on or off the roads without my protective helmet. ■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

### Runners-Up:

- Best Picture with People - **Ibi Statie** with his four children, Amsterdam, Feb. 17 edition
  - Most Historical – **Jiri Lausman**, Soviet Gulag, Mar 2
  - Creepiest– **Louise Wollman** in a Roman crypt. Oct 12
  - Best High Tech- **Patrick Holian**, Ecuador, Feb. 3
  - Best with Animals- **Trevor Naylor**, Donkey Taxi in Spain, June 8
  - Most Competitive – **Mike Stanfield** at the Dakar Cross Country Rally, Chile, Mar. 30
  - Best with Monument – **Pauline Kayes and Yvonne Singley**, Washington DC, April 13
  - Highest Elevation – **Dennis Kellner**, Mt. Elbrus, Europe's highest mountain, Nov. 9
- Congratulations, JP, and thanks to all those who took the time to pack *The Reporter* in with their luggage and pose with it in such marvelous places. Keep it up! ■L.D.

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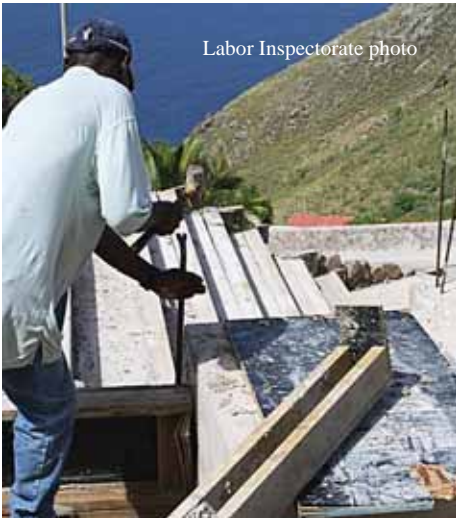


I've got to email *The Reporter* today at [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com)



*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 3) the financial management remains delicate. Cft declares this in the eighth semi-annual report, which has been submitted to the Minister of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations (*Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties - BZK*) on January 15th. It also mentioned that the results are unaudited.

► **The Labor Inspectorate, a part of**



Labor Inspectorate photo

the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor which provides protective services for Dutch and BES Island workers, is conducting spot checks. It employs three labor inspectors in the Dutch Caribbean. Their job is to ensure that businesses adhere to the labor protection laws and decisions. They have the interest of employees in mind when it comes to occupational safety and working conditions.

The inspectors also monitor the payment of the minimum wage and the observance of the *Arbeidsregeling* (Work Rules) 2000 BES, such as permitted working hours. They also are involved when an accident happens on the job. Employers are obliged to report an accident immediately to the Labor Inspectorate.

Recently, the labor inspectorate on Bonaire noticed that the bags of cement the workers had to move at a construction site had an unacceptable weight (42.5 kg). In consultation between the labor inspectorate and the construction market the weight of cement bags was reduced to 20 kg. If you spot dangerous working conditions, inform the labor inspectorate. You can reach them at [info.szw@rijksdienstcn.com](mailto:info.szw@rijksdienstcn.com) or by calling +599 715-8584 or 715-8895.

► **One in seven** of the Netherlands' real estate agents expects to go bankrupt over

the next two years, according to research by the Netherlands Realty Commission (NRC). Most are selling just one or two houses a month, compared with three to six before the crisis, the NRC said. House prices were down an average 5.2% from a year ago at €220,000, the land registry office said.

Some 90% of the real estate agents who replied to the survey say they have told clients to lower their prices but are often ignored. This means houses remain overpriced and unsold, the paper said.

As reported a previous edition (in the *Piece of Paradise* column) sales in 2013 on Bonaire are expected to increase slightly.

► **On Sunday, January 27, MTB riders are invited to Bolivia Plantation for the year's first mountain bike race.**

The race is held for fun and everyone is welcome. The trail is a technical, single track with a slight descent about 4.5 km long. You can ride 4 or 8 laps. There are NO prizes. There is drink and fruit at the finish.



The start and finish is on private property. The start is at 08.00 am. Follow the signs at the end of the Lagoen road to the start. The race is free. Sponsors are invited. Register at the **Freewieler Bike Shop**. For further information call Frank Bohn at De Freewieler tel: 717-8545 cell :786-8545.

► **On Friday, February 1, Yoga Bonaire is hosting a Couples Yoga Hour** at 5:30 pm at Bonaire Basics. It is an opportunity for a fun and unique Friday night date for you and your partner, a time to relax together, laugh together, do partner yoga poses together. Bonaire Basics is at Kaya Korona #47, Antriol. Contact: [info@aplaceforyoubonaire.com](mailto:info@aplaceforyoubonaire.com)

► **Just after Christmas** the General Director of Nieuwe Post Nederlandse Antillen N.V. (NPNA), Franklin Sluis, said his company will cease the delivery of mail in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba beginning January 1, 2013. **However, as far as we can tell there has been no stoppage to date.**

► Have you seen *The Bonaire Reporter* on-line? Go to: [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com). You'll be amazed at the constant traffic from all over the world that is continually tracked along the left part of the page. **Advertising in *The Reporter* pays off.** ■ G./L. D.

# Tourism Corporation Bonaire

## Estimates 2012 Arrivals up 1.4%

An estimated total of 71,823 tourists visited Bonaire during the 12 months of 2012. This is an increase of 1.4% compared to 2011. This increase is in line with the growth anticipated by TCB. After the 3.86% increase during 2011, TCB anticipated that tourist arrivals would increase at a slower pace. The worldwide economic crisis is still affecting the growth of our tourism industry.



The arrivals from the US have increased by 2.1% to a total of 24,741 tourists. Holland is stable with a total of 25,000 tourists. The other North American market, Canada, shows an increase of 10.2%. The growing Canadian market is becoming very interesting for Bonaire.

Within the European market, Germany stands out with a high 17.1% increase in 2012. The Euro crisis has apparently had a lesser effect in Germany, in comparison to the other European countries like England that showed a decrease of 24.7%.

Tourists from Venezuela are travelling more frequently to Bonaire after favorable policy changes were enacted by the Venezuelan government. The Venezuelans now have more freedom and money to travel. The tourist arrivals from Venezuela have thus increased with 28.9%. Brazil and Colombia are competing for the second place position within the South America market.

TCB promised to follow up this information in February with a more detailed analysis, including the views of our overseas offices. ■ *TCB press release*



### Karneval Grand Parade Route Rincon, Feb. 9

Parkeerplaats Stadion Rincon – Kaya Bototé – Kaya Luis Pourier – Kaya Hubentut Kaya Rincon – Kaya E.B. Sint Jago – Kaya Commerce – Kaya Rincon – Kaya E.B. Sint Jago – Kaya Leucadio Marino Pourier – Kaya Hubentut – Kaya Luis Pourier – Kaya Bototé – Parkeerplaats Stadion Rincon.

### Karneval Grand Parade Route - Kralendijk, Feb. 10

Salida Ofisina d Inpo N.V. – Kaya Grandi – Kaya L.D. Gerharts-PLasa Reina Juliana - Kaya Caracas – Kaya Simon Bolivar – Kaya Grandi - Kaya L.D. Gerharts-PLasa Reina Juliana - Kaya Caracas – Kaya Simon Bolivar - J.A. Abraham Boulevard - Kaya Gilberto F. (Betico) Croes – Parkeerplaats Stadion Playa.



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Johnny, Bettie  
Carlos  
Jolanda, Tanisha and Iris  
Monique, Brandon



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# Home Cooking

m-m-m-good

## Cactus Blue at Kite Beach



Hagen Wegerer and his mobile beach shack kitchen, Kite Beach at sunset

Hagen Wegerer's life story is full of coincidence, serendipity, and life-altering experiences with a strong theme of resilience. What else can explain how he, an Englishman from Guernsey in the British Channel Islands, ended up cooking lionfish burgers at his newly-opened food trailer at Kite Beach on Bonaire's southern coast while passionately kite-surfing during his breaks?

Hagen's culinary career began in Austria when he was 19. After studying hotel management and cooking for three years, he worked in Switzerland at a 5-star hotel until his father lured him back to Guernsey to help manage several hotels. But, at age 29, Hagen wanted to be his own man and decided to open the Pelican Café, which featured freshly-brewed coffee, instead of tea, and oversized, healthy sandwiches in a non-smoking environment. Everyone said it would be a flop, but seven years later, the Pelican Café was serving 200 or more people a day. When another entrepreneur decided to buy Hagen's restaurant, he used the money to finance an around-the-world trip with his wife, Corinna, and their three sons, ages 3, 6, and 8.

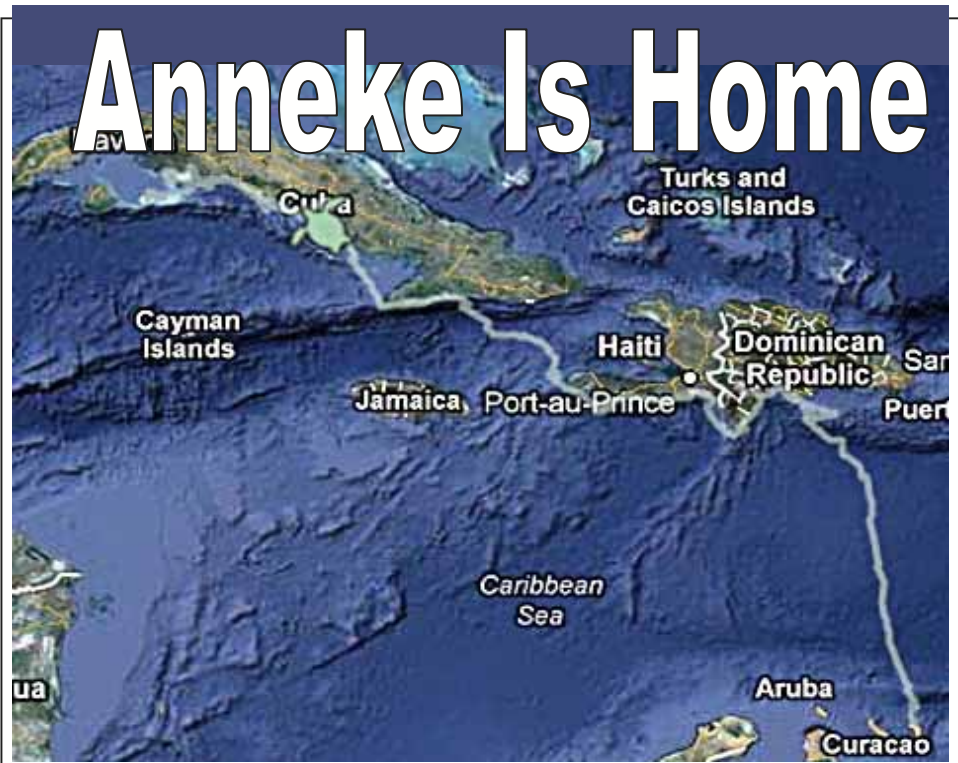
After traveling 18 months throughout the islands of the Caribbean and the Pacific, they were ready to find a home. In 2000, they arrived on Bonaire just in time for Corinna to get hired as a dive manager at Buddy Dive while Hagen played house-husband/father. Five years later in 2005, they embarked on a new adventure: the renowned Cactus Blue restaurant downtown. The Cactus Blue had many fans, especially on Bonaire-Talk, perhaps because they were all aficionados of Hagen's culinary creations and philosophy, which he describes as quintessential Caribbean style: fresh fish from local families flavored with mango, lime, ginger; sweet potatoes with pork filet roasted with spice and honey; and all that spice, heat, and sweetness followed by an awesome key lime pie. (My taste buds ask me: why, oh why did you not patronize Cactus Blue more regularly before it closed in April 2012?)

In 2012, Hagen reached the pinnacle of the life-stress-scale when first Corinna decided she needed a "life-change" and left the family for the Dominican Republic; then the economy began crashing and tourists were scarce; and finally the constant road construction made access to Cactus Blue difficult. Hagen recalls, "Fortunately my sons stood by me and we continued operating the restaurant without Corinna, but they needed to focus on exams instead of helping me so I closed the restaurant." After selling everything in his second restaurant, Hagen began looking on the internet for a food concession trailer. When he found one in Houston, he flew there, attached it to a U-Haul truck and drove to Miami where he put it on a ship bound for Bonaire.

This past September, one of Hagen's dreams of having a beach food shack came true when he parked the food truck at Kite Beach and started dishing up a fabulous Kite-burger: 8 ounces of Angus beef, turkey bacon, fried onions, melted cheese, and lettuce/tomato. Before I even tasted one, I heard rave reviews from Richard Willis, a volunteer with Sea Turtle Conservation: "It tastes as good as it sounds. That was my first but it won't be my last." Richard was so right: it was a five-napkin juicy sandwich. Another special is the lionfish burger, which sadly was not available during my visit. You see, Hagen dives for the lionfish, catches them, removes their poisons, and then chops them into burgers. But there were none to be found this morning so customers could opt instead for a barbeque chicken or veggie burger with that cold beer or soda.

If the wind is blowing, you will find Hagen at his mobile beach shack from 11 am to 4:30 pm cooking, advising the surfers, and watching the sunset: "It is a fun, relaxing beach atmosphere—quite nice." But, of course, a slice of key lime pie would make it even better! ■

Pauline Kayes



Bonaire's Green sea turtle Anneke has been in the area of Jardines de la Reina, Cuba, for more than 30 days now - enough time for us to assume she is home in her foraging (feeding) grounds.

Interestingly Anneke passed through Jardines de la Reina slowing down significantly November 9 - 11. She continued, however, to the west an additional 500 km along Cuba's southern coast nearly reaching Isla de la Juventud. Instead of staying there or continuing her way to the west Anneke turned back and returned to the area of Jardines de la Reina where she has been since December 9<sup>th</sup>.

STCB staff has contacted Cuba WIDE-

CAST country coordinator, Felix Moncada, to inform them of the presence of Anneke. Along with learning about sea turtle migratory paths and identifying feeding areas, tracking turtles gives us the opportunity to work together with our international colleagues, which enhances the conservation of our sea turtles throughout their range states.

### Great Migration Game Winner

Diomira Janga's prediction in between the waters of Jamaica and Cuba is only 150 km from Jardines de la Reina! She is the winner of our 2012 Great Migration Game and will receive a brand new smart phone with a year of service. The top winners all receive new STCB gear! ■ STCB press release

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## Bonaire Coral Puzzle 9: Mooring Communities

In this series of articles, starting with *The Bonaire Reporter* of August 31 - September 14, 2012, I described surprising patterns of coral coverage on boat mooring blocks in front of Kralendijk. These patterns, which I found in my study of Bonaire reef corals, include the following: a) there is more coral on the inshore mooring blocks than on the offshore ones; b) the coral coverage increases on the offshore blocks from south to north; c) it decreases on the inshore blocks in the same direction; d) on inshore mooring block faces which are oriented toward Karel's Bar, corals preferentially settled on the faces' right halves. Several factors affecting corals' settlement and growth were tested, discussed, and rejected as possible explanations for these patterns. I suggested an explanation of how plumes of polluted sediments stirred up in the port and drifted along the reef caused the first three patterns. While the discussion of the fourth pattern continues, a few readers asked about "biotic factors" that were not yet considered.

A reader from Connecticut asked, "Have you tried looking into the top-down, biotic influences on coral communities of the mooring blocks? I can imagine the communities of fishes and invertebrates change as you move closer to structures such as jetties or marinas as well as exposure to human activity and/or other predators." Other readers wondered about effects on the blocks' corals by corallivores and damselfish algae gardens. A commonly mentioned biotic effect was that, in the words of a reader from The Netherlands, "the number of grazers near each block may influence coral recruitment." Let's look at the latter effect first.

Grazers, such as parrotfish and sea urchins, generally positively affect coral recruitment by reducing the amount of macro-algae. Their grazing makes room for coral settlement and reduces competition between coral and algae, benefitting coral. Does the number of grazers provide for an alternative explanation of the puzzling patterns? Is the real culprit polluted plumes from the port or rather innocent grazers?

Grazers affect corals indirectly via macro-algae. A larger number of grazers leads to a smaller amount of macro-algae which in turn allows for recruitment of more coral; fewer grazers – more macro-algae – less coral. Are there more macro-algae on the offshore blocks than on the inshore ones? Does the amount of macro-algae decrease from south to north on the offshore blocks? Does this amount increase from south to north on the inshore blocks? No, no, and no! There are no macro-algae at all on the vertical faces of any of these blocks - regardless of their coral coverage (see photo A). Thus, macro-algae are not a factor determining coral recruitment on the mooring block

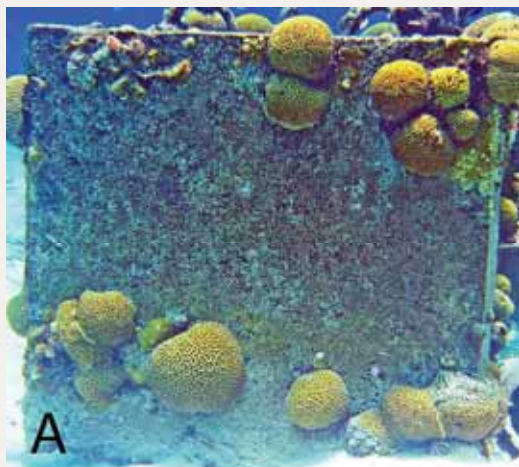


Photo A. Boat mooring block face with low coral coverage and no macro-algae

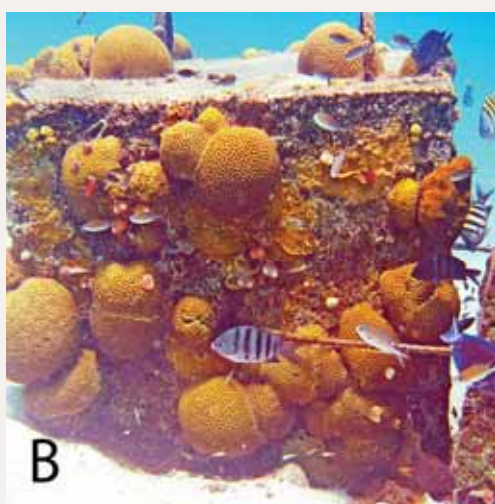


Photo B. Boat mooring block face with high coral coverage and surrounding fish community

faces. So the number of grazers near the mooring blocks is not a factor explaining the coral coverage patterns.

Let's look now at possible negative effects of some animals on corals. Parrotfish bite off chunks of coral, butterflyfish forage on coral polyps, blennies dislodge small coral recruits, and damselfish with their algae gardens take settlement room away from coral larvae. Does abundance of other animals relate inversely to coral coverage of the blocks? No, not necessarily! Many mooring blocks with little or no coral are deserted (photo A), while many mooring blocks brimming with fish and invertebrates are covered with corals (photo B). Thus, these biotic factors do not explain the coral coverage patterns. But polluted plumes stirred up in the port do. ■ Genady Filkovsky

If you are interested in discussing these puzzles, their solutions, or to get more information, write to Genady

Filkovsky, e-mail: [lagoen-hill20@yahoo.com](mailto:lagoen-hill20@yahoo.com)

All previous issues of the series can be accessed through the web-site [www.filkovsky.net/bonaire-coral-puzzle.html](http://www.filkovsky.net/bonaire-coral-puzzle.html).



## The Mystery Gourmet



Chef Mauro, owners Lola and Chef Andrea

For many years The Mystery Gourmet and his even more mysterious wife have dined at Bonaire's family owned, classical Italian restaurant, Capriccio. In past years they enjoyed food at the original location, but now, at the newly constructed building at Kaya Hillmund 5, what was always a pleasant experience becomes even more special. The bright, high-ceilinged room with large windows with a seaside view and beautiful artwork hung walls provides ambience unequaled on the island. Both outdoor and air-conditioned indoor seating is available. A bar, a huge glass-windowed wine cellar and a shop (la Boutique) are parts of the restaurant. Capriccio offers the broadest selections of white, red and sparkling wines to be found on the island.

Upon entering the restaurant, one is greeted by friendly serving staff. Owners Andrea, a Michelin Star chef, and his wife Lola are usually in attendance, pleased to give menu and wine suggestions. The menu offers antipasto, salads, appetizers, chicken, fish, seafood, beef and veal choices. Pizza, desserts and coffees also are available. A favorite is Pumpkin Ravioli, served as an appetizer or even an entree. The pasta is homemade as are the breads. A special treat is the Focacce Calde, a fresh baked crispy treat best with olive oil and balsamic vinegar. A nice touch, every entree is treated to a small, delicious salad.

On this occasion the after choosing both a white (Cavazza Pinot Grigio) and a red (Peppoli Chianti Classico) wine and enjoying the salad as well as sharing a plate of the Pumpkin Ravioli, the mysterious spouse chose the Gamberi Arlecchino, shrimp braised in olive oil, garlic, lemon peel, minced mixed vegetable and parsley; the Gourmet, Pece Alla Livornese, wahoo simmered in herbal Mediterranean onion, olive, oregano, sun-dried tomato



A great red wine, just one of the many vintages at Capriccio— featured in Wine Spectator magazine.



Gamberi Arlecchino

and olive oil. Every bite was absolutely delicious.

The mysterious pair finished their wine, enjoyed a steaming cup of coffee and bade farewell to the pleasant, helpful staff, surely to return again and again to enjoy the ambiance, service, beverages and food of the new Capriccio Ristorante.

■ The Mystery Gourmet




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# Green Fingers

## KRUSADA

*"Kuido i Guia Pa Adiktonan"*  
(Help and Guidance for Addicts)



Krusada is helping Bonaire become more self-sufficient at the same time as helping their guests overcome their addictions.

Twelve years ago the island government contacted Krusada, a Dutch charity, to ask for help in rehabilitating those addicted to drugs and alcohol on the island. Krusada was leased the land on the site of the previous aloe plantation called Guatemala on the road to Lagoen. (Kaminda Lagoen #191, tel. 717-2233)

Krusada cleared the land, renovated the plantation house and now has a project cultivating bananas, spinach, tomatoes, okra, cucumbers, rearing and selling goats, of which they have around 100, and chickens, and offering self-built shade houses for sale. They have numerous other projects for which the island government gives grants and Krusada is always looking for additional subsidies to help them with their important work. Krusada would like to be able to reduce the cost of the shade houses they offer for sale as at present the costs are too high for most people.

Krusada has three large fully operational shade houses with drip systems and a support structure for the vegetable to grow on



Krusada's Landhouse



Krusada's shade houses



Niek tending to spinach plants

instead of on the ground. Supporting the plants to grow upward reduces the risk of the plants becoming waterlogged and spoilt. It makes them easier to be looked after as well as giving easier access to the pickers. Growing up is also an exercise in space saving. The soil is of excellent quality as they remove it from the *rooi* (arroyo) bottom that runs through their land. Two shade

houses are for their own use and the third one is soon to be used to cultivate cucumbers and tomatoes to be sold to local shops and hotels.

Crops are sprayed minimally to deal with any pest problem and the shade houses are secure enough to not allow lizards and iguanas to get in to eat the tasty and luscious looking leaves. Plants are pollinated by gently shaking the flowers to release the pollen so that the wind can blow it around the shade house.

Water in the dry season is provided via a well they sunk themselves to 30 meters deep. In order to keep costs down they mix water delivered from WEB with the slightly salty water from their well to water the plants. Plants can cope with a low salinity but the ground water is becoming increasingly saltier and an alternative method will have to be found to avoid having to purchase costly water from WEB. At present they do not have the facilities to store rain water and Niek Sloetjes, the project manager, believes that once he has that Krusada will be able to store 100m<sup>3</sup> during the rainy season which should last them three months if mixed with water from the well.

Guests spend three hours each day tending to the plants, animals and the site in general and it all looked very tidy and professionally maintained.

Niek is a very enthusiastic man full of ideas and he explained to me his idea of trying to get goat owners to grow hay during the rainy season and store it for the drier season so that it can be fed to their goats. This he hoped would reduce the need to have to buy expensive and imported animal feed or have the goats wander outside their land to forage. Niek feels that more can be done on Bonaire to develop agriculture on a small scale and he said that LVV is growing *maishi* (sorghum) to be used as animal feed. His personal mission is to help Krusada guests overcome their addictions and to develop agriculture on Bonaire.

**The shop is open Monday 11am-noon, and Thursday 3-4 pm.** You can either buy the vegetables ready picked or pick your own (PYO). PYO could be a pleasant, healthy and educational after-school activity. Guided tours are always available and the staff are more than happy to talk about the work of which they are clearly proud.

Please visit Krusada as you are not only helping them with their worthwhile work; you are supporting self sufficiency and of course eating very tasty local sustainably-produced vegetables. ■ Story & photos by Carla Hay





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Check the list below for your area.

<p><b>For a group of 2+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flamingo Beach</li> <li>Caribbean Court</li> <li>Kralendijk</li> <li>Belnem</li> <li>Tera Cora</li> <li>Den Tera</li> </ul> <p><b>For a group of 3+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harbour Village Marina</li> <li>Beach Resort</li> <li>Den Laman</li> <li>Sand Dollar</li> <li>Buddy Dive</li> <li>Nikiboko</li> <li>Nort di Salinja</li> <li>Amboina</li> <li>Republiek</li> <li>Mexico (north + south)</li> <li>Captain Don's Habitat</li> <li>Antriol</li> </ul>	<p><b>For a group of 4+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bonaire Caribbean Club</li> <li>Sorobon Beach Resort</li> <li>Rode Pan /Witte pan</li> <li>Tras di Montana</li> <li>Punto Blanco</li> <li>Cargill Salt</li> </ul> <p><b>For a group of 5+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karpata</li> <li>Rincon</li> </ul> <p><b>For a group of 6+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playa Grandi</li> </ul> <p><b>For a group of 7+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BoPec</li> </ul>
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Lots of

## TOP SUPERMARKET

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# The Farmers Market 'A Passionate Experience'

It's the first Saturday of the month, around nine o'clock and the sun has been up for only a couple of hours. The air is still crispy, just one of those lovely days. At Caribbean Fasteners I turn into Kaya Nikiboko North and drive all the way till the end. When I arrive the market is in full swing, a mixture of people of all different origins and walks of life who are more than willing to share their passion and knowledge with others. Also, it's a typically Bonairean event and to enjoy it to the max you have to go slow to take it all in.

It's green and colorful, it smells good and there are lots of delicious freshly homemade products to buy as well as fruits, vegetables, plants and trees, seedlings and cuttings and ecological pesticides and fertilizers. But the first thing you see upon entering the market are the smiling faces and you feel the friendliness, the connectedness, because this is a joint effort of people with a passion.

Of course there is Agnes Joosten, manager of Kriabon and organizer of the Farmers Market. Today she's talking to Burnett Felida who's showing off his parakeets in "the bird show." "We've been planning this for a long time," Agnes says, "because we wanted to do something special for January to attract more people. At the next market, on the second of February, we will have a 'dog wash.' And in March Burnett will give a demonstration with his Colombian Paso Fino horses." She smiles. "We're working on it!"



Amina and Galil

A bit further I see Greta and Franklin who are selling honey for a beekeeper from Tras di Montaña. They are very animated and happy to be here, and as Greta says, "It feels like one big family!" Amina and Galil came with their rabbits, sugarcane, guava, soursop and many other fruits, vegetables and plants and – of course - with their big smiles! Suzel Baraton sells homemade marshmallows, seasoned salt, brioche and pumpkin cakes and her famous jams while her neighbor Leo de Bakker has become quite a specialist in the *Moringa Oleifera* – a tree that offers a miracle supplement which can change your life. Leo knows all about the benefits of this very special tree and he is also selling them plus a variety of herbs, flowering plants and papaya and tamarind trees.

**Manuel Vargas** is all about biological agriculture; he sells ecological fertilizers and pesticides and he has a tremendous knowledge of diseases and pests and definitely some answers to people's problems. Next to him there are Beasinta and John Frans and Beasinta's sister Imelda Ford who are all together selling a great variety of cuttings and seedlings of peppers, basil, oregano, mint and spinach, but also fruits like soursop, papaya, Noni and dushi tamarind. Sometimes they make arepas and then there's also lemonade of tamarind and lime.

Goncalves Chan is serving cool and super delicious homemade ginger ale and homemade Surinamese cake with dried fruits and a cake made with coconut, cassava and raisins. The last person I talk to is Saab, taxi driver from Rincon, who has been 'into' plants for more than 25 years. He has a



Manuel Vargas



Agnes Joosten, the manager of Kriabon and organizer of the Farmer's Market, with Burnett Felida, who organized the bird show at the previous market and who will organize the 'dog wash' at a coming market...



Goncalves Chan and her customer, Jeannette Heitkönig, who is enjoying Goncalves' home made ginger ale.

great variety of flowering plants, trees and fruit trees and he also sells them in quantities. And last but not least there is 'Snor' from the Animal Friends Kunuku who is selling two sets of peacocks. They are as beautiful as can be and I would love to take them home if it wasn't that my terrain was a bit too small for them.

The pleasure was all mine this time! I had a blast, because this market and its people gives you such a kick; you want to buy it all and taste it all. I have to hold myself back... So, this time I go home with a big bottle of ginger ale and a Kibrahacha tree and thanks to the good rain we had it already has quite a few new leaves! ■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Leo de Bakker - amongst others THE Moringa tree specialist



Suzel Baraton and her homemade jams, pumpkin cakes, marshmallows, seasoned salt and stropi de Basil

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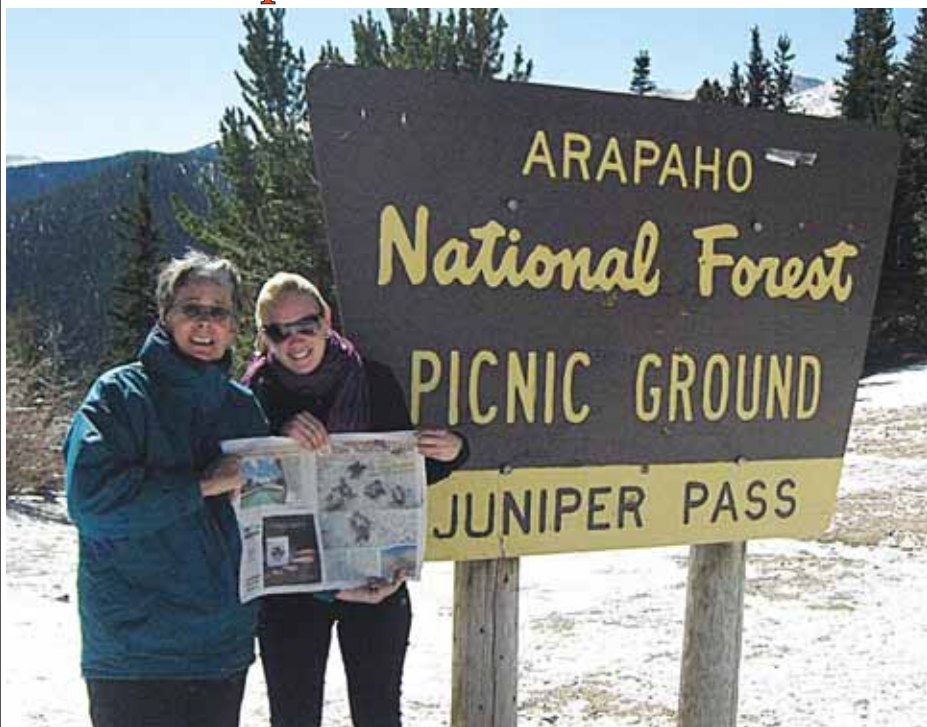


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## Picture Yourself With The Reporter In The Arapahoe Forest, Colorado, USA



Bonaire residents Jeannette and Sabina ter Borg celebrated Sabina's completion of her HBO Law studies in the Netherlands in three years instead of four with a trip that took them through several US western states. And, of course, they took *The Bonaire Reporter*. Here they are in high country Colorado. Sabina is now studying at the University of Utrecht for her Masters. Mother and daughter want to try to go back to the States next year and visit some other places. ■

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### Sudoku Puzzle

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

### Sudoku Solution

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

## Computer Glasses Easy On The Eyes and Pocketbook

Bonaire/  
Kralendijk –

So last year I went to a local optician to have them make a pair of special reading glasses. Those days a pair of glasses were for free or relatively cheap because the government wanted to help to improve the health of the population of Bonaire. The glasses were nice and the frame was good looking and definitely better than the glasses you can buy for almost nothing in supermarkets and drugstores. It took a little time to get used to my glasses and it took even more time to get used to the glasses while I was working with my personal computer. Finally I went back to the optician to have them check the lenses of my reading glasses. Everything was ok. Maybe they had to think about special computer glasses instead of reading glasses.

It was Frederique who invited me for the official opening of a new optician shop in down town Kralendijk on Thursday December 7. The reception was held in the brand new shop and the cozy garden in front of the shop. Buena Vista Optics is located at Kaya Grandi 32b, in the little alley in between Best Pearls Bonaire and Gio's Ice Cream Parlour. I enjoyed the reception and had several talks with very nice persons.

My problems with my new reading glasses kept me busy so I mailed Buena Vista Optics owner, Nick Madlener, about the problems and a possible solution. Nick informed me about the topic and his relatively cheap solution. He invited me for a test and some research.

That afternoon I had an appointment at half past four. It was quite busy in the new shop. An elderly couple, a mother with her son, someone with questions about special sports or soccer glasses. Mr. Madlener, his wife Els and their assistant Wilma were busy all the time. Then Nick asked me to take a position behind an autorefractometer. This computerized machine measures your

eyes in an objective way. No questions, no answers. The printed out digital results of the measurements are the point of departure for the optician. With all kinds of lenses he checks and adjusts your sight for distance. The third step is finding the right reading glasses. The distance between your eyes and a book or a newspaper is some 30 centimeters. The distance between your laptop or the monitor of your computer is some 60 centimeters. This is the fourth step in the system of measurements. Finally Nick finds the right glasses for you. Indeed they are a compromise but the result is astonishing. Now, for the first time after months, I was perfectly able to read the books and hand written reports on my desk and the monitor of my pc. What a surprising discovery!

Mr. Madlener informed me about prices. "The price of a normal reading lens is some \$30. The anti-reflection lenses I use for the computer glasses are about \$40 apiece. Multi focus lenses are much more expensive. They start at over \$100. Spectacle frames start at some \$50—relatively cheap and very effective! Our shop has some 3,000 lenses in stock: ordinary white or transparent, transparent with anti-reflection and extra thin." It took Nick Madlener about half an hour to measure my eyes and to completely explain to me what he was doing. I am completely convinced. Please make me a special pair of computer spectacles. As a writer I use my computer several hours a day! ■ Story & Photo by J@n Brouwer



Josmay Trenidad and her son Jurcy Trenidad. Jurcy is a pupil at Colegio Papa Cornes. On the right: Nick Madlener (optometrist) from Buena Vista Optics.



Kaya Grandi 32B, down a bit in the alley in between Best Pearls and Gio's Ice Parlor  
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**Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides**

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 25	11:23 0.86 ft	20:57 -0.09 ft				7:01	18:35
Sat 26	12:01 0.81 ft	21:34 -0.09 ft				7:01	18:35
Sun 27	12:42 0.75 ft	22:01 -0.08 ft		Full Moon		7:01	18:35
Mon 28	13:27 0.68 ft	22:22 -0.07 ft				7:01	18:36
Tue 29	04:42 0.30 ft	08:09 0.27 ft	14:16 0.60 ft	22:39 -0.06 ft		7:01	18:36
Wed 30	04:47 0.40 ft	10:13 0.26 ft	15:10 0.51 ft	22:56 -0.06 ft		7:01	18:37
Thu 31	05:08 0.53 ft	11:44 0.19 ft	16:06 0.42 ft	23:17 -0.07 ft		7:00	18:37
Feb.	05:37	12:55	17:03	23:43			
Fri 01	06:12 0.66 ft	13:55 0.11 ft	17:59 0.34 ft			7:00	18:38
Sat 02	06:12 0.80 ft	13:55 0.02 ft	17:59 0.28 ft			7:00	18:38
Sun 03	L Quar- ter	00:15 -0.12 ft	06:51 0.92 ft	14:50 -0.05 ft	18:53 0.22 ft	7:00	18:38
Mon 04		00:51 -0.14 ft	07:34 1.01 ft	15:43 -0.11 ft	19:48 0.18 ft	7:00	18:39
Tue 05		01:32 -0.15 ft	08:19 1.07 ft	16:35 -0.16 ft	20:45 0.16 ft	7:00	18:39
Wed 06		02:18 -0.14 ft	09:07 1.09 ft	17:27 -0.18 ft	21:45 0.15 ft	6:59	18:39
Thu 07		03:09 -0.12 ft	09:57 1.06 ft	18:19 -0.19 ft	22:50 0.17 ft	6:59	18:40
Fri 08		04:06 -0.07 ft	10:49 1.00 ft	19:11 -0.19 ft		6:59	18:40

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A. Just about everywhere!**

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## BIG BOYS BRIGHTEN FEBRUARY

The solar system's two largest planets put on nice displays during February. **Jupiter** remains a stunning sight after sunset while **Saturn** appears equally grand before dawn. **Mercury**, the elusive Sun-hugging planet, and ruddy **Mars** add to the evening scene during twilight. And distant **Uranus** becomes an easy binocular target when it passes a similarly bright star late this month.

The deepening twilight offers a pretty background for observers seeking their first glimpse of Mercury during 2013. The innermost planet reached superior conjunction (when it passed by the far side of the Sun from Earth) on January 18, and it spends the first two weeks of February climbing higher in the evening sky. You should be able to spot it through binoculars some 3° high in the west-southwest about a half-hour after sunset.

With each passing day, Mercury appears a little higher and becomes slightly easier to see. Be sure to look February 8, when it passes 3° north of Mars. Although no one would claim that Mercury, Mars, or Uranus is easy to see, you can't miss the fourth planet visible on February evenings. Jupiter commands the sky as darkness falls. At magnitude -2.4, it shines far brighter than any other point of light in the sky. Jupiter appears among the background stars of **Taurus the Bull**, approximately midway between ruddy **Aldebaran** and the beautiful **Pleiades** star cluster (M45). This spectacular region stays above the horizon past 1 am. Sky Park time.

But as great as Jupiter looks to the naked eye and with binoculars, it truly stands out through a telescope. Living up to its name, the giant planet spans 43" in early February and shrinks by less than 10% as it draws away from Earth during the month. In moments of good seeing - most common when the massive world lies high in the early evening sky - dramatic cloud features pop into view. Look for an alternating series of bright zones and darker belts that run parallel to the **Jovian equator**.

Many observers enjoy tracking Jupiter's four major moons as much as the planet's



The Jupiter system looks lopsided when all four Galilean satellites lie on the same side of the planet. Observers can catch one of these rare occurrences the night of February 2/3. ASTRONOMY: BOB KEELEY

dynamic atmosphere. **Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto** glow bright enough to see through any telescope. They circle their host world in periods that range from 1.8 days (Io) to 16.7 days (Callisto). The different orbits cause the moons' relative positions to change noticeably in as little as an hour or two. Occasionally, all four will lie on the same side of the planet. This happens on the evenings of February 2 and 9 (when they appear west of Jupiter) and February 14 (when they all lie to the east).

As Jupiter sinks low in the western sky, **Saturn** comes into view in the east. On February 15, it rises shortly before midnight local time and appears highest in the south as morning twilight commences. The ringed planet shines at magnitude 0.5 and is the brightest object in this part of the sky. It conspicuously outshines 1<sup>st</sup>-magnitude **Spica**, which lies 18° west of the planet.

The golden-colored planet currently lies among the relatively dim stars of **Libra the Balance**. Saturn's eastward motion against this stellar backdrop comes to a halt February 19, when it reverses course and heads back toward **Virgo**. This change in direction heralds the planet's peak visibility, which comes at opposition in late April.

When viewed through a telescope, Saturn provides a thrill no other planet can match. The beautiful ring system spans 40" and tilts 19° to our line of sight this month.

You might catch a final glimpse of **Venus** before dawn in early February. It rises only about 40 minutes before the Sun. To see it, you will need a crystal clear sky and an east-southeastern horizon unobstructed by hills, trees, or buildings. Once twilight swallows Venus in the next few days, it won't return to view until evenings in May. ■ *Astronomy Magazine*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
End January 2013

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Try to keep your opinions to yourself. Be sure that you have all the facts before you take action. They won't get away with it. Losses are evident. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Travel will promote new romantic encounters and additional cultural knowledge. Your emotional reaction will be dependent upon your partner's responsiveness. You can have quite the romantic adventure if you take time to get to know your mate all over again. Romance will unfold through business trips. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You should sit down with someone you trust and work out a budget that will enable you to save a little extra. Joint ventures might prove to be unfavorable. Your emotional stability may influence the changes taking place in your personal life. Things are looking up. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Opportunities will come through long term investments. Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. Don't let your emotions interfere with moneymaking deals. Unpredictable events will disrupt your routine. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Social activities that involve the whole family will be enjoyable. Be prepared to make compensations and adjustments. You will learn easily if you put forth an effort. You are best not to confide in anyone right now. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can find out interesting information if you get a chance to talk to people you respect. New methods and innovative technology will make your job far easier than you anticipated. Be sure to cover all the necessary groundwork before signing binding contracts. You are best not to say too much to colleagues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Try to keep ahead of the game. Secret intrigues could

get you into trouble. You can make reasonable bids on real estate or large items for your home. Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You must strive to get the most important projects completed properly, rather than doing everything in a half baked way. Hold on; your time will come. Recognition can be yours if you present your ideas and stand behind your beliefs. You should sign up for creative courses. Concentrate on your work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will be able to talk to your lover about future goals and perhaps make plans for the two of you to take a vacation. Eliminate situations that are no longer to your advantage. Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. If you can, try to work out of your home this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance and bring about greater social activity. You need a job with more responsibility and a higher wage. Invite friends in for a visit. You will have a great day if you just say what you feel. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You'll be able to discuss your ambitions with your mate. There might be a problem with a will or with an insurance policy. Make changes regarding your status in society. Patience will be of utmost importance. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You are ahead of your time, and trying to stay in one spot could be asking too much. You will have a problem holding on to your cash this month. Go over their important documents and take the time to suggest alternatives. Talk to someone you trust if you need advice about broaching the subject. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday. ■



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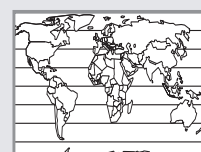
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Upcoming Cruise Ships— Source: Harbormaster's Office

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time in Port	# of pass.	Cruise Line
Friday	25-Jan-13	Maasdam	0800-1700	1258	HAL
Tuesday	29-Jan-13	Aida Luna	1000-1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Wednesday	30-Jan-13	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Sunday	3-Feb-13	Kristina Katarina	0800-1300	450	Katarina Cruises
Monday	4-Feb-13	Freewinds	2000		Scientologist
Wednesday	6-Feb-13	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

### Karnaval 2013 Activities

#### January

- 25 Jump-up Muchanan FESBO
- 26 Festival di Tumba Adukt
- 27 Festival di Tumba Youth
- 29 Jump-up Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardadó
- 29 Djump – Inn Hill Side Apartments
- 30 Jump-up REI di Tumba
- 31 Bicycle parade terminus Djump-Inn Tropicana Rincon



#### February

- 01 Elekshon Adult King/Queen
- 01 Parada di Blas Sebiki
- 02 Youth Grand Parade Rincon
- 02 Mega Djump-In E.R.A. Outéntiko (JC Herrera)
- 03 Youth Grand Parade Playa
- 05 Jump –up Rincon
- 07 Jump-up Playa
- 08 School Parade
- 08Teener's Parade
- 09 Main Karnaval Parade Rincon
- 10 Main Karnaval Parade Playa

**Sunday, February 2—Farmers' Market, Kriabon-Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am-noon**

**Sunday, January 27— Fun Mountain Bike Race.** 8 am, location Bolivia, distance 18 or 36 km. No prizes. Call Frank Bohm at De Freewieler 717-8545 or 786-8545 More info on page 7

**Friday, February 1 - Yoga Bonaire** is hosting a Couples Yoga Hour at 5:30 pm at Bonaire Basics . Details page 7.

#### March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> - BON DOET

### 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 hrs 1 - 7 pm, Entrance fees: Salary range from \$0 - \$1500 free.  
\$1500 - \$2000: \$25 per month.  
\$2000 - \$2500: Membership \$30 per month

\$2500 and up \$50 per month. Registration forms can be picked up at the playground. Call 786-4576/795-4050. All candidates must present their last salary slip.

#### Saturdays

**We Dare To Care Playground Bazaar,** Weekly Flea market 9am-1pm. All tables are free every Saturdays except for the first Saturday of every month, \$10 per table. Donations of used clothing are welcome.

• **Open House at Semper Kontentu milk goat farm. Second Saturday of the month** 8 am to 12 noon.

• **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" Pakus di Pruga—every Saturday,** 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road. 717-4989

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month,** 7-9 pm. (Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. 560-7539.) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

• **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.

• **Petanque- Jeu de Boules,** Saturdays 2:30 pm Tera Cora ranch. info: 786-0150

#### Sundays

• **Kunuku Arawak - Music, drinks, local food, dancing,** 10 am—6 pm. Live music starts at 4 pm. Tel.786-7210

#### 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

**Chez Nouis School Restaurant—** Multi course dinners-through end of February. \$20, 6-8:30pm. Contact [secretariaat@beroepsonderwijsbonaire.org](mailto:secretariaat@beroepsonderwijsbonaire.org) or phone 717-8142.

**Girls Night Out at Bistro de Paris Restaurant** at Harbour Village Marina. 3-course menu \$25, 1/2 price martinis and house wine bottle

**30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire,** Bonaire Basics. 786-6416 or [info@bonaireyoga.com](mailto:info@bonaireyoga.com)

#### Fridays

**Happy Hour Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park,** sponsored by Bonaire Arts and Crafts Association. 5-9 pm.

**Happy Hour party at Bistro Di Paris.** Ricky Thomas performs Reggae, Soul, Latin and more 6 - 9pm

#### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**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

**Museo Sentro Chichi'Tan,** historical home, behind Rose Inn, Rincon, open 10am-4pm daily. Tel. 786-6420

**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 Thursday** evening at 7.30pm. Call 700-7751 or 701-8728

**Bridge Club - Every Wednesday,** Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-4200 or 788-2819 or [jeroen@telbonet.an](mailto:jeroen@telbonet.an)

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

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

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays,**

12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

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

#### CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:**

( VPGB ), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact; [Martyjin@gmail.com](mailto:Martyjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)

**International Bible Church,** Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. De-brot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride [bonaireibc@yahoo.com](mailto:bonaireibc@yahoo.com)

**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. Wed. 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 Sunday mornings 10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 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) 10:20am- Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors welcome: Information: Call 701-9522 .

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

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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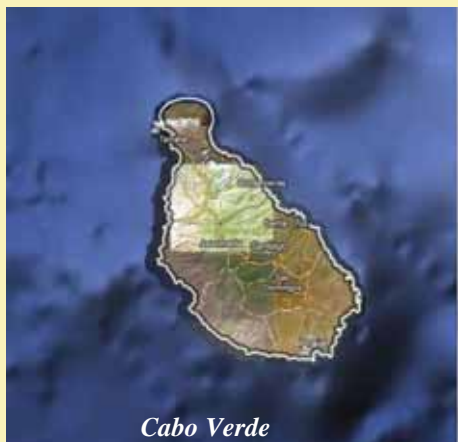
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# Guest Editorial

Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of *The Reporter*

## Looking For Bonaire.....



Cabo Verde



Bonaire

It was once upon a time, before anyone had ever heard of the Euro, that we sailed south along the coast of Portugal as a first leg of our voyage crossing the Atlantic Ocean. We passed Cabo Vincente early in the morning. The wind from the mainland brought whiffs of nutmeg, thyme, marjoram and other Mediterranean herbs, scents I cherish to date. On having gone ashore we enjoyed the friendly hospitality, the lack of frills and the tasty dishes with cataplan and chicken piri-piri topping the list. There was fado music in the streets and in the small bars, music with a continuous blend of melancholy, longing, hope and love. Portugal has been firmly fixed on our map since and we have returned quite often.

We returned discovering beautiful coastlines with endless beaches we had passed unknowingly on our voyage to Gibraltar and beyond. We marveled at the impressive cities of Oporto, Lisbon and Coimbra. And we visited the rural hinterland where Portuguese, toughened by adversity, built up an existence. And the islands, let's not forget those. Madeira, nothing less than a botanical garden rising up out of the sea. The Azores, a varied archipelago right in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, pretty much halfway when you sail across to the Caribbean.

Last year we visited the city of Coimbra in Portugal. As we were recovering from a hearty meal on the terrace five men seated themselves across from us. One of them was the spitting image of my good friend Lando from Bonaire, and one of the others reminded me of my neighbor on Playa Lechi. I caught fragments of their conversation and established a number of words sounding very similar to Papiamentu. They weren't Portuguese. Could they be men from the Antilles? They wouldn't have looked out of place on a corner of the Kaya Grandi.

The waitress told us that these men came from the Cape Verde islands. It was formerly a part of Portugal and has been an independent nation for 37 years. My curiosity was aroused.

A few months later we boarded the three-masted schooner, *Oosterschelde*. It is a beautiful sailing ship that has made long passages over the world. She has visited the North and South Pole areas and she sails around the Cape Verde Islands every year with a small number of passengers.

The Cape Verde islands (Republic of

Cabo Verde) are located 600 kilometers west of Senegal and are comprised of 10 islands with approximately 425,000 inhabitants. Some centuries ago the country was a lively distribution centre for the slave trade. It is presently among the poorest countries of Africa. The main source of income is fishing and agriculture (sugar cane, cassava, bananas and mango). There is hardly any tourism to speak of.

We visited seven out of the 10 very different islands and felt as if at home on the Antilles. The fishermen's boats were built just like my *Bubi*. The houses are built with coarse brick which is then plastered and painted in bright colors just like we see on Bonaire and the other Antillean islands. The food is like the *Krioyo* kitchen: baked banana, a bit of fish, a bit of green and mashed cassava where you'd expect fungi. And the music: the "funana"- a swinging three quarter beat just like ours - and "moma" - music which is derived from fado and is reminiscent of our "mariachi, performed by for instance the famous singer Cesaria Evora who sadly passed away in 2011. And there is the language. People on the Cape Verde islands speak "Crioulou," a mixture of Portuguese and African languages. Even the undersigned with his rudimentary knowledge of Papiamentu was able to read the paper and order dinner. And last: lots of flamingos, iguanas, goats and donkeys. The latter are considered to be very useful for transportation and can be seen pulling a cart with a mother on the box and her child riding shotgun. There is no donkey problem on Cabo Verde.

Bonaireans on Cabo Verde would feel like in a warm bath. It is a bit like going back home and visiting your kin. And I have a new appreciation for Portuguese families living happily on Bonaire or the other Antillean islands close by. Bonaire must have felt a bit like coming home to them.

A last thought: Portugal might be an appealing new partner for Bonaire, should the marriage of understanding with The Netherlands go awry completely. A lot of cultural similarities and affinity which makes you feel at home. Sometimes that matters more than money. ■ *Guus Gerritsen*



## Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper *èxtra*,

A goofy guy was passing in front of a showcase and saw himself in the mirror. It left him thinking all day: "Where do I know that guy from that I saw in that mirror?" All night when he was in bed he kept thinking about that guy until he realized who it was. "Now I remember, he's the same guy that was standing in front of me in the mirror where I get my hair cut."

A crazy guy damaged his car badly. When he saw where he damaged it he decided if he blew through the muffler he could blow all the dents back in place. As he started to blow through the muffler another crazy guy passes by and tells him: You're crazy. You won't be able to blow the dents out, silly, your windows are down!

My father's last wish before he died was for me to sit on his lap. The problem is that he forgot to tell me that they condemned him to death by the electric chair.

A woman gets on the bus with her child. The bus driver says: That child is really ugly. The woman, very sad, sits down and the person next to her says: That bus driver is really rude, go complain to him and I'll take care of that monkey of yours.

Police stopped an old man walking in a hurry at 2 o'clock in the morning and asked him where he was going. The man said: I am on my way to a lecture about the bad use of alcohol, smoking and getting up late and the effects of these on the human body. The police asked: Really? Who is giving such a lecture at this hour of the morning? The man: My wife.

A man goes to a lawyer and asks: How much do you charge for a quick consultation? Lawyer: \$500 for three questions. Man: So much? Lawyer: Yes, so what is the third question.

A little boy asked a little girl: What present are you going to ask for for Christmas? The little girl answers: A Barbie. And you? The little boy says: I'm going to ask for a Tampax? The little girl asks: What is a Tampax? The little boy says: I don't know, but on television they say that you can go swimming all day, ride a bicycle, ride horses, go to parties, run and do everything and the best thing is that nobody will notice. ■ *Translated by Jane Madden-Disko*



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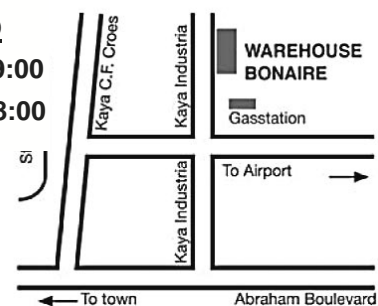
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# 25<sup>th</sup> Bonaire International & Local Fishing Tournament and Boat Party

Bonaire's biggest fishing tournament was still underway as we go to press. The competition for both local and international class boats was held concurrently from January 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. There are cash prizes of \$15,000 to be split among the winners.

For the International tournament there were participants from Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire. The winners will take home \$6,000. The International tournament is a Billfish catch, tag and release tournament. Fishing was on Friday and Saturday.

Still to take place is the Budget Marine-sponsored self-built boat races and the Ship to Shore Boat Party.

There is a festival feeling in the air. A stand was set up where you could buy some of the fresh catch of the day. Fishermen and spectators are enjoying great food, drinks, music and slides of the day's events. The evenings are party times. ■ G.D.



Wilna Groenenboom photo

Crew of the Lucky 7 watch their catch get weighed

The potential winning team of Lucky 7- Charlo Beradina (fisherman) Mark Diepenrink (fisherman and Co-captain), Huub Marsman (fisherman) and Jouri van Kampen (fisherman)

RONDA	R.DORTALINA	CHIKITU	18 KG.
COSA NOSTRA	ANCHELO	GRANDI	16 1/2 KG.
MOLLY M	J.MULLER	GRANDI	39 KG
GAVIOTA	J.CRAANE	GRANDI	20 1/2 KG
DONA ELIA	ARTHUR	GRANDI	59 1/2 KG

Local Boat Results—Saturday

NAIRA	R.ROYAS	AMA BLUE	RELEASED	DRIFTWOOD	H.MERKWEATHER	ALIA BLUE	RELEASED
CHACARO	PIETERSZ	CUR BLUE	RELEASED	LUCKY-7	STEKELBURG	BON BLUE	LOST
GRAND BLEU		BON UNKNOWN	LOST	NANY-13		BON BLUE	LOST
ZIPPER	R.ARENDZ	CUR BLUE	LOST	MEAL TICKET	H.D'ONG jr	BON BLUE	RELEASED
NAIRA	MANSOUR	AUA SAILFISH	RELEASED	LUCKY-7	H.MARSMAN	BON BLUE	RELEASED
CHLOE	V.TRIGT	AUA BLUE	RELEASED	MAKLUKA		BON BLUE	LOST
TIME SHARE		CUR DORADO	25Lbs.	YA-LUHRS	G.CASTRO	BON BLUE	LOST
MEAL TICKET		BON DORADO	34Lbs.	LUCKY-7	G.BERADINA	BONVAHOO	23Lbs.
MEAL TICKET		BON DORADO	29Lbs.	DRIFTWOOD	H.MERKWEATHER	ALIA BLUE	RELEASED
				LUCKY-7	X.V.KAMPEN	BON BLUE	LOST
				TARA	N.MANSOUR	AUA BLUE	RELEASED
				SIENA I		BON BLUE	LOST
				HEY CHAMA	R.WINKEL	CUR BLUE	RELEASED

Friday ↑ International Boat Results

Saturday →

## Dive Friends Bonaire Did It Again



Wilna Groenenboom photo

Bonaire/Playa - On Saturday January 19 Dive Friends Bonaire organized their first clean up dive of this year. Captain's meeting was held at the well known Yellow Submarine location at Playa Lechi. This time goal was the underwater world around Karel's Pier. One of the 118 volunteers was Anouk Hebing, a teacher at SGB (ScholenGemeenschap Bonaire), VMBO (secondary education).

Anouk: "This was my first clean-up dive on Bonaire. I've been a diver since 2004. Tim and our child and I have lived on the island for about six months. Tim works at the Dive Inn location of Dive Friends and I teach English at the old location of SGB downtown Kralendijk. It was shop manager Asko Zuidam who did the briefing and who gave us strict instructions. It takes an experienced diver to cope with a mesh bag filled with more and more trash and changes in weight and buoyancy. My buddy and I went down to an underwater level of some 75 feet. We picked up a lot of empty beer bottles and cans. My buddy was

specialized in cutting and recovering fishing line. I was amazed about the miles of fishing line. Especially for turtles fishing line is dangerous as they can get tangled and they have to reach the surface to get breathe air. We worked underwater for 62 minutes and apart from the "normal" trash I found a sock with a clothes pin peg still attached to it! Divers also found still valid telephone cards and a chair. The telephone they found did not function anymore! I found the clean up dive very useful and fun to do. A great experience. Clean up dives are organized four times a year by Dive Friends Bonaire and next time I will be there again for sure. Then I will drop my mesh bag on the bottom of the sea and replace it every now and then because this time I carried it for more than an hour!"

After the dive and a siesta a barbecue was organized at the Hamlet Oasis location of Dive Friends Bonaire. There was plenty of food and drinks. All divers were a little bit tired but the feeling of satisfaction was superior. ■ J@n Brouwer

### What will you do on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> ?

On March 15th and 16th 2013 NGO Platform Bonaire in cooperation with Oranje Fonds will organize BON DOET, the biggest volunteer's event on Bonaire. Form your own group of family, friends, acquaintances or colleagues to participate together and have a good time. There are many chores and activities listed for BON DOET. Choose what you'd like to do best on our website. We are going for it! Are you?

Register today at [bondoet2013@gmail.com](mailto:bondoet2013@gmail.com), [www.bondoet.com](http://www.bondoet.com) of 717-2834

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Hasi bon, pasa bon!



# Pets of the Week



cats are highly developed and they are some of the most loving and relaxed cats you'll ever meet. In addition, they are comfortable and acclimated to being in a semi-indoor atmosphere, so once they are familiar with a new forever home they are less likely to take off into the great outdoors and will prefer to keep you company at home. The black and white group include males and females, ages 6 months up to 3 years. Each of them is healthy, vaccinated, sterilized and more than willing to add some feline love and joy to your home. Come and visit them at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, Monday through Saturday, 8 am-1 pm and 3-5 pm. ....It's all there in black and white! (Puzzle answer: Seven). ■ Jane Madden-Disko

This week's Pet of the Week is a black and white cat puzzle. Can you figure out how many cats are in this photo? It's a little difficult because by some freak occurrence all the cats currently residing at the Bonaire Animal Shelter are black or black and white! With the "chilly" weather we've been having the group decided to snuggle up onto a big white fluffy towel for some warm camaraderie producing a wonderful puzzle photo. Some of the cats in this black and white crowd have been at the Shelter for a year or more, one of them was born at the Shelter and just had her first birthday. As a result of their long term residence, these black and white beauties' social skills with people and other

## SHELTER NEWS

\* The adorable black and white female pup that was found "running scared" down a remote back road in the Bolivia area on New Years' Eve, frightened by the booming fireworks, that was featured in *The Reporter's* last edition, has been adopted. Her previous owners never claimed her.

\* Want to do a good turn and not have it cost you any money? Then plan on **donating your soon-to-be expired license plates** to the Animal Shelter. They sell them to raise funds for their free spay and neutering programs and to help keep the Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs. Call 717-4989. ■ G./L.D.

# DID YOU KNOW?

That manatees are environmental indicators? Because manatees are marine mammals that are very sensitive to environmental changes, researchers are using them to determine the effects of humans on aquatic ecosystems. Studies were conducted in a fishing community in southern Belize where tourism is growing. Alonso Aguirre is executive director of the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation and has been studying these animals to understand more about marine mammal diseases and other harmful effects of human disturbance. Blood samples have been taken annually dating back to 1997, and two surveys by helicopter per year allow researchers to record manatee health and population data. Aguirre notes that these studies will serve as a baseline that we can use for looking at the long-term effects of human involvement in manatee habitats. As well as providing data for human interaction, the study of these majestic creatures will better allow researchers to protect them and their migration routes. This will ensure that the manatees continue to help us learn about the environment just as we learn about them.



A manatee looks at you

■ Story by Daniel Cleavenger; Photos: seabreezecairns / Fotolia

Cleavenger is a Biology major from Oregon State University. He is studying on Bonaire for the fall semester at the CIEE Research Station.



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## Bonairean "PIET BOON designed" seafront beach villa.



### Belnem, Punt Vierkant 6b

This beautifully built and spacious two storey home can only fully be appreciated during a showing that Sunbelt Realty will gladly organize for you. The smart design which is focused on natural flows, durable and high-end materials provides privacy for all users of this open lay out beach home. Lay out: entrance into hallway with 3 bedrooms (two facing the pool, sundeck with covered gazebo and the sea) and 2,5 bathrooms (one bathroom has an adjacent walk-through closet), laundry room and spacious garage. Inner stair case leading to wide living room with open kitchen with folding doors to wide covered terrace with views over (and outdoor stairs leading down to) pool, sundeck with covered gazebo and the sea. Spacious walk-through closet to office, 4th bedroom with bathroom. Lot size: 5,950 ft<sup>2</sup> (553 m<sup>2</sup>) Living area: 3,443 ft<sup>2</sup> (320m<sup>2</sup>)



Asking price US\$ 1,590,000

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