

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE April 19-May 3, 2013; Year 20, Issue 8
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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

**Kontest di Fli
Kites!
see page 10**



**Plus 28 More
Stories and
Features**

Effective January 1, 2013, many foods were declared exempt from the 8% General Tax Spending (ABB). To check whether the tax reduction in the prices charged were passed on to consumers volunteers from **Consumers Unkobon** in the last week of November 2012 (to establish a baseline) and again in the first weeks of February 2013 shopped 13 local supermarkets. They found that none of the visited supermarkets fully passed on the ABB exemption to its customers. **However, one supermarket, Warehouse Bonaire, came close.**

Averaged over all surveyed supermarkets only 17% of the ABB savings were passed on

75-100% - Warehouse Bonaire
25-50% - China Store, Van den Tweel, Wing Cheung
0-25% - Caribe, Fruteria Shely's, More for Less, Lin Coin, Top, 0% - Excellent, Lucky, Progresso, Zhung Kong

Findings were presented to the Executive Council and Lieutenant Governor Mw. L.A. Emerencia.

The report will be published in full on the website of Unkobon: www.consumentenbonaire.com.

► **WILLEMSTAD--The European Union (EU) rules for compensation in case of delays on flights from and to Europe also apply for residents of the Dutch Caribbean.** On April 8 the court pronounced a judgment in a case from passenger Arend de Winter against KLM. De Winter, a lawyer by profession, had requested compensation as determined by the EU, due to a 25-hour delay on a flight from Curaçao to Amsterdam in 2010.

The judge dismissed all arguments of KLM and ordered it to pay the compensation determined by the EU, as well as the legal costs of the case. Passengers on flights to and from Europe facing a delay of three hours or more than the originally planned arrival time at their final destination can claim 600 euros.

► **Have you been to Miami Airport lately?** Incoming non-US citizens must wait up to **two hours or more** to go through Immigration, even if they come from countries with a visa waiver program and have been cleared already through the ESTA system.

► **Bonaire businesses recently established the Business & Employers Association (BBE).** This independent employers' organization represents the interests of businesses on the island. It will act as a lobbyist with the local and Dutch government.

The founding directors representing various sectors that make up the economy of Bonaire come from catering to retail and trade to the business services sector. Chairman of the Board of BBE is

Albert ("Mocky") Arends. The first information meeting is set for 25 April. A membership drive is in full swing.



► **San Francisco Hospital now has an operating CT (Computed Tomography Scanner, sometimes known as a Cat Scan).** This machine uses X-rays to show not only bones as does a regular X-ray machine, but it also shows soft tissue. The final picture is far more detailed than a normal X-ray one. Although the machine was in the hospital for several months it was only operable last week. The procedure is painless. The hospital staff is very pleased.

► **If things go as planned King Willem Alexander and Queen Maxima will visit the new Bonaire dive site named in his honor** during a state visit to the Dutch Caribbean in November, 2013. Last week the Government of Bonaire said it will name a dive site in his honor. The location has not yet been revealed.

► **Celebrity Cruises will offer cruises to Bonaire over the winter of 2014-15** after skipping the destination next year. The line says the 2,852-passenger *Celebrity Eclipse* will sail 14-night "Exotic Southern Caribbean" voyages out of Miami starting in November 2014 that include stops in Kralendijk as well as the nearby islands of Aruba and Curaçao.

► **DUBAI--**The city that boasts the world's tallest building is equipping its police with **\$400,000 Lamborghini** sports cars that Dubai's deputy police chief says are in keeping with the Gulf capital's image.

Question for our readers: What kind of police cars should Bonaire have?

► **On Monday April 1st, Saint James School of Medicine- Bonaire Campus, student, Ronald Nguasa'ah passed away after a kayak accident.** He's survived by his mother, brother, extended family, and countless friends. His friends and colleagues banded together to raise funds to transport Ron's body back home. *The Bonaire Reporter* website and

BOINAIRE RANKED #5 ON THE LIST OF BEST CARIBBEAN ISLANDS IN TRIPADVISOR'S* 2013 TRAVELERS' CHOICE AWARDS....

TripAdvisor subscribers have voted Bonaire as the 5th best destination to visit in the Caribbean. Why? I hear you ask. Is it for its extreme sports? It's shopping malls? It's fast food outlets? It's many bars and restaurants?



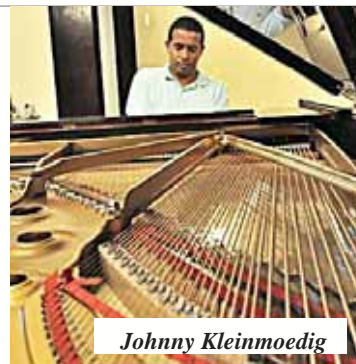
No, this is what they liked: "Are there more flamingos than people on Bonaire? It's possible, and it's part of this unspoiled island's appeal. Bring your binoculars and your scuba gear to make the most of Bonaire's natural charms: more than 200 different species of birds live here, and the island itself draws divers from around the world to its reef-lined coast, a National Maritime Park."

What these people liked was "this island's unspoiled appeal."
Developers take note..... ■ *Bruce Bowker*

*TripAdvisor is the world's largest travel site with more than 200 million unique monthly visitors and offers trusted advice from real travelers and a wide variety of travel choices and planning.

Facebook site joined the appeal. . As of 5 April a total of \$16,439.24 had been raised.

► **The Winners of the Toastmasters International, District 81, Division A, Area 5 have been announced: Jefferson Rosalia** was overall winner and the Table Topics Speakers Contest winner was **Carla Hay.**



Johnny Kleinmoedig

Hall, Kleinmoedig and his ensemble will begin the evening with a collection of early-Caribbean salon music selections inspired by the etudes, polkas and mazurkas of the Polish composer Frederick Chopin, energized with upbeat Caribbean rhythms.

After the interval classical music goes "party time." Members of the audience are encouraged to dance to more contemporary Caribbean music such as salsa, tumba and meringue whilst being served canapés. Johnny Kleinmoedig will also be performing for local schools earlier in the day.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased from the website www.classicalmusicboard.com or from Chat 'n' Browse, Addos Books and Toys or Flamingo Bookstore.

► **Make sure your road tax is paid and you have a new license plate and sticker.** Police began spot checks this past weekend. You risk impoundment of your car if it is not paid and you don't have proof of insurance.

► **Selling your house?** Almost every home shows better with less furniture. Remove pieces of furniture that block or hamper paths and walkways and put them in storage. **And Bonaire has the Storehouse-Mangazina to help.** See their ad on page 11. Since your bookcases are now empty, store them. Remove extra leaves from your dining room table to make the room appear larger. Leave just enough furniture in each room to showcase the room's purpose and plenty of room to move around.



► **The Caribbean Journal, an online Caribbean magazine, named La Balandra at Harbour Village to the list of the region's best hotel bars.** In addition to having great drinks, service and view it is the only hotel bar on the list to have its own bar, they said.

► **Bonaire's very own Elvis Martinus gained a "First Person" feature in the April issue of Islands Magazine.** The article written by Patrick Holian is entitled, "The Legendary Elvis." It describes the story of how Elvis turned windsurfing into a national sport for Bonaire, with more than 200 kids now involved in his program; all of which results from his perseverance, dedication and a board that happened to wash up on shore 30 years ago. Published eight times per year *Islands Magazine* has a readership of 500,000 people and is considered the region's most prestigious publication.

► **Classical Music Board Bonaire invites you to join them for Johnny Kleinmoedig and his band's promenade's concert.** On Friday 3rd May the well-known Curaçao pianist and composer **Johnny Kleinmoedig and his band Conhunto, will conduct a "promenade"** concert at Plaza Resort Bonaire from 8 pm until midnight. Performing center stage of Plaza Resort's intimate but acoustically vibrant Cacique

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► **The students at CIEE are putting together an Environmental Fair at the CIEE Research Station on Sunday, April 21st** to promote sustainability and enhance environmental awareness. They are setting up an informal event with tables and posters about environmental topics relevant to Bonaire, such as the lionfish invasion, safe SCUBA practices, eating sustainable seafood, and many other topics. The Sustainability Fair will be from 1 to 3 pm and will include small information booths from students and faculty at CIEE, as well as volunteers from other organizations in Bonaire.

(Continued on page 5)

Bon Recycling – Preserving Bonaire’s Future

A Zero Waste Island – Utopia Or A Reachable Goal?

It all began with Herbert de Jongh Jr.’s father who has a crusher and who was approached by Selibon to ask whether he could recycle construction waste. Next question Selibon asked was what they would do with the iron in the concrete rubble. Herbert Jr. and Edison Rijna already had a company, buying scrap from Curaçao and Venezuela and selling it to Europe and the Far East. So, Herbert’s father told Selibon about his son’s company and then the ball started rolling.

Selibon had a lot of scrap and car wrecks at the landfill and was eager to get rid of it. When Edison and Herbert told Selibon they could recycle it, Selibon asked them if they also could do something with carton, glass, plastic, paper, oil, etc. and Herbert and Edison’s answer was “But of course!”

Just around that time one of Bopec’s tanks was on fire. It always had been Bopec who had taken used motor oil in and now they refused to do so any longer. So a solution was needed urgently. Then Herbert Jr. and Edison offered to take in the oil from all the garages on the island and from companies like Cargill, Web, and Eco Power. They shipped it to Curaçao where it was processed at the refinery. So Bon Recycling was born in August 2011. “The bank was willing to finance our project,” Edison says, “and since that moment we’ve been working very hard, starting with one carton press and some plastic drums to collect the different types of waste. I quit my job – as manager of offshore banking at RBC Bank – and we consciously stayed away from any publicity until we were ready for it.

Now we ship or recycle old corrugated carton, paper, all forms of plastic, three col-



The new bailer - the first Chinese one in the Caribbean - which will be assembled and made operational by mechanics and engineers from China on April 21st

ors of glass, E-waste, white goods, motor- and kitchen oil and car and dry cell batteries. Everything is shipped off the island except for construction rubble. And we are looking at the possibility of using glass instead of diabas for the roads. It will be more expensive, but it will also be much more durable and sustainable. In the meantime we’ve bought a glass pulverizer and it will be operational soon. The end product of such a machine is sand. In the States they even use it for children’s playgrounds.

The dry cell batteries we collect and store in a dry and safe place until we have enough, then we’ll ship them to the Netherlands, to Stibat – *Stichting Batterijen* (dry cell battery foundation). For paint we don’t have a solution yet, but we have a plan submitted to Selibon and if things go well we can do something with it in the near future.

Another pilot project of ours is that we’ve put 30 blue containers at Sorobon between Jibe City and the Beach Hut just to collect plastic and cans. Every week we go there to collect the stuff and we’re also taking cardboard and cooking oil.

So far, hospital waste still ends up at the landfill and a small incinerator should be purchased in the near future. Bopec’s burned tank has been demolished and the steel is going to Vietnam where they will roll it into very thin sheets which they will use to make drums.

From here everything goes first with the *Don Andres* to Curaçao and from Curaçao it’s shipped all over the world: to the Middle East, the Far East, to Europe and India, to Taiwan, Korea. Carton mostly goes to Colombia and whole glass to Costa Rica and Panama.”

“Let me give you some numbers,” Herbert

says. “ Since 2011 we’ve shipped 538,000 kilos of carton, 18,000 kilos of brown bottles and 50,000 kilos of all colors of glass. Then we’ve shipped one million kilos of scrap metal including car wrecks and 300,000 liters of used motor oil and sludge and we’ve collected 20,000 liters of cooking oil so far which will be shipped to Holland where it will be used as bio diesel. Can you imagine if all of this had ended up on the landfill?”

The carton crusher we use now to bail carton, plastic and paper is processing 4 to 5 tons per day. We bought a new bailer in China – the first one in the Caribbean – which will be assembled and made operational by Chinese engineers and mechanics on April 21st. That bailer will process 8 to 12 tons per hour! Also, very soon we will have a plastic granulator to process all seven types of plastic and a big shredder to destroy archives of banks and insurance companies.”

“We work very closely with Selibon,” Edison Rijna says, “We depend on each



The (not yet installed) glass pulverizer

(Continued on page 7)

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On the Island Since... 2010 – Manuel Simbana Vargas

“When iguanas are a pest in your garden, there is a solution to it; you must plant basil and oregano. The male, who is territorial, will start eating from these herbs. Then, at a certain time, when he wants to mate, the female comes to him but the moment she smells his breath, she thinks ‘OMG, what bad breath, this guy is sick!’ And she will get out of there as soon as possible. The guy will try a couple more times with other ladies, however, with the same result and so he gets terribly bored and lonely sitting there in his territory and eventually he will move to another area where he hopes to have more luck with the ladies...”

He laughs and pours me a cup of tea: “I am from Quito, Ecuador, where I studied agricultural engineering and then permaculture and biological products. I worked in this field in Colombia, Brazil and Chile and before I came here for three years in Curaçao. I come to places where there is drought, environmental and agricultural problems and my specialty is drought system agriculture and permaculture. In all these countries the weather is the problem and here the solution is the brackish water. It’s a natural resource. With the brackish water and the sun (and Bonaire has plenty of that!) you can grow Spirulina, an algae and a dietary supplement, rich in vitamins, minerals and proteins. It’s the food of the future and it could be a source of income for Bonaire!

Further, we have the iguana problem which we discussed, but also there are lizards, birds and wild chickens and the soil fertilization is a big problem here. Many people keep their garden ‘clean.’ They rake the dry leaves and put them in their garbage. Wrong! You need your dry leaves to improve the soil, to make micro flora and – fauna possible and when you mow the grass and weeds you should leave it there; it’s very important for compost. And then you need to make compost: donkey manure, ash from the barbecue, charcoal and dry leaves and branches (cellulose wood). The best thing to put in there is the reticulum (Dutch: *netmaag*- the second compartment of the stomach of a ruminant) of the *kabritu* (goat) which you can get for free at the slaughterhouse as nobody uses it. This particular stomach contains bacteria which are important for the decomposing process. To buy potting soil is useless because after three weeks the soil is exhausted and there is nothing in it anymore.

If you love your garden you need to cover it with mulch, especially around the plants and trees, to cover the soil and the roots and to keep the earth moist underneath. This mulch is also nutrition for the plants; it improves the soil. In addition you need to spray the leaves of the plants once a month – on top of the leaves and on the underside of the leaves where the habitat is for diseases. Use a biological product. For example: molasses (you can buy it at the supermarket) diluted with water, or sugar with water. This is easier for people: one liter of water with about six spoons of sugar. You do it when the sun goes down and the next morning you’ll see the change. It is spectacular! Another thing is when you work in your garden you interchange energy with the plants and that’s stress control, because when your yard is just ‘clean’ there is no harmony – the harmony is wrecked.

People who have kitchen gardens need to have different kinds of herbs and different kinds of plants. For instance, grow parsley

together with tomatoes, celery, lemongrass and peppermint – all in the same area for natural pest control. Also these plants like each other, they grow well together. In the kitchen garden you also need flowers to attract the bees for pollination. Here, on Bonaire, you can grow beans, lettuce, rhubarb, black beans and soy beans, warmoes, beets, carrots and radishes. You can also make a separate area where you plant tuna – prickly pear. Not only is it a solution to feed the animals, but people can eat it too. It is excellent in salads – you peel it and cut them into cubes.

If you want to plant something, you can make a pot – like a flowerpot – from donkey manure, compost and ash. Let it dry in a mall (another flower pot) and when it is firm you put soil and the plant in it and put it in a hole in the ground and water it. That plant has nutrition for a long, long time – it will feed on its own pot. Donkey manure is



Manuel’s art made of donkey manure and old rakes

an excellent – and on this island always available – product, but you need fermentation from the manure first. After it’s fermented you need to add clay or soil or compost and then you can make art or plaster your house with it and it’s durable. It will last a minimum of 500 years, unlike concrete which stays good for about 50 years on this island! And... donkey manure is gratis!

Also good to have is chickens in a remov-

able pen. The chickens scratch the soil and fertilize it with their poop and after a while you put them in a different area and you can plant the piece of land where they were before and of course we feed them kitchen waste and get eggs back in return.

The problem with agriculture on this island is the attitude towards agriculture. For many people it is related to slavery – hard work under the sun. You can change that mentality starting at school and at home. It could be so much healthier and cheaper if this island could produce its own fruits and vegetables. But people can make a start growing their own products at home for the health of their family because everything you buy here, whether it comes from Venezuela, Colombia, the Netherlands or the US, is full of pesticides. For instance: A tomato harvests in 72 days and during this time it gets 36 applications of pesticides. Are people aware of that? No! And a healthy looking green apple is the most poisonous thing ever. When you put it in the compost heap, weeks and months later, when everything



Manuel Simbana Vargas with his fundamental tools– the mortar and pestle



Manuel with the solar cooker he devised

has disintegrated, the green apple is still there, fully intact!

“...people can make a start growing their own products at home for the health of their family because everything you buy here, whether it comes from Venezuela, Colombia, the Netherlands or the US, is full of pesticides.”

People on Bonaire should wake up and think differently because a new era is coming and Bonaire should be looked at with different visions. We need more locally made handicrafts and we need more trained and specialized guides to show people botanical plants, to tell them about our flora, our birds, our micro flora and –fauna. All tourism should be specialized, no more cruise ships. This way we would have tourism all year. And don’t tell me we cannot do this or that because of the goats. You know there is a simple solution for the goats: *kabritu* wire!

I came here to help the people to change; money is no longer an economic model. Why are we here on this earth? To go to Warehouse? To buy a car? No, the people are here to develop their brain, to start thinking about why we are here. How come there is no *maishi* (sorghum) harvest? Because the seeds have been modified and manipulated – biogenetic engineering. Agriculture is a pharmaceutical system and it produces products with collateral effects and ironically the solution is pharmaceuti-

cal... with the same owner... I produce and I cure and... the people are in between. It’s more than ironic. This is the human concept. And this has to change.

With everything I am growing here on my friend Sandra’s *kunuku*, I can live on \$200 per month. I have one machine which I use for everything and it’s my mortar and I don’t need anything else. I make natural pesticides, compost, I grow vegetables and I sell my things in the Farmer’s Market (*the first Saturday of every month at Kriabon*).

The system is to buy, and buy and buy, but to me that is ridiculous. I think the new life is freedom with harmony. I don’t need much. I like it here – the natural system. I have the sun when I get up and lots of oxygen in the air. I have my bees – I will come to collect them if a hive is bothering you – and my honey. You know, when you go to poor countries like Haiti you look in admiration what people can do. Two kids came up to me there and asked me, ‘Would you like to buy these cookies?’ And you know what they were made of? Of soil – of dirt! People eat dirt, because there are minerals in the soil! I like this system. There is no big business in it – but you know what? It works!”

*Story & photos by
Greta Kooistra*



HELMETS ON WHEELS

This is the 17th of a series of *Bonaire Reporter* short articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

Kite Surfing and Safety Helmets

Bonaire/Down South –

It took me just a short off road ride with my bike to reach the rolling waves of the kite surf beach, located near Fishermen's Hut. Last time when I visited Kite Beach Atlantis to have a talk with Roan from Kite Boarding Bonaire about motorcycles and the white painted ex school bus I noticed a bunch of kite surf helmets hanging from the roof of the bus. Roan told me wearing a protective helmet is obligatory during kite surf lessons. If you are connected with the IKO (International Kite surf Organization), you have to supply safe helmets to your students.

Roan shows me a special high tech radio helmet made by Headzone, USA. This helmet is equipped with watertight speakers and makes remote communication between the instructor and the student possible. I am impressed by this lightweight helmet. The helmet fits very well and looks tough. Bouke van Roon, a windsurfer sitting in the shade of the old American school bus, is willing to pose for the camera as a proponent of wearing helmets and helmet awareness. Bouke says, "I think it is very important to wear a helmet when persons ride a motorcycle, a quad, a moped or scooter or a mountain bike, especially on Bonaire where the roads are narrow and often of poor quality. The International Kite surf Organization insists on helmets for students. Some advanced kite surfers do not share this opinion as there is an offshore wind on Bonaire and there are no obstacles in the sea. For wake boarders the risk is



Bouke van Roon, sporty and lovely looking even after spending a night on the kite surf beach, located near Fishermen's Hut and Victor's Memorial, down South.

Bouke, in fact an enthusiastic wind surfer, shows a high tech radio helmet which enables real time coaching between the coach and the student, made by Headzone, USA. (Picture: J@n Brouwer)

higher because of the higher speed and the possibility of jamming with your head on the water. Compared to wake boarding kite surfing is less risky." ■ J@n Brouwer

(Bouke knows about helmets and the protection they can give. In 2001 Artur, a friend of hers, was involved in a fatal scooter/moped accident near Flamingo Airport. Last year she lost another friend in a moped accident. /jb)

Useful Gadgets

THIS IS THE 4TH COLUMN ABOUT USEFUL GADGETS FOR SALE ON BONAIRE IN A SERIES OF 100.

Amazing Rapala Knife Sharpener

Bonaire/Playa –

We all know what an awful experience it is to have a kitchen drawer filled with knives and then, at the right moment, there is not a single knife sharp enough to do the proper cutting or slicing. All knives are blunt as old Harry's hammer. So buying a new one seems to be the only solution.

Now Rapala, well known from the filet knives, produces this little cute silver grey colored sharpening device. It measures only some six by five continental centimeters and the weight is close to nothing. There is a little hole on one of the four corners to fit a leach or a key ring and with one key connected to it this knife sharpener is still able to float. This useful gadget has a coarse side with tungsten sharpeners and a fine side with ceramic sharpeners. Just hold the little instrument in your hand or position it on top of a desk or table. Hold the device firm in position and swipe your knife through the sharpener. Start with the course side; finish with the fine ceramic side. Drag your knife in a gentle way and do not forget: you can sharpen your knife by removing a little bit of metal but you will never be able to add metal to the knife. Be polite to your knife and the knife will be polite to you.

This little knife sharpening device made by Rapala I found at Budget Marine Bonaire for only two dollars and a half... ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



Pamela Teitel-Werdath, manager of Budget Marine Bonaire, shows the handy Scandinavian Rapala knife sharpener.



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

► **The local government is changing the protected status of the Bonaire National Marine Park for commercial purposes.** Residents and nature conservation organizations are protesting against this because it would mean that a large pier with two cafes, a restaurant, a kitchen and a dive school would be built next to Karel's Beach Bar.

Two local nature organizations, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and Stinapa as well as 96 private persons have lodged an appeal with the Dutch Caribbean Court.

Despite a critical report on the negative impact of allowing a recreational pier to be built in the underwater park and more than 700 notices of objection against this

development, the Executive Council approved the revision of the Spatial Development Plan of Bonaire (the ROB). The intention is to make it possible for a concrete construction to be built in the marine park.

► **Famous kite-boarding sports figures** like Rick Jensen (Germany), Aaron Hadlow (UK), Billy Parker (US), Ruben Lenten (The Netherlands), Sam Light (UK) and more have confirmed their participation in "Kite Ride Bonaire." **The first international wake-style kite-boarding event in the Caribbean will be held in Bonaire from May 17 to 23.**

With eight wake style kite boarders from the world's top ranking, it promises to be a

week of fantastic displays. Go to Website www.kiteridebonaire.com or contact the organization via e-mail at info@kiteridebonaire.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kiteridebonaire.

► **As a warm up to Dia di Arte,** (on Sunday, July 7) the Foundation for Art and Culture will be having monthly showings of the work of local artists at the historical home, Chich'iTan from 10 am to 4 pm. Local snacks and drinks will be served. Chich'iTan is located in Rincon, behind Rose Inn. Take a nice Sunday drive up to Rincon and stop in: Sundays, May 5, June 2, July 7 (Dia di Arte in Wilhelmina Park), August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1.



► **Have to move something big that's on wheels?** Call Mack (700-9601) and his road service truck. His service is most professional and careful. Tell him *The Reporter* sent you. ■ G./L. D.



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Waiting For Mangos To Ripen

#1 OF THE SERIES,
DOWN IN THE LAND OF BON BINI



I was shopping for mangos the other day. There was a bit of stress in the air – what my friend Captain Dave, formerly from the Grenadines, would refer to as *Dealin' with the pressha', mon*. The clock was ticking on the day before Easter weekend. All stores would be closed on Good Friday. Only the church doors would be open, and there are no mangos there.

So I was on a quest for fruit to hold me through the weekend. As I wandered the aisles of the supermarket, I pondered the papayas. They looked juicy, soft, individually wrapped in flexible brown cardboard, imported from the jungles of Venezuela. They were tempting, but my spouse does not indulge in that tasty, electric orange, tropical wonder. I wanted a fruit for the whole family. Then, I saw a mountainous stack of monstrous mangos. We both like

them. They have become a delicious, but frustrating necessity for us. *Succulent* is the best English word I know for their addictive, exotic flavor. But there is a price paid to indulge in their sweet, sun-yellow meat. That was obvious the moment I began fondling the fruit. These gigantic gems were picked with the sole intent to ripen in the store, sometime. They were harder than the coral at the Alice In Wonderland dive site. *What the hell*, I reasoned. *I have time. I'll just be waiting for mangos to ripen.* I snatched three solid, green globes and headed home.

Five days later, the mangos were still hard. I tried everything. I turned them over daily, sometimes twice a day. I set them in the sun for repeated and varied time intervals. When no one was around, I started chanting a mantra to the fruit, *Soften, ripen, become mine*. But nothing worked. The fruit remained as hard as stone. I gave up.

In retreat, I began to think about how island living has changed me. After all, I never spoke to fruit before. I guess I should be worried about this somewhat bizarre behavior, but I am not. Perhaps that lack of concern for one's strange actions is a change in itself. I began to think of other ways my surroundings have changed me, living down near the equator.

There is no better reflection of the island than the stories found in *The Bonaire Reporter*. I picked up an old issue the other day that I found deep in a musty pile of



The Bonaire Reporter reflects Bonaire



American scuba divers are everywhere

papers in my living room. The front cover had a photo with four people. Two, Bebe Sint Jago and DJ Juan Danger, were holding a music CD. Ceril Janga was in a low crouch position near the floor, holding a bowl. The last person, Mary Ann Sint Jago, was pouring coconut milk out of the shell, and onto the CD. Coconut milk! I read on and discover that this is a unique Bonairean tradition, the baptism of something new and special. It is done for good luck. The group was celebrating the release of their new CD, *E Paraiso di Nos Kreador*, bible songs about the divine beauty of Bonaire. Perhaps, I should try this coconut christening on my newly purchased mangos? It could speed the ripening.

I read other headlines in the old newspaper. **Four divers missing off Klein Curaçao.** They survived. **It's time for kunukeros (farmers) to attend to their kunukus**, a gentle reminder from the agriculture department. **African dust is negatively impacting Caribbean reefs.** And on a lighter note, **The Sunset Bar & Grill has started a free rum punch party on Fridays.** This last headline reminded me

to check out the "What's Happening" section of the paper. I learned that the next week was "Love Our Planet" week. I'm not sure what that really means. I always love our planet. Friday night featured A Taste of Bonaire, *experience food, culture, local handicrafts and all things Bonairean at Wilhelmina Park*. On Saturday, there was an underwater cleanup, followed by a "Moonlight Walk" that evening.



Street sweeper



My reading is suddenly disturbed by a low, rumbling noise below. I look at my dog who, with fearful eyes, returns a "What is happening now?" expression. I catapult out of the hammock and go to the

(Continued on page 7)

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Waiting for Mangos (Continued from page 6)
 edge of the balcony for a look. A massive machine crawls slowly down Kaya Playa Lechi. It lacks the graceful moves of a Zamboni on a hockey rink at halftime, but has the same bulk. The vehicle is trailing cloud of dust is reminiscent of the Peanuts comic character, Pig Pen. This is Bonaire's pride, our one and only street cleaner.

I easily accept the surreal scene below without much hesitation. Every two weeks or so, this boisterous, no-nonsense beast lumbers by, scouring the pavement. It must be the only street cleaning machine in the Caribbean, certainly among the smaller islands. I assume the contraption is a gift from the Netherlands. Bonaire alone could not afford such a luxury. The machine carries on the yesteryear Dutch tradition of impeccable cleanliness. It is one I have not observed during my visits to Holland, at least not in Amsterdam. But the Lowlands penchant for the pristine lives on here - a colonial legacy rumbling by in slow motion. As out of place as this little machine appears, cruising under the swaying palms, it is now part of my world. I know now why Jimmy Buffet once sang; *you wonder why you ever go home*. Strangeness can be bliss, and for me, it makes departure from the island unattractive.

In the distance, I see a Delta jet making its approach over the sea to Flamingo Airport. It must be Saturday. That is the one time in the week when a hundred or so Americans fly direct from Atlanta to Bonaire. I must say, the Americans who come here - and there are many - are quite good tourists. These Yankees don't wear plaid shorts, talk too loud, or complain about the lack of McDonalds hamburgers on the island. They are much too busy diving. Morning, noon, and night, they are below the water. After that, they head early to bed in preparation for another day under the sea. They are the Invisibles. Perhaps that is why one of the coastal dive sites has taken that name.



The Dutch arrive

The next largest tourist group is the Dutch. While some do dive, many tend to stay above the water, participating in land activities unavailable to them at home. Endless sun tanning is a popular past time. Skin cancer be damned. Mocha-colored skin is highly valued back home in the sun-deprived Netherlands. Riding ATV's at blistering speeds through the crowded streets of Kralendijk is another favorite. This is just not done in the Holland due to traffic laws and bad weather. But here, flashy red four-wheelers careen around the island at what appears to be near autobahn speeds. The Dutch also tend to rent huge pickup trucks while visiting, another novelty item for them. This has a real downside when driving one-lane sections of the southern coastal road. The unwritten local rule when facing an oncoming vehicle on this stretch is for each car to share the road. One half of the paved lane and its graveled

shoulder are available for each driver, but not for many of the Dutch. They seem to have an aversion to driving off payment, perhaps a fear of the unknown. That is understandable knowing Holland's wet, sinking soil that surrounds its country roads, but here on Bonaire our land is as dry as an old iguana. I have had to literally stop on my half of the coastal road or be pushed aside by some big Toyota Hilux pickup full of nervous, wide-eyed Dutch riders. It is as bad as facing a Texan steering a big Dodge Ram through a downtown Dallas alley.



South American visitors

Rich South Americans make up another large group of visitors. They come from Venezuela, Columbia and Brazil. I like these people. The women are bronzed, sleek through surgery, and wear glitzy jewelry. The men are southern continental, unjustly confident, and flash oversized, gold chains on hairy chests. I probably have little in common with these people, but they provide great visual drama to Bonaire. I see them nibbling through late morning breakfasts at It Rains Fishes restaurant as I bicycle along the promenade on my daily ride to the post office. At night, they gather at the bars to swill chroma-saturated cocktails or frosty flutes of white wine. But there is a mystery to these people. It seems that I never see them do anything else except inhabit the eateries and cantinas of Kralendijk. I am perplexed as to what other vacation pleasures they indulge in.

I look now look toward the harbor with binoculars. The *Don Andres* is unloading its goods destined for island stores. It reminds me of how many different ports supply the products that I now consume. My rum is from Barbados and Nicaragua, honey from the Dominican Republic, beer from Belgium, aloe and mint from Bonaire, oranges from California, carrots from Georgia, potatoes and cheese from Holland, flower pots from Columbia, organic lettuce from Ecuador, papayas and mangos from Venezuela.

Ah yes, the mangos. I look at the three green suspects sitting on the sunny edge of the porch. Do I detect a slight yellow coloration to their skin? I dare not touch them yet to test softness. That may be too bold. Perhaps, I will wait until after a swim in the sea. It is as good of a delaying tactic as any when you're waiting for mangos to ripen.

■ *Story & photos by Patrick Holian*

Holian is a writer and film journalist living on Bonaire.



The car crusher turns this into this



Bon Recycling (Continued from page 3)

other. Selibon is the only institution on Bonaire allowed to handle waste and we are the subcontractor. And our common goal is to close the landfill and become a zero waste island.

You see, everything that comes to the island - food, drinks, white goods, cars, souvenirs, clothing, household items, everything we eat and drink and use, sell and buy here - is packaged in one material or another, and all that material, if not recycled, ends up on our landfill, plus everything else that was once bought but now is thrown away. It can't go on like this - simple as it is, there won't be enough space, plus the whole island will be polluted. By the end of this year they will start on Aruba with waste incineration and together with Selibon we will ship the residual waste which we cannot recycle to have it burned there.

Together with Selibon we are planning on providing every household on Bonaire with several different waste containers which will also be emptied on different days. The purpose of all this is to become a green and sustainable island. Of course we are aware of the fact that our goal won't be reached from one day to another. We need educational programs for the people, and after Selibon and Bon Kousa made waste separation possible at the elementary schools, now it's time to educate the SGB students. We will put a lot of time and effort into that. Of course we hope and count on it that the students will pass their knowledge on to their parents and other family members. I think it will go faster than we expect it to

go. Part of the Bonairean community is made up of foreigners who are already familiar with the concept of waste separation and recycling and the locals will quickly pick it up. The Bonairean people have always been good to their island. They did it with the Marine Park and they can do it again when it comes to recycling the waste. I grew up enjoying one of the most beautiful underwater parks in the world and I want to preserve it for our future generations. And... in the mean time, Bon Recycling is - together with Cargill - the largest exporter of Bonaire. A company like us doesn't even exist on Curaçao. Also, we're going to do a pilot project with the pulverized glass; we will use it to harden our own terrain here in Santa Clara so that everyone can see for themselves how functional it really is. To make our company sustainable is a matter of much effort and insight and you have to have the guts! So far the Netherlands has been very pleased with us and we would like to follow up on their demand in order to get subsidies for further growth."

"I am very happy and thrilled with the company," Herbert says. "I am still young and I find that people can't go on destroying their environment, because this is the only environment we have and it gives us life - we live off it. So yeah, this is a challenge, a great challenge and for me it has turned into a passion. We will keep on growing and we will invest in the future of this island." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra
Please note that the landfill is open for dumping for free on Saturdays.



Herbert de Jongh Jr. and Edison Rijna in front of their office on Kaya Italia.

Tourism History

Part 5 - The 60s: Building An Island For Tourism

Part 1 of 2 -The 60s

The construction of Bonaire's first resort, Hotel Bonaire, brought about the need to bring the infrastructure of the island up to date. First thing to do, of course, was the extension of the airfield to 1430 meters, which was accomplished in February of 1960. Roads had to be built as well, to the north as well as to the south. Another road that had to be built was one to get atop Seru Largu (Montaña), which would allow tourists an overview of the entire island.

The head of the Bonaire Tourist Office in Curaçao, Toon Abraham, became the political leader of his island after the sudden death of his father, Jules Abraham, in 1960. His previous job had made him aware of the importance of tourism for the island's future and in his new position he continued to travel abroad to conferences and trade shows to promote his island. He was away so often and so difficult to reach that his political opponents gave him the nickname 'Toon t'afu' (Toon is abroad'), the usual answer one would get when trying to contact him. But because of these visits abroad, he succeeded in putting Bonaire on the world map as a tourist destination. He also



Tourist Office -1964 -now the site of the time capsule

renovated the Bonaire Tourist Office in Curaçao, which opened in May of 1961 and was headed by Edgard Chayadi, former director of the Tourist Office in Bonaire.

In 1961, 1,586 tourists visited the island, just up 2% compared to the previous year. The number of overnight stays was down again, however. The major hurdle to get tourists to Bonaire was airlift. There were no direct flights to the island, every tourist had to fly to Curaçao first and then on to Bonaire. Edgard Chayadi resorted to visiting tourists staying at hotels in Curaçao to convince them to go to Bonaire. The government of Bonaire decided to start promoting the island directly in the US and contracted Howard and Chase Associates in New York, who also represented Curaçao.

In 1962, Toon Abraham became head of the so-called *Bureau Welvaartzorg en Toerisme* (Office of Prosperity and Tour-



Hotel Bonaire 1964

ism) and tried to approach tourism in a more professional way. That year, tourism grew a bit more rapidly: 1,856 tourists visited the island, an increase of about 16% compared to the previous year. 72% were Dutch nationals, both from Holland and from the Netherlands Antilles. 19% were Americans.

A photo and film contest, organized to focus on Bonaire as a tourist destination, was a success initially. It brought a good number of photographers and film makers to the island. The results, however, were rather disappointing: pictures with too little quality were submitted.

After two years of preparations and construction, Hotel Bonaire opened its doors in August, 1963. It had 24 rooms and three suites. It could accommodate 60 people, with space for expansion. That year, visitor numbers reached 2,327, up 25%. A colorful brochure promoting Bonaire was printed and distributed. In November 1963, the

"Netherlands Antilles Spear fishing and Trolling Tournament" was held, which resulted in a record attendance and every single hotel, apartment and guest house was fully booked.

The first few years of the 60s also saw infrastructure projects being completed: the "Tourist Road," 22 kilometers along the coastline, from Playa P'abou to the Goto Lake, where it turns north to end in Rincon. More roads were built: one to Seru Largu and beyond, another from Nikiboko to Sorobon, opening up this beautiful part of the island to tourists. Another important addition to the infrastructure was the construction of a new water and power plant. In June, 1964, the new Tourist Office, still headed by Toon Abraham, opened its office at the Oranjeplein near the historic Passan-grahan.

(Continued on page 9)

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Tourism History (Continued from page 8)

In 1964, the importance of Hotel Bonaire showed in the number of visitors: 5,147, an increase of a whopping 121% compared to the previous year. Overnight stays also jumped from 2.2 to 2.9 days. The numbers of American tourists reached 22%. The Central Government (of the Netherlands Antilles) started investing money in the promotion of Bonaire in their Advertisement Program. The establishment of Trans World Radio on the island also contributed to spreading the word - the name Bonaire could be heard across the Caribbean, Latin America and the US. Still, direct flight connections were sorely needed. The Island Government negotiated with several airlines but to no avail.

1964 brought a new phenomenon: "Familiarization Tours" ("Fam Tours"). Travel agents from abroad who visited the island required a more structured approach of promotion. The first tours were organized by Robert Reid Ass., in cooperation with Hotel Bonaire and the Tourist Office. Raymundo Saleh, the new Commissioner of Tourism, Lt. Governor Morkos and Toon Abraham traveled to conferences and conventions and talked to parties interested in taking over Hotel Bonaire. And there were others who wanted to start building new hotels. The Nash Group took over Hotel



Photo: Boy Lawson

Hotel Bonaire pool

Bonaire in April 1964 and started expanding the resort right away; it was finished before the end of the year.

Tourism continued to grow in 1965; it grew to 5,887, up 14%. The number of American tourists increased considerably, almost 50% of all visitors were Americans. This, however, caused a drastic rise in room rates in both hotels, making it too expensive for visitors from the sister islands. For the first time group package rates for visitors from the US (New York) were introduced for the flight and four nights' stay, at a price far below those offered by KLM and PANAM. The enthusiasm was so great that soon the phenomenon of "repeat guests" was introduced. The Tourist Office started honoring them with a medal and the title of

"Goodwill Ambassador of Bonaire."

In that same year, discussions flared up about the hotel rates of both the Flamingo Beach Club and Hotel Bonaire. The two hotels had adopted the system of two different rates in one year, one for high- and one for low season. Room rates for high season varied between US\$31 and \$36 per day, including three meals, which was not unusual for the Caribbean in this kind of hotel. For Flamingo Beach Club, however, it was on the high side compared to Hotel Bonaire.

The Island Government was not pleased with these high rates. But the reality was that both hotels had financial problems, to such an extent that they failed to pay the travel agents that sent clients to them. Toon Abraham, head of the Tourist Office, sent a letter to both hotels reminding them that the government used its limited finances to promote tourism but that high rates and bad service, combined with non-payment of their dues to travel agents would destroy all the goodwill they had created in newspapers and magazines abroad.

In the course of 1965, a Venezuelan group showed interest in building a 250-room hotel on Bonaire. The project was budgeted at 4.1 million dollars, 40% of which the group could finance itself. The remaining 60%



Photo: Boy Lawson

Hotel Bonaire wing

would have to come from the Island or Central Government. They asked Holland to finance the 60% but the conditions of the Dutch banks were not favorable. ■ *Evert Bongers* [bongersaruba@hotmail.com]

(source: research by Bòi Antoin)

Still to come: Part 2 of The 60s, Airport/Airlift and the National Parks

Evert Bongers lives in Aruba where he works at Colegio Arubano School. He knows Bonaire well where he has been Regatta MC and race announcer since 1996.

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! ■ *Elizabeth Davis*

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

Photo by Ariana Snow

Photo by Alex Hughes

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Spectacular Kites

Kralendijk/Bonaire – On Sunday April 7th a huge kite flying contest took place from early in the morning until late in the afternoon. Location was the well prepared soccer field of Juventus behind Kooyman along the Kaya Maria C. Helmund. This time the contest was organized for the 35th time. Some 200 participants joined the event which probably after the “Dia di Rincon” and carnival is the most popular event on Bonaire. Kites from Curaçao had their impressive kites shipped for free by Don Andres. Sponsors were also: Flamingo Bookstore (Iris Semeler), Napa NV, Young and Talented (Tati Frans) and Kooyman.

Weather and wind conditions were perfect. Although it was a little bit hot and dusty, thousands of Bonaireans watched the activities. There were plenty of drinks available to cool down the public a little. A fantastic sporty and folkloric event. Thank you Iris Semeler for coordinating all activities all these years! ■

J@n Brouwer



Iris Semeler cuts her “kite cake” in honor of her 35 years of leadership of the event



Innovative use for a fishing rod-kite flying



Most optimistic kite



Escaping the scorpion kite



Herman van Leeuwen photo

Few things are more graceful than kites in flight



Herman van Leeuwen photo

The judges ponder



Jan Brouwer photo

Spiderman with every color of the rainbow kite

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Bottles To Boats



The Beach Trash

Walk the rugged, windward coast of Bonaire on any given day and you are likely to see trash strewn everywhere—old tires, driftwood, rope, sandals and thousands of plastic bottles all washed in from the sea. While many view this as abhorrent, tourist John Webb sees opportunity. “I collected nearly 440 bottles along the East Side plus some driftwood.”



John Webb aboard his kayak constructed almost entirely from beach trash

The young American was gathering material to build his own sea kayak. Impressed by a posting on the Internet, Webb saw this as a perfect way to build a boat plus help the environment. “My inspiration for the kayak was Shelley Burggraaff (A Life Changing Voyage-Bonaire Reporter-February 22, 2013). She opened my eyes to the East Side and gave me a hand with my first collecting. After that I just collected alone.”

Removing trash from the shore is beneficial to Bonaire’s wildlife especially when one considers from the approximately 100

million tons of plastic produced each year worldwide, about 10% ends up in the sea. The debris kills marine animals that mistakenly recognize the material as food and eat it. Greenpeace estimates that over a million sea birds and one hundred thousand marine mammals and sea turtles are killed annually by ingesting plastics or entanglement in the garbage. The global problem of sea trash has come to Bonaire’s shores putting our birds, turtles and fish at risk.

With materials collected, Webb started his kayak construction. He built a frame from



The bow “cleat”

gathered driftwood—two pieces running nearly the entire length of the boat plus four port-to-starboard slats. Those pieces were tied together like a ladder. Although Webb used his own rope due to time constraints, he said enough cordage could be found on the beach to complete the task. Then began the gluing of the 400-plus plastic bottles.

“It took me three days to build the kayak, but much of that was waiting for the glue to dry. The frame’s long pieces stop two feet back from each end. To give the boat some form, I just glued the bottles in place at the bow and stern with a curve. I extended the length longer than I needed so I had a room for my free-dive gear.” Webb then wrapped the entire vessel with a strong plastic packing tape to give it additional strength.

And the name? “I never named the kayak officially other than calling it *Bon Dia*. I used to say good morning to it each day when I would work on it. Plus, the name also had connotations of starting something new like what each morning brings...a new day, new adventures, and new friends.”

(Continued on page 18)

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Bonaire Coral Puzzle 13

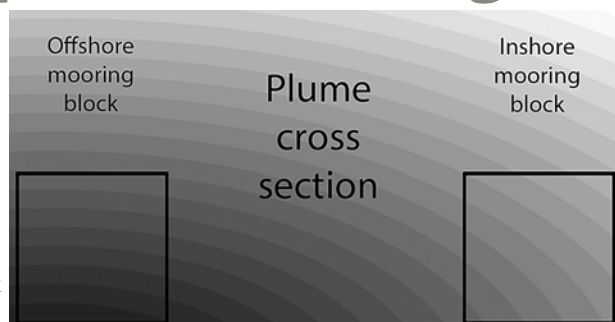
The Culprit Strikes Again

In the previous article of this series I described a peculiar vertical pattern of coral growth on the boat mooring blocks in front of Kralendijk. This pattern includes two observations. First, there is significantly more coral on upper parts of the block faces than on their lower parts. Second, the difference in coral growth between the upper and the lower parts of the faces is significantly larger on the offshore than on the inshore blocks.

The first observation could be explained by various natural effects, specifically by waves and light facilitating coral growth on the upper parts and by sand hindering coral growth on the lower parts. However, all these explanations fail when the second observation is considered. As shown in the previous article, all three effects – waves, light and sand – would result in the difference between coral amounts on the upper and the lower parts of the faces to be larger on the inshore blocks than on the offshore ones. But the observed fact is exactly opposite – the difference is larger on the offshore than on the inshore blocks. This means that something else rather than waves, light or sand causes the peculiar vertical pattern of the coral growth. What is it?

I have demonstrated in the previous articles how a plume of polluted sediments stirred up in the port of Kralendijk and drifted along the reef explains various horizontal patterns of the coral growth on the mooring blocks. Particularly, it explains why there are more corals on the inshore compared to the offshore moorings. Could the same plume explain the observations of the vertical pattern of coral growth?

Let's check again the cross section of the pollution plume (Fig. A). This is the same cross section schematics that previously helped explain another peculiar observation, i.e. prevalence of the corals on the right compared to the left parts of the inshore block faces. The darker areas on the figure represent higher concentration levels of the pollutants and the lighter areas represent lower concentration levels. The



Cross-section of the pollution plume with levels of the pollutant concentrations

axis of the plume is located near the offshore blocks and the concentration of pollutants is the highest there. The concentration drops upward and also sidewise causing the inshore blocks, on the outskirts of the plume, to be less affected by the pollutants.

On both the offshore and the inshore blocks, concentration of pollutants is higher near the bottom than near the top. That is because the polluted sediments which were stirred up from the bottom in the port, settle down as the plume drifts and spreads. Compare now the difference between these concentration levels on the offshore and on the inshore blocks. On the inshore blocks, the concentration drops about four levels in the vertical direction from the bottom to the top of the block. But on the offshore blocks it drops seven levels!

The point here is that because of the shape of the plume the difference in pollutant concentrations between the upper and the lower parts of the block faces is larger on the offshore blocks than on the inshore ones. And this corresponds to the coral growth. Following the pollutant concentrations, the difference in coral amounts between the upper and the lower parts of the block faces is larger on the offshore blocks than on the inshore ones. Just like the horizontal patterns, the vertical patterns of coral coverage on the boat mooring blocks reflect detrimental effects on coral of the pollution plume drifting along the reef. ■

Genady Filkovsky

Write to Genady Filkovsky, e-mail: la-goenhill20@yahoo.com. All previous issues of the series can be accessed through the web-site www.filkovsky.net/bonaire-coral-puzzle.html.



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Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper *èxtra*

Before marriage:

The man: Finally! It was hard but finally you get it.

The woman: You want to leave me?

The man: No, don't even think about things like.

The Woman: You love me?

The Man: Of course, as much as possible.

The Woman: Have you cheated on me?

The Man: Nooo, how can you ask me such a thing.

The Woman: Will you kiss me?

The Man: At every opportunity I get.

The Woman: Will you be likely to hit me?

The Man: Are you crazy, I am not that type of person.

The Woman: Can I trust you?

The Man: Yes!

The Woman: My sweetheart!

After marriage: ♠ Read from bottom to top. ♠

Buchi's teacher said to him: "When I was your age I knew the names of all the countries." Buchi answered: "I hope so, at that time there were only two or three countries in existence."

A drunk arrives home at 3 am and his wife is waiting for him in the living room. "So this is how it goes, this is the time you come home?"

The drunk says: "Who told you I'm home already, I just came to get my guitar."

A very unattractive woman with a long nose goes into a store and asks the young man working there: "Can I please get a broom?" The young man answers: "Do you want me to put it in a bag or do you want to just jump on it and go right now?"

A man goes to a psychologist. "Doctor, I have a big problem, I fought with my mother-in-law and she got mad and told me she was not going to talk to me for a month." Doctor: "But what's the problem then?" "Today the month is over."

A guy meets a friend on the street and tells him: I am really worried because I loaned a guy \$40,000 to get plastic surgery and now I don't know who I have to collect it from... I can't recognize his face! ■

Translated by Jane Madden-Disko



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Times Square, New York.



Maggie Booi sent us this photo with herself, and husband Frans holding *The Reporter* with his daughter Lizbeth and his grandson Tristan during a great trip to New York City. It looks pretty cold there.

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For sale: Ludix One scooter, from 2006. In good condition, got its maintenances, new back tire (inside and outside), including new luggage rack and heavy chain and lock. New plates; taxes paid until Dec 2013. Price: \$1000. Call: 788 6126.

2005 TOYOTA TACOMA 4D DOUBLE CAB + BED CAP (removable) Only 6650 miles - excellent cond. automatic transmission, airco, C/D, more extras Royal Blue - \$24,950 Call 717-6813

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If you are **going on vacation** and you need a house sitter feel free to call tarimar for more information at: 599 700-5473

Missing Tank, please help me find it. One of my tanks, a 63 with BSDME painted on the side went out with tanks to somewhere from Bonaire Scuba Services. It should stand out as it has a some leftover shading of blue where I had once had painted it. Susan@bsdme.info

HP LaserJet P2035. Perfect condition. Almost new. Now only \$175. Call 717-8819 , 8 am to 5 pm

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

| Day | High | Low | High | Low | High | Sunrise | Sunset |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|--------|
| Fri. 19 | | 01:31 0.16 ft | 07:03 0.62 ft | 14:59 -0.15 ft | 20:45 0.39 ft | 6:21 | 18:48 |
| Sat 20 | | 02:28 0.15 ft | 07:43 0.55 ft | 15:22 -0.12 ft | 21:14 0.45 ft | 6:21 | 18:48 |
| Sun 21 | | 03:32 0.13 ft | 08:27 0.46 ft | 15:44 -0.08 ft | 21:47 0.53 ft | 6:20 | 18:48 |
| Mon 22 | | 04:44 0.10 ft | 09:17 0.36 ft | 16:07 -0.05 ft | 22:25 0.62 ft | 6:19 | 18:48 |
| Tue 23 | | 06:02 0.05 ft | 10:19 0.26 ft | 16:31 -0.02 ft | 23:07 0.71 ft | 6:19 | 18:48 |
| Wed 24 | | 07:21 -0.03 ft | 11:38 0.17 ft | 17:00 0.00 ft | 23:54 0.80 ft | 6:19 | 18:48 |
| Thu 25 | | 08:33 -0.12 ft | 13:12 0.12 ft | 17:37 0.03 ft | Full Moon | 6:18 | 18:48 |
| Fri 26 | 00:45 0.88 ft | 09:35 -0.22 ft | 14:45 0.11 ft | 18:28 0.06 ft | | 6:18 | 18:48 |
| Sat 27 | 01:39 0.94 ft | 10:28 -0.30 ft | 16:00 0.14 ft | 19:36 0.09 ft | | 6:17 | 18:49 |
| Sun 28 | 02:34 0.98 ft | 11:17 -0.36 ft | 16:56 0.19 ft | 20:54 0.11 ft | | 6:17 | 18:49 |
| Mon 29 | 03:29 0.99 ft | 12:01 -0.40 ft | 17:43 0.26 ft | 22:11 0.11 ft | | 6:16 | 18:49 |
| Tue 30 | 04:23 0.97 ft | 12:44 -0.42 ft | 18:28 0.34 ft | 23:27 0.11 ft | | 6:16 | 18:49 |
| Wed 01 | 05:17 0.92 ft | 13:25 -0.41 ft | 19:12 0.43 ft | | | 6:15 | 18:49 |
| Thu 02 | L Quarter | 00:40 0.11 ft | 06:11 0.83 ft | 14:04 -0.37 ft | 19:56 0.52 ft | 6:15 | 18:49 |
| Fri 03 | | 01:53 0.09 ft | 07:05 0.71 ft | 14:42 -0.31 ft | 20:40 0.61 ft | 6:15 | 18:50 |

REAL ESTATE, RENTALS, ETC...

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Sudoku Puzzle

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

Sudoku Solution

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

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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.

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

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MADE ON BONAIRE

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

VARIETY STORE

The Tung Fong Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it.

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)

Miguel, The Coco Man From Bonaire



Wonder who the guy is selling coconuts in the Peking parking lot at Kaya Korona? It's Miguel Felipe who lived in the Netherlands, the US and Curaçao. His whole business consists of a little jeep, a generator and a freezer. "I am one of the last coco men," he says. "Coconut water is very good for the kidneys and for people's health in general. Not only do I sell coconuts and coconut water but also *pinda* (peanut candy), *awa di lamoenchi* (limeade), *kokada* (coconut candy), *juice di tamarijn* (tamarind juice), *zeta de coco* (coconut oil) and many other things. When I get my kunuku, I will expand the business. I've lived in the Netherlands and the US and on Curaçao and now I'm here and making my living! All kinds of people come to me, also tourists, and I sell souvenirs as well. It's not bad! Better than going out stealing huh! I am happy to be here at the parking of Peking Restaurant and



Wing Cheung Supermarket, but then, the owner is my Chinese father!"
When I Google Miguel's health story, I find out that "Fresh coconut water contains enzymes that help to detoxify and repair the body. It's also a great source of electrolytes." So... for flavor, potassium and hydration, visit Miguel, because coconut water is definitely a healthy choice! ■ *Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*

First Prize for Bonaire at Aruban Tattoo Convention

On April 6th and 7th, a third Caribbean Tattoo Convention, this time organized by Inkspiration Aruba, was held in the ballroom of the Radisson Hotel & Resort in Aruba. Of course Bonaire was represented by Bonaire Bushitattoo's Carsten Cilissen. The tattoo artist won first prize in the category, "Black and Grey," by showing his masterpiece on the leg of his model and girlfriend Jacqueline Morales (photo at right →).



Bonaire Bushitattoo's Carsten Cilissen

For Carsten it was the first time he visited Aruba: "What a handsome island, man! I had a blast! I even met my neighbor from Bonaire and some other elderly Bonairean people that I know and they wished me 'hopi exito' – lots of success. We were about 17 participants: artists from Colombia, Venezuela, Aruba, Curaçao, the Netherlands, the US, Italy, Surinam and St. Martin, and good contacts were established. The atmosphere was excellent, very congenial and especially on Sunday the ballroom was bursting out of its seams with visitors who were all super enthusiastic and curious. I enjoyed it so much! Now I'm ready for the next convention in Surinam in September, and Bonaire might be next, because the people of Tattoo Society, an American magazine, are eager to see more of Bonaire, so who knows!" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Upcoming Cruise Ships— Source: Harbormaster's Office

| Day | Date | Ship Name | Time in Port | # of pass. | Cruise Line |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------------|
| Wednesday | 17-Apr-13 | <i>Grandeur of the Seas</i> | 0800-1800 | 2446 | Celebrity/RCCL |
| Saturday | 20-Apr-13 | <i>Emerald Princess</i> | 0700-1400 | 3100 | Princess Cruises |

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, April 20—Back on Track Live... . Rock'n Roll, Blues, Music of the 60s and 70s. Start 7 pm, at Tera Cora Ranch

Sunday, April 21 - CIEE Research Station Sustainability Fair to promote sustainability and enhance environmental awareness, 1-3pm, at CIEE, Kaya. Gob. Debrot #26

Friday, April 26—Taste of Bonaire at Wilhelmina Park. More information at TCB, tel. 717-8322

Saturday, April 27—Flea Market at Bonaire Sailing School (BSSA)

Tuesday, April 30 --Rincon Day Celebration—In the streets of Rincon—all day, dancing, parades, local foods and drinks. Bonaire's best party of the year!

-Rincon Day, Comcabon 29th Annual Playa-Rincon Race. Sign up at Karel's Beach Bar April 27, 5 pm, \$3 inscription.

-Inauguration of King Willem-Alexander in Holland

Wednesday, May 1—Labor Day, legal holiday

Friday May 3 –Well-known Curaçao pianist and composer Johnny Kleinmoedig and his band Conhunto, will conduct a "promenade" concert at Plaza Resort Bonaire. Sponsored by the Classical Music Board Bonaire, 8 pm until midnight. Tickets \$35 WWW.ClassicalMusicBoard.com More on page 2.

Sunday, May 5 – Exhibit of local artist at Chich'iTan home in Rincon, sponsored by Foundation for Art and Culture. Chich'iTan is behind the Rose Inn. 10am-4pm. Drinks and local snacks too.

May 31– June 2—9th edition ProKids Windsurfing, Sorobon.

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** - closed due to lack of financing.

Saturdays

• **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 1 pm.**

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

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

• **Soldachi Tours—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time.** Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

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

Sundays

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

Mondays

• **Soldachi Tours of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value**

• **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar—** Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain will autograph your copy of his newest book *Reef Windows*.

Wednesdays

• **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.** 12 noon, Bonaire Basics. 786-6416 or info@bonaireyoga.com

Fridays

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

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

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

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

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018

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

Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every **Wednesday** at 7pm. Phone: 786-4931

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch.

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

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

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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Guest Editorial

How Safe is Bonaire?

Over the past 15 years I have had the pleasure of driving over our island in three different cars. All three vehicles, that were in good condition, found an early "total loss" death due to joy riding and theft. The first one, a jeep Suzuki stranded in Rincon with a blown engine. The second, a Toyota pick up, crashed after a wild police chase near an abandoned snack. And the third, a Toyota Yaris, was parked on our hill with the beautiful views, the Seru Largu, totally stripped of all essential parts to ever drive again. Besides, during this period we received burglars in our house three times, with a total mess as a result. We slept peacefully while the house was being looted.

As you might well understand, I consider myself quite an expert in the field of being a victim of property crime. My turn once every five years; that more or less agrees with the island's statistics. Each time I was terribly angry but I received good support from the police. Also, some thieves were caught and convicted. And still, despite all this, my sense of being secure on Bonaire did not drop. I did learn a lot, especially what one should not do!

Friends and acquaintances who hear about my adventures often react in a stereotypical, unobvious way: "yes, it's a mess on this island", and "this also happened to me and I have had it with this island", or "the police fell asleep years ago."

Nobody ever asks me if possibly I was a little careless, had left my keys lying around, forgot to close a window or something similar. And before the conversation ends Bonaire is at the top of the crime list and the police are to blame. Drinking talk and conclusions that do not mirror reality.

If you really want to know about Bonaire crime visit the site www.politiecn.com, a good website where information about everyday offenses, statistics and police reports can be found. I have studied the figures and compared them to other places on our earth and have concluded in my "wet-finger" way that we don't need to be overly worried. Bonaire is in comparison not an abnormal criminal place, but neither is it an immaculate, peaceful, "bounty island" either. One can read more about security and crimi-



nality in a report from Caribbean Netherlands called: "Building on, Together." It contains the results of a survey of the reigning perception: "How Residents Perceive It." Respondents perceived the island as Not Safe in 2011 and strongly criticized the police. According to the researchers there is a direct link between the feeling of being secure and police performance. And in 2012 we notice a definite improvement. The experience is more positive and there is less criticism of the police. A direct causal link between police action and a feeling of security of our citizens is suggested but not proven. In other words, not a strong, convincing story.

I draw some conclusions for myself, independent of this pseudo scientific "perception research." Obviously we have police in the first place to catch crooks and villains, to gather solid proof and to intervene when the law is broken. In addition, the police force must reflect trust, authority, diligence and transparency. And it can play an important role in the prevention of offenses and crime. But they cannot solely be held responsible for all car thefts and a possible low sense of security. That is asking too much.

Probation officers, judges, social workers and prisons also have an important task in keeping recidivists and habitual offenders away from us and to help them regain the correct path of life. The stake holding organizations like Bonhata and TCB are the prominent authorities to welcome our 70,000 annual tourists with a warm Bon Bini, but they should also inform them that Bonaire is just as safe or unsafe as the country they came from. Overnight tourists are easy targets for thieves; you recognize them from their slightly burnt white skins, they always carry expensive "stuff" with them and they are a bit drowsy after a long flight. And they travel often to our island with an excessive sense of security: "Such a thing cannot happen on Bonaire?" Well, yes, this

The Mystery Gourmet

CHIBI CHIBI AT DIVI



Photos by MG and Spouse

A generous invitation for lunch by two friends resulted in the Mystery Gourmet and his even more mysterious spouse visiting the Chibi Chibi restaurant at the Divi Flamingo resort.

The ravenous pair had experienced good food, beverages and service at Chibi Chibi many times and were pleased to arrive at the handy parking area, a short walk taking them to the joyously decorated, multilevel seaside restaurant, perched on the shore so as to provide a pleasant view for

can happen and the risks are just as high as back home, in the Netherlands, Canada or elsewhere. We are no robbers nest but just an island in this world where next to peaceful citizens we also have people who go out stealing. Out of frustration, anger, poverty or whatever. And where some young people may assault others, just as they see every day in horrible TV series, complete with hoody and shotgun. Don't be fooled, Bonaire is a beautiful island, but it is not a paradise on earth without sin.

And that also counts for you and me. We live on Bonaire in a relatively prosperous community, where there is much to be stolen and where, just like everywhere else in the world some people sometimes do desperate things.

And we must not nostalgically long for 15 or 20 years ago about which we are told with regret how we went to sleep on the island with open doors and windows. Those who complain about this and want to experience how it was better move to a country where this is still possible. There you can leave your doors and windows open. And where do you think this is?

For my fourth car on Bonaire, I made a peculiar choice. I now drive an inconspicuous Chinese car, a BYD F3, which is very popular in China as a taxi or police car. I was told that parts of this car are not in demand. Thus I have become somewhat obsolete in the market of thieves. Consequently, I can sleep a little better at night. ■

Guus Gerritsen



all the diners.

We were seated at a seaside table with comfortable chairs, our server was pleasant, friendly and attentive.

We promptly were served ice water, a menu was offered and the day's specials were announced. Glasses of wine were



Dining Room

provided and the group ordered their entrees. Cheese steak sandwiches, the grilled Wahoo special and chicken Caesar salads being chosen.

The foods arrived in good time, the dishes were found to be simply delicious, well seasoned, expertly prepared and comprised of fresh ingredients. A better view of the sea with gentle, warm breeze could not be imagined, thus we lingered over our meals, better to enjoy the scene.

Easy access, pleasant ambience, good food and drink and cordial fellowship; what more could one wish for noontime dining? The Gourmet recommends Chibi Chibi at the Divi Flamingo. ■ *The Mystery Gourmet and Spouse*

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Pet of the Week Shelter News



Eppo then



Eppo now

What a difference a year makes! "Eppo" has evolved from a scrawny, shy kitten to a confident, incredibly handsome young man. Eppo arrived at the Bonaire Animal Shelter in May of 2012 at three months old accompanied by his mom. As an "only" kitten he didn't play much and spent most of his time hiding behind her. But Eppo has evolved....and what a difference a year makes!

After months of watching and waiting, Eppo emerged from his shell and became a handsome, playful and affectionate young cat. He is the ring leader of play and teaches the new kittens the finer techniques of kitten play-fighting. When play time is over, he literally takes them under his wing and watches over the bunch with his arms around them during nap time. He has recently revealed his secret desire for human interaction.....with a little coaxing he will do "the flop" and enjoy some serious belly rubs and ear scratches while you sing to him!

Eppo not only has a new personality, but the shy scrawny kitten in the "before" picture has disappeared. He has soft, semi-long fur with a striking bushy black and grey tail that always draws admiring comments...even from dog lovers! His nose is dark grey with a tiny spot of pink right in the center. And those eyes!...grey green with tiny flecks of blue.

Eppo is one of the eight cats currently "rooming" at the Shelter who have been there for up to two years. They have all been patiently waiting for their forever home. If you are considering getting a companion cat, instead of choosing a cute little kitten, you might want to consider an affectionate, well-socialized adult cat who would settle in effortlessly to a home for which he/she has been waiting for a long time. Less work and training for you, more than enough love in return. Eppo and his Shelter mates are waiting for a visit for those interested in adopting a cat or dog. The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 p.m. Adoption fees include current vaccinations and sterilization. Tel. 717-4989.

HELP THE SHELTER AND OUR COMMUNITY

Times are economically difficult right now for many people on the island. As a result, the **Bonaire Animal Shelter's second hand store, Pakus di Pruga**, (Papiamentu for "Flea Store", as in flea market) is rapidly depleting their stock of used household items which are sold at bargain prices. The store is open every Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm and the donated items that arrive each Saturday are quickly purchased. Things like kitchen items, furniture, linens, bedding, beds, clothes, toys, kids clothes, appliances and just about anything and everything home or family related are snapped up before they can be put on the shelves.

If you are moving, remodeling, spring cleaning or just making space in your cupboards please consider donating your unwanted used items to the Pakus di Pruga. Your generosity will serve two worthy causes: helping the island community get through these tough times and helping to feed and care for all the animals at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. The store is run and staffed by tireless, dedicated volunteers so there is no overhead and all the proceeds from sales go directly to the care and feeding of the Shelter residents. →



Our Pet of the Week in the last issue of *The Reporter*, Dingo, has been adopted. Congratulations to the new owners and to that very special dog, **Dingo**. ■

Bottle to Boats (Continued from page 11)

I got to witness the maiden voyage of the 20-pound plastic craft, *Bon Dia* on April 5th. Webb launched the boat on the waterfront near where the Barracuda youth swimming team has their lane floats. He paddled easily along the coast and out to Shelley Burggraaff's yacht, *North Wind*, and then headed to the Yellow Submarine dive dock a kilometer away. There a group of about 20 applauded the kayak's arrival. "I'm going to donate the boat to Carolyn Caporusso at Dive Friends so she will have it for her Debris Free project. "John has shown that you can take beach trash and make it into something fun," explains Caporusso. "We're hoping to have a contest for local kids in the future so they can make their own kayaks and compete in a race. Who knows? Maybe we will have prizes for the winners." Getting youth to clean up the beach and renew the maritime past of their forefathers is definitely a winning combination. The kayaks can be easily recycled at the Debris Free collection bin located at Dive Friends-Hamlet once they have spent their lives on the water.

Webb has some ideas for improvement for his plastic bottle boat. He suggests reducing the sheer of the stern since it rises too high when

someone is aboard. Plus, Styrofoam could be also collected from the beach, and when mixed with acetone, serve as a coating to give the kayak a smooth finish. With that complete, a boat builder could paint the hull, add stickers and personalize the vessel. "I even have plans on how to make a paddle from sea trash," says Webb.

Sometimes it takes someone from the outside to introduce a new idea worth merit. John Webb certainly has made his contribution during his month-long stay here. But the exchange has not been one sided. "I really had a good time in Bonaire. I met so many great people on this island. I'll be back." Perhaps on his return the bay at Kralendijk will be dotted with colorful kayaks made from gathered driftwood, rope and plastic bottles. As a result, our east coast beaches will be that much cleaner. ■

Story & photos by Patrick Holian

To see more of *Bon Dia* or learn more about Debris Free Bonaire, log on to: <http://www.debrisfreebonaire.com/>



You can drop off your items at the Pakus di Pruga on Saturdays from 8 to 5 or at the Animal Shelter during their business hours. Pakus di Pruga is located on Kaya Simone Bolivar across from Brandaris Cafe. Remember, even if you don't need it someone else does! ■ Jane Madden-Disko



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

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

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JUPITER AND THE COMET FADE AWAY

This is the final month for easy viewing of the Giant Planet, **Jupiter**, which has now faded to magnitude -2.0 but is still the brightest "star" in the heavens.

The **Moon** comes extremely close to the blue star **Spica** on the 24th and then passes to the lower right of **Saturn** on the 25th. Both rise at around night-fall. Saturn, with its rings now beautifully "open" (meaning not tilted edgewise to us), has its **opposition** of the past six years. Visible through any telescope, Saturn lights up the otherwise dim constellation of **Libra**.

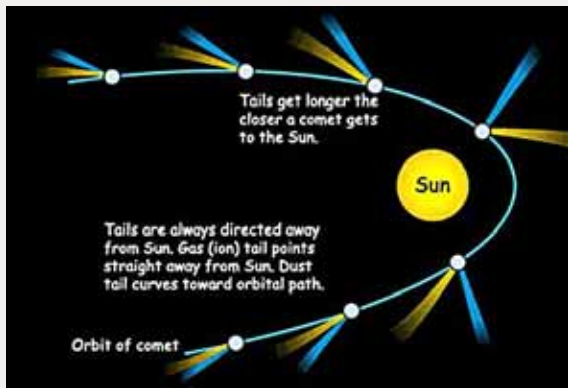
Northern lunistice (The farthest point of the Moon's northing and southing, in its monthly revolution.) was on the 15th.

If you see any meteors this month, try to figure out if they come from the constellation **Lyra**. The April **Lyrid** shower peaks around the 21st.

The Moon will **occlude** Spica on April 24 -25. The middle of the event is on the 25th at 0:09 UT. The visibility zone for this event will be South Africa, northeastern South America, and a stretch of the Atlantic Ocean between the two from the West Indies to the Walvis Ridge. The moon is at **perigee** (closest to Earth) on the 27th. And on the 28th, when the moon is at **southern lunistice again**, it will be 6.7° north of **Antares**.

Saturn is at its closest to us on the 28th, 8.8 astronomical units from us. It's at **opposition, which means it's up all night**. The planet's north pole is tilted toward us by about 18°. So we'll get a fairly good view of the rings.

Comet C/2011 L4 (PANSTARRS) was at its closest to Earth on March 5 and it was closest to the Sun on March 10. So it's expected to get dimmer in April, although it will be moving farther into the night sky after sunset. The comet goes northward and approaches **Cassiopeia** by the middle of the month. On the 20th, it's directly in between **Shedir** and **Caph**, the two stars forming the easternmost arm of the W of the celestial queen's constella-



tion. By the end of the month, the comet is between **Cassiopeia** and **Cepheus**. It probably will require a telescope or binoculars to view by this time, but one never knows what comets will do when it comes to brightening and dimming. Astronomers think Comet C/2011 L4 (PANSTARRS) is on its first trip close to the Sun, coming to us from the **Oort Cloud**. They're still studying its orbit, but they think it may not return for another 100,000 or more years.



Comet C/2011 L4 PANSTARRS
Taken through an 11 inch telescope

A photo from amateur astronomers Michael Mattiazzo and Jim Gifford, both of Australia shows a view of Comet C/2011 L4 PANSTARRS down under. It is hard to spot in the Sky Park. ■ **Bob Berman**



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

Late April 2013

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable if you take them with that special person in your life. You may be confused regarding your love life. Don't get involved in joint ventures. You should be able to get a lot done. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You could have a need to make some changes this month. You can dazzle members of the opposite sex with your quick wit and aggressive charm. Expand your knowledge and sign up for courses and seminars. Talk to someone you trust in order to see the whole picture. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Offers of joint ventures are likely. If you're in the mood, go out and socialize, or get involved in sports activities. You can persuade even the toughest opponents to think your way. Deception is apparent. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Try not to upset others with your plans. Sudden romance could end just as quickly. You're on to something tangible and need to act fast. You have a lot to offer. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Don't hesitate to come right out and ask for the pertinent information. You will both have to bend if you want this union to work. Travel and family gatherings should be in order. Take care of any medical problems if they've been troubling you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't get involved in joint ventures. You must be careful not to ignore the needs of the youngsters in your family. Your home environment may be hectic, which could result in emotional upset if you aren't well organized. Female colleagues may be able to help you get the job done. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can anger others quickly this month. Avoid overspending on items for your home.

You are best to work at home if you can. Groups and organizations that indulge in social events to raise money will be conducive to meeting new and exciting lovers. Try to stay calm and understand both sides of the situation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Do something together and you'll be surprised how sweet a deal you can make. Try not to lend or borrow money or belongings this month. Be prepared to make changes to your personal documents. Look into ways to better yourself through improving your dietary habits and daily routines. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't avoid your true feelings. You can make headway if you share your intentions with someone you care about. Don't let your personal problems interfere with your professional responsibilities. You may find yourself in an opportune position if you are willing to take a bit of a risk. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may be out of sorts. If you have been extravagant or have let children or friends take advantage of you financially. You may be admired by colleagues and employers for your diplomatic way of handling your work and those you work with. You may find yourself in an opportune position if you are willing to take a bit of a risk. Try to mix business with pleasure while traveling. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Romantic opportunities will be plentiful if you go out with friends. Watch for empty promises that may give you false hope. Your ability to be a self starter will help get things done and motivate others. A new you could help your attitude. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Social events will be plentiful. Try to be considerate in your personal obligations. Look into some personal changes. Your talent will be recognized. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. ■



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Bike Race Results



Facebook photo

Sunbelt Bike Racing Team with matching shirts - Martin and Jan Henk—with race organizer Frank "Smoking Wheels" Bohm (right) at the April 7 competition at Yatu Baku.

| MTB Race Results, 42 participants | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Name | Course | Laps |
| Willeke Dolman | 8KM | 3 1h32 |
| Francis Costing | 8KM | 3 1h32 |
| Martin Costing | 3.5KM | 5 1h22 |
| Domingo de Lima | 8KM | 2 1h22 |
| Maicos de Lima | 3.5KM | 5 1h09 |
| Eranido | 3.5KM | 5 1h04 |
| Bart Breukelmans | 8KM | 4 1h24 |
| Joost van Gaalen | 8KM | 4 1h49 |
| Frank Bohm | 8KM | 4 1h25 |

Bat Commuters Confirmed



Photo credits: Paulo Bertuol - N&HRU - STINAPA Bonaire

After almost five years of work capturing and marking the most important pollinators of our cacti, the Long-nosed Bats (*L. curusae*), last week the Natural and Historic Resources Unit of STINAPA Bonaire, with the help of local and foreign volunteers, recaptured an adult female Long-nosed Bat originally marked on Curaçao in November 2012. This recapture, demonstrates the hypothesis of a two-way bat exchange between the islands and perhaps Venezuela. This finding clearly shows that it is necessary to coordinate a regional plan to protect the caves used by these bats on all three of the ABC Islands. The flight from Curaçao to Bonaire is against the wind and therefore requires a bigger effort from these small flying mammals, making this bat's journey even more remarkable than the ones of the three Bonairean bats recaptured in Curaçao a couple of months ago. ■ *Press release*

In the photo: Tagged Curaçao bats with Fernando Simal, the General Coordinator of the PCMACBs (Bat Conservation Program for the ABC Islands).

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------|------|
| Peter-Paul Wortelboer | 8KM | 4 | 1h38 |
| Margret Rooijakker | combinatie | 1 en 3 | 1h23 |
| Jan Rooijaker | 8KM | 3 | 1h30 |
| Amo van Aalst | 8KM | 3 | 1h14 |
| Ely Albers | 8KM | 3 | 1h49 |
| Ronald de Jong | 8KM | 4 | 1h14 |
| Patrick Schouten | combinatie | 2 en 3 | 1h35 |
| Frank Mulder | 8KM | 4 | ???? |
| Mauro | 8KM | 4 | 1h33 |
| Blue Burger | 8KM | 3 | 1h49 |
| Martijn Eichorn | 8KM | 4 | 1h46 |
| Jan Henk v.d. Wier | 8KM | 4 | 1h46 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---|------|
| Adres Maciel | 8KM | 4 | 1h15 |
| Agusto Lima | 3.5KM | 5 | 1h09 |
| Sofi Lima | 3.5KM | 1 | Lek |
| Riccardo Lima | 3.5KM | 5 | 1h16 |
| Sam Williams | 8KM | 3 | 1h12 |
| Bred Walker | 8KM | 4 | 1h19 |
| Sedney Marten | 8KM | 3 | 1h30 |
| Catrine Jaddot | combinatie | 3 | 1h12 |
| Manon Hulsker | combinatie | 3 | 1h21 |
| Patrick Hulsker | 8KM | 3 | 1h27 |
| Nancy v.h. Woud | combinatie | 3 | 1h21 |
| Carla Verheggen | 8KM | 3 | 1h27 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|---|--------|
| Louis Coppen | 8KM | 4 | 1h50 |
| John v.t. Hof | 8KM | / | materi |
| Leo Hoogeboom | 8KM | 4 | 1h28 |
| Kate Vink | 8KM | 3 | 1h20 |
| Marijke eykenaar | 3.5KM | 3 | 0h52 |
| Ruud Mbsker | 8KM | 4 | 1h41 |
| Rudi Slager | combinatie | 3 | 1h23 |
| Neil van Willigen | 3.5KM | 2 | Lek |
| Wotty de Palm | 8KM | 3 | 1h17 |
| Martine Jonker | 3.5KM | 5 | 1h18 |