

It's Still
FREE

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The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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Nature's Ambassadors

The Junior Rangers of Bonaire are an ambitious bunch. To raise money for their activities they have barbeques, movie nights and on a recent Saturday they had a car wash at Kriabon during the Farmers Market. Sponsored by Stinapa and part of Jong Bonaire Junior Rangers is an out-of-school nature education program for teens to help develop knowledge and understanding of nature and the delicate eco system, while developing the teens' leadership skills. They participate in beach and coastal cleanups, guided walks and

hikes, snorkel and dive programs and exchange programs with Aruba. Doesn't it make you wish you were a teenager again?

As Junior Ranger Gideon Goedgedrag says, "Nature is vital for our survival. We live off it. We eat from it. We drink from it. We all together are nature."

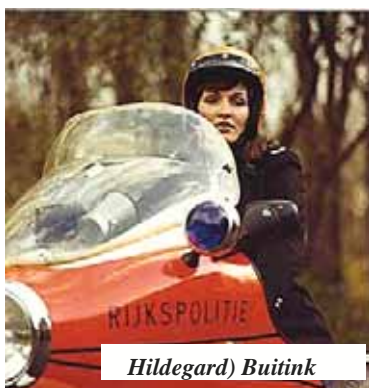
Their motto: "We are the Nature's Ambassadors from Bonaire, D.C." ■ *L.D.*



On Monday, April 29, four outstanding Bonaire residents were honored by the Dutch crown by being named members of the Order of Oranje Nassau. The honor is bestowed on persons who have performed exemplary service for their community. In her role as acting Governor Mrs. Silvana Janga Serfilia (center) congratulated the new members and awarded them their medals. Named were: **Mrs. Patricia Nicolas, Mr. Erwin Phelipa, Mr. Francisco Janga and Mr. Richard Pietersz.**

A total of 39 persons received a royal decoration in Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten and Bonaire: 16 in Curaçao, 10 in Aruba, nine in St. Maarten and the four in Bonaire. The vast majority of the royal decorations go to persons in The European Netherlands: 2,977.

The youngest person to receive a royal decoration in the Dutch Kingdom is Aruban world champion windsurfer Sarah-Quita Offringa (21).



► **Mrs. H.M.L. (Hildegard) Buitink (53) will be the new Chief of Police of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force.** Mrs. Buitink starts her new position on July 1st and will take over the leadership of the Police Corps from Jan Rooijakker.

In the 1970s she served as the first woman motorcycle officer in The Hague. She has worked as a detective in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, with a Criminal Intelligence Unit and with different observation teams. Between 2009 and 2012 she was Chief of the division Police Affairs A (*Hoofd Politiezaken A*) and Division Chief of the Criminal Investigation Police in Zeeland. She then became part of the staff of the National Police Corps. (1970s photo)

► Beginning May 19 there is a **change in the days and times to request letters of good conduct and to pick up the letters which are required for residency permits.**

Days to request the letter: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 11 am and Thursdays from 2 pm to 4 pm. Days to pick up

the letter: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2 pm to 4 pm and Fridays from 8:30 am to 11 am.

► Getting to Bonaire... United Airlines operates a weekly non-stop flight to **Bonaire from Houston, TX** and a weekly non-stop flight from **Newark, NJ.** (The Newark flight is seasonal.) The Houston flight departs on Friday nights, arriving into Bonaire on Saturday mornings. The return flight departs on Saturday mornings arriving into Houston later the same day. The Newark flight departs Friday nights, arriving into Bonaire on Saturday mornings. The return flight departs on Saturday mornings arriving into Newark later that same day. Delta operates a weekly **non-stop flight to/from Atlanta** on Saturdays. Insel Air operates a weekly non-stop flight to/from **Miami on Saturdays and a weekly direct flight to Bonaire on Saturdays from Charlotte, N.C. via Curaçao.** Other flights from North America generally arrive in Aruba or Curaçao. Flights between Bonaire, Aruba and Curaçao are available on Dutch Antilles Express (DAE), EZ Air, Insel Air and Tiara Air. Divi Divi Air flies between Bonaire and Curaçao.

► **Inflation on Bonaire fell to 2.5% in the first quarter of 2013. In the fourth quarter of 2012 it was still 2.7%.** Food prices pushed down inflation: these prices were 0.8% lower than in the first quarter of 2012. In the fourth quarter of 2012, food prices were 0.4% higher than 12 months previously. Furniture and household appliances

► **A prominent politician in Curaçao's coalition government was shot dead on a public beach in broad daylight.** It was the first murder of a parliamentarian in the island's history.

On Sunday, May 6, Member of the Curaçao Parliament, Helmin Wiels, was hit with five bullets at Marie Pompoen beach, a popular Curaçao spot for eating and swimming.

Public Prosecutor Norman Serphos said witnesses reported seeing attackers shoot Wiels on the small beach and then speed off in a car. Nobody else was hurt and there have been no arrests.

Wiels was the fiery leader of the **Pueblo Soberano political party**, which advocates Curaçao's independence and the exposure of official corruption. His pro-independence party led voting in October general elections and holds five of 21 seats in Parliament.

Curaçao's Plenipotentiary Minister in The Hague, Roderick Pieters, said Wiels was "a strategist with a very sharp tongue. He was fully convinced that in a free, democratic society, you must be allowed to speak your mind. He was a master in storytelling and knew how to move people. That was his strength." Wiels' radio show was incredibly popular on his island. His public speaking and ability to influence people was compared to that of Adolf Hitler.

It is quite a coincidence that Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn was also assassinated on May 6, also at age 54. In 2002 Fortuyn was killed in Hilversum, North Holland, by Volkert van der Graaf.

Wiels' killing initially raised concerns about public safety on Curaçao, but there have been no significant problems.

Following the murder of Wiels the US Consulate General advised American Citizens: We have no reason to believe there is an ongoing threat to the public, but the Consulate recommends that all Americans exercise caution when traveling or in public. Take care to avoid any large public gatherings or demonstrations, and be aware of areas where crowds may form. The Consulate recommends that American citizens monitor local television and radio for any news." The US Consulate General in Curaçao condemned the murder of Wiels in the strongest terms possible, "A passionate advocate for the disadvantaged and unemployed, Wiels bravely fought against corruption and to expand education opportunities for Curaçao's youth. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time."

The event is much discussed on Bonaire, even in the Island Council.

also cost slightly less and helped to temper inflation. Prices of recreation and culture had an opposite effect on the other hand. And prices of electricity and water are still higher than last year, following a price increase at the end of 2012.

► **The Netherlands is suffering back-to-back recessions.** European Union figures released early this month showed Dutch unemployment spiking upward toward 6.4%. That's below the EU average, but a 20-year high in the Netherlands.

► **On Sunday, May 5, the Consumers Union, Unkobon, official opened its Consumer Desk.**

What is the Consumer Desk? It is a place where members of Unkobon can go with their questions, problems and complaints about the quality of treatment, service and products they have experienced from various government departments, agencies and businesses.

The Consumer Desk has two main objectives:

1. It records the requests for help, consumer complaints, provides information and explanations, point the way to find a solution and maintains contact until a satisfactory solution is found.



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Carpinteria DeLima
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Sunday, May 26, 8 am



**In Washikemba
Fun trail, 3.3 km., 5 laps
Elite trail, 4.5 km., 6 laps**

\$10 entry - call Frank, 786-8545

Continued on next page

(Continued from page 2)

No test can be done to determine if the fish is poisoned and cooking and preparation have no effect on the toxin. The toxin is unrelated to the venom found in the spines of the lionfish.

► **Have you had the opportunity yet to see Bonaire by air?** Veteran pilot, Bert Foks can take you and two other passengers for an unforgettable flight on a four-seat Cessna. You fly low enough to be able to take great photos. You tell him where you want to go and if it's possible he'll take you there. Flights are available seven days a week. Call him at 786-7720

► **Kite Ride Bonaire Foundation's Patrick van Seumeren and Marjolijn van Kooten have set up the Heineken Kite Ride Bonaire** from June



17-22 to include several international kite boarding stars. It's a week-long kite boarding event and party at a different location every day. Its aims are to get international promotion to make Bonaire known as a kiteboard destination and attract more tourists, to organize an event that is positive for the residents and for the tourists, to involve local youngsters in kite boarding and allow young people to contribute to the establishment of the event so they can see what they can accomplish with collaboration, motivation and willpower.

The event is sponsored by Heineken, ArkeFly, TCB, Insel Air, Spice Beach Club, City Café, Kooyman, Sorobon Beach resort and others.

They will offer free kite lessons to the young people in preparation for the event. The last day of the event there will be a benefit downwinder from Atlantis to Klein Bonaire to benefit Jong Bonaire to buy a

number of kite board sets for Jong Bonaire as they now already have windsurf sets. More info at www.kiteridebonaire.com or facebook kiteridebonaire

► **At the Zazu Bar at Bistro de Paris - now on Wednesday nights - Dive Masters' Night.** Buy a coke and get a free shot of house rum. Plus any delicious burger is only \$8. Zazu and Bistro de Paris are at the Harbour Village Marina. Tel. 717-7070.

► **The "Taste of the Caribbean" Culinary Competition and Festival is set to take place June 26-30 in Miami, and Bonaire will be there for the first time in many years.**

Chefs and bartenders from the Caribbean region will take center stage to compete for the Caribbean's top culinary honors at the Hyatt Regency. There are currently 10 Caribbean culinary teams registered for the event (Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Curaçao, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the US Virgin Islands).

► **Carpinteria De Lima is the sponsor for the 3rd Mountain Bike Fun race** on Sunday, May 26. The Fun race will be held in between Lagoon and Washikemba using two routes. There is only one rule: You MUST wear a helmet.

Sign up at the Freewieler bike shop or email freewieler@bonairefreewieler.com

They are urgently looking for volunteers to help with the race. (call Frank, 786-8545).

► **Thanks to a generous donation from Rocargo,** the performers at the CMBB classical concerts were able to give a similar concert at the SGB High School. It was much appreciated by many of the students. ■ G./L.D.



► On Saturday, April 27, the **Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA)** held the **BSSA Flea Market at the Kas di Regatta.**

Besides selling second hand items cup cakes were also sold. (Masha danki, Barbara, Kelly and Nicole "Grandma"). The bar was open, thanks to Jeanne-Marie.

Marie, B'lana, Yuma, Rudo and Sanne sold raffle tickets for the lottery and Lianne did the Lucky Dip! Look forward to next time!



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On The Island Since...1980 - Solange Vlijtig



Solange Vlijtig

"I was born in Curaçao on November 11th, 1967. I have four sisters. My mom was from Curaçao, but my dad was originally from Bonaire. When I was about 13, my dad got a job on Bonaire driving the big dump trucks with gravel and grit. He went to Bonaire first and when he had saved up he came to fetch us. My dad's parents had passed away and they had left him a house in Rincon, a typical old Bonairean house. It was small and empty and all of us moved in. I'm still living there!

In the beginning we had problems adapting to the new life and every vacation we would spend on Curaçao where we had lots of family. But as time passed we got used to our life here and got familiar with the few family members we had on the island.

I finished the last year of elementary school, then to SGB high school to ETAO, where I followed an education in tourism. Three years later I went to Holland with two of my sisters. I was young, 16-17, but my sisters were older and all of us went there to study. My eldest sister and I went to live in Amsterdam and my other sister went to Eindhoven - a city in the south of Holland. Never before we had lived without our parents, and this had certainly not been my idea because I'd wanted to go to Curaçao to study to become a childcare worker. But my mom had told me, 'Your sisters are going to Holland, so you can go with them and they can keep an eye on you,' and that was it.

Especially in the beginning I thought Amsterdam was awfully busy, but then I got my friends at school and met a lot of people and I finished my childcare education as well. I learned a great deal in Holland: to be independent and I've learned to be punctual and on time and I'm still like that. In that respect I learned a different mentality and it was necessary. I don't regret it!

During the years in Holland we came to Bonaire frequently for vacation. We used to fly through Miami to get here and that's how I got to know Miami as well. I stayed in Holland for 10 years, but I was always longing for Bonaire.

I married a Dutchman and we had a son, Marnix, who is now 20, just married and living in Holland. I met my husband after I went to live with my sister in Eindhoven. We moved to another town and as I had finished my studies I got myself a job and there I met my husband. He was a cute,

quiet man from a rural village.

One day my sister saw an ad in the newspaper asking for Dutch people to build the Van der Valk Hotel on Bonaire. She told my husband and he applied for the job as he was a carpenter, and then - to his big surprise - he was hired! We arranged for everything and we were very excited, but then his mom intervened and he cancelled everything. He didn't want to go anymore. Of course I wanted to go; everything had been organized, so I left with my sister and her son and my son. When we got here my marriage ended in divorce.

I went to live with my parents in the new

"...it's good for the island and in the end it is also good for us and our health not to dump any toxic and harmful substances in our environment anymore."

house they'd built across from the old one. Through an employment agency I worked several jobs while I had already applied for a steady job with SSV - the security service of the government.

It was lovely - dushi - to be back on Bonaire. I never went back to Holland, not even for vacation. But yes, there are some things I'm missing like walking through the markets. I loved that! Not for the fruits or vegetables but for the bears! I collect plush bears! I don't miss the climate and certainly not the hustle and bustle, but going shopping, that I liked!

I didn't stay long at my parents' house because I had my son, so I moved across the street to the little old house of my grandparents.

In 1996 I started working for SSV and I worked only shifts. At SSV we are extraordinary policemen and officials, and my work was to check on government buildings, issue fines, arrest people, attend lawsuits, patrol all around Bonaire, do traffic controls, all kinds of things. We worked alone or in cooperation with the police.

I also carried a gun and of course I had to do target practice - something I really liked! When there were practices I was the first one in line and I am a good shot. I guess you never forget how to do it. It's



Mrs. Vlijtig and Relanio, who came to dispose of three gallons of used motor oil

like riding a bicycle or swimming. I haven't done it for three years now, but I'm sure I'm still good.

My son Marnix went to Papa Cornes elementary school, then to SGB. Three years ago we moved to Curaçao and after he'd finished high school there we came back to Bonaire. Last year he left for Holland to continue his studies. Next month he's coming for vacation, together with his wife.

Thirteen years ago I also gave birth to a

daughter, Solanys. When I moved to Curaçao with my son, my daughter stayed with my sister in Holland, but when we came back she also came back to Bonaire to live with us. I had missed her very much and it had been hard for her. She's a teenager now and going to SGB and she lives with me in Rincon. She is still very much attached to me. When I go to see my mother across the road she immediately comes looking for me: 'Mom, where are you?'

On March 11th this year I started working for SELIBON at the environmental place, the waste separation area next to Warehouse Bonaire. I keep the place clean and make sure that people throw their waste in the appropriate container. I also register what it is they are disposing of, at what hour they come, if they are local or not and I write down their car license number. I also give tours around the area and I answer questions people have. Soon I will be taking a course about the importance of separating waste. So far I've gotten my information from my boss, Mr. Randy Leonora.

I feel very good because people who come here are thrilled to have a place like this on Bonaire. They are ever so happy that they can bring their waste here, knowing that it won't end up on the landfill and pollute the island, but that it is being recycled or shipped off island. I like to interact with people, it's just great - for both parties - I find!

I do realize the local people need to be informed and taught about this new way of handling garbage on Bonaire. You see, for us it's the first time we've heard about it. In the Netherlands the whole process took about 30 years, so I guess we won't be able to change it from one day to the next, but I'm sure it's not going to take that long!

I hope in the future that SELIBON can establish more of these areas in the neighborhoods, because it will make it easier for people when it's closer to their homes. Well, I think it's good for the island and in the end it is also good for us and our health not to dump any toxic and harmful substances in our environment anymore.

I love my job and when I am free on Sundays I go to church and I clean my house, and Monday it's back to work again. I don't go out a lot; I like to sit and chat with my mom, I like to cook and clean; I am a very homey person. If I really want to take a break I go to Curaçao for the weekend.

I've always told my parents - they have two kunukus, three houses and an apartment - that I didn't want a house, that I really wanted a kunuku where I can do what I want. So some years ago my dad gave me my kunuku. I made a foundation but then I didn't have any more money and I stopped.

But now I've decided to move on. I will repair the fence and clean the land and then I will plow and sow and build my wooden house, and when it's ready I will live there in peace and tranquility and freedom, together with my daughter who can't wait for us to move. This is what I dream about every night and I'm going to make it come true." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Protecting Our Wetlands

Wetlands take on several roles in the environment: food control, water purification and shore line stability. They are also considered to be the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems and home to a wide variety of plant and animal life.

In order to create awareness of how important and special Lac Bay is for the entire Caribbean region and our island, it is imperative that the ongoing awareness programs continue. Lac Bay has a 500-meter buffer zone around its waters.

The importance of wetlands is recognized worldwide. A convention was held in Ramsar, a tiny town in Iran in 1971. The aim of this Convention was to establish standards and a means of protecting wetlands throughout the world. In other words, legally protecting flora and fauna wherever necessary.

The International Treaty for Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Wetlands took effect in December 1975. This "Ramsar Convention" defines a wetland as an area saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally. It can be salt water, fresh water or brackish water.

There are a total of 1,634 areas registered world wide. In 1980 the Convention became effective for the entire Dutch Kingdom. Interestingly, all five Ramsar Wetlands sites within the Dutch Antilles lie on Bonaire. Slagbaai, 90-hectares (ha), {1 ha=about 2.5 acres}, Gotomeer (150ha) Pekelmeer (400ha) Lac (700ha), Klein Bonaire (600ha).

Every creature residing within this bay has a purpose that connects it to its surroundings...and beyond. Take it away, and the eco system can start to degenerate.



This picture, taken at the airport, is of a marine park ranger collecting items people try to take off the Island: bottles of sand, 'live' land snails, and of course shells of the Queen Conch.

Maintaining a balance in these areas is especially important to insure their future so they it can continue to produce, and thrive.

When on our shores, whether on land or in the sea, please remember to leave things where they lay. Please stay away if signs indicate so, but remember to return to Bonaire. ■ Story & photo by Christie Dovale



SOIL MINING IN THE PARK A QUESTION OF RESPECT?

Dear Editor:

At the moment the Bonairean government gave a private company the OK to mine a hill in the National Park. (Bonaire Reporter May 3-17, page 2) What is next? Mt. Brandaris?

People who are born without brains can not be blamed for their actions and we should take care of them.

If you have brains but you act like you

have no brains (like some in our government), then we have a problem.

The Pourier Report (in favor of a green economy) has been swept away. A resort was almost built in the mangroves, maybe more construction in the Marine Park, kunuku land disappearing because of the increasing need of diabase (soil fill), not because Makambas want to buy a kunuku.

This diabase mining is more proof of having a very shortsighted government. A hill inside the National Park (!!) being mined.....how long does this list have to be? How much destruction are we allowed on Bonaire?

If the Bonairean government really represents the people of Bonaire, this means to me that the people DO NOT WANT a green economy. Maybe we should respect that.....should we ??? Hans Voerman

Rotarally 2013



See Page 13 for more information



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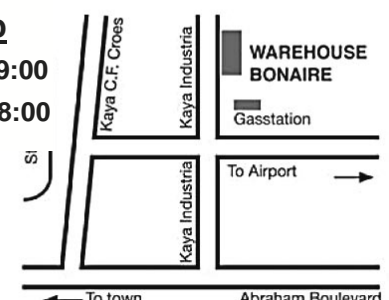
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Tourism History

Part 6- The 60s:

From Just A Bet To An International Regatta

Part 1 - 'Velia' Against 'Sislin':

Since the days of old, Bonairean fishermen have held races among themselves in their sloops on the water of the Kralendijk bay and around the island of Klein Bonaire.

On Sunday, September 8, 1968, a race was held between two fishing sloops with the names *Velia* and *Sislin*. The skipper of the *Velia* was Hubert 'Ibo' Domacassé while *Sislin's* captain was Don Stewart. At the time Ibo worked as a bartender in the restaurant of the Flamingo Beach Club where Don Stewart was the manager. A week earlier a few regulars had come up with the idea of a race. Of course there was a bet as to who would win for an ever increasing number of cases of Amstel beer: 27! The start would be on Sunday September 8 at 9 am. Each boat would carry four persons, the course was to go clockwise around Klein Bonaire with a start and finish at the Flamingo Beach Club. As for rules, some people suggested that there would be none, but in the end, with the aid of a lawyer who happened to be a hotel guest, both parties agreed on a set of simple rules.

After the start in front of the Flamingo Beach Club, the *Sislin* took the lead, but after the rounding of Klein Bonaire, the *Velia* was ahead. She finished first after one hour and 40 minutes. The *Sislin* came in



September 8, 1986: The 'Velia' with the banner of sponsor Zincke-Smith

three minutes later. So the 27 cases of beer went to the winner, but the runners-up spontaneously shared its consumption.

This 1968 race between the *Sislin* and the *Velia* is considered to be the beginning of the Bonaire Sailing Regatta, which later became the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta, an important event on the island's calendar and for its tourism.

For the continuation of this initiative, to develop this race into an annual sailing regatta, the local Lions Club stepped in. Initially called the Bonaire Lions Club Sailing Regatta, it continued to be organized at the Flamingo Beach Club for the first couple of years. The month of October was chosen because this was the month that hotels on Bonaire needed more guests and the regatta offered an opportunity to increase the occupancy rate.

In 1969, 54 boats participated, from Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba, in three classes: Sailfish and Sunfish, Sterns and yachts and fishing boats. Fishing boats from Curaçao entered the races too, most of them from Boca San Michiel. The 1969 regatta was a two-day event and the 28 members of the Lions Club Bonaire were involved in the organization.



Traditional fishing sloops under sail

The 1970 Bonaire Regatta became an international regatta with the participation of 82 boats including those from the US, Europe, Colombia and Venezuela. The October school vacations on the leeward islands were synchronized with the regatta dates to enable families to attend.

In 1971, the organization of the regatta was handed over by the Lions Club to the Bonaire Tourist Office, which appointed a coordinator, Niki Tromp, the new director of the BTO.

In 1972, the name was officially changed into 'Bonaire International Sailing Regatta' and that year the regatta's participation was over 100 boats.

As the Regatta grew steadily during its first years of existence, participants from Curaçao became involved, not only in the races, but in the organization as well. Race supervisor was Henk Dreijer from Club Asiento, and he maintained this position until 1978. His successor was Cees

Siebesma who was a member of the Curaçao sailing club, Jan Sofat.

There were also regular participants from Aruba who played a role in organizing the participation from that island: the late Ernie Kervel for the sunfishes and the late Mike Hagendoorn for the yachts.

The registration for the Bonairean traditional



Director of the Bonaire Tourist Office and race coordinator Niki Tromp

(Continued on next page 7)

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Hugo Gerharts photo

Sunset Beach Hotel Scene at Regatta Time

Tourism History (Continued from page 6)

fishing boats was organized at his home by Doei Diaz.

Several sailors who are still active nowadays were already involved in the early years: Ivo van Dooren, Jan Ackermans, Karel van Haren, Jos Schoonen, Hans van der Straaten, just to name a few.

Those years were characterized by substantial participation of sailors from Venezuela, particularly in the classes of yachts and beachcats, which gave the Bonaire Regatta its international character. The arrival on the island of the ferry, *Almirante Luis Brion*, loaded with visitors and participants bringing along their small boats, was a yearly recurring highlight at the start of each regatta week. The Venezuelan navy also contributed in bringing over the smaller boats.

There were lean years as well,

unfortunately. The unreliable ferry connections and time-consuming hassle with customs authorities on Curaçao caused a decline in registrations in the years 1976, '77 and '78: no more than 70. In 1979 however, as the organisation decided not to use the ferry anymore, the number of participating boats was restored to its previous level: over 100, with new categories of beachcats and windsurfers added. ■ **Evert Bongers** (source: www.bonaireregatta.org) Still to come: The Regatta, Part 2, 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 1995.



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Antwerp, Belgium.



Ramon Fajardo and his wife, Miguelina, (inset) visited the city of Antwerp with their grandchildren, Julisa and Juliano, and brought a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with them.

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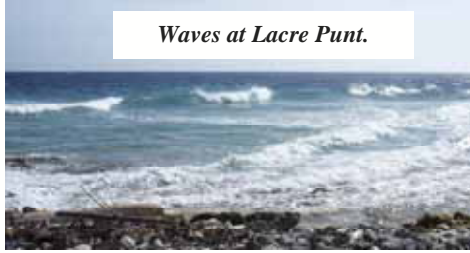
Dreaming Surfing

PART 2 IN THE SERIES, DOWN IN THE LAND OF BON BINI

I have a problem with old guys who cannot quit. Stateside NBA sensation Michael Jordan and NFL *wunderkind* Brett Favre are two who come to mind. They played their respective games, professional basketball and American football, like few others before and dazzled us with their talents. Past their prime, both attempted comebacks, neither of which reached the heights of their previous achievements. Thus, the public endured sub-par performances from the former sports stars who used to thrill millions. It was sort of a bad deal for everybody.

As I contemplate a return to my surfing days, I don't feel like I am subject to the same scrutiny as these pros. First off, no one really cares if I grab a surfboard again. The few that might watch will only do it for laughs. Secondly, I only dabbled in surfing as a teenager and on small waves at that. I was far from being accomplished.

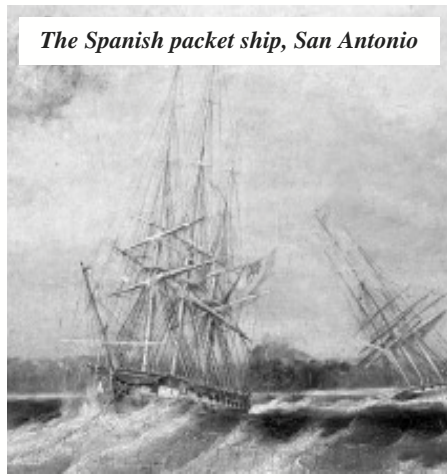
But those Sixties summer days along the Ocean City, Maryland/Indian River, Delaware coast were transformative. Beach Boy tunes played constantly on the radio. I had a rented long board in my hands and roaring, three-foot waves coming straight at me. Up to that point, those surfing times were the best days of my life. My endless summer quickly ended when mom and dad packed up the vacation car and sped back to boring, land-locked Ohio. Back home, I subscribed to *Surfer Magazine*, the only link



Waves at Lacre Punt.

to my newly found aqua world. I scoffed at the fools who were wake boarding Lake Erie back then, riding tiny curls generated from powerful speedboat engines. It just wasn't the same. My surfing dreams slowly died in the American heartland as life got in the way.

My old buddy Rick Fulmer, an avid Colorado snowboarder, once said of his winter passion, "It's just another way to play in the planet's water supply." Perhaps in its simplest form, surfing is too. But for me, it is more complex than that. There is an intangible connection between ocean, board and surfer that continues to hang with me after all these years. It is all about the force that suddenly lifts one up and thrusts one to shore. That incredible feeling still resonates in my Pisces soul. I know that Bonaire has world-class wind surfing and west coast Kite Beach is a magnet for those who grab board, harness and kite to take on wind and sea. But neither of those sports really grabs me like surfing. I am sold on the simplicity of long board and wave, old school style like the great kahuna, Duke Kahanamoku of Honolulu. I know this contradicts my statement earlier about surfing's complexity, but for me it is both. Complexity and simplicity



The Spanish packet ship, San Antonio

rolled into one. It is that powerful ying and yang which is urging me to ride a wave once again.

My enduring dream returned the other day while I was driving along the southern shore road just below Red Slave. There it was. Just off of a rugged point of land, I spotted a series of perfectly formed waves peeling off from the jagged coast and out to sea. The repeating curls were sculpted forms of fluid beauty. I couldn't take my eyes off of them. I was mesmerized. I had never seen sets of waves like this anywhere on island. I pictured me, on a board, the wave rider. The Imray-Iolaire marine chart of Bonaire has labeled this spot as Lacre Punt. It was here in 1779 that the Spanish packet ship, *San Antonio*, sunk with a load of cacao while sailing from La Guaira, Venezuela, back to Spain. Reportedly all hands were lost. I drove home that day unable to shake the vision of those ideal swells. The black cloud of maritime tragedy be damned. I was going surfing.

I returned a few days later to Lacre Punt only to find the waves gone. Vanished. Wind and current had changed everything. The result was a washtub of foaming, confused sea. It was time for some local knowledge about this place. I went and found my friend and confidant of all things Bonairean, Gielmon "Funchi" Egbreghs. "Oh yeah, I think I know where you mean," said Funchi. "When conditions are right, you can get some real nice waves there. But what you didn't see is the large elkhorn and fire coral just below the surface. That stuff will bust your butt. But I know some guys surf Baby Beach. Maybe you should look there."

Baby Beach belies its innocent name. It is located on the turbulent Wild Side, the windward coast of the island. It is almost always rough there. The day I went to check it out, three local boys were hot-dogging on their über cool short boards. I watched them ride low, choppy waves for a half hour. The surfers made moves I only dreamed about as a young man. It was short board nirvana. I learned later that many of Bonaire's freestyle windsurfing world champions go to Baby Beach to hone their board skills in the wild water. But the waves there were so different from those elegant, long pipes I saw earlier near Red Slave. Plus, the jagged bottom where the surf broke looked like big trouble for someone who has not been on a board for decades. There was absolutely no room for error. I headed home to contemplate my surfing future from the comfort of the hammock.

I have heard about Caribbean surfing in Barbados, the most eastern flung island of

(Continued on page 10)

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PRO-KIDS Preparations

On Friday, May 10th, along with sponsors, government officials, sports leaders, the press and guests, the Pro-kids Team held their second press conference at the Akkermans Auto Supply showroom for the May 31-June 1 Pro-Kids events.

Pro-kids is having its 9th edition to display the talents of our youngsters. The Pro-kids team is working exhaustingly in its free time to keep this event exciting. This year the Pro-kids event is dedicated to talented windsurfer, Elton "Taty" Frans.

Gerrald Victorina explained what Taty had achieved in different competitions on a worldwide scale. Taty couldn't be present at the press conference because he's competing in the Curacao Challenge, after he broke the record for sailing from Bonaire to Curacao in 1 hour and 40 minutes for a good cause. Taty is fund raising for a young fisherman and windsurfer who is suffering with some health problems.

Thanks to Starboard which helps with this event every year. The main sponsor this year is MCB, represented by Ingrid Fenies who said, "MCB Bonaire is honored to sponsor this important event for the sake of our children. Contrib-

uting to the youngsters helps them to follow examples of the professionals for the well being and future of our beloved Bonaire."

Race Coordinator Elvis "Piskechi" Martinus thanked the Pro-kids Team and Gerrald Victorina for taking the lead in organizing the event. Martinus said he has been a coordinator for 27 years and wants young blood to take over. Hendrik Balentin heads the race officials.

Ennia Insurance was represented by Dalitza Rijna who said she was proud to represent Ennia, with sponsoring Pro-kids this year. Ennia is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. She joins with the Bonairean community for the Baby Kids Class event. Ennia also invited the whole Bonairean community for a toast Monday, May 20, at the Ennia office.

Gerrald Silberie, representing the Bonairean government in the name of sports commissioner James Kroon said, "Next year the government has a bigger task. Seeing the magnitude of all the sponsors for this year for next year, the 10th anniversary, it has to be even bigger."

In 2003 a very young man, Jose "Gollito" Estredo, competed with Kiri Thode and others. In 2013 he

competed in the PWA Austria World Cup 2013 and won first place. Today, Jose Estredo along with six Bonaireans are at the top of the world's windsurfing sport.

Now is our chance to support our children in their professional achievements. Parents should encourage their child to register. Even children under six years old can register. It's affordable as compared to other events. You never know if they will become a world cup champion tomorrow.

Register on Friday, May 31st at Sorobon Beach for \$10. Each participant will get a T-shirt. **Events start that Friday with an Opening Event, Night Sailing** with our professionals and closing that night with the **Foyan Boyz band. Saturday, June 1st** it continues with an **Aerobics Marathon, Stand-up Paddleboard and BBQ night with Omega 13. Sunday June 2nd** is the closing day for **beach sports, windsurfing and the awards ceremony.** The closing night entertainment is by **OREO, Claudius Philips and Jairo Evertsz.** Every night there will be a tremendous bar and kitchen.

More Events on page 11 →

(Continued on page 11)

Playa-Rincon Race



Charlon Sumpter- Overall Winner



Marianne and Amber Lensink WW #2 and 1

Comcabon again organized traditional foot races from Playa to Rincon on Rincon Day. Sixty-eight persons participated in the 29th edition of the event. The distance was 17.5 k, and included runners from Aruba, Curaçao, Holland and the US.

The first finisher and overall winner for men was Charlon Sumter in a bit over 1:10 followed 10 minutes later by his uncle in second place. The winning woman runner was Catherine Jadot. Nazario Alberto and Herman were the fastest walkers crossing the finish line almost simultaneously.

Sponsors included: MCB-Bank, Bonaire, Rose Inn and Karel's Beach Bar. **Results:**

Women walkers	40- 49
1 - Amber Lensink Tempu:	1 - Julio Statie: 1.22.32
2.30.15	50 - 59
2 - Marianne Lensink Tempu:	1 - Mick Schmit: 1.27.36
2.30.16	2 - Hans Linkels: 1.41.21
Men walkers	3 - John Sjonch: 1.48.49
1 - Nazario Alberto Tempu:	60+
2.05.33	1 - Bruce Braebec: 1.35.35
2 - Herman Winklaar Tempu:	2 - Hildo Plaatje: 2.37.01
2.05.34	3 - Gerard Trearnict: 2.58.43
Runners	Women 35 - 39
Men-age 16- 19	1 - Catherine Jadot: 1.31.25
1 - Chester Hill: 1.18.12	40 - 49
2 - David Lee Winklaar: 1.18.32	1 - Tienelu de Jong: 1.33.37
20 - 24	2 - Macha Le poole: 1.35.06
Overall Winner, Charlon Sumpter: 1.10.31	3 - Annemiek Lenoble: 1.49.50
25 - 29	50+
1 - Martin Kieleman: 1.35.14	1 - Paulien Wynvoord: 1.40.26
30 - 39	Relay
1 - Casius Coffie: 1.13.47	Bonaire Running Stars: 1.07.01
2 - Dennis Lensink: 1.34.22	Oranje team: 1.08.31 ■



Top Woman runner Catherine Jadot

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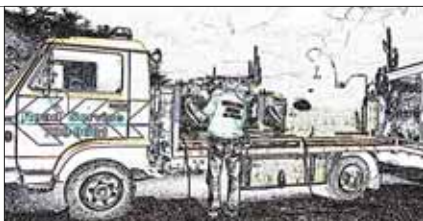
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For sale: **Honda Dax \$500,** Call Sandro Joosten, **795-2287**



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Fri 17		00:18	05:31	13:42	19:58			
Sat 18	First Quarter	01:29	06:11	14:01	20:19	6:11	18:53	
Sun 19		02:39	06:54	14:20	20:45	6:10	18:53	
Mon 20		03:51	07:43	14:40	21:17	6:10	18:54	
Tue 21		05:03	08:40	15:03	21:54	6:10	18:54	
Wed 22		06:15	09:49	15:30	22:37	6:10	18:54	
Thu 23		07:22	11:14	16:02	23:24	6:10	18:55	
Fri 24		08:23	12:52	16:44		6:10	18:55	
Sat 25		-0.21 ft	0.03 ft	-0.03 ft		6:10	18:55	
Sun 26		00:16	09:16	14:28	17:39	Full Moon	6:10	18:55
Mon 27		1.07 ft	-0.30 ft	0.06 ft	0.02 ft	6:10	18:55	
Tue 28		01:09	10:06	15:43	18:57	6:10	18:55	
Wed 29		1.09 ft	-0.36 ft	0.12 ft	0.08 ft	6:09	18:56	
Thu 30		02:05	10:51	16:41	20:29	6:09	18:56	
Fri 31		1.07 ft	-0.41 ft	0.21 ft	0.14 ft	6:09	18:56	
		03:01	11:34	17:29	22:00			
		1.03 ft	-0.43 ft	0.32 ft	0.17 ft	6:09	18:56	
		03:58	12:15	18:14	23:27			
		0.95 ft	-0.43 ft	0.44 ft	0.18 ft	6:09	18:56	
		04:54	12:54	18:58		6:09	18:57	
		0.84 ft	-0.40 ft	0.57 ft		6:09	18:57	
		L Quarter	00:50	05:49	13:31	19:41		
			0.16 ft	0.71 ft	-0.35 ft	0.68 ft	6:09	18:57

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Dreaming Surfing (Continued from page 8)



Baby Beach

the West Indies. Surf spots called the Soup Bowl, Ragged Point and Thunder conjure up dreams of hanging the perfect 'five', Bajan style. The Dominican Republic is supposed to have some awesome waves at Cabarete, as does Puerto Rico's Rincon. As I swing back and forth in hammock time, I dream of taking a surfing safari to those places with long board in hand. There has got to be more than just surfing the Web, even for someone of my age. Move over Michael and Brett. It just might be time for a comeback. ■ *Story & photos by Patrick Holian*

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Guest Editorial

A Peculiar Tree on Bonaire



Patrick Holian Photo

Mama Yellow shuffles to the other side, on the right supported by an inverted broom and on the left by Mama Bubi, my wife. They are on their way to the Watapana tree that has stood for more than 50 years in front of the house, by the sea.

Mama Yellow has decorated her heavy, diabetes-ravaged body with a fashionable tent of batik fabric. Her beautiful face makes one suspect an American Indian descent. Above it, the grey kinky curls that are the result of a rigorous haircut as she could no longer bear the itching of the water pox. Her slippers are just as dusty and worn as mine and they also come from the island's Chinese Store.

They stand under the tree, look at the water and talk about the past. About the tree that was very small when she and Piet moved there. At that time there were only a few homes and Playa Lechi was a "kunuku" by the sea, inhabited by a large colony of iguanas. At times one of them was caught to make soup or *stoba*. A good and healthy meal that, according to local residents, containing stimulating ingredients, not to bike faster but to be a real macho man.

Removal of our Watapana tree was threatened some 10 years ago when the bulldozers and excavating machines started to construct the new sea side boulevard, donated by the Dutch. The tree stood in the way and, according to plans, had to be removed. Mama put a stop to this. During a briefing on the island she threatened to sleep under the tree with her whole family every day if the bulldozers wanted to take down her tree. Eventually a graceful curve was constructed in the boulevard and our tree kept its legitimate place.

This Watapana is a symbol of life on the island. Birthdays are celebrated there, every day discussions are held and at times even some sleep there.

Friends of Mama's children meet here to go fishing, to take a sunfish ride, to have a beer and to take in the latest news and island gossip.

For the last several years the tree has become a cross between a Christmas tree and a totem pole. It is covered with all kinds of objects that evoke memories and happenings. Mama and my wife do the rounds along the paraphernalia that are hung along the big main tree. Empty beer cans, discarded cake decorations, flags, party hats, fishing line and plastic bait fish are draped along the stem like angel hair. A worn out mobile phone, a tie, a handkerchief and an old license plate. And between all this a prayer card for a deceased Bonairean, a nice picture of a strong man when alive with a

determined look.

Besides the main tree is a smaller Watapana that carries only shoes. Slippers, loafers, a single stylish shoe, swim shoes, sandals and a few boat shoes. Remarkably there are few complete pairs. Most footwear is solo, only a left or a right. Where do these shoes come from, who are the owners and why are they hanging here?

Fished out of the water, left behind on the beach, spontaneously ceded to the tree in a jolly mood or perhaps the remnants of a joke? Like what happened to me many years ago. We had crossed the Gulf of Biscay for the first time and were celebrating this tough feat with English friends in a tasty Spanish restaurant in La Coruna. As happens more often during a meal I removed my boat shoes under the table. Totally relaxed we enjoyed a beautiful meal of fresh fish. After sailing for four days everything tastes much better with a "foothold" ashore. When I went to pay I noticed that I had lost my left shoe. I turned to the waiter, the manager and finally to "the patron" to ask them if they knew anything about this, or if perhaps they had noticed a lonely shoe somewhere. They looked at me with pity and compassion but also with a touch of enjoyment, but did not give any useful information. I then searched the whole restaurant including the dishwashers with great suspicion. Someone had played a trick on me, so I thought. Maybe one of my table mates? The other guests and staff looked at my blown up gestures and behavior with amusement and giggles. I became more and more paranoid and ended my search in the toilets, peeing like a flamingo on one leg, without having found the missing shoe.

Tired, but satisfied by the meal but heavily frustrated we walked to our jetty, barefoot because it is hard to walk on one shoe on the cobblestones of La Coruna.

Recently I took another look at Watapana tree of Mama Yellow and indeed I saw there a lonely right boat shoe of the Seabago brand.

It may have been my shoe, a right shoe of the same brand. Probably from a sailor that finally reached Bonaire after a 25-day transatlantic crossing and who went for a bite to eat in a local restaurant?

If you are missing a shoe, you should go look at Mama Yellow's Watapana tree in Playa Lechi.

Well, of course it has to fit! ■

Guus Gerritsen



A Joint Effort For A Safer Environment



SELIBON's backhoe driver Ramon Martis and coordinator Suyen Sussenbach and police officer David Molina

SELIBON AND THE POLICE JOIN FORCES TO RESOLVE A TRAFFIC HAZARD

Every morning and afternoon a dangerous situation would occur on the one-way road right in the center of Playa where Kresh Bon Kuido and Kolegio San Bernardo are located. As there was hardly any parking space in front of the schools, the parents would park their cars just anywhere and small children were running between the coming and going vehicles. Total chaos would be the result. "I didn't want to wait until a child got hurt," police officer David Molina says. "You know, it doesn't take much to solve a dangerous situation. I contacted SELIBON and they were willing to clean the land next to Kolegio San Bernardo and along side Kresh Bon Kuido, so more parking space would be created and cars would be able to pass by easier. The way it is now, the situation is much clearer. SELIBON did it for free and Suyen Sussenbach from SELIBON has taken care of organizing the project. **Together you can really make things happen on this island and improve the situation for the people. I hope there will be many more of these projects!**" ■

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Pro Kids (Continued from page 9)

Silvio "Chio" Semeleer announced a new project for girls' football team uniforms between 12 to 16 years. On Sunday come and see the girls on the field at Sorobon between 9 am to 4 pm.

Julisa de Grijze invited everyone to her **Aerobics Marathon** Saturday, June 1st, beginning at 8 in the morning on the Sorobon Beach together with three different instructors. Petra

Petra Nicolaas, vice-president of **Bolas Krioyo**, explains, "Bolas Krioyo has joined this event for four years already. Every year this sport draws an audience of supporters to cheer the game and its teams. The games will start on Friday, May 31, and finish Sunday, June 2. Teams must register by May 20th.

Omar Sint Jago, director of **Beach Volleyball**, said the games start at 7pm on Friday. They continue through Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2 when the games will start at 5pm. The **Domino competition** will be coordinated by Kilin.

The Pro-kids Team invites the whole Bonairean community for the weekend of May 31 to June 2nd at Sorobon Beach for these sport activities, show events and musical entertainments.

Special thanks to the sponsors for believing in this organization: Starboard, MCB, TCB, Telbo NV, Akkermans Auto Supply, Ennia, FWN, Bistrot de Paris, Young and Talent, Jibe City, Stinapa, Bonaire Windsurf Place, Budget Marine, Selibon, Gobierno di Bonaire, Budget Car Rental, Plaza Resort Bonaire, Multi-Post Bonaire NV, Bonaire Container Services, Don Andres, Hitess Bonaire, City Cafe, Gio's Caribbean Gelateria & Cafe and all those who cooperate with us in one way or the other. ■ *Siomara Albertus & the Pro Kids Team*

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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)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Friday, May 17 –Showing of the film, 'Trèse Karko Bèk (Bring Back the Conch), at Doei Diaz's, A.J. Abraham Boulevard 58, to the right of Richard's Restaurant. The movie starts at 7 pm, the discussion at 7:30 pm. Drinks and social time at 8:30. More on page 16.

Rotarally 2013



May 19– Rotorally, Rotary Club Benefit Heart Foundation and Kidney Foundation. Start at 9 am at the Sporthall on Kaya Amsterdam. Finish at Te Amo Beach. Cost \$50 per car includes 2 BBQ tickets.

Get tickets at Bon Bida Spa, Sunbelt realty, It Rains Fishes, Akkermans Auto Supplies, Addo's Bookstore or from any Rotary Club member.

Sunday, May 26—Mountain Bike Fun Race at Washikemba. See page 3 for text with details.

May 31– June 2—9th edition ProKids Windsurfing, Sorobon. See page 9 for more information

Saturday, June 1—Kriabon Farmer's market, locally grown fruits, veg, plants, herbs. Also jams, drinks, sweet things, Kaminda Yatu Baku #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am– 1 pm

Sunday, June 2—As a precursor to Dia di Arte (July 7) local artists will display their work at Chich'i Tan in Rincon, behind Rose Inn, snacks & drinks, 10am-4pm..

June 17 to 23– "Kite Ride Bonaire." The first international wake-style kite-boarding event in the Caribbean will be held. More info in future editions of *The Reporter*.

Sunday, July 7– Dia di Arte-Bonaire Art Day, at Wilhelmina Park. More in upcoming issues.

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 Koeke 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

• **Divemaster's Night at Bistro de Paris Restaurant** at Harbour Village Marina. Free rum with coke.

• **30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire, 12 noon, Bonaire Basics. 786-6416 or info@bonaireyoga.com**

Fridays

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

Al-Anon meetings - every Thursday evening at 7.30pm. Call 700-7751 or 701-8728

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

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; Maryt-jin@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

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

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Pet of the Week



Helga

Helga Needs A Home. Helga, a big, beautiful female cat approximately two years old, needs a home...a home with no other cats! She has been at the Shelter for over a month and has made it very clear that while she adores people and children she DOES NOT like other cats. Helga will eagerly climb into the lap of a child or adult and settle down for as much affection as you want to give or can be playful as a kitten if you want to pull out the cat toys for a play session. However, she is not happy at the Shelter where she has to share space with 16 feline roommates. Although the others all get along with each other, Helga refuses to participate in the peaceable kingdom.

For her sake, as well as the sake of all the other feline residents, Helga needs a home soon where she can be the "only cat." She was found in someone's garden. The property owner feared for her safety as they have dogs on the property who were not cat lovers. This Good Samaritan brought her to the Shelter in early April, but despite notices and postings, no one has claimed her.

Helga is quite large for a female cat by Bonairean standards and has short but extremely soft fur. Her facial expressions are many and varied and she really likes to "talk" to you. She is a sweet and loving cat, who was obviously an "only child" and will be a wonderful companion to children and/or adults. If you are looking for a "companion cat" please come and meet Helga. She will be forever grateful to you for taking her in as an only cat.

Helga and all the other Shelter residents, both cats and dogs, are healthy, sterilized, vaccinated and ready for their forever homes. You can meet them all at the Shelter Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. ■

Jane Madden-Disko

DID YOU KNOW?

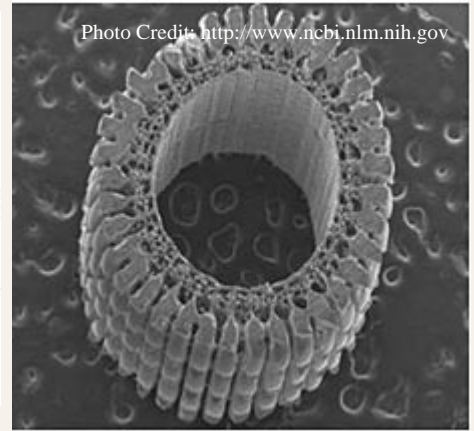


Photo Credits: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

Spine detail

The spines of sea urchins are actually hollow on the inside? There was a new study done on the endoskeleton of a sea urchin species, *Centrostephanus rogersii*, found off the coast of Australia. Researchers studied the structure of these spines underneath high-powered microscopes and found that each spine is actually made of a single calcite-crystal, making the structure very unique because it is both lightweight and strong! This allows the sea urchin to absorb all the stress from walking around and from wave action but gives it the ability to break during the attack of a predator. Engineers are always looking for designs to make things strong

yet flexible, so studying the sea urchin may produce a new bio-inspired material. ■ *Kristin Beem*

Beem is a marine biology major at Oregon State University who studied on Bonaire for the fall semester at the CIEE Research Station.



ORANGE PETS

FROM BONAIRE

As a gift for the new King and Queen of Bonaire and The Netherlands when they visit here in November, the Bonaire Animal Shelter has put together a unique gift: *Orange Pets from Bonaire* album. They say, "We don't have money to buy expensive gifts, jewelry or diamonds. But we do have cats, dogs, a camera and lots of ideas. So we came up with this present: A Facebook page with pictures of Orange pets from Bonaire. In case you don't know already, orange is the color of the royal family of the Netherlands." You may see it on Facebook.com and on their website: WWW.AnimalShelterBonaire.com.

Those Shelter people are always bubbling over with ideas! ■ L.D.

Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper *èxtra*

Two vampires come home after not being able to find any blood to drink. When they go in they see their companion sitting there with his mouth covered in blood.

One of the vampires asks: But where did you find all that blood?

He answers: Come on, I'll show you.

They get to a place and the one covered in blood asks the others: You see that light pole there? Yes, they answer. Ah well, I didn't!

On the bus:
Mama, what's the name of the village we just passed?
I don't know, son.

Twenty minutes later:

Mama, what's the name of the village we passed?
I don't know, son.

And this went on, the child asking the same question every twenty minutes.

Mama finally asked him: Why do you keep asking me the same question?

The child answered: So I can remember in which village my little brother got left behind.

Two drunk guys. One asks the other: Buddy, why do you like to drink? The other answered: So I can become a nicer guy.

First one asks: Why do you say that you become nicer? The answer: Because every time I get home late at night my wife says: Very nice! Very nice!

"Tower control", the pilot calls on his radio.

"Yes, this is tower control."

"I have good news and bad news" the pilot says.

"What's the good news?" the tower asks.

"We found Bin Laden"

"Very good. Now what's the bad news?"

"He's flying the plane".

A drunk is riding a scooter and runs into a traffic sign. When the police arrive he asks the drunk: Didn't you see the arrow?

The drunk says: I didn't see the arrow or the Indian that shot it. ■ *Translated by*

Jane Madden-Disko



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"Kas di Bara" Doghouse



Pet owner Paul van Balkom is the architect of this exotic, funky dog house, which he has donated to the Shelter. It has been much appreciated by the resident dogs who hung out there during the recent rains. In December the Shelter will have its annual auction and a lucky person will be able to own this hand crafted, one-of-a-kind dog house. ■ L.D.

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

END OF MONTH PLANET DANCE



Begin your mid-month Sky Park quest to see a quartet of planets with an easy one. Look south on any clear night in May, and find the planet Saturn, bright and beautiful, floating a bit to the left of the bright star Spica in the constellation Virgo, the Virgin. Although Spica is the 15th brightest of all stars, Saturn in May is brighter still. Saturn and Spica are the two brightest points of light in their part of the sky and so should be easy to spot.

Saturn remains splendid throughout this month and is out all night long. Jupiter is now getting low in the evening twilight. Mercury hovers to the right of returning Venus, only 7 degrees above the western horizon 40 minutes after sunset on the 23rd.

Venus closely meets Jupiter, a potentially spectacular sight even though both are near their minimum brightness, on the 27th and 28th. Mercury hovers just above them. However, the planetary trio sits just 6 degrees above the western horizon 40 minutes after sunset and thus requires an unobstructed skyline for viewing.

This is also a perfect time of year to see the large constellation Leo, the Lion. The bright star Regulus lies at Leo's heart. In fact, the Arabic name for the star translates as "heart of the lion." It should come as no surprise that Denebola, the star at the other end of Leo, derives its name from the Arabic phrase for "tail of the lion." Leo is larger than you might think from looking at the map, so think "big" as you look for the celestial Lion.

More challenging is the tight grouping of three planets visible just after sunset during the last 10 days of May. Refer to the photo

with this story. There you'll see Venus, Jupiter, and Mercury as they appear on May

24 just as the Sun slips below the horizon in the west-northwest. You'll need a clear and unobstructed horizon, so look for a viewing location that is free of trees and buildings.

Although they are nearest one another on the 27th, Venus, Jupiter, and Mercury spend several days in close proximity starting about May 21. As the Sun sets, the first of the three planets to appear will be Venus, the brightest of all planets. Venus is so bright that it can sometimes be seen when the Sun is still in the sky. As the Sun dips farther below the horizon, the sky will begin to darken slightly, and Jupiter will appear, followed a little later by Mercury. The best view will come about 45 minutes after sunset, when the Sun has moved well below the horizon but Venus, Jupiter, and Mercury are still just above the horizon.

If you manage to see Mercury, you'll be in select company. Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and as such is usually lost in its glare. With Venus and Jupiter serving as guides, May 2013 is a golden opportunity to see elusive Mercury. And when you add easy-to-find Saturn, you'll be playing the Planetary Quartet! ■ Bob Berman



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

May 2013

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Nothing can be resolved if you don't want to talk about it. Get some sound advice and help setting up a workable budget. They may cost you dearly. Make amends if you can. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Your high energy should be spent pleasing your mate. You must try to lay your cards on the table. Talk to your mate and tell them how you feel. Show what a dedicated person you can be. Residential changes, renovations, or moves are likely to disrupt your routine. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Social get-together will bring you in contact with intelligent new friends. Monitor your budget carefully to avoid unnecessary stress. You will have a tendency to exaggerate, which will lead to major confrontations with loved ones. Don't be too confident that coworkers are on your side. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Changes in your home will be positive. Property investments should pay off. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation. Renovations to your domestic scene will pay high rewards. Recognition will be yours if you meet your deadline. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your ability to be a self starter will help get things done and motivate others. Your interest in religion and philosophy may lead you to specific destinations. There's lots to be done and if you meet your deadline you'll be in your boss's good books. You mustn't be so trusting. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Things will be emotional with your mate. Entertainment could be pleasing if it is of an energetic nature. Move forward if you want to turn your life around. Travel will be enjoyable but could be expensive. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may need to lend an ear to an old friend. You need to take some time out to decide what you want to do. They may cost you dearly. Unexpected events may be upsetting. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Leave your checkbook and credit cards at home. Do not yield to children or relatives when they really don't deserve it. Competitive games will be your forte. Try to stay calm and do the best you can. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. You will be erratic and quite likely to make personal mistakes. It's time to reevaluate your motives. Travel should open doors that lead to exciting new adventures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Channel your energy into decorating or household chores. You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances. Try not to hurt your partner's feelings. Don't spend more than is necessary on travel or friends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Unstable relationships are likely. You will find that you are able to clear up a number of small but important details. Don't hold back; go with the flow and take a bit of a chance. Any capricious behavior will confuse loved ones and your mood swings will result in loneliness. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits. Others may want to steal your thunder when they realize your ideas are pretty solid. Your health may have suffered due to neglect or abuse. Don't get talked into get rich quick schemes. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■



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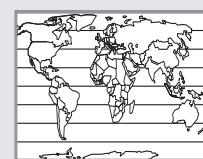
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Merel Notten: What If We Change?

“I’ve been coming here on and off since 1998 when I lived here for two years. From that time on I used to come here often. In 2010 I was approached by Stinapa and the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance who told me they wanted to do a three-year project to restore the conch population in Lac Bay in such a way that in the future sustainable fisheries would be possible again. This project was going to be financed by IUCN (International Union Conservation of Nature) in the Netherlands with money from the Postcode Lottery. IUCN is an organization that’s been involved worldwide for many, many years in the restoration of eco systems.

While at first the project in Lac was meant to restore the conch population, it also involved balancing the eco system of the mangrove forest in Lac. These areas are severely threatened worldwide – just like the coral reefs. On Bonaire we are privileged to have two of those eco systems which are disappearing very rapidly in the world but which are in relatively good condition here, because the mangrove forest is hardly affected here, while the coral reef is relatively better than in other places of the world. But the situation is nevertheless alarming.

The reason why Stinapa was focusing so much on Lac and why IUCN agreed was the function of the mangrove forest for the coral reef, because in the mangroves the little fishes grow up safely to swim out to the sea later.

Well, all my life I’ve been an independent self-employed film and TV editor and director with a passion for human interest and nature. When I was invited by Stinapa and

IUCN they told me that in three other locations in the world - Bolivia, India and Mali - a similar project was started and its developments and the course of the project could be followed via a website for a global audience. The name of that website was www.whatifwechange.org. So they were scouting for four reporters for four locations to film the project for two years. I started a bit earlier and I’ve filmed the project for three years.

In the first place it was fantastic for me to be here full-time and a gift to be given the chance to do this. I made an eight-part documentary series about the eco restoration project including the conch. Of course you can see the series on the website, but here on Bonaire they’ve been shown frequently by both television stations, Mi TV and NOS TV, and they will continue to repeat them. I think that in a certain way I’ve contributed to education and awareness about the conch, the mangrove forest, the vulnerability of nature and the importance of the care by the people.

The fact that I speak Papiamentu fluently – something I learned by listening to the music- gave me an entry to the community. Let me tell you, in all those years I’ve never been laughed at when I said something wrong. People here correct you patiently which is another real nice thing about Bonairean people.

Because I was here for two years I had the opportunity to film many nature and culturally related subjects and all those little movies can still be seen at

www.whatifwechange.org. All the other initiatives that were taking place here in the field of culture, nature and environment I have also captured on film. They are on the

website as well. All in all, I have a lot of material, going back to 2009, and that could result in a large documentary which could paint an impressive and beautiful picture of Bonaire before, during and after the massive changes of 10-10-10.

By the end of May my two-year job is finishing here, but that doesn’t mean I’m through with Bonaire. It’s exiting not to know what the future will bring.

To me, Bonaire is an island with great potential. What makes the island so special and why my heart goes out to it is that in the eyes of the world it might have stood still in its development but... it could be very well that this so called lag made sure that certain values which we have always taken for granted, like space, nature, kindness and hospitality and clean air and wide horizons and intact ecosystems were preserved by the lack of development. And in the present time and the future this could be of tremendous value.

Over the last hundred years the world was thinking that growth and development is only to be measured by more: more sales, more money, more stuff. Our whole mindset is focused on the production and consumption of goods and services and now we see worldwide where it leads us...

It could very well be that our true wealth and welfare lies in investing and nurturing our sources – our eco systems, our planet, the oceans, the fishes and the rivers and the land. Shifting priorities requires a change in the way people think. And what makes Bonaire so special is that what happens in the world, you can behold in a microcosm here: the old way of thinking and the new way of thinking in a place where because of the so-called ‘standstill of development’ the small scale has been preserved and in the new way



Merel and her buddy whom she got at the Shelter: Bruintje

of thinking that means a tremendous strength.

Well, to come back to the conch. The outcome of the project is that the population has grown a tiny little bit, but there are hardly any full-grown conches left in Lac. People also keep on fishing them although it’s prohibited. So, you have to start thinking that if they don’t want to preserve it then maybe the fishery should be allowed again...

Anyone who is interested in the subject and who would like to discuss the matter is welcome on **Friday night, May 17th, when the movie ‘Trèse Karko Bèk (Bring Back the Conch) is shown to the public at Doei Diaz’s, A.J. Abraham Boulevard 58, to the right of Richard’s Restaurant. The movie starts at 7 pm, the discussion at 7:30 pm. Drinks and social time at 8:30.’** ■

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



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