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**BONAIRE** February 22- March 8, 2013 Year 20, Issue 4  
**The REPORTER**  
**BES Island News Too**

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**The Climax  
of Karnaval**  
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**King Momo**

Herman van Leeuwen photo



# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BOINAIRE The REPORTER

CONTOURGLOBAL



It appears that the bankrupt company **Ecopower**, which generates electricity for Bonaire, will be purchased from the custodian bank, Rabo Bank, by **ContourGlobal L.P.** a company that appears qualified for the task. ContourGlobal L.P. acquires, develops, and operates electric power and district heating businesses. It also develops and operates central generating stations to supply power to electrical grids. The company serves governments and multinational companies in the US, the European Union, Brazil, Colombia, Togo, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ukraine, and internationally. The company was founded in 2005 and is based in New York, New York.

On Jan. 18, 2013, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services assigned it a 'B+' corporate credit rating.

The Bonaire opposition party has called for transparency in the process and wants Bonaire's water and power distribution company made part of the process. WEB's director has publicly stated that the ownership of the island's electric power production process should remain in local hands.

►The **Tourist Bureau's new office hours** will be **Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5 pm** non-stop. The TCB front office will stay open during the usual lunch break hours.

After performing a successful trial run with excellent results, TCB has decided to change the office hours permanently. This is a modest part of the new policies they're planning in the near future. Feel free to contact TCB director Mr. Ethsel Pieterella, via email: ethselpieterella@tourismbonaire.com or phone at 717-8322.

►Last week the workers at the **Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB)** staged a **walkout to protest the actions being taken by the TCB Board of Directors.**

They are unhappy that they, as well as the new director who was recently named, cannot do their jobs. They feel the Board of Directors is running everything rather than functioning in a supervisory capacity and many of its actions are to benefit particular commercial and personal interests. The board does not respect the new director and treats him like an office manager, dictating to him what must be done. These actions of the board are against the statutes governing the function of the TCB. The workers joined with officials of the Bonaire Government Workers Union (ABVO) to meet with the Director of the government holding company, BHM, as well as with

Commissioner of Tourism Burrey elHage to voice their complaints. Further meetings are planned to resolve the issues. (JMD)



►BONAIRE--**Bonaire's real estate tax (vastgoedbelasting) assessments were mailed out in January 2013**, stating what is owed. Since the assessment of 2011 is being levied simultaneously with the assessment of 2012, the State Secretary set the effective rate at 0.6% for these two years.

The property tax is intended primarily for owners of a second home in Bonaire, St. Eustatius or Saba and non-natural persons (entities) who own real estate. "If you own your own dwelling and you also live in it or if you rent a house, you do not pay *vastgoedbelasting*."

If you have a second house and its value is \$50,000 or lower, this tax will not be applicable. For this reason, you may receive an assessment of \$0, as in that case the value of your property is equal to or lower than US \$50,000" stated a release of the Tax Service Caribbean Netherlands BCN.

Some **exemptions** have been included, for example, "dormant" property if the owner is an inhabitant of the Caribbean Netherlands, or property which is part of the equity of a proprietorship, commercially exploited culture ground for agriculture and forestry as well as nature reserves.

►Last week, the police took action in connection with possible illegal prostitution and whether there was exploitation (illegal) of prostitutes. This check was held at three different bars on Kaya Korona, Kaya Kaya Patachi and Karanja. Documents were checked to determine if the persons in the bars were legally or illegally staying on the island. One bar was closed and in the others six people were questioned by staff of the Department of Immigration. No one was arrested, but investigation is ongoing.

The application for the **Gentlemen's Heaven** brothel in Hato was formally rejected by the government and the owners warned not to operate. Pachi's Place, Bonaire's previous legal brothel, was closed at the end of last year.

►THE HAGUE--**Royal Dutch Airline KLM will introduce fees**

**for baggage in line with the trend set by budget carriers.** People using internal European flights will have to pay 15 euros for each piece of checked luggage if paid for in advance. Luggage checked in at the airport will cost 30 euros per piece and hand luggage will remain free of charge.



►This **Lear Jet 35A** will be performing **air-ambulance flights abroad for the ZVK** (Government health insurance), in close cooperation with Fundashon Mariadal (San Francisco Hospital).

►Last week a group led by **Nelson Ramiz took over all the shares of airline DAE (Dutch Antilles Express) and related companies from former owner Niek Sandman, the original founder of the failed Bonaire Exel airline.** Ramiz is also the owner of the aircraft leasing company Falcon Air which rents equipment to DAE. Ramiz says, "This is the first and only restructuring of a local airline where no employee will lose his job. During the restructuring in 2012 we had 55% more passengers than in 2011. We saw 66% more sales and the fleet is three times as big. Two additional MD-83 aircraft are to be added in May for flights to Maracaibo and Valencia and for new routes to Quito and Lima. The airline will probably be re-named in 2014 or 2015 when it adds a new A319 and A320 to replace its fleet."

►Two empty bags found by nature hikers on Bonaire's coast near Bakuna last week on Sunday turned out to have belonged to Italian fashion magnate **Vittorio Missoni (58) and his wife Maurizia Castiglioni.** The couple had been in a private BN2 Islander plane that had left from the Los Roques islands of Venezuela for Caracas on January 4 but had never arrived. Kitesurfing equipment that had been on board had already washed ashore in Curaçao two weeks later. Its German owner had not been on the aircraft as scheduled, because he had been late and had taken a later flight.

►THE HAGUE--**The Dutch economy shrank by 0.2% in the final quarter of last year, meaning The Netherlands is now back in recession**, according to initial estimates released by Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) on Thursday. Year-on-year, the economy contracted 0.9% in the final quarter, CBS said. In the third quarter, the economy shrank

by 1% year-on-year. Two successive contractions means the country is officially in recession. Earlier this week, CBS said inflation has now reached 3%, its highest level in four years.

Oranje Fonds  
Kroonappels

►THE HAGUE--**The Oranje Fonds (Orange Fund) in The Netherlands has come up with a creative idea to dedicate special attention to the inauguration of King Willem-Alexander and to involve the people of the Dutch Caribbean.** The fund is organizing a special edition of the *Appeltjes van Oranje* (Orange Apples), called the *Kroonappels* (the Crown Apples). Organizations on the islands are asked to select their most precious social initiatives already existing in their district or on their island before March 8. *The Reporter* believes there are several qualified candidates on Bonaire.

There are three categories: youth, neighborhood and helping hand. People can vote for the initiative of choice for their island from March 15 to 17 on the Website [www.kroonappels.com](http://www.kroonappels.com).

The initiatives with the most votes will proceed to the second round where the organizations will review each other. One winner is chosen from each category. The three final winning organizations will receive a *Kroonappel*, a prize consisting of 50,000 euros and a bronze statue. The prizes will be presented by the future King and Queen at the Noordeinde Palace in The Hague.

►Soldiers from the Dutch army company stationed in the Caribbean were recently on Bonaire for a military exercise and also made themselves useful to the community. Apart from getting to know the island and the local auxiliary services, they assisted with various activities. For example, the soldiers moved an obstacle course for Rebound, an organization that offers problem children a chance in society. They also helped STINAPA with cleaning up several beaches and breeding grounds for turtles. The soldiers have since returned to Curaçao. The company in "The West" is staffed by the 11th airborne brigade of The Netherlands this year.

►AMSTERDAM—**Female MPs and senators attending the inauguration of new King Willem-Alexander have been requested not to wear large hats to the ceremony**, according to media reports. Women should wear "afternoon attire" and a large hat would be undesirable. This is because during the ceremony, all MPs and senators have to swear an oath of allegiance and

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their faces must be visible. The men have been asked to wear a dark suit, NOS television reported. **The inauguration of Willem-Alexander takes place on April 30** in Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam. The ceremony will not involve a coronation and there are no religious aspects to it.

►THE HAGUE—**Fewer people from the Dutch Caribbean migrated to The Netherlands in 2012.** The number of people from the islands who left The Netherlands increased in that same year, preliminary figures released by the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) showed. Some 3,700 people from the former Netherlands Antilles and

(Continued on page 19)



# Feeding Bonaire

## Food Bank Bonaire



How would you like it if you had to be dependent on a charity for your daily bread?

It is a sad state of affairs in this day and age that there are families on Bonaire that must depend on the Voedselbank (Food Bank) Bonaire for food. The extent to which this happens is yet unknown but Marjon Kranenburg who set up the charity states that in the two months of distributing her food parcels the demand for them has increased by 10%. It will be a while before she can provide an accurate figure of those in need of the services her charity has to offer, and in the meantime she is working hard to raise awareness, money and items of food suitable for inclusion in her food parcels.

When Marjon came to Bonaire a year ago she started to volunteer for the animal shelter and began to see for herself the extent to which people go hungry. The age groups most affected are the 65+, single and young mothers and the mentally and physically handicapped.

She wanted to do something practical, simple and immediate to make a difference. She met other like minded people and between them they set up the Voedselbank Bonaire.

Their aim is to collect unwanted food or food that people specially buy for the charity, bundle it up into parcels and deliver them to local churches where the pastor will distribute them. FORMA is also a distribution point for the food parcels. Marjon feels that distribution via the churches and FORMA allows people to keep their dignity as they remain anonymous to the charity. Marjon acknowledges that people are proud and sometimes ashamed of their predicament and in this way they can maintain some of their dignity.

The food parcels consist of oil, rice, flour, washing powder, sugar, toilet paper, juice and milk in cartons, fruit and vegetables in jars or tins and meat and fish in tins. Any money raised goes towards supplementing the food parcels with items such as baby food and other items that is in short supply.

The food bank is run by a committee of five. Marjon is the chairman, Maaïke Ot-



Food Bank founder Marjon Kranenburg and Democrat Councilman Nolly Oleana

terloo the treasurer and Nolly Oleana, Daliza Victorina and Chantal Jansen are committee members all working hard to provide immediate and practical relief to those who do not even have the basics.

Marjon sees the bigger picture of the situation on Bonaire but focuses on what she can practically do to make a difference. Her aim is to do one thing well and hopefully in the future with more volunteers and more funding she will be able to do more. One day Marjon hopes that there will be no need for her charity or that she can at least supply all those in need of food.

Marjon would like to publicly thank Van den Tweel supermarket and More for

less supermarket for allowing her to collect outside of their store free of charge and for providing the stall which the supermarket's staff erect and take down again. She would also like to thank Punta Blancu chicken farm for providing eggs for her food parcels.

**They are always looking for more volunteers. Please contact Marjon via email [voedselbankbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:voedselbankbonaire@gmail.com) if you feel you can spare some time to help her.** ■ Story & photo by Carla Hay

**You can also make a donation at Girobank Bonaire Stichting voedselbank Bonaire Account number 21101128**

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# On The Island Since 2003 – Sam Williams

“I’ve been interested in parrots since I was seven years old. A friend of the family had parrots and I started keeping parrots at home. By the time I was a teenager I had lots of parrots from all over the world and different aviaries taking up half the garden. I like all nature, but parrots are special and they are the most endangered group of birds.

I first came here because I heard about progressive parrot conservation (called ‘Loras’ on Bonaire) by the island’s government. At the time I was supported by the World Parrot Trust. From that we developed a PHD research project, based at the University of Sheffield, England. Then in 2006, 2007 and 2008 I returned with a research colleague, Rowan Martin. I was looking at the ecological problems the parrots were facing with the idea to address those problems after research.

When I was 16, I was given the opportunity to travel to Mauritius in the Indian Ocean where I worked with the Echo Parakeet, which at the time was the world’s rarest bird. At the time it was estimated that there were only 16 individuals left. Now there are over 300. I was living in the forest and it was just amazing; it was really pivotal to me. It opened my eyes that I needed to protect wild populations and places. I went back to Mauritius a couple of times. I also went to Brazil because – I am lucky – par-

rots, because they have a people problem. You have to ask ‘Why are the parrots eating this food?’ and it’s because their habitat – the *mondi* of Bonaire – is very different from how it used to be. People chopped down all the trees and then they introduced animals – like goats and donkeys – that prevent certain trees and plants from regrowing. So the *mondi* is dominated by spiky things that don’t get eaten by the goats or donkeys. The Loras do eat seed pods from those trees, but these trees only produce food at a certain time of the year. When there was a diversity of plants there was food year around, because when Columbus came to the Caribbean he said ‘The skies were darkened by parrots’.

Without question Bonaire could accommodate more parrots, but then the habitat needs to be restored. There are lots of people working towards it amongst them STINAPA and the island’s government. This will be an incredible improvement for the parrots and the people of Bonaire, because trees are so nice to be around! When you go to the *mondi* and you are under a canopy of trees, it’s a great experience, but there are only a few places on the island where you have native trees over 10 meters high. I would like to go back to that, but I will never see that in my lifetime. The Wayaka for example lives for a thousand years! It’s those big trees that would feed parrots and all the other animals that are

**“Without question Bonaire could accommodate more parrots, but then the habitat needs to be restored.”**

rots live in nice places! After Brazil it was Bonaire and here I am!

In 2010 I established ‘Echo’ – which comes from Echo Parakeet. ‘Echo’ is a Bonairean Conservation Foundation dedicated to the conservation of the Bonairean Lora. We hope to contribute towards that by doing research and monitoring so we can learn about the problems and the impact of our actions. We do conservation management which is: growing native trees, building nest boxes to replace the big trees that were chopped down and it also includes the rehabilitation and release work when parrots have been illegally captured. And, our third goal is outreach – where we share our passion for the parrot with the local community. We take kids to the kunuku and we’ve also developed a Google Earth Map with the island’s trees. It’s basically getting kids into nature.

This is only possible because we have a great team of people working here on the island, but also there are volunteers from around the world who help us from their homes. All this makes the organization happen; without their dedication we wouldn’t have an organization!

The conservation of parrots has to involve people and that’s the hot topic on Bonaire right now. This morning I had five parrots in my garden, eating the Pomegranates and Guavas... I laughed and it was my fault because I didn’t put the bags on the fruits. See, I am from England and England is known for their gardens and for people who love gardening, so I know the satisfaction of growing your own food and Sarah, my fiancée and I are eating out of our own garden. I do understand when people get angry when it happens to them, but I also feel for the

meant to be here.

Well, maybe we should go back to the issue of conflict, that people who are growing food are unhappy with the parrots. And although we’re a tiny organization, we have looked at possible solutions like using Warawara kites to deter parrots, and two students from Chile and England are coming over to look at the problem.”

*He laughs:* “The parrots are smart; however, there are still possibilities.

I think... if you have lived in a place without parrots, you would really appreciate them, and generally we walk around with our ears and eyes closed and we see very little around us. I was in Playa when I saw a Peregrine Falcon. It’s the fastest animal in the world. It can do 360 kilometers an hour and it’s big, it can have a wing span over one meter. I looked at the people when I saw it slowly flying by – not at 360 kilometers per hour – and nobody saw it! This amazing thing happens and nobody sees it! Even enjoying a little banana quit for a moment can enhance your day! But then, yeah, you won’t see them if you’re looking at your Blackberry!

So, yeah, when I was a boy I used to keep parrots as pets. Here the people like that too. But when you see their charismatic nature and their intelligence at work in the wild – where they are meant to be – I believe it’s a much, much nicer experience!

What do I do when I don’t think of parrots? I sleep! Ha! When Sarah de Groot, *mijn schatje* (my baby) and I moved to this kunuku about six months ago, we installed the electric system and the water and I quickly learned about plumbing. Then my mom came over and Sarah’s sister and they painted the house and Sarah’s dad came and



Sam in the kunuku garden



photo by Sam Williams

Sarah and Sam

we started our vegetable garden. It took a lot of hard work, but I am not afraid of hard physical work and neither is Sarah; we’re loving it. Sarah is a physical therapist – a scary job to have right now. She works hard and when we moved Echo to a new kunuku we loaded up a pick up truck and a trailer before dawn and... she was smiling! She also likes challenges and adventures, or... you could say,” *he laughs* “she’s as crazy as I am.

I think of myself still as a rock climber, a mountain biker, a kite surfer, but I’ve put all those things on hold to get Echo going. However, life is trickling back and there is more balance. I am back and I am doing some. We’ve also been known to do a dance at Little Havana, but no matter what time I get home, I am up at five – no need for an alarm - to work in the garden, so the partying takes a toll!

My goal for here, for this time of life, is to be a good husband and to make a difference for Bonaire. I hope that people come to value what they have: an incredible nature. None of us will see an ancient forest like what was here in the 1700s, but we can enjoy what we have and plant more and more. Recently, Sarah and I established another

foundation which is focused on sustainable water management and so, going back to goals, we hope to show people how they can manage their water in a way that saves them money and gives them the opportunity to grow delicious foods for themselves and reduces that environmental impact, because the water on Bonaire is produced from sea water using fossil fuels.

I am definitely a conservationist and I am interested in sustainability. I am genuinely far too ambitious which gets me into trouble, but I am learning. But, maybe more than anything, I am willing to try things; get past the fear and the failure and work hard and learn. Because I value nature and the less material things I am a very satisfied person. My outlook for the future... I should say... yeah, three kids, a large family... ha! Wait till Sarah reads it... that’ll be brilliant!”

*Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*

For more info: [www.echobonaire.org](http://www.echobonaire.org)





# Tourism History

A New Series

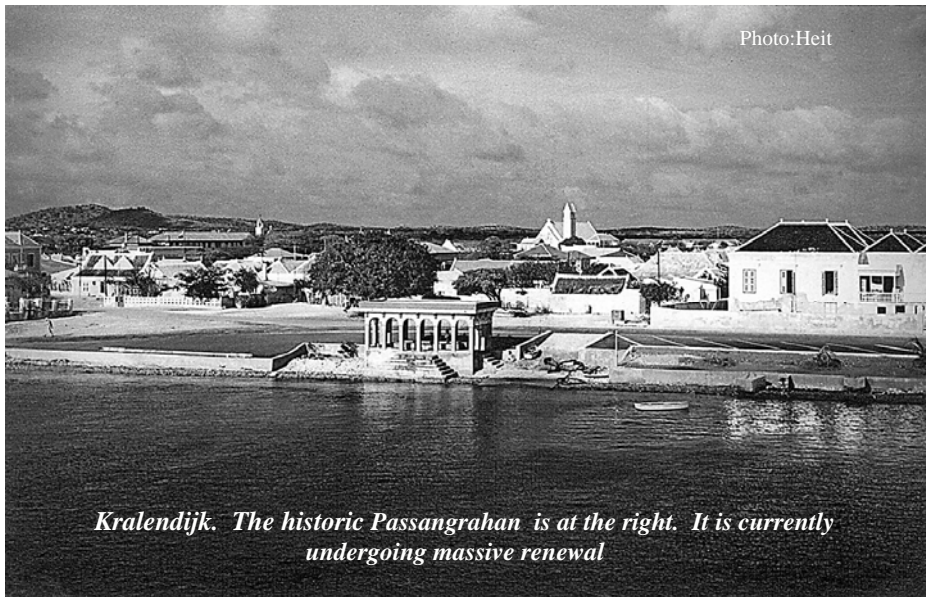


Photo:Heit

*Kralendijk. The historic Passangrahan is at the right. It is currently undergoing massive renewal*

In this edition we publish the first of a series of articles on the history of Bonaire Tourism. It's written by Evert Bongers, well known in Bonaire mostly for being the long time- MC and announcer at the Bonaire Regatta. His involvement with this event over the past 15+ years tickled his interest in the island and particularly its history. In Aruba where he lives he has already published two books about that island's history, one of which is about the history of tourism.

## PART 1-EARLIEST DAYS

Imagine the island of Bonaire without cars, without paved roads, an airport, hotels, tourists or divers. About 100 years

ago, that was the situation on the island.

Bonaire has always been an island of tranquility, where its main resources included fishing, a little agriculture on plantations (aloe and dye-wood) and one modest export industry: salt.

Connections to the outer world were scarce. Boats from Curaçao or Venezuela called to bring fruit or other products, but visitors never came to the island, with the exception of government officials or a few occasional scientific researchers. Getting to the island by boat from Curaçao took at least a day and a half.

In the beginning of the 20th century there were no cars on the island. The first one brought in (1915) was sent back soon afterwards for lack of roads to drive on. In

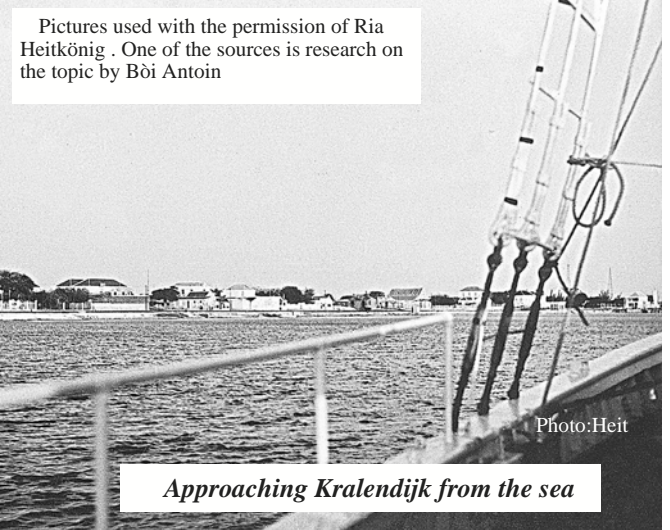
1917, another car was imported and this one stayed on the island.

The first tourists from the sister-island of Curaçao set foot on Bonairean soil in 1922 when boats brought 365 "excursionists," as they were called, to the island. Among them was a soccer team that played against a team from Bonaire. It was not easy to lodge such a large group, but Bonaire managed to find roofs and beds for them.

While the number of "excursionists" grew in the 1920s and 30s, construction took place to build a harbor suitable to accommodate ships to bring in tourists. Until the mid-30s this was the only way to do so.

Until 1935, there was no airlift to Bonaire; in that year a piece of barren land (at Subi Blanku off the Rincon Road) was cleared to facilitate the first airplane, the legendary "Snip," to land on Bonairean soil. It would take until the 40s before regular flights from Curaçao were established. The modern airport at its current location was opened in 1955. In the 50s, it was mainly the Royal Dutch Airlines KLM that visited the Flamingo Airport.

A hundred years ago, there was no lodging for visitors on the island; government officials on tour stayed at the government guesthouse, called the Passangrahan, after similar lodging facilities in Indonesia, that other Dutch colony. The Passangrahan served as an example for a few other hotels or guest houses that were established in Bonaire, like the Pension Hellmund.



Pictures used with the permission of Ria Heitkönig. One of the sources is research on the topic by Bòl Antoin

Photo:Heit


*Approaching Kralendijk from the sea*

The first to discover the possibilities for tourism was Nicolaas Braantjes, Governor of the Curaçao Colony, who used to sail to Bonaire to spend weekends there. Sometimes he took a group of friends to the island for sight-seeing. That was in 1927. In 1929 Pension Hellmund, the oldest private guest-house, opened its doors, but the first hotels were only built after WW II: Hotel Zeebad, Hotel Rochaline and Hotel Bonaire. ■ Evert Bongers

**Coming next issue... 1940: The Invasion of Involuntary "Tourists"...**

*Evert Bongers lives in Aruba but knows Bonaire well. He studied at the university in Holland and since 2006 has been a Vocational counselor at Colegio Arubano.*






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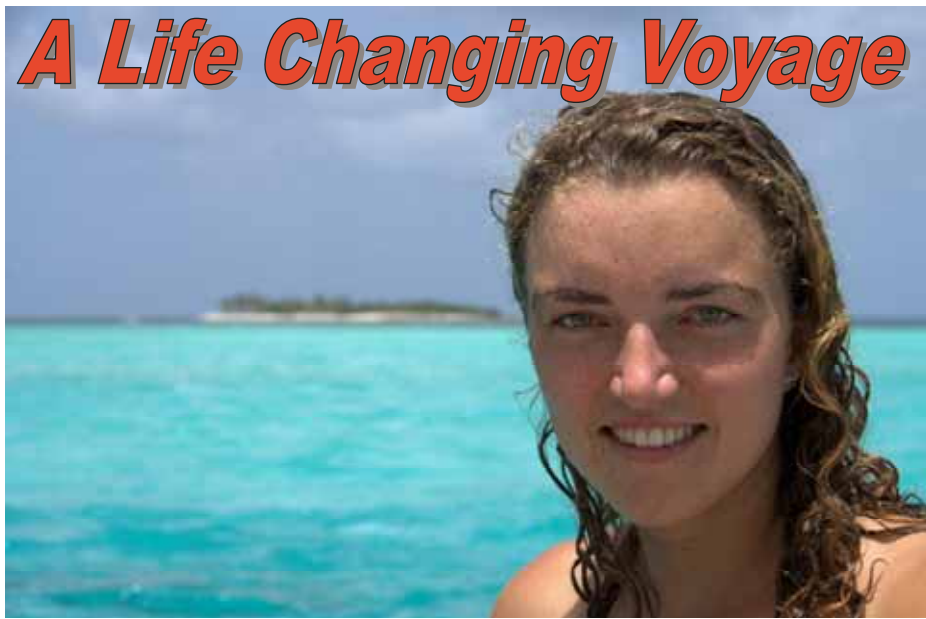
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# A Life Changing Voyage



Singlehanded sailor Shelley Burggraaff in the Tobago Keys

Unlike many young Dutch people, Shelley Burggraaff learned how to sail far away from the water-centric Netherlands. She had just finished school, and while visiting New Zealand, was looking for a way to extend her trip down under. That is when Burggraaff read an ad from a sailor looking for someone to look after his boat in Fiji while he returned home for a month in the United States.

“At the marina I met many sailors on voyage,” explains Shelley. “During that time I realized that there were people actually traveling around the world on boats. I hadn’t a clue that that even happened.”

Soon Burggraaff met a Norwegian who was looking for crew. “I told him I can hold a wheel and go the right way.” Apparently that was enough. The couple sailed Fiji, some French islands and New Caledonia. But by then, the new Dutch sailor was out of money and returned to Holland. She got her university degree in media and entertainment management and then began working for a sailing events company. “I started doing that just because I really liked the sailing so much. I promised myself that I would return to Fiji with my own boat when I have all the time in the world and the freedom to go to any island that I want to.”

One year later Burggraaff bought *North Wind*, a Trintella 29 built in 1974. The prolific Dutch sailboat designer, E. G. Van de Stadt, designed these sloops. While not a race boat, the Trintella 29 is a fast cruiser with a hull design speed of about 7 knots. The boat was stoutly constructed by the Tyler Boat Company in Kent, England, back in the early days of fiberglass production. Its deep, heavy keel affords stability and good tracking when sailing into the wind. These are characteristics that Shelley soon came to appreciate.

For a year and a half, Burggraaff prepared *North Wind* for her world cruise. When people asked about her destination, which was often, she simply replied “Fiji” as a way to satisfy their curiosity. The novice sailor knew this was the best time for her to embark on a voyage before husband and family came into her life, but that decision was not without trepidation. “I decided I really had to do this now. I was scared to go alone, of course. But I wanted it so much. It was the only way to do it. If you really want something, you get over the scary moments.”

On July 2010, *North Wind* departed the Dutch port of Naarden. It was a big send-off with family and friends attending. Even the local Search & Rescue boats got into the act by spraying water from hoses as the sloop departed the harbor. Shelley’s father joined her for the first few hours as a sendoff for his daughter. Once she dropped him off in nearby Ijmuiden, she was alone.

The young woman sailed to the UK, France, Spain, and finally the Canary Islands where she began her 33-day trans Atlantic sail. About midway across, the wind vane, which steers the boat when not helmed, broke and a large section sank into the sea. Undeterred, Shelley attached an electronic auto pilot device to the tiller, but that too failed after 300 miles. Fortunately, her boyfriend who was also crossing the Atlantic made radio contact with Burggraaff and came to her rescue in blustery winds. He strapped his autopilot to a raft and transferred the device to *North Wind*. “It was really good that he was there,” says Shelley. “I spent quite some time soldering (the auto pilot’s electronic connections) in 30 knot winds, but I finally got the auto pilot hooked up and it lasted the next 1,000 miles.”

*North Wind* made landfall on the lovely Grenadine island of Bequia in May 2011. Since then the sloop has cruised throughout the Caribbean, eventually landing in Bonaire for Christmas 2012. “I love this place,” explains Shelley. “It’s so easy going and laid-back. We call that *gemoeidelijk* in Dutch. The island has a nice town center. The people are so friendly. The salt pans are great. Up north is great. Even the donkeys are great.”

Burggraaff now works for Dive Friends at the Yellow Submarine shop on Kaya Playa Lechi. She is unsure how long she will stay on Bonaire and even less so about sailing to her original destination of Fiji. The voyage has been life-changing for the young Dutch skipper. “The drive to go to Fiji is less now. If you’re not really motivated that long journey is not desirable. I’m thinking maybe another time on another boat and maybe sail with someone.”

When asked about her most amazing moment on the water Burggraaff lists three, but probably her most poignant experience was off the coast of Saba, another Dutch Caribbean island. “I was sailing west of Saba and saw this big mountain rising out of the sea. Then a big leatherback turtle just popped up.



Two views of Shelly and North Wind sailing before the wind

The scene was so wild, so rough with waves crashing on the coast. It was like Jurassic Park, like it was a million years ago. And there was me on my little boat.”

Moments like that can be life changing and sailors throughout the ages have often had difficulty returning to life on land. Shelley is now facing that personal dilemma. “I probably won’t fit back easily into Dutch society. On one hand, I don’t want to be a wanderer who does this for another 40 years getting by on a low budget. I don’t think I want to do that. But I also don’t think I can have same job forever, and have the house and the fancy car. I just don’t want to be that person.”

Burggraaff looks out at the Caribbean blue and adds one more thought. “There will be a lot of longing to go back to sea and traveling and freedom. And I’ve experienced so much freedom on this voyage. I enjoy this life so much.” ■

Patrick Holian

Patrick Holian is a freelance writer and photographer living in Bonaire





# HELMETS ON WHEELS

This is the 15th of a series of *Bonaire Reporter* short articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

## Two Lovely American Students and a Grey Bell Helmet

Amber Packard from Maine and Maddi Roth from Vermont. Both students at the CIEE. They will stay here until the beginning of May. Both sporty young girls are more than pleased to pose for the camera in front of the CIEE billboard. Amber is already the user of a protective helmet and Maddi will very soon be.

*Bonaire/Playa Lechi* – On Sunday, February 10, two sporty youngsters, Maddi Roth and Amber Packard, joined the Fishing Line Clean up dive around the Town Pier, organized by the Fishing Line Project Division of the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and sponsored by Dive Friends Bonaire.

Amber Packard is from Maine, Maddi Roth is from Vermont. They are both studying marine biology and they are now studying and practicing at the CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) Bonaire Station. The CIEE is a non-profit organization with all kinds of studies in some 36 countries all over the world.

Amber and Maddi arrived at the Dive Inn location on their light but solid Dutch Sparta bikes. Bicycles made of the best material like an aluminum frame, aluminum wheels and front suspension. The multi-speed two wheelers are equipped with a dynamo and front and rear lights, a clean and safe closed chain guard, a lock connected to the frame and a separate cable

lock. Colors are a tasteful combination of sea blue and silver. CIEE has a collection of fine bikes to supply their students with a cheap and effective way of transport.

Amber: "We can borrow these bikes from the organization. They are all similar and parts are not a single problem. Every bike has its own number and I know exactly which bike "belongs" to me and to which bike my keys fit. We are responsible for our bikes so we always lock them. We have to repair our own flat tires or have them repaired. We use the bikes for every day transport. Traffic is completely different here, compared to what we are used to in the States. Every now and then it gets a little frightening and dangerous when the traffic is busy and the roads become narrow and smaller." Maddi: "We really like it on this lovely little tropical island. People are friendly and the climate is perfect. The sea is relatively clean and full of treasures and we would like to keep it that way.

That's why Amber and I joined the clean up dive. Bonaire has wonderful resources, and we want to help keep the environment pristine. When fishing line gets caught and breaks off, animals (especially sea turtles) can get trapped in knots of floating and semi floating fishing line. This is really dangerous to turtles because they can suffocate if they can't reach the surface..."

The girls really are optimistic, healthy, sporty, vivid and good looking young ladies. A complete life ahead of them. They



Amber Packard from Maine (left) and Maddi Roth

are in for protecting the sea, the mother of all. They are surprised by the fact the CIEE does supply bicycles but does not have any helmets. Now it is time for the helmet force to get in action.

A nice grey American made Bell mountain bike helmet is given to Amber. She reacts enthusiastically and spontaneously: "Thank you! I have exactly the same helmet at home in Maine!" Unfortunately

Maddi has to wait some more days until Saturday February 16.

Then the helmet force will be able to supply another helmet. Be careful ladies, and enjoy life!

■ Story & Photo by J@n Brouwer



### In Memory of Victor



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# The Lighthouses of Bonaire (5) Fort Oranje, Kralendijk

Lighthouses of Bonaire (5) Fort Oranje, Kralendijk – continued...

This is the last of the Lighthouses of Bonaire articles in *The Reporter* by author-photographer Wilna Groenenboom. But this one presented several mysteries to be solved. When was the lighthouse actually built? Was it in that same location?

In the years following 1796 Bonaire had different owners. The English occupied Bonaire again in 1807. When they left in 1816 due to the Vienna Convention of 1816 they left their canons behind, one from 1808, two from 1811 and one from 1812.

The other Dutch Caribbean islands got a garrison after 1816, but not Bonaire which had only a handful of fort guards who did maintenance work and fired off salutes when necessary.

When Bonaire returned to Dutch authority after English rule due to the Paris Treaty of August 13<sup>th</sup>, Commander of the Naval Forces, Albert Kikkert, formed a commission that would take care of Aruba and Bonaire and produced the Underwriting Report of 1816. Two reports were produced that were and are of great value because they gave a good view about the situation between 1814-1816. They include information like: population (males/females/ages/occupation), healthcare, housing, the size of the island, its condition, harvest, farming, trading, etc. Before these two reports there was not much information about this kind of thing on Bonaire. Due to these reports we now know a little more about the situation on Bonaire and Fort Oranje during that time.

According to the report, in 1816 the governor was living in the fort, but it was a very basic straw covered house with probably a magazine and a guard's house. The governor moved from this house in 1837/1838 after a brand new stone governor's house was built next to the fort. In the following years the fort served different (public) functions. In 1868 it served as a lighthouse, at first a wooden one. But it's written, "They changed from wood to stone in 1932!" But is that really so?

## Some Hard Evidence Appears

At the beginning of the 20th century people started taking photographs. That's a big help to see the changes in layout and construction of the fort because there is little put down on paper and often these papers are very well hidden.

But if we look at the first photo made by the Fraters of Tilburg around 1922 (Fort Oranje, *The Reporter*, Feb. 8), we can clearly see, from the sea, a stone lighthouse with a wooden balcony on top like we see today. So I think that the foundation of the stone lighthouse was definitely before 1932, and most likely between 1868 and 1932! In that same photo on the north and western (sea) side there's a three-to-four-meter high wall, with the four English canons on top to protect the fort. At that time you had to enter the fort on the north side through a little door then a wider gate topped with a little tympanum (semi-circular or triangular decorative wall surface). The fort consisted of three buildings, clearly visible both inside and outside the walls, with a plastered stone store and/or warehouse. On the wide stone wall now and then we spot a square shaped stone lighthouse divided into three floors or layers: the first has a wooden roof with roof tiles, decorated with a beautiful wooden edging in front. The second and third floors are separated by a white horizontal line. Each floor had four simple windows, one on each side that could be closed with wooden shutters. On top was a stone platform with a wooden balcony around it. On the right of the fort there's a public toilet (*gemakshuisje*). And on the far right is the "yellow house" on the corner of the street and boulevard, a house which is now gone!

If we look at the lower photo (right) also taken by the Fraters of Tilburg some years later we can see that a new building has been erected, now used as the *Gemeenschappelijk Hof van Justitie* (Court of Justice).

In the past the fort was also used as sealed storage place for goods going in and out of Bonaire. With a growing population you have more business, more goods, so you need more storage and of course you get more tax revenues! The corner of the "barn" connected to this new



Fort Oranje in 1964



Fort Orange in the early 20th century

building by a narrow wall forms the outside wall of Fort Oranje. For the rest little has changed. Even the lighthouse is still the same.

If we look at the top photo taken by Dhr B. (Boy) Lawson in 1964, we can see on the north side (left of the building) the higher wall with gate and door is still there. The shutters in the lighthouse are open. And beside the lighthouse we see a new building, the office for the harbor master, built in the same style as the rest of the buildings.

And then in the last photo (Fort Oranje, *The Reporter*, Feb. 8), probably taken in the 70s, a lot has changed when we compare the present situation with the first half of the 20th century. The north wall with gate and door has been demolished and the fort has been enlarged a few meters outward. The lighthouse's beautiful porch and the wooden balcony are completely gone. The lighthouse was given an extra floor, a stone extension, with a bell which we can see hanging through the arched windows. It is quite clear this wasn't done in the same "style!"

I can imagine that losing its function as

a fort, there no longer needs to be a dry and "sun free" place to stand guard. And wood does need constant maintenance. But would it not be great to have a rain and sunless place to sit today, under the porch, to enjoy the view from this elevated historical part of Bonaire?

The lighthouse is changed, if I may say so, into a somewhat tasteless "concrete like" tower. It has lost its relaxed, friendly, somewhat romantic feel and above all its own style, an 'easy going' style that was fitting on an island like Bonaire. ■ Wilna Groenenboom

## Sources:

Dr Joh. Hartog, 'Van Indianen tot toeristen,' Forten van de Nederlandse Antillen – Curacao Maritieme Museum; Forten van de Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba Deel 2: Aruba, Bonaire, St Maarten, St Eustatius, Saba;\*\*\*) Dr Joh. Hartog, 'Het Oude Fort van Aruba: de geschiedenis van het Fort zoutman en de toren....' Uitgeverij Van Gorcum 1995; Dr. Jay Havisser.

Photo credit: Bottom-Fraters of Tilburg; ; top -Dhr B. (Boy) Lawson in 1964

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# The Mystery Gourmet



Mysterious Gourmet photos

## BOBBEJANS

Possibly, in view of the selection of restaurants the Mystery Gourmet and his mysterious spouse tend to review, *The Reporter's* readers may conclude that the creepy couple does not take broad advantage of the other various sources of food available on Bonaire. Nothing could be farther from the truth in that they enjoy meals from smaller operations, especially those which offer excellent take-away food.

Bobbejan's is one of those restaurants they frequently visit. A Mom and Pop operation, it serves some of the most



delicious BBQ available on the island. Owners Rob de Haseth and wife Maggie are responsible for the food preparation.

The restaurant, small but powerful, is located on a side street (2 Kaya Albert Engelhart) in downtown Kralendijk, sports a bar and some indoor seating and offers cold beverages, BBQ ribs, chicken, satay, slaw, gado gado (vegetables with peanut sauce), combination salad and French fries.. The BBQ and peanut sauces are unequalled on the island, the portions are generous, the service prompt. The Gourmet and wife usually order ribs, chicken satay, French fries and salad.

Days and hours of service are limited, the restaurant being open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, so if one is not well acquainted with the limits, a call ahead is advised. 717-4783

The Mystery Gourmet and spouse regularly choose takeaway from Bobbejan's and highly recommend their excellent fare. ■ *Story and photos by The Mysterious Gourmet and Spouse*

# 95 Bonaire Years

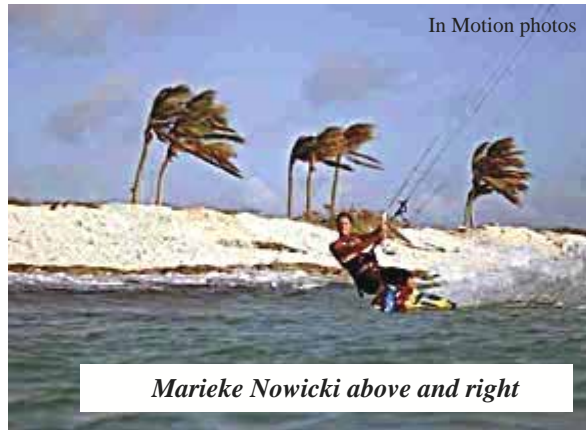
Congratulations to Jan, Jeannie and Steve Jannen who have been regular visitors to Bonaire for a combined 95 years, a family travelling record. Jan and Jeannie were named Bonaire Ambassadors for 35 years of visits and their son, Steve for 25 years. They were presented their Ambassador medals and certificates by Helen Thode coordinator of the Ambassador program.

They are pictured having a sunset dinner at Harbour Village's La Balandra restaurant. ■ *G.D.*



Bob Tseng photo

# In Motion - For A Healthier Life



In Motion photos



Marieke Nowicki above and right

Fitness expert Marieke Nowicki recently opened her new business, In Motion Living. The company is "expert in Holistic Nutrition, Lifestyle Coaching and Personal training" and was named exclusive distributors for Living Fuel Superfoods and Certified Organic Body care products from Green Beaver.

Marieke says, "I recently started our company promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. I was inspired by Reza Niam, holistic health practitioner from Canada and founder of the company Purescapes. He made me realize how little we know about what taking good care of our body means.

I learned about how much damage a lot of products that we take for granted can do to our health. All the chemicals we, especially women put on our faces and bodies each day. And the lack of sufficient nutrients in our daily food, and everything they add to our foods make it even worse. The rising number of diabetes, cancer, allergies and other health problems are the results.

Learning about this radically changed my lifestyle, even though I thought I was healthy and doing healthy stuff. I grew up in a small community in Holland in a family that taught me to stay close to what nature has to offer, but there were still a lot of habits to release. Some things were shocking to discover, some made sense, but most off all, I realized I want the best for my children.

I have to set the example, and teach them about this. And why not teach others and help them to change their lifestyle towards a balanced and healthy way of living. As I have always been active myself, and interested in life and health, the step towards doing something with that seems to make sense."

The Green Beaver body care products are Certified Organic. I have been using them myself and for my children, wonderful products!

For me the choice between chemicals and no chemicals is an easy one. The products are being sold in 6000 health stores (like Whole Foods) all over the US, Canada, Hong Kong and now also in the Caribbean. People don't realize that our skin is our biggest organ, and everything you put on it ends up in your body. The chemicals in 'normal' body care products can do a lot of harm; they have been linked to cancer, cause

damage to the brain, reproductive system and other organs.

The Green Beaver products are available at Van Der Tweel supermarket or at InMotion. The orange and apple fluoride-free organic toothpastes are great for kids. They have shampoos, conditioners, body wash, body lotion, deodorants, sunscreen lotion, facial products like green tea moisturizer, grapefruit cleanser and grapefruit scrub - favorites of mine! We also have kids' products and (deet free) insect repellent available at InMotion and can be ordered by email or phone, and I will even deliver them in person. For more info take a look at the [website www.inmotionliving.com](http://www.inmotionliving.com)."



Living Fuel Products

The products from Living Fuel are one the world's best super food products. Marieke's advice is that everyone -adults and children- use them as part of their daily routine. Most of the foods in the supermarket these days are processed, genetically modified, or sprayed with so many herbicides and pesticides that they don't provide you with the nutrients you need. Our meats (unless organic, grass fed) are full of antibiotics and growth hormones because that's what they feed the animals. It all ends up in our bodies. Even (multi) vitamin supplements don't do enough. The products from Living Fuel replace supplements and do more, can be used to replace a meal, they give you energy, can help lose weight, are perfect for vegetarians as most of the products contain protein. It can be used for sports, by children, even infants. The products are gluten free and some are hypo allergenic. You can use them in smoothies or just mixed with water. Living Fuel provides you with all the building blocks your body needs. They have delicious energy bars with Coconut, Cacao and Chia seeds in it, omega 3 supplements. "I have been using it myself for half a year now, and I feel great," says Marieke. Living Fuel is available at BonFysio/BonBida Spa and at InMotion [www.inmotionliving.com](http://www.inmotionliving.com). ■

Press release/ G.D.



# Fishing Line Cleanup



Some 19 volunteers joined the clean up dive on Sunday February 10. A huge bucket overflowing with nylon line, lead and hooks was the result of the one hour recovery dive.

Bonaire/Kralendijk – On Sunday, February 10, a bunch of 19 line fishers met each other at the Dive Inn, a location of Dive Friends Bonaire. This day's goal was fishing for some line under the Town Pier. During the briefing, held by Richard, a dive instructor of Dive Friends Bonaire, it appeared that there had to be a last minute change of plans. A huge cargo vessel wanted to dock at Bonaire and the two tug boats were almost ready for take off which resulted in the Town Pier being a no go area for divers because of the dangerous effects produced by the huge propellers of the two tug boats. So an alternative location was found at the South Pier.

The underwater world around and beneath the South Pier had been the target of the volunteers of the Fishing Line Project before but there was still a load of fishing line, hooks and lead to recover. All line fishers were prepared and air tanks were full. Then, after various contacts with the harbor officials, the sea around the Town Pier was free for diving again as the two tug boats had left. So all 19 volunteers plunged in after being heated up waiting and wearing their heavy diving gear.

It takes most divers about one hour to do their underwater job. One hour is the limit and deep dives are not allowed since this line recovery dive is a no-decompression dive. STCB, the organizers of the Fishing Line Project and, last but not least, the bunch of experienced divers do not want to take any risk at any time.

It takes experienced divers to do the job as most of the work is done in a more or less upside down diving position and there is always the problem of changing weight to deal with as the bag, filled with lines, hooks and lead, becomes heavier and heavier. It is also difficult because the divers have to decide every time whether they have to remove the line or leave the line on the coral since it appears to be partly overgrown. In fact the removal of fishing line is a very delicate procedure. The job has to be done since turtles can get tangled in the lines, and as turtles have lungs they have to reach the surface of the water every now and then. It is a horrible thing to discover a turtle that has passed away and started disintegrating because of being snared by a nylon line. Drowned because of a lack of air and oxygen.

After the one-hour dive STCB supplied light refreshments for the divers at the Dive Inn location. The result of the dive was a huge bucket, overfilled with useless line. Thank you, Dive Friends Bonaire for sponsoring this project at the location and free air for the divers. Thank you, volunteers, for your time and energy. Thank you STCB, on behalf of the turtles!

The Fishing Line Project is being run by STCB in partnership with the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance and is working towards freeing our coral reefs from fishing debris which can entrap our endangered sea turtles. The next clean up dive is on Sunday March 10. Please write this in your diary. For more information about the Fishing Line Project clean up dives and the Turtle Conservation Bonaire you can surf to [program.assistant@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:program.assistant@bonaireturtles.org) ■  
Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

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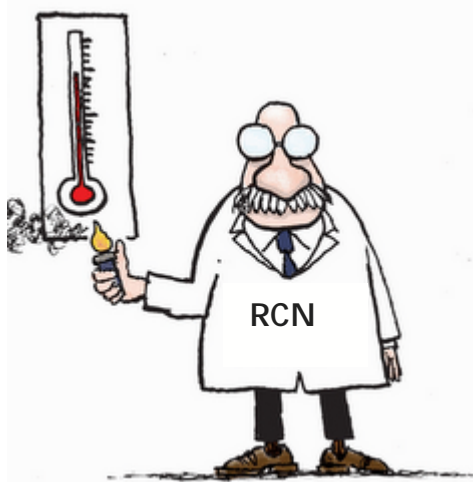
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Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of *The Reporter*

## TWO LETTERS DISCUSSING THE "OVERWINTERING" PROBLEM



### FROM AN "OVERWINTERER"

Dear Editor:

Bonaire is fortunate to attract many long-term visitors who are neither tourists nor workers, nor passing officials - people who come to Bonaire for periods of months to enjoy the climate and the quiet, and who greatly appreciate the island and its culture. In the parlance of the RCN they are described as "overwinterers."

Many "overwinterers" own houses or apartments on the island. They have brought large amounts of capital to Bonaire to make these purchases, and they also provide a significant and ongoing economic benefit to the island. As owners of second houses they pay a high rate of property tax. They provide work to plumbers, painters, carpenters, cleaning services, marinas and so on. They eat in the restaurants and patronize the local retailers. They buy groceries and gasoline and insurance for their cars and houses. All this money is income to the Bonaire economy from off the island. It would be very interesting to know how much overwinterers contribute to Bonaire's economy in comparison to the amounts spent by tourists, cruise ship passengers and "full-time" residents. Unfortunately, there don't seem to be any publicly available figures. They likely make a very significant impact.

As Bonaire settles into its new arrangements with The Netherlands it appears that the immigration rules applied to these long term visitors are not serving the needs of Bonaire very well. People who have made the financial and personal commitment to the island required to buy property desire the freedom to enjoy that property in a reasonable way and at their convenience.

At present "overwinterers" not from the Netherlands may stay in Bonaire for three months, and may extend this to a maximum six month visit in any year, according to the RCN website. The cost of the extension is several hundred dollars, and it is necessary to have documentation of good behaviour, bank statements, and a number of other documents that must be assembled in the home country, not without difficulty, and subject to a short expiry date. The problem

is that the extension lapses as soon as the visitor leaves, so the whole process must be repeated every year.

There are additional expenses too - airlines will sell only return tickets for less than three months without presentation of a longer visa. Since the application for extension must be made in Bonaire, the visitor must change his return flights, incurring extra fees.

While the immigration rules do provide property ownership as one basis for requesting an extension of visit, it appears that the basic limitations still apply. It is hard to justify owning property that is not conveniently available to you for more than three months per year. Some people have informed me of their intention to sell and leave because of this inconvenience, and no doubt others have already done so.

It should be possible to grant foreigners who own second homes on Bonaire a permanent visa that would allow them to stay for up to six months without having to re-apply every year. For people who own property, six month visit limits are common between many countries. The "overwinterer" rules in Bonaire are chasing income and economic activity away from the island. Bonaire should urgently reconsider these rules before more damage is done.

We would like to hear from any "overwinterers" with similar concerns. If there are enough people who share this issue, perhaps our voices can be heard.

I can be reached at [ianinbc@shaw.ca](mailto:ianinbc@shaw.ca)

*Ian MacDonald*

### FROM A REALTOR

Dear Editor:

As a full time resident and small business owner, my concerns mirror those of Ian, and other Bonaire visitors who I know. I own a business on Bonaire and my income and livelihoods depend on Bonaire's full time residents, along with our tourists, part time residents and even sailing cruisers.

Since 10-10-10 the island seems to be actively making it more difficult for "long term tourists" and part time visitors to stay on Bonaire for more than 90 days in a calendar year. Many of those visitors own real estate here, and when they visit the island one of the things they do is spend money, something which Bonaire sorely needs.

Why are the current immigration rules making it so difficult for people who like to visit Bonaire for more than three months and up to six months in any calendar year? The RCN and Immigration Departments should be able to simplify our immigration rules and allow people to stay on Bonaire up to six months per calendar year WITHOUT a visa as long as they are law abiding and not using any public services that are reserved for residents?

Alternatively, the immigration rules can be changed to provide property owners with some sort of investor visa which allows them to stay on Bonaire up to six months per year AT THEIR discretion, as long as they own real estate? Property owners should not have to reapply every year for permission to stay an extra 90 days.

Like Ian, I would like to hear from any property owners or visitors with similar concerns. If the 90 day limit is making it more difficult for you to stay on Bonaire as long as you would like, I'd like to hear from you. If there are enough of us, I will bring this to the Immigration Office of the RCN, and perhaps we can change the current rules.

Bonaire needs all of the visitors we can get, and we should roll out the "welcome mat" and make it easier, not harder for peo-

ple to stay on Bonaire for an extended period of time.

I can be reached at [bob@bonairehomes.com](mailto:bob@bonairehomes.com)

*Bob Bartkoski*  
*RE/MAX Paradise Homes*

### In an addendum to the first letter Mr. MacDonald wrote:

We'd be happy to pay an annual surcharge on our *vastgoedbelasting* (non-resident and business property tax) equal to the charge RCN Immigration now makes for handling the extension applications for overwinterers provided that:

1. The money went to alleviating poverty rather than bureaucratic paper shuffling.
2. Property holders electing to pay the surcharge could come and go for a total of six months, like Netherlands citizens, without further paper handling. Easily done by a stamp in the passport and a list at the immigration desk at the airport.

### Correction: BHM NOT BHG

Dear Editor,:

I would like to call your attention to an error in the article welcoming the new Director of TCB. You refer to BHG as a government body. Actually, BHG is the ersatz hotel group that pretends to represent the HORECA sector under the name Bonaire Hospitality Group. What you meant was BHM, the Bonaire Holding Maatschappij n.v. It is the holding company that has oversight for TCB, TELBO WEB and SELIBON. In order not to mislead or give any official government recognition to BHG, please publish this correction.

*Michael Gaynor*

Sorry for the mistake. We did get it right in the issue previous to that one. Ed.

### HOW TO BORROW MONEY INTEREST FREE ON BONAIRE FOR SIX MONTHS

Dear Editor:

It's so simple; I am ashamed of myself for being sucked into CUROIL'S scheme to use my hard earned cash for up to six months without paying me interest! All one need do is to sell a product, say 100 pound cylinders of LP Gas. The rip off begins when the supplier demands payment in advance for some unknown future delivery date. Presently it is running right around six months!

A little bit of a history lesson here will help to gain some insight. First of all, apparently there is a lot of money due the refinery in Curacao owed by CUROIL. What better way to satisfy your creditors than to borrow money interest-free for six months. Just think about the cash flow as folks run out of gas daily and have to cough up the cash before they will complete the delivery order. By paying far ahead, CUROIL's debt is reduced and does not look so bad on the aging to the bookkeeper and the accounting dept. Can we all say Ponzi scheme!

The next issue is why do private homes have to wait six months but eateries have pretty much delivery on demand? Maybe it has something to do with the amount you pay. There is a commercial rate and a residential rate. Of course you already probably figured out that the restaurants pay top dollar so it stands to reason that CUROIL will bend over backwards to accommodate them. The poor homeowner will just have to settle for cold *kabritu stoba* and rubbery *funchi*!

There are some solutions at hand if the government will cooperate with the private sector. I have heard rumblings about some folks were "busy" with a plan but the old "we are busy with it" won't put LP in my tank to heat my porridge! Competition breeds excellence so let's grab the proverbial bulls by the horns and get moving!

Phase 1 is to import two Bob Tail 3000-gallon LP delivery trucks. The used market is around \$15,000 each. They can be filled in Curacao or Aruba. Each truck can fill 125, 100 lb or 550, 20 lb cylinders. The trucks can be stationed at a central location or even make home deliveries.

Phase 2 is the long term solution. Construct an LP filling station where a much larger storage tank can be located and then continue using our antiquated system of dragging the bottles back and forth, but at least they can be filled on island. In the case of the restaurants they will be able to have large capacity tanks that can be serviced by the delivery trucks.

Phase 3. Raise our collective voices and stop being held hostage by an inefficient system. The money saved alone in handling should be more than enough to make up for the cost of the trucks for Phase 1 of the project. Once the business shows a positive cash flow, the permanent location can be constructed. In the interim, development funds can be sought through the European Union, World Bank, UN, and if the BES Islands can manage to achieve observer status in CARICOM, there are numerous funding opportunities for Caribbean countries.

*Michael Gaynor*

### THE ONLY WAY TO FLY (TO CURACAO)

Dear Editor:

Divi Divi Airlines- or as we call it, Bai Bini Airlines - has been operating between Bonaire and Curaçao since 2001. And I cannot say that it has ever been late. Always on time airline is how we call it.

The ground crew in Bonaire is like family, they have a chat with you, ask you how your mom and dad are doing. They always try to accommodate us, especially in times of need, when we are compelled to be in Curaçao at a certain date.

I can carry my bag to the plane, and they lift it in. And when I get to Curaçao, they lift it out. I can't imagine having to stand at the luggage conveyor waiting for my suitcase...

Long before the tax had been included in most tickets Divi was already doing this, I did not have to stand in line to pay my tax in Bonaire. Where in the world can you fly within half an hour and only pay \$110 round trip, and this only now since they upped the departure tax in Curaçao recently!

Check in 45 minutes before the flight takes off and I can count on being in Curaçao within half an hour.

Weeks ago one pilot gave us a tour all along the west side of Curaçao. Spectacular weather made the trip very pleasant.

On the way back I was fortunate to have the same pilot who suggested we buckle up quick, as he knew there were feeding whales between Bonaire and Curaçao. He flew until he spotted them, circled a couple of times, and made this trip even more special!

The pilots will duck for clouds, to avoid an uncomfortable bumpy ride, and go around a rain storm. Fly Divi Divi Airlines, you'll never fly with another airline to Curaçao again!

Thank you, Divi Divi crew, for making traveling a pleasant event!

*Christie Dovale*





*Bodies Beautiful*



*Girlfriends*



*Spectacular Siomara*

# Karnaval '13



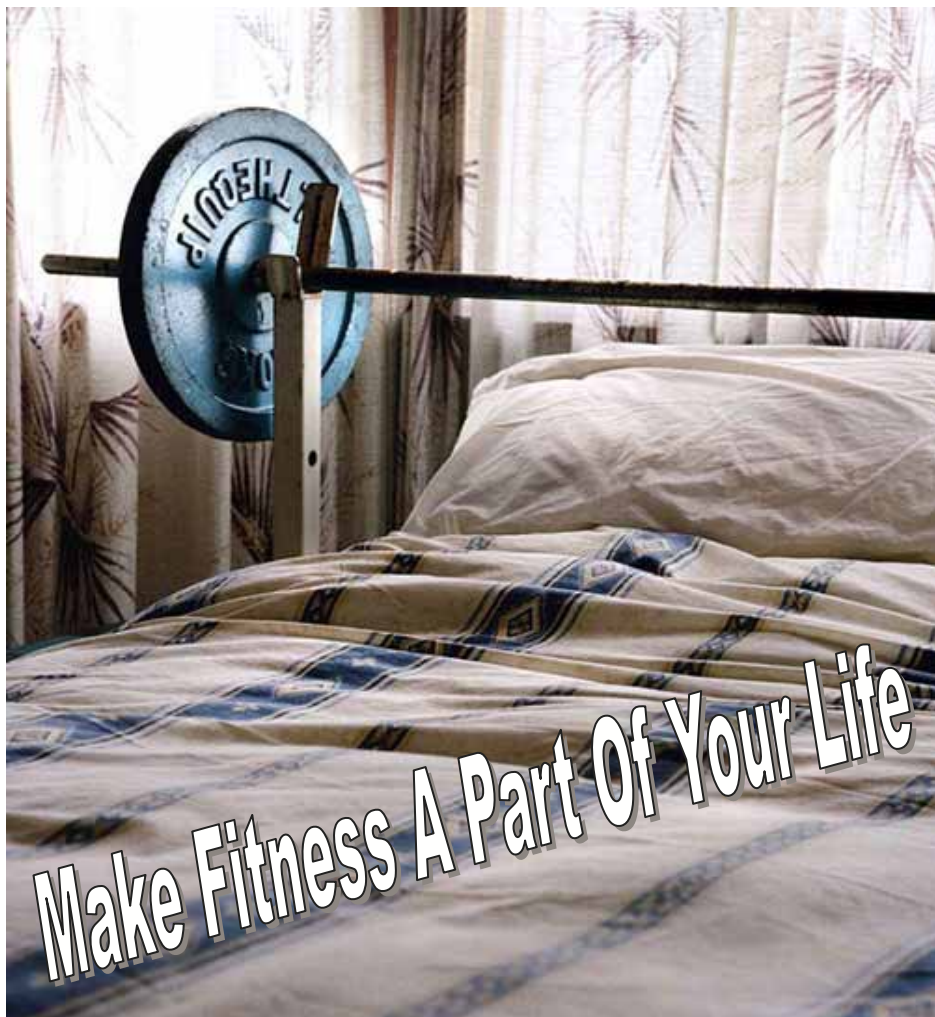
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Nolly

# Karnaval '13



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Kaya Grandi 32B, down a bit in the alley  
in between Best Pearls and Gio's Ice  
Parlor

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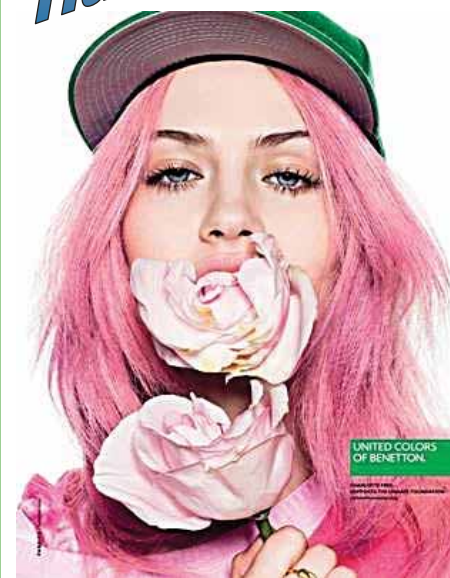
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# Useful Gadgets

## New Column!

This is a new column written by J@n Brouwer about useful gadgets for sale on Bonaire. This is the first article in a row of 100.

Bonaire/Kralendijk – Just recently De Free-wieler bike shop in Playa received some very useful gadgets for your bicycle, moped, motorcycle, baby stroller or wheelchair. One of them is the so called Third Eye Mirror, produced by

Third Eye Products, California. Third Eye Mirror is a registered trademark of Bicycle Safety Incorporation USA.

The cute, little, handy Third Eye Bar End Mirror attaches to the end of the handle bar of your vehicle. It has a three-inch convex mirror made of real glass. It won't scratch or get dull with age. It will not vibrate loose. It does not interfere with your hands or arms. The convex mirror solves the problem of an angle of view but ends up with a smaller image. At least now you can see who or what is behind you.

It is very easy to install the bar end mirror. Just remove the tape plug or cut a hole in the end of the hand grip. Apart from a knife no special tools are needed as the mirror comes with a variety of



Bar-end mirror appears to be a useful gadget

shims, a bolt and a square nut. Just insert the mirror and turn it clockwise to tighten it. A nice and very useful device. No trembling, a clear view, a pleasure to use!

This mirror was developed by Malcolm Brown after a friend of his died from being hit by a car. All products of Third Eye Products are assembled and shipped at a so called sheltered workshop where handicapped people can work in a structured environment. The bar end mirror is for sale for a humble \$15.35 at De Free-wieler's, the blue building along the Kaya Grandi in Playa. Visit for more information: [www.thirdeyemirrors.com](http://www.thirdeyemirrors.com) and [www.bonairefreewieler.com](http://www.bonairefreewieler.com) and read more about useful gadgets. ■ J@n Brouwer

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter at CIUDAD PERDIDA the "Lost City" somewhere in the north of Colombia



“We went there.. and it was really tough! Three days walking in the Colombian wilderness across steep muddy tracks, crossing wild water streams sleeping in hammocks, carrying our stuff on our back!

We even found a cocaine factory in the jungle, we got lost but we found our way again- an adventure it was!

At the end we found the ruins of an ancient city, lost and forgotten. There it was, where we had to picture ourselves with *The Reporter* before we went back the same way ...

It was definitely worth the journey .. every step!

In the picture are Astrid van Tent and her colleague, Joost van Gaalen. Astrid lived on Bonaire several years ago but has moved to Curacao, but Joost is still living and enjoying Bonaire till this very moment!” ■

## Picture Yourself 2012 Winner

Bonaire resident JP Richau brought a copy of *The Reporter* with him when he attended the Arirang mass Games in Pyongyang, North Korea's May Day Stadium, got his photo taken, submitted it and won the grand prize in *The Reporter's* Picture Yourself with *The Reporter* contest-a large Pasa Bon Pizza.

He received it last week from Reporter Editor Laura DeSalvo. Congratulations, JP. ■

### Winning Photo

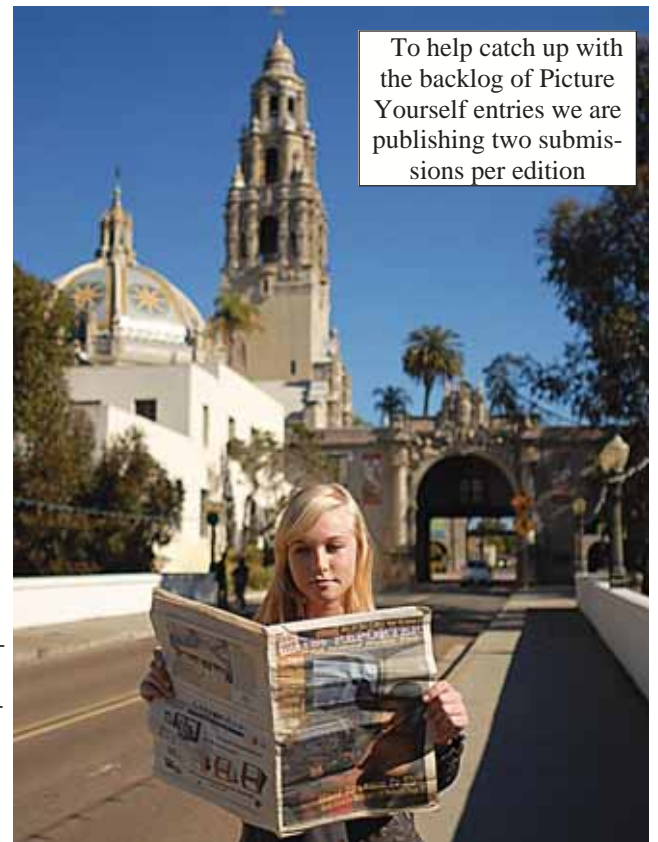


JP Richau

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

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter In San Diego, California, USA

Last year the van Erp family spent about seven weeks RV-ing through beautiful California. Their last stop was San Diego and based on a recommendation visited the Balboa Park. Beautiful, educational and impressive! Gerard van Erp writes, “And of course we took *The Bonaire Reporter* with us. This is daughter Laura reading *The Reporter*. In the background the San Diego museum of man, one of the most well known buildings of San Diego. The current exhibition was instruments of torture...with interesting tools from Italy and...of course Germany....” ■



To help catch up with the backlog of Picture Yourself entries we are publishing two submissions per edition

### WE NEED PHOTOS!

For Picture Yourself in the *Bonaire Reporter*

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





On the 16<sup>th</sup> of February the Voice of Bonaire re-started at Caribbean Chillout. Anyone on Bonaire with a *Sedula* (Bonaire ID Card) could participate in this competition. There were a LOT of talented people!

We talked with Michelle Schuijling, one of the participants who we were told has a lovely voice. We checked out some videos of her on YouTube and were very impressed. Check them out yourself on YouTube; search for "Missyelle."

**Michelle, when did you start singing?**

I have been singing my whole life, but I was always afraid to sing for people, except during my college time with my friends on a Friday karaoke night with a drink. Ha, ha!

One friend of mine was a bass player and asked me to join his band, but I never dared to. But three years later, he asked me again to



Michelle Schuijling - "Missyelle".

sing background. That was less scary for me because I was not really in the spotlight. That's how it started. Then, one and a half years later the same bass player wanted to start a new rockabilly band. I decided to take that opportunity (even though I didn't know anything about that genre), and I liked it very much.

Coming to Bonaire last October has opened so many more opportunities. I was always complaining that I wanted to sing covers, and now, here I am, drowning in cover songs. Jeroen was the first person who dragged me onto the stage (thanks to my mum), and now I've had performances at Jibe City, City Café, Spice Beach, Plaza Casino,

and so on....

**Why are you participating?**

At first people around me were encouraging me to join the Voice of Bonaire. But I didn't have my *Sedula* yet (You know how long that can take here on Bonaire). Just in time I received my *Sedula* and I filled in the online form. I thought, well, WHY NOT? Then I heard that the winner gets a free trip to Holland to participate the Voice Of Holland! It would be great having that opportunity and also to visit my family and friends whom I miss very much! So now I really want to win this! And that will be hard, because I've heard that there's going to lots of good talent, including many names already well known on the island. I will try to do my best, and give it all I have.

**When and where will we see you on stage?**

The Voice of Bonaire Event is at the Caribbean Chill Out. You will see me singing in my first round on Saturday, the 23rd of February.

**What will you sing?**

Hopefully "*de sterren van de hemel!*" No, that's not the name of a Dutch song. It's a Dutch expression - a loose translation might be to sing like a heavenly angel. Ha, ha!

■ G.D./Press release

# Get Fit!



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Bon Bida began a new Les Mills series of classes last week that will improve your strength (Body Pump), overall fitness (Body Balance) and aerobic health (RPM-Spinning). Your body will feel real positive results in a short time. Classes are held at convenient times during the day and evening. See ad on page 12. ■ G.D.



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- Sand Dollar
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- Nikiboko
- Nort di Salinja
- Amboina
- Republiek
- Mexico (north + south)
- Captain Don's Habitat
- Antrio

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**For Sale- Potter's Kick Wheel \$50**  
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**8 ft billiard pool table** with 3-piece slate, blue color felt, leather pockets, very good condition, comes with ping-pong top and accessories. \$2000 or best offer. Buyer must disassemble and move. 796-7141 or 787-0890

**CUT YOUR RENT IN HALF.** Need a roommate? Lady, 51 seeking a place to live on Bonaire and to share costs. [islandgirlsuzy@gmail.com](mailto:islandgirlsuzy@gmail.com)

**FOR SALE Mac mini, Electronics, regulator, golf set, race bike, CO2 4,5mm air pistol, Makita drill, surf-board, etc.** This and much more sold very affordable through our online porch sale. [www.onlineporchsale.com](http://www.onlineporchsale.com)

**TE KOOP Monitor, blender, Bose boxen, Makita cirkelzaag, koperen pannen, keukentrap, etc.**  
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**For sale: one Linksys router, \$ 40,-, ink cartridges black + color for hp printer nr. 350 xl + 351xl each for \$ 15, trafo 600, \$ 50,- Phone 717-2278**

**BIG PORCH SALE - Saturday, March 2 & Sunday, March 3-** from two families, Kaya Zephyr 2 White house right behind Yacht club Apartments **from 10AM till 5PM**

**Looking for a full time or two part time positions** in a shop or supermarket, light administration work in an office, cleaning homes+ **an apartment to rent** beginning March for around \$500.00 a month, or more if some of the utilities are included. Sharing OK so if someone needs a flatmate at [islandgirlsuzy@gmail.com](mailto:islandgirlsuzy@gmail.com)

**Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides**

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 22		03:03 0.03 ft	10:04 0.76 ft	18:43 -0.05 ft	23:12 0.14 ft	6:54	18:44
Sat 23		03:40 0.06 ft	10:44 0.71 ft	19:22 -0.03 ft		6:53	18:44
Sun 24	00:08 0.16 ft	04:33 0.10 ft	11:27 0.64 ft	19:57 -0.01 ft		6:53	18:44
Mon 25	01:04 0.22 ft	05:53 0.14 ft	12:17 0.56 ft	20:26 0.01 ft	Full Moon	6:53	18:44
Tue 26	01:53 0.30 ft	07:34 0.15 ft	13:15 0.47 ft	20:53 0.02 ft		6:52	18:44
Wed 27	02:37 0.40 ft	09:17 0.12 ft	14:21 0.39 ft	21:20 0.02 ft		6:52	18:44
Thu 28	03:20 0.52 ft	10:41 0.05 ft	15:28 0.32 ft	21:50 0.01 ft		6:51	18:44
Fri 01	04:02 0.64 ft	11:49 -0.03 ft	16:30 0.27 ft	22:26 -0.01 ft		6:51	18:45
Sat 02	04:46 0.76 ft	12:45 -0.11 ft	17:26 0.24 ft	23:06 -0.04 ft		6:50	18:45
Sun 03	05:31 0.86 ft	13:36 -0.18 ft	18:18 0.22 ft	23:51 -0.07 ft		6:49	18:45
Mon 04	06:18 0.94 ft	14:24 -0.22 ft	19:08 0.22 ft		L Quarter	6:49	18:45
Tue 05		00:39 -0.09 ft	07:05 0.98 ft	15:11 -0.24 ft	19:57 0.23 ft	6:48	18:45
Wed 06		01:30 -0.10 ft	07:54 0.98 ft	15:58 -0.24 ft	20:48 0.25 ft	6:48	18:45
Thu 07		02:24 -0.09 ft	08:44 0.94 ft	16:44 -0.22 ft	21:41 0.28 ft	6:47	18:45
Fri 08		03:23 -0.06 ft	09:36 0.86 ft	17:31 -0.19 ft	22:37 0.32 ft	6:47	18:45

**Real Estate, Rentals, etc...**

**Vacation? Rent our house** with 2 porches and 3 bedrooms. \$260 per week, excluding WEB (water/power). Available from 2 to 23 February. Mail to [belnemzuid@live.nl](mailto:belnemzuid@live.nl)

**Looking to rent in March 2013** during the period of the 1st till 31st, a house or apartment in Bonaire with 2 bedrooms, kitchen and internet DSL connection. Home exchange with our house on Aruba, also possible. Contact and information [checkpointcolor@hotmail.com](mailto:checkpointcolor@hotmail.com) or cel: +297 592-8446

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**Sudoku Puzzle**

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

**Sudoku Solution**

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



# Guest Editorial

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

## Holiday Destination Bonaire

It was a cold and dreary dark day in January, one of those days in The Netherlands with a leaden gray sky and pelting rain. Whilst visiting our daughter and grandson in the city of Utrecht we were keen for some entertainment and decided on the holiday trade fair at the *Utrechtse Jaar-beurshallen* (convention center). Underneath those roofs the sun would likely be shining, with inviting sun bathing destinations competing for the favor of the wallet of those who still have something to spend.

A holiday trade fair is a fairyland and a photo album rolled into one. You walk past those places that you have already visited and recollect memories. But there are also presentations of those things that you have always wanted to do. Board a tea-clipper for a circumnavigation of the globe. Trek through Africa with a 4-wheel drive camper or tour the United States on a Harley Davidson motorcycle. Vacations for individualists or small groups are numerous and urgently on offer: North- and/or South Pole travel, culinary vacations in France, rafting in Canada, sailing along the Cape Verdean Islands, art holidays to Rome, Vienna or Saint Petersburg. One can also opt for hanging out for a few weeks on a sunny beach, although most of those destinations round up the bulk of their business from the internet and travel agencies. Googling for beach holidays will generate 300 million hits to choose from. This sheer number explains why some people still turn to travel agencies to have them sift out the right "total package:" a hotel with a pool, a beach, daily menus and a bar, with or without a colored wristband indicating your service level.

We were more interested in the remote locations and curious to see whether we would find something inspiring to do. We passed the stands of Chile, Argentina and Brazil. We flopped down in the stand of Surinam and imagined ourselves to be in a canoe on the Surinam River on our way to Langetabbetje, stopping for tea at one of the plantations along the way.

And then we found ourselves in the Caribbean Pavilion where all the countries and islands from the Caribbean tried to show themselves at their best.

Curacao with a large stand, some relaxed Antillean music added into the decor and friendly ladies and gentlemen who showed us the way to a delightful holiday on the island.

Next to that the stand of Aruba. Just as exuberant and elaborate with the possibility of taking a rest and having an invigorating drink. Lots of resorts with some great package deals. This was not for us so we quickly moved on.

Alongside the colorful stand of Jamaica was the equally well groomed and colorful presentation of Saba, and next to that the stand of St. Eustatius. The friendly Antillean hosts told us something about the islands and provided us with some brochures.



TCB-Europe awarded *The Pink Egg for the top 2012 tourism initiative to the Sky Health Club and the Ministry of EL & I received the Promotional price for the support it has given to the tourism marketing of Bonaire at the Utrecht Holiday Fair.* TCB Europe photo

One of the brochures read: "Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius, the BES islands for a beautiful vacation."

### But where was Bonaire?

A hundred meters down the aisle, on a corner we found the stand of Bonaire, maybe six square meters in size. Sorobon Resort, Sky Health and TCB shared the space. The present Caribbean Dutchmen handed out flyers. No tempting pictures or captivating texts for an adventurous dive or windsurfing holiday, and no attention for the even more exciting kite surfing. No sign of the daily connection of the KLM or the flights made by Arke. And where was the information about the nature, the unspoiled character, the tranquility and the silence (apart from the swishing of the sea) of the island? On display was an offer for an all-in at Sorobon and a health trip by the SkyHealth Club.

A moderately showy and powerful presentation of the unique properties of our island was completely absent. Was it a case of a lack of funds to create a noteworthy presentation or was it just a lack of imagination?

It is often stated that tourism of the well heeled kind is essential to the economy of Bonaire. With this in mind I wonder what impression the visitors of the Holiday Fair had of our island. And whether they would be enticed to come and pay us a visit. I do not think that the latter is very probable based on what I saw that day in January.

So I left the fair with feelings of ambiguity. What a wasted opportunity for my island. Is there really no other way to go about this? Why not team up with those nice people from Saba and St. Eustatius? Why was there no representation of our own islanders and of the friendliness and tranquility Bonaire has to offer? Why hasn't someone dumped a cube of sand on those six square meters with two beach-chairs on top, played a video of diving and surfing and served a nip of *Cadushi di Boneiru*. It wouldn't have taken more to get passers-by in the mood.

I was disappointed but secretly also a little bit pleased. If this is how we present ourselves I need not worry my island will be trampled by hordes of tourists. Long live the quiet and unspoiled nature of our island. I hope to enjoy it for a long time to come. ■ *Guus Geritsen*



## Bonairean Humor

From the *Papiamentu language newspaper èxtra*

A guy arrives home after one too many drinks and his wife is not very happy. "Why did you come home a little drunk?" she says. He says: "It's not my fault. I ran out of money so I couldn't come home totally drunk."

Teacher: Buchi I hope I don't find out that you copied from anybody.  
Buchi: I hope the same thing!

A guy arrives home drunk and covered with lipstick stains. His wife asks: "What happened to you, why are you all covered in lipstick?" The guy says: "If I tell you, you won't believe me. I had a fight with a clown."

An old man wanted to have a "pleasant" moment and said to his old wife: Let's go to the bedroom. The old woman told him: Only with protection. The man said: You think at your age something will stick?  
She says: Yes, I'm afraid of the salmonella stuck in those old balls that you carry around with you.

A police officer stops a vehicle and notices that the driver is really drunk. The officer says: You can barely walk! The driver says: I know, that's why I came by car.

A guy was really depressed and his friend asked him "What is happening with you?" The guy says: "I almost ran over my mother in law with my car." Friend says:

"What was the problem, did the brakes fail?" The guy says "No, the accelerator!"

A married couple was driving and having a serious disagreement. All of a sudden they passed by a kunuku and saw a couple of pigs. The husband says: Is that your family? The wife says: Yes, those are my in-laws.

A new teacher came to give a psychology course to Buchi's class. The teacher stood up and said: All those who think they are an idiot stand up. No one stood up. After a couple of seconds, Buchi stood up. The teacher said: Buchi, do you think you are an idiot? Buchi said: No, teacher, I stood up because I felt sorry for you that you were the only one standing.


A man was talking with his pastor. "Pastor, I always enjoy giving more than I receive." The pastor told him: "Very good, my son. What do you do for a living?" The man answered: "I'm a boxer."

### Bonaire in 2015:

A man went to shop at the butcher shop. "Can I please have one dollar's worth of ham?" "Sure you can" said the butcher, "go ahead and take this knife and smell it." ■




Translated by Jane Madden-Disko






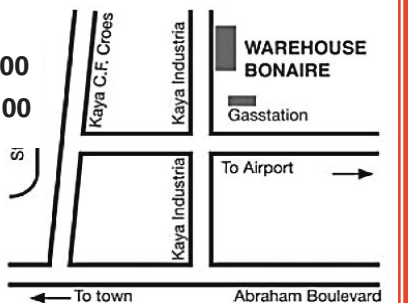
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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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



## AUTOMOBILE DEALER

Check out AutoCity Bonaire for the widest selection of new car brands on Bonaire including Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru. Used cars too. Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

## BANK

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

## BARS

**Zazu Bar at the Harbour Village Marina** is all you expect in a great bar. Super bartender, quality drinks and friendly service. Plus Bonaire's only Rum Bar— over 50 types!

## BEAUTY PARLOR

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

## CARS AND BIKES

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

## CASINO

**The Coral Casino** at the Plaza Resort has it all— Blackjack, Roulette, Caribbean Stud, over 100 slots. Always specials and raffles. Free cab ride from your hotel.

## DENTURE REPAIR

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

## WANT A LISTING IN THIS DIRECTORY?

It's **still free** for regular advertisers in *The Reporter*. Call Laura at 786-6518 for more details.

## ON and IN the WATER

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

**Carib Inn** is Bonaire's third oldest Dive Shop, open since 1980, is a 10-room resort tailoring to small-scale resort lovers. Well stocked scuba store, best prices on dive equipment. The place where others take their gear for repair.

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

## UNDERWATER VIDEO

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

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Off Kaya Industria, behind Lucky Supermarket.

## HOME CARE

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

## OPTICIAN

**Buena Vista Optics** is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value

## PHOTOGRAPHER

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

## REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

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



## RESTAURANTS

**Bistro de Paris**— Waterfront location at the Harbour Village Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance. Airco if you want it.

**La Blandra at The Harbour Village Resort** offers Bonaire's most spectacular setting. Superb cuisine, top notch service. Eat on the deck or with your feet in the sand.

**Pasa Bon Pizza**—Bonaire's quality pizza-Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

## RETAIL

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

**Bona Dea** is Bonaire's newest Caribbean life style shop featuring good taste gifts, apparel, shoes, accessories and home décor

## SECURITY

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

## STORAGE

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



## SHIPPING

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



## SPAS/GYM/HEALTH

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



## SUPERMARKETS

### TOP Supermarket—

Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Culti-mara location. Featuring a complete selection including fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.



**Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria**—Big air conditioned market with a friendly staff, the largest selection and lowest prices on the island. They stock what you need.



## MADE ON BONAIRE

**Semper Kontentu goat cheese.** Ask for it at restaurants and look for it in the markets. Lovingly handmade. Mugs available.

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with an easy on/off built-in ramp at Bonaire Nautico (It Rains Fishes Restaurant)

**A Directory listing is free for regular advertisers in *The Reporter***  
Call Laura at 786-6518 for information

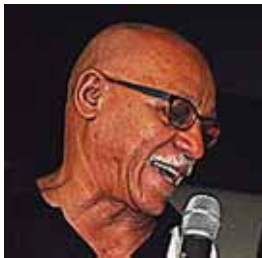


*Flotsam (Continued from page 2)*

Aruba migrated to The Netherlands in 2012. This is fewer than the 4,200 people who moved to The Netherlands in 2011. However, 3,500 persons from the Dutch Caribbean left The Netherlands in 2012, which is higher than the 3,100 persons in 2011. Overall the number of immigrants from the largest immigrant countries, which are Turkey, Morocco, Suriname and the former Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, continued to decrease in 2012.

► **WILLEMSTAD--The management of St. Elisabeth Hospital was blamed for not providing a vital part of the treatment of decompression sickness following the diving accident on May 19 last year, which resulted in the death of two individuals.** Curacao Inspector of Health Jan Huurman concluded. Although the pair were flown to Bonaire it was too late to save their lives. "St. Elisabeth had a functioning pressure tank in the past, but due to lack of maintenance and in-service training the treatments were discontinued," Huurman explained. The old pressure tank was often used when it was still operational. The current, modern pressure tank at the hospital is not in use owing to complicated political and legal developments.

► **Arthur Sealy is the new chairman of MiVaBo,** the foundation that lobbies for a more modern disability policy in Bonaire. He follows Hetty Burgos, who earlier this month had to resign for health reasons.



Arthur was born and raised Bonairean, a man with much knowledge and many skills. Also he has a large network, which is what a lobbying organization such as MiVaBo needs, said Secretary Oswald Melcherts. In 2012 Sealy first became involved in MiVaBo when he was chairman of the conference, "Disability Policy in Bonaire." Following this conference, the government has made great progress in the formation and implementation of disability policies.

► **Every first Saturday of the month there is a Farmers' Market at Kriabon** on Kaya Nikiboko north, next to the Aquamarine School. But this month, on Saturday, March 2, there will be a very special Market. Not only will there be delicious homemade products, fruits, vegetables, plants and trees, ecological pesticides and fertilizers, but Burnett Felida will be there to give a demonstration with his Colombian Pasa Fino horses. These Markets are becoming more and more popular and more people

are participating. It starts at 8 am until noon. Don't miss it.

► **Bonaire has two new advertisers** in this addition that merit attention from our readers.

-The first is the **La Balandra Restaurant and bar at the Harbour Village Resort.** It's designed after an antique Spanish sailing-ship giving diners the shipboard feeling being surrounded by water without the rocking motion of sailing at sea. In short, the setting is spectacular and cannot be compared with anywhere else on Bonaire. The gates of the Harbour Village Resort will open for you if you tell the gatekeeper you are dining at La Balandra. Many island people and visitors think that La Balandra is only for Harbour Village hotel guests. Nothing could be further from the truth, but call 717-7500 for reservations first because the restaurant may be full.

-**Need a new or used car? Visit AutoCity Bonaire,** just off the main road to the airport. To get there you have to turn onto Kaya Industria, then Kaya Finlandia. They sell all the hottest brands at very competitive prices: Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu and Subaru. It's a full service dealership, equipped with its own showroom, garage and parts department. With more than 25 units in stock, and a backup of 200 units from AutoCity Curacao, car buyers have plenty of choice. Under the same roof you will find the office of Hertz Rent a Car and Leasing. AutoCity Bonaire.

► **Rob Taal is planning to have a Caribbean FD Open Championship event after Christmas here on Bonaire.** FD stands for Flying Dutchman a former Olympic Class sailing boat. It's expected that between 20 and 40 boats from all over the world will take part. Hopefully this will be a prelude to the 2016 or 2017 Sunfish World event in Bonaire.

Help is needed to organize and conduct the races. If you can help contact Ton at the Bonaire Sailing School Association. Email -bssa.bestuur@gmail.com

► **As a "warm-up" for the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of Bonaire's Dia di Arte on July 7** at Wilhelmina Park, art exhibitions are set for March 4, April 7, May 5 and June 2 in the garden of the Sentro Chichi'Tan Museum in Rincon from 10 am - 4 pm. Local artists are invited to participate. Contact [stg.kunstencultuur@telbonet.an](mailto:stg.kunstencultuur@telbonet.an) for a spot.

► **Get ready for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Special Olympics fundraiser Walkathon** set for Sunday, March 3 at 5 am. Start to train for the 30 km. walk tracing the route of the slaves from the white slave huts to Rincon.. See page 21 for more. details and sign-up information

► **The Bonaire Reporter is on-line** at [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com). You'll be



*The Recompression Chamber Foundation (De Stichting Recompressietank Bonaire) established on January 16, 1986, celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. In the photo are members of the current board from L. to R.: Robert Smaal, Dr Dick van der Vaart (founder and dive physician), President Ruud Vermeulen, Rosalie Bierings and Yke Faber.*

► **Because it does not meet Dutch and US standards for a medical school the St. James Medical School has been required to close its doors in May.** Its loss will be a blow to the local economy, estimated to be worth as much as \$10 million annually, according to members of the Island Council. School management has advised its students that the ruling is being appealed. Students were advised to stay enrolled because they have been promised alternatives that will allow them to graduate.



The American Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates gave the St. James School of Medicine (SJSM) on Bonaire three years to meet the quality requirements of the Netherlands for recognition in the International Medical Education Directory as an institution of higher education under US law. The St. James School has failed to do this. Only students of medical schools listed in the International Medical Education Directory may participate in the US exams which, when successfully completed, lead to the degree of Medical Doctor. Since the school cannot be listed until requirements are met its graduates cannot qualify for examination. The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science says it is not its requirement, but the American Commission's that prompted concerns about the possible closure of SJSM.

Reportedly, the SJSM on Bonaire has between 300-350 resident students and that number has been growing steadily over the years. There are approximately 20 resident teachers plus administrative and managerial support staff. It is estimated that each resident here because of the School spends at least \$1,500 per month on housing, food, communication, clothing, entertainment, etc.

The Medical School itself pays monthly between \$125,000 and \$150,000 in rent, WEB, insurance, salaries, etc., representing approximately \$1.25 to \$1.5 million dollars annually. Losing the school would be a blow to the fragile island economy. (Sources RCN/OLB releases)

► **2013 vehicle registration began on February 18.** This year new license plates will be required on all motor vehicles. The rates for paying by debit card are shown below. If you pay by cash they are rounded up to the nearest dollar. According to a government press release because of logistic and security conditions **you will have to pay the tax at the central Kralendijk tax office then go to the old LTS office on J.A. Abraham Boulevard to present proof of payment and valid ID and collect your new plate.** The release apologized for the inconvenience..

Fuel	Letter	Full Year	Half Year	Plate	Sticker
Gasoline	B-V	\$189.94	\$94.97	\$8.60	\$2.25
Diesel	B-V	\$837.98	\$418.99	\$8.60	\$2.25
Gasoline	TX-AB	\$136.87	\$68.43	\$8.60	\$2.25
Diesel	TX-AB	\$209.49	\$104.74	\$8.60	\$2.25
Gasoline	BF	\$136.87	\$68.43	\$5.60	\$1.40
Diesel	Z	\$1,256.98	\$628.49	\$5.60	\$1.40

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.

Oranje Fonds  
**BONDOET**  
Remember March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

# Prison Tourism

When friends come to the island and ask what is that obnoxious yellow building in the prime real estate area of downtown I have to admit that it is indeed the JICN prison.

"In the middle of your tourist area?" they ask. "Why would anyone think this was a good idea?"

Hard pressed to come up with a great reason as to why our politicians or the "Dutch" would think this is a good idea I say, "Well, we have new policies now to collect fines and the old people can't pay their taxes because they are too high and the income is way too low. Royal Military Police, the Island Tax Department



and the Police Corps have warmed to the Island Public Prosecutor's idea that for each \$28 that someone owes they should stay in jail for a day. Of course this is a great idea for someone with no money to buy food, so maybe they put it there so the very old people, about to be arrested, will be close to their loved ones for visiting." Just thinking .... Of course I could come up with much darker scenarios but they would just be wild speculation.

I don't let them know that this is only one of the two prisons that The Netherlands has in the works for us. This would be way too much for them to absorb on one trip. ■ *Maggie Kaiser Booi.*

Editorial Note: *The JICN "room rate" of \$28 per day, all inclusive of meals, TV, fitness center, but no air conditioning, is certainly the least expensive accommodation rate on the island.*



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time in Port	# of pass.	Cruise Line
Thursday	21-Feb-13	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises
Tuesday	26-Feb-13	<i>Aida Luna</i>	1000-1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Wednesday	27-Feb-13	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Monday	4-Mar-13	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	1200-1900	2435	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	6-Mar-13	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Thursday	7-Mar-13	<i>Noordam</i>	0700-1900	1920	HAL

### CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Wednesday February 20, CIEE Research Station Bonaire presentation - 'Sea urchins: How can an animal without eyes see the light?' 7 pm – 8 pm Kaya Gobernador Debrot 26; phone 717-4140**

**Sunday, February 24- Jin Shin Jyutsu workshop** with Liz Paugoulatos. Jin Shin Jyutsu is the art of releasing tensions which are the causes for various symptoms in the body. Cost: donation for the Animal Shelter. Sponsored by Yoga Bonaire at Bonaire Basics, 10-11:30am. Tel. 786-6416

**Saturday, March 2—Farmers' Market at Kriabon**, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School. Paso Fino horses presentation, 8 am-noon.

**Sundays, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2 Dia di Arte Preview** in the garden of the Sentro Chichi'Tan Museum in Rincon from 10 am – 4 pm

**Sunday, March 3—Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon** -See page 21 for details

**Sunday, March 10—Clean up Dive**, sponsored by Dive Friends, Te. 717-2929

**March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> - BON DOET**  
More in the next edition

### 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: \$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. 786-6950

• **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 Lagoon 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 Nous 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 Wilhelmmina 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

• **AI-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.

• **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 Wilhelmmina; 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; [Marytjin@gmail.com](mailto:Marytjin@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. Debrot. 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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# Top To Top



The Schworers and friends at Klein Bonaire

A Swiss couple who is trying to raise the consciousness of climate change with a unique world-spanning awareness campaign called at Bonaire last week. They made a short stop at Budget Marine on their way through as Budget is one of the sponsors for their Caribbean travels.

Sabine and Dario Schworer, their three-year-old daughter Salina and two-year-old son Andri, are on a mission to travel the world only by the use of human power, wind power and solar power, and motivate thousands of school students to get involved with nature and have fun along the way.

Their global expedition started in Geneva on December 3, 2002, calling it a "Swiss Top To Top." Sabine and Dario climbed to the highest point of each Canton in Switzerland in 160 days, non-stop, covering in total 2,953km and 96,609 vertical meters.

The Swiss expedition was a major success, so the couple decided to take it global and "sail the seven seas to the seven summits by nature's power." Ever since then they have been sailing, cycling and climbing and have already visited over 30 nations.

From here they are heading to the Panama Canal, off to Hawaii, then up to Alaska to climb Mt Denali, the highest peak in North America. They will then traverse the Northwest Passage to New York, back to the Caribbean in around a year and a half when they hope to visit us again. Then, again through the canal and this time head south to the Antarctic to their final peak of Mt Vinson.

They estimate it will take at least three more years to complete their voyage. But speed is not what they are concerned about. They want to leave a green path and minimize their ecological footprint, making sure their message is heard.

A qualified ski and mountaineering guide, a hang gliding pilot, river rafting guide, canyoning guide, skipper and diver, Mr. Schworer is passionate about harnessing natural energy sources and preventing global warming.

Mrs. Schworer, a qualified nurse, said having her children while travelling across the globe has been a good experience. Both were born in Chile, South America.

As well as showing children that great things can be achieved in harmony with nature, the Top to Top team also organize aid such as school materials, medicine and food for people affected by climate change, as well as performing weekly clean ups, removing waste from coastal and protected nature parks. They gave a try at cleaning up Klein Bonaire but found little trash. Mr. Schworer commented that

this was quite a departure from their experience in other places and was impressed with Bonaire's sensitivity to the environment.

The sailing was perfect on their 400nm leg to Bonaire from Trinidad/Tobago. They saw dolphins and a green flash sunset on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day when the sun went down. At sundown on the third evening they tried to put into the Aves islands but it got too dark too quickly and they had to give up because of the many coral heads there and no moon. They arrived in Bonaire at 1 am in the morning so spent the rest of the time till sunrise hove-to, before looking for a mooring.

But when they got to Kralendijk they couldn't find a single free buoy and were on the verge of turning and sailing on to Curacao because anchoring is forbidden in Bonaire marine park waters. Luckily, the very last buoy, right next to the cruise ship dock, was free.

In the immigration office they heard that all the schools were closed due to the Karnaval holidays so they decided to do a clean-up on the beach of Klein Bonaire where the children had been invited to a birthday party. However, when they got to the beach they only found a pair of shoes, a lip balm and a few plastic cups. It was nice to see four big bins that had been provided by the STINAPA National Parks Foundation Bonaire.

Now it's time for you to participate as well. Send your video or PDF showcasing either your own environmental action, a climate solution you created, a good environmental example in your region to [Dario@toptotop.org](mailto:Dario@toptotop.org) and students can win a trip to join them in Switzerland for the Awards Expedition. For a video and more information go to [http://expedition.toptotop.org/archives/2013\\_01.html](http://expedition.toptotop.org/archives/2013_01.html) ■ G.D./Pam Wer-dath/Press release

Top to Top is a non-profit organization of volunteers from 28 nations, based in Switzerland. Its patron is the United Nations Environment Program, and while the organization does have some Swiss sponsors for its equipment, the crew relies mainly on the support and generosity of people across the globe donating to the expedition. Top to Top takes action focused on the chances and risks of climate change. The Top to Top objective is to connect people to nature.

Visit the Top to Top website at [www.toptotop.org](http://www.toptotop.org) to learn more about this amazing expedition. Volunteers are also welcome to join the team on certain legs of the expedition, cycling, sailing and climbing. If you are interested head to the website or email Dario at: [dario@toptotop.org](mailto:dario@toptotop.org)

**Special Olympics Bonaire**  
**11th Annual Walk-A-Thon**  
**Sunday, March 03 2013**

Starting 05:00am at the "White Slave huts"  
 Finish : Pasa Dia Kariño Rincon  
 Price : \$ 15

Personanan di Kontakto:  
 Chio 5406840, Arlene 5258496, Aura 7960101, Elske 7011999, Ruth 7966930

**Walk a thon Family fun day**

**Pick-up T-Shirt**  
 Friday : March 01, 2013 Hour : 5 pm till 9 pm  
 Saturday: March 02, 2013 Hour : 10 am till 4pm  
 Place : Hotel Rochaline ( Kaya Grandi # 7 )  
 Lunch : Pasadia Kariño Rincon  
 March 03, 2013 Hour :9:30 am till 12:30pm

Nr. **155** Firma

All Bonaire is invited to participate for all or part of the Special Olympics Walkathon on Sunday, March 3.

You may walk the distance, you may bike, you may skate board – the whole distance or just part of it. You may do it in groups, with family, with friends or singly.

You don't need to be a participant to help. You may buy tickets or sponsor a walker. Tickets are \$15 each.

**Contact: Chio 540-6840, Arlene 525-8496, Aura 796- 0101, Elske-701 1999 or Ruth 796-6930.**



At last Year's Walkathon

The Walkathon was the original idea of Elizabeth Wigny and Delno Tromp who were in search of funds to support Bonaire's Special Olympics Team. Delno explains, "Special Olympics Bonaire was established on March 4, 1999, and it changed the attitude of the students. They had to train, like a ritual. They were enthused. They loved it. It was a chance to be special!"

More than 11 years ago Elizabeth and Delno were doing walks together. Elizabeth had read about Bonaire's history with the slaves having to walk from Rincon to the salt pans. They thought, why not do a walk from the slave huts to Pasa Dia in Rincon as a fundraiser for Special Olympics Bonaire? The idea was born and the first Walkathon was on January 2003. Nearly the whole island helped. It took a lot of organizing but it was an outstanding success.

Since then Bonaire's Special Olympics team has been financially able to participate in the Special Olympics games in Ireland, China and Greece.

The starting line is on Sunday, March 3 at 5 am for walkers and runners and 7 pm for bikers. The finish line is at Pasa di Karino in Rincon.

Main Sponsors- Digicel, FATUM, HITESS, MCB Bank & NAPA; other sponsors - Multipost, Toshiba, Flamingo Communications, Playa Trading, Goddard Catering, Bonaire Best Brand (bbb), Rum Runners and Hotel Rochaline. ■ L.D.

#### Times and Dates :

**Friday, March 1 –5-7 pm and Saturday, March 2, 10 am-4 pm** – Buy tickets and pick up T-shirt and water bottle, Hotel Rochaline, Kaya Grandi #7

**Sunday, March 3 – 5 am at the Slave Huts – Walkathon begins 5 am** for walkers/runners, 7 am for bikers

**Finish Line: Pasa dia Kariño (Rincon)**

**Lunch at Pasa dia – 9:30-12:30**

**Price: \$15 per person**



# Pets of the Week



When you call her name she looks up and with those beautiful pale green eyes says, "Did you call my name? Yes, that's me, Winona! Have you come to take me to my forever home?"

Winona is a beautiful, voluptuous black and white "Tuxedo Cat," known for their intelligence and dedication to their owners. (Shakespeare, Beethoven and Sir Isaac Newton were Tuxedo Cat lovers.) Tuxedo Cats are not only always formally attired...they are also always special, and Winona is no exception. She has unusually soft fur that is a delight to stroke...but it also holds a secret. Brush her hair back in the opposite direction and you'll discover a beautiful SILVER undercoat!

Winona has been at the Bonaire Animal Shelter for almost a year. Perhaps she has been passed over because she is not an "in your face" cat, but prefers to wait for you to let her know that you would like her company.

When you invite her to you she is an extremely loving and affectionate cat...both with humans and other cats. She will sit in your lap for as long as you want her to and also willingly makes herself available to all the other cats at the Shelter to snuggle into her for a nap. She also still has a bit of a "kitten streak"....when a stuffed mouse or toy grabs her interest she will run and roll and play like a youngster. Whether you are looking for a single, loving companion or an addition to your cat family....Winona is a truly special and beautiful cat that will fit the bill. She is about two and a half years old, sterilized, healthy and ready to grace your home with her beauty, playfulness and her love. She has been patiently waiting for her forever home, maybe that home is yours.

You can visit Winona and all the other cat and dog residents at the Shelter on Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. They are all waiting for you. ■ Jane Madden Disko

## Shelter News



Ever see a dog wearing a funny vest or a strange collar with an ID Tag? Sometimes you will see one on an airplane or under the table at a restaurant (yes, it is legal). These are specially trained pooches with a unique pedigree. They are "Assistance Dogs" who aid folks with mild to serious handicaps.

The Bonaire Animal Shelter is now sponsoring a program to train young adults to become dog trainers with the eventual goal of becoming certified therapy/assistance dog handlers. A therapy dog is one who is used to visit the elderly, hospitals or any place they can share the love they give without bounds to someone in need. These programs have proven to be a success worldwide.

Underdog has three goals in its mission. Shelter Manager Marlies Tiepel explains, "We want to rescue some of the many dogs at the Shelter that may not otherwise be adopted. Also we want to train a few young adults to become certified dog trainers. Our other goal is to have at-risk teens as well as others in need of an assistance dog be able to have the joy of pet ownership. In many areas of the US, prison inmates are becoming trainers. Since Bonaire is a rabies-free island, the possibility of exporting assistance dogs becomes a business opportunity for a few young entrepreneurs. The dog grooming business is also another possibility along with a center to train dog handlers. The list is endless.

As with all our projects, we are self funded and are asking your help. If you'd like to partner with us to cover costs for the program, please email us at [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) or [info@chatnbrowse.com](mailto:info@chatnbrowse.com). US citizens can donate through Support Bonaire <http://www.supportbonaire.org>

■ Michael Gaynor

## DID YOU KNOW?

Coral reefs wouldn't be the colorful habitats they are today without the appetites of plant-eating marine animals. Instead, corals and rocks would all be covered with algae and other bottom-living plants! Algae grow especially well when marine waters are nutrient-enriched with human-created pollution, posing a threat to reefs as algae overgrow corals, blocking the sunlight that corals need to survive.

Luckily for divers and snorkelers, nature has a check on this threat: worldwide, marine plant-eaters remove almost 70% on average of marine photosynthetic plants. These plant-eaters range from large fish like parrotfish, to sea urchins, to tiny snails. In fact, snails, though diminutive, are one of the most ferocious grazers of algae on rocky shorelines. Experiments have shown that when snails and other grazers are removed from the shoreline, within weeks seaweeds and plant life have returned.

Next time you see the little snails on Bonaire's shorelines, consider how much more seaweed might be present if they weren't there!



Ariana Snow photo

■ Elizabeth Davis

Davis studies Environmental Science at Indiana University. This fall she is studying marine ecosystems with CIEE Research Station Bonaire and researching Bonaire's coastal water quality.



### What will you do on March 15th and 16th?

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.bondot.com](http://www.bondot.com) or 717-2834

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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

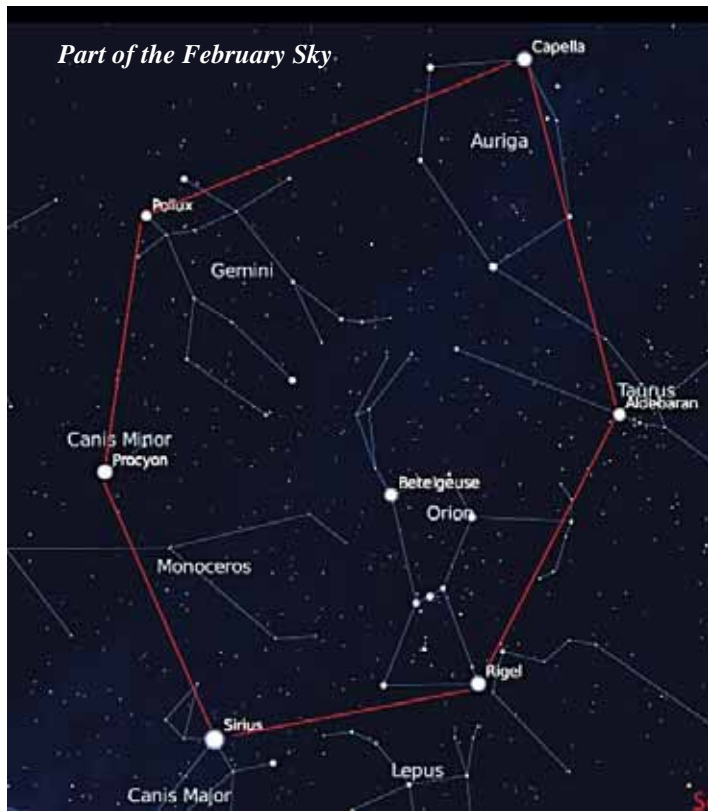
## THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST

In the northern hemisphere February is one of the coldest months of the year, but dressing for the season doesn't matter much in the Bonaire Sky Park. You won't have to bundle up if you like your celestial sights to be bright and dazzling. Just step outside any clear night.

Looking up on February evenings, you'll find the constellation **Orion the Hunter** standing tall and bright. In fact, Orion is the brightest constellation in the northern hemisphere, with seven stars of magnitude 2 or brighter. Two of Orion's stars, **Betelgeuse** and **Rigel**, are among the top 10 brightest stars in the sky. The brightness of Betelgeuse is all the more remarkable because the star is quite distant as bright stars go—640 light-years from **Earth**. Betelgeuse appears bright despite its distance because it is 135,000 times brighter than our **Sun**!

Above and to the right of Orion is a very bright collection of objects. Most dazzling of these is the **planet Jupiter**, the largest and brightest of the planets. Close by are two open star clusters, the well-known **Pleiades**. If you have even a small pair of binoculars, use them to observe both clusters. The nearby bright star **Aldebaran** completes this grouping. Compare the color of Aldebaran to that of other stars and you will find it has a slightly orangish hue, similar to Betelgeuse. Both are red giant stars, and their color is distinctly different from blue-white stars such as Rigel. Star colors are very subtle, but the difference between Aldebaran and Rigel is fairly easy to see.

To the upper left of Orion, we find the constellation **Gemini**, the **Twins**. **Castor** and **Pollux** are twin brothers in Roman and



Greek mythology, and Gemini's two bright stars carry their names. Below Gemini are the two dogs of Orion, **Canis Minor** and **Canis Major**, the Greater and Lesser Dogs. Each constellation contains a bright star. In Canis Minor, it's **Procyon**, which translates from the Greek as "before the dog." Procyon gets its name because it rises each night just before **Sirius** in Canis Major. And since Sirius is known as "the dog star," Procyon rises "before the dog." Sirius, of course, is the brightest of all the stars and is a translation of the Greek word for "scorcher."

Altogether, six of the sky's 17 brightest stars are on display in this part of the sky: **Sirius, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, and Pollux**.

Your time to see the stars is shortening a bit. By the month's end, each successive day is 2 to 3 minutes longer in Bonaire, 3 to 4 minutes longer in most of the lower US, 4 to 5 minutes longer in most of Europe, and 6 to 7 minutes longer in Alaska. ■

Bob Berman



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

February 2013

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Small business ventures can earn you extra cash. Disharmony in your relationship may cause minor ailments. Be sure to find out all you can before you commit to anything. You can expect sorrow to evolve from the information you discover. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Arguments could prevail. Resistance leading to conflict will only make it twice as hard to turn the situation around. Dealing with in-laws or relatives will not be in your best interest. Be inquisitive about unfamiliar circumstances. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Be cautious and use your head wisely in situations that deal with the use of machinery or vehicles. If you can't trust someone, question the connection. Overindulgence may be a problem. You will have original ideas for ways to make extra money. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) To avoid any minor health problems, don't get too stressed. If you're feeling uncertain, spend some time alone and reevaluate your motives as well as your needs. Minor health problems will cause setbacks if you haven't taken proper care of yourself. You can't help everyone. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Be prepared to make changes to your personal documents. Your hard work and dedication will payoff, so stick to your guns and do your job well. Residential moves look hectic and sudden changes in your life are likely. Someone is trying to pull the wool over your eyes, and if you're gullible, it may cost you. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Brunch, a long walk, or a quiet dinner will secure your position in the relationship. You may need to make a choice. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Opportunities to get ahead are evident. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Elders may get you going this week. Get ready to do some fancy footwork when it

comes to taking care of your financial situation. You can come up with solutions to the problems responsible for inefficiencies at work. You have a tendency to think that no one else will do things properly. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 -Nov. 22) Avoid lovers who already have a relationship, even if it is a bad one. Your energy will be high; however, if not channeled suitably, temper tantrums may erupt. You will upset your partner if you have spent money on things that aren't necessary. Empty promises and a lack of cash may put a damper on your plans. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You must try to lay your cards on the table. Talk to your mate and tell them how you feel. Minor health problems will cause setbacks if you haven't taken proper care of yourself. You may not be able to help, but your support will be favorable. You may need a good friend to lean on. Your lucky day will be Thursday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Monitor your budget carefully to avoid unnecessary stress. You can get a promotion if you put in a little extra detail. You may find that your quick wit and charm will help you in obtaining allies. Your emotional reaction will be dependent upon your partner's responsiveness. Your lucky day will be Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't be afraid to talk to close friends or relatives about pressing personal problems. You're eager to learn. Toning, fitness, pampering should all be scheduled. Don't let other people meddle in your private affairs. Your lucky day will be Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Taking on too much won't help the situation. Spend some time on yourself. Talk to someone with experience about budgets or consolidating debts. Based on your excitement, serious-minded individuals will be more than interested in backing your ideas. Your lucky day will be Friday. ■



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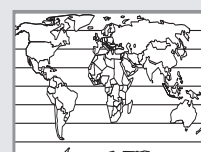
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Kaya Dorado 8**

With a wide living room, adjacent screened-in porch and roof terrace, this villa offers a lot of comfortable space to live in and entertain your guests. From the covered, screened-in roof terrace and sundeck, 180 degrees panoramic views are jaw dropping and make you never want to leave this home again. Lay out: entrance into hall with guest bathroom, live-in kitchen with study nook, living room with adjacent screened-in porch, 3 bedrooms with each a private bathroom with shower, inner courtyard with outdoor stairs leading to a screened-in roof terrace and sundeck. Exercise room with laundry/utility room. Additional storage closets. Off street parking for two cars on property is available. Lot size: 15,752 ft<sup>2</sup> (1.464 m<sup>2</sup>). Living area: 3,228 ft<sup>2</sup> (300 m<sup>2</sup>).



**Asking price US\$ 375,000**

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