

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** July 6 - August 17, 2015, Year 22, Issue 13  
**The REPORTER**  
*BES Island News Too*

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



*Ranger Julia Martinus receives her Deputy Certificate from Governor Rinja. Lead Ranger Luigi Eybrecht in the background*





**R**eynolds (Nolly) Oleana has taken over management of the Caribbean Netherlands part of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (RCN/OCW)

Nolly has been working for RCN/OCW since May 2011, in the last two years as the Deputy Head. From a selection procedure with candidates from the European as well as the Caribbean Netherlands, Nolly emerged as the best candidate for this position. Nolly is well-known in the education field on the islands. He started his career as a teacher of Mathematics and Chemistry at the *Scholengemeenschap Bonaire* (SGB), where he subsequently held various management positions. During the period in which he was politically active, he held the position of Minister of Education for the Dutch Antilles and Commissioner of Education for Bonaire

► **THE HAGUE--The Tax Department of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba collected close to \$142.4 million in taxes and social premiums in 2014.** The Dutch Government said it spent about \$325 million on the three islands.

In Bonaire, \$116.4 million was collected in taxes and social premiums in 2014. For St. Eustatius and Saba this amount was \$16.8 million and \$9 million respectively, so Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk informed the Dutch

Parliament. **The bulk of the taxes and premiums, 81.8%, was collected from Bonaire.** The percentages for St. Eustatius and Saba were 11.8% and 6.4% respectively.

However, according to Ministry's calculation The Netherlands spent \$325 million on the BES islands; Bonaire received US\$216.7 million. The expenditures on behalf of St. Eustatius were US \$61.3 million, and US \$46.8 for Saba. Close to 67% of the total expenditures went to Bonaire, almost 19% to St. Eustatius and 14.4% to Saba.

► **THE HAGUE--The work permit and related fees levied by the Dutch Government in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be reduced,** stated Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk. An assessment of the system of the setting of fees, including the cost of the fees will be carried out in the second half of 2015.

► If you think racism is rampant in the US consider the situation last week in The Netherlands. **Police in The Hague fired warning shots and arrested 34 people during a third straight day of unrest last Thursday,** triggered by the death of an Aruban visitor in police custody. They banned public gatherings in a neighborhood hit by rioting.

The death from apparent asphyxiation on Sunday, of Mitch Henriquez (42), has been likened to incidents in the US that sparked protests over excessive use of force by police.

► **The temperature hit 37.3° Celsius in Maastricht on Thursday,** making Thursday, July 2, the warmest July day ever recorded in the Netherlands,



broadcaster NOS said. The temperature in Bonaire topped out at 30° Celsius that same day.

► The Bonaire Executive Council has recently decided that a working group should be set up to consider **an alternative to illegal street/drag racing.** Safety would be paramount and short and longer term solutions considered, Commissioners Silberie and Dirksz will lead the project on behalf of the Executive Council.

► **Cooking gas supplies are now more readily available following consumer complaints and Executive Council attention.** CUROIL, Bonaire's supplier has completed its bi-monthly price adjustments. As a result of crude oil price increases the price of petroleum products on Bonaire has been adjusted. For unleaded gas, there is an increase of 10.54 cents, for kerosene 7.72 cents, for diesel .94 cents.

#### CURRENT PRICES

**Unleaded gasoline** \$1.168 per liter.

**Kerosene** 58.60 cents per liter.

**Diesel** 68.80 cents per liter.

**LPG 100lbs** \$22.20 per tank.

**LPG 20lbs** \$6.40 per small tank

The next adjustment of the fuel price is anticipated in September 2015.

► **WILLEMSTAD--Curaçao's state-owned oil and gas provider Curol made a profit of 40 million guilders (\$22.6 million) in 2014.** That is nearly 15 million guilders more compared to 2013. However, it was sometimes unable to provide Bonaire with all the cooking gas needed on the island.

► **Last month members of the US Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Bear,** that tied up at Town Pier for a few days, as-



sisted in two community relations projects during its stay on Bonaire. In coordination with the Bonaire government, 11 USCGC *Bear* crew members helped with painting and planted several fruit trees at KIBOS (Keyboss) children activity center in Nikiboko and painted the outer wall off the Rincon Community Center on Friday, June 19.



► In a connection with Father's Day **Telbo held a contest** where Bonaire children could submit ideas on what they felt would be the perfect gift for dad. The winners turned out to be **Sharlinde and Shar-dienne Perez.** The kids thought three plane tickets to Venezuela would be just right for their father. Since they won, Telbo will send them together with

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Available on-line at:  
[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com)  
Printed Every Fortnight,  
On-line every day, 24/7  
Next edition printing on  
**Monday, August 17 2015**  
**Story and Ad deadline:**  
**Friday, August 14, 2015**

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (from page 2) their father, Jesus, to Venezuela to visit his mother, their grandmother, whom he hadn't seen for more than 10 years.

► **The third Taste of Bonaire for this year** took place on Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Wilhelmina Park. The event started at 6pm and ended at 10pm. The theme was "Local Talent Edition."

The program was filled with music from Proyecto 2000 and DJ Veloce (Jean Carlos Ramirez), shows, food stands and arts and crafts. There were performances from Grupo Kara Kora, The Extreme Dancers, Intense Brass Band, Gerald Alberto sung two beautiful songs and break dance from Naldo Frans. Appearances by the models from AD Productions as well as model Darian Carvajal who will be representing Bonaire in the beauty pageant of Miss Teen Hispano-america International.

TCB and BRA (Bonaire Restaurant Association) honored the Bonaire Culinary Team which won numerous medals for their cooking in Miami during the Taste of the Caribbean and Bonaire Prokids were also present.

The next Taste of Bonaire will be on Saturday July 25th. For more- info@tourismonbonaire.com or 717-8322.

► **Bonaire will have a Fall Festival** to offer to tourists who visit from Aug. 22 - Dec. 19, 2015. Several methods will be used to get the word out. If you plan to vacation on Bonaire check out the values to be posted soon. Use the official hashtag (#) #BonaireValues to discover them.

Meanwhile we can report some **new Bonaire Developments:**

**Harbour Village Bonaire Beach Resort** has a **new sunset deck** next to the resort's acclaimed La Balandra Restaurant. It was designed after an antique Spanish ship, and it gives the feeling of sailing with its dining deck located on a jetty extending out to the sea. For more information visit [www.harbourvillage.com](http://www.harbourvillage.com), email [reservations@harbourvillage.com](mailto:reservations@harbourvillage.com) or call 599-717-7500.

**Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn** added another house to its **property** featuring 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, a full kitchen and freshly renovated interior and exterior. The new house is located across from the Carib Inn with easy access to Carib Inn's diving, swimming pool and dock. For more information visit [www.caribinn.com](http://www.caribinn.com), email [bruce@caribinn.com](mailto:bruce@caribinn.com), or call +599-717-8819.

**Dive Friends Bonaire** opened its **fourth retail** store on May 16, 2015. Located on the north traffic circle the new retail location provides a selection of diving accessories and souvenirs. Top brands are

all available. For more information visit [www.divefriendsbonaire.com](http://www.divefriendsbonaire.com) retail or email [retail@dive-friends-bonaire.com](mailto:retail@dive-friends-bonaire.com).

**Breeze and Bites**, a new on-the-water medium-priced restaurant opened at Den Laman. See story on page 12.



► **Is the new Telbo 4G-LTE Kla cellular system faster than the competition?** We conducted a test by randomly asking two cellphone users; one had a Telbo 4G LTE phone, the other a 4G UTS phone of the same model to run the OOKLA Speed Test App.

In case you can't see the screens in the photo here are the results:

**System** Ping Download Upd  
**Telbo** 45ms. 16.39mb 3.85mb  
**UTS** 114 ms 2.15mb 0.7mb

**Telbo was about 8 times faster** downloading information than UTS, 5 times faster uploading with 2 1/2 faster ping response. And it can be less expensive too. See the Telbo ad on the back page. ■ L.D/G.D.



► **From 16 to 25 June 2015, the PanAmerican Masters Swimming Championships held in Medellin, Colombia, was dominated by Bonaire swimmers in class events.**

Medalists included: Simone Sweers, Evy Witlox, Nathalie Petersen, Anita Smits and Annouck Loos.

The result after four days of competition rained medals for Bonaire. Some results:

**Simone Sweers :**

50m butterfly: 1st place  
50m freestyle: 1st place  
100m freestyle: 1st place  
50m clearance relay: 1st place

**Evy Witlox :**

200m backstroke: 1st place  
100m Freestyle: 3 rd place  
50m medley relay: 1st place  
50m clearance relay: 1st place

**Nathalie Petersen :**

200m freestyle: 3 rdplace  
200m backstroke: 5th place  
100m freestyle: 1st place

50m freestyle: 2nd place  
100m Butterfly: 5th place  
50m medley relay: 1st place  
50m clearance relay: 1st place

**Anita Smits :**

50m butterfly: 2nd place  
100m Freestyle: 3rd place  
50m Breaststroke: 4th place  
200m medley: 2nd place  
100m Butterfly: 3rd place  
50m medley relay: 1st place  
50m clearance relay: 1st place

**Annouck Loos :**

100m Freestyle: 4th place  
50m Breaststroke: 1st place  
50m freestyle: 2nd place  
50m medley relay: 1st place

This fantastic result could not be achieved without sponsorship. Thanks to our sponsors: Guardian Group TCB, Jibe City, Rorcargo, Insel Air, Flamingo Communications, Sunbelt Realty, Island Music, Akkermans, TELBO, Bonaire Vision International and Alpha & Omega.



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# **Born on Bonaire... June 5th, 1987 - Stephanie Booi** **On The Island Since... October 2013 - Said Elkaich**



*Said and Stephanie, a lovely couple*

**I**n 2013 we came to Bonaire together. We'd already been a couple for 10 years. When I was 13 I left Bonaire for Holland. My parents had divorced and I went to live with a good friend of my father's in Amsterdam-West, along with my sister Chemaine who, had been living in Holland for two years with an aunt of ours. In Amsterdam I went to the Amsterdam Lyceum. It was a difficult time, two girls alone in Amsterdam without a mom or dad. It wasn't easy. Luckily I had my sis who mothered me and who also gave me some headaches now and then. Ha Ha! But seriously, she was the one who gave me a solid and sound basis.

The first school year I didn't pass, but from then on it went smoothly. I finished Mavo, then I followed a middle professional education for interior design. It was something I'd always liked. From there I went to higher professional education doing HBO MER: marketing, economics and law. I finished up to the third year. When I was barely seventeen I met Said.

"I was born in Tangier, Morocco," *Said says*. "When I was 10 I immigrated with my brothers and my mother to Holland where my father had been living and working for 20 years. Although my father used to come to Morocco three months per year I was mainly raised by my mother and the family who all lived in the same house. Holland was another world. Everything was completely different and the food had an unknown taste and smell. I didn't know the language at all so I went to a special class at elementary school where many children from different nationalities – but mostly Moroccan – were studying the Dutch language.

In Holland life was a hundred times better than in Morocco, but I missed the Moroccan habits and ways- the Moroccan identity. However, it didn't take long, because Amsterdam-West was and still is like a small Moroccan town where I have a lot of family and people who know me and where my culture is very much alive, but with an Amsterdam twist."

*Stephanie continues*, "In Holland I learned to stand up for myself and that it is okay to have your own opinion – no matter what age you are. People listened to me and I was heard. The fact that you could discuss matters with your teachers- that was something

so surprising because it's unheard of in my culture! And Amsterdam was a very weird city with the weirdest people of so many different nationalities, religions and styles. It was an eye-opener. You learn to be open minded and you realize that the world is a better place with all kinds of people."

"One day I was driving around with a friend of mine," *Said says*, "when I saw this lovely young lady on the sidewalk. I got out of the car, walked up to her and asked her what she was planning on doing. She answered she was going shopping so I told her I wanted to accompany her. All she said was 'Okay!' But my friend, who was driving the car, was waiting in the middle of the road and was causing a traffic jam with at least 150 cars blowing their horns and people started yelling at me."

**"In Holland I learned to stand up for myself and that it is okay to have your own opinion.... The fact that you could discuss matters with your teachers- that was something so surprising because it's unheard of in my culture!"**

"What I'd never done before, I did then," *Stephanie says*, "I gave him my correct phone number! It was in 2004 and we became a pair. In 2009 we moved in together, which was sort of official because during all those years we had been in each other's company constantly."

"She became a part of me," *Said says*. "I love her innocence and her immense patience and she understands me." "I am a very quiet person," *Stephanie smiles*. "He is my opposite and that makes life so much more fun. He is spontaneous, he's open for new challenges and even when it's unfamiliar and different, he will try it. I've learned that from him and it's what I like very much about him.

Well, the years went by and Said was assistant manager of an electronics store and I was still studying when he told me he had enough of Holland. He found that the possibilities in Holland had gone down from limited to null over the last couple of years. For me personally it was like I felt there was



*The Doner team: Alvaro Salas, Stephanie Booi, Salvia Booi, Laudice Jimenez and Said Elkaich*

a heaviness lying over Holland. I felt we had gotten stuck. We'd been talking a lot on Skype with my dad and he'd told me he wanted to start something up and were we interested in doing that for him. Said had never been on Bonaire – and that's what I mean when I said he is spontaneous and not afraid of new challenges – because he told me, 'We're going!' Just like that. I would never do such a thing. Three months later we arrived on Bonaire. Said thought it was awesome and I'd come home again.

I started working for my dad at Radio Energia where I learned to do the administration with the help of Cactus Accounting. After a couple of months, Steven, the boss of Cactus Accounting, offered me a job and I accepted because I felt I could learn a lot there, especially about setting up your own business. Said went to 'play' farmer at

Leen Bakker at the time, now Store 25, across from Warehouse. Stephanie's dad still had windows and doors which we put in the container and inside we had it completely tiled. That was a present from Stephanie's dad. Mister 'Eppie' Damascus built it the way we were visualizing it, a very creative man he is. We applied for the permit and for the finishing touch I went to Holland, to a very good friend of mine who has a big, successful Döner business. As a present he taught me the secret of making the best Döner. When I came back we opened two weeks after we got the permit. It was mid November 2014. Two days before the opening we invited family and friends to come and taste our food and boy, it was like a culinary explosion, because many of them had never tasted anything like it. They told us, 'This is Taste!' And so we opened with confidence and a good feeling. We didn't do any publicity because we wanted to start slowly, but that never happened because on Bonaire the best advertisement is mouth to mouth!"

Stephanie continues, "Now it's eight months later and the business is doing very well, above expectations. We've added two employees and we're both working 10 hours per day, six days a week. I am five months pregnant, so some things will change," *she smiles*. "First we're going on vacation to Morocco for four weeks, so the business will be closed from July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup>. Then a cousin of mine will come to help us. We are working hard on our future and even more now that we're having a little baby boy soon because life is no longer only about us. The future is looking bright. I am happy we came back. On Bonaire I feel free and safe and light again. It's a stress-free life."

"Our relationship is very strong because we love and respect each other and we have a long history together," *Said says*. "That's why we are such a good team. And you know, after a hard day's work there is nothing better than a good cup of coffee and a cigarette and sitting at the sea knowing there's nothing else you need; Bonaire is all about peace of mind." ■

*Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*



**THE WORLD IS COMING**

JUL 25 – AUG 2 2015  
LA2015.org



**B**onaire's 12 Special Olympic athletes, coaches and officials will be leaving later this month for Los Angeles to compete in the 2015 World Games that begin on July 25<sup>th</sup>. It is the fifth time for our island in the world wide happening.

The event will be carried by ESPN and hopefully shown on Bonaire's ESPN channels.

**Schedule**

21 July **Delegation arrivals** and transfer to Host Towns –Glendale, California, is Bonaire's host town. The Host Town program gets the athletes acquainted with the food, climate and area

24 July Bonaire Delegation arrives at **UCLA and USC housing**

25 July **Opening Ceremony** at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum featuring the March of Nations and top entertainers like Stevie Wonder, Avril Lavigne, Nicole Scherzinger, O.A.R., Cody Simpson, and J Balvin, and many more

26 July **First day of sports competition** and awards and Ceremonial Opening of the Healthy Athletes Program, at USC

01 August **Final day of sports competition and awards**

02 August **Closing Ceremony** at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

Thousands of fans, families of athletes, dignitaries as well as more than 1,250



*Four-time Bonaire Special Olympics competitor and medal winner Patrick Bernabela leads off the track team in practice*

media are expected to attend some part of the Games including *The Bonaire Reporter*.

It's also easy to follow the World Games on the leading social-media apps as well:

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/LA2015](http://www.Facebook.com/LA2015)

Instagram: @LA2015 or Twitter: @LA2015

Active hashtags include #ReachUp and #ReachUpLA. ■ G.D.

**Picture Yourself With The Reporter Montréal, Canada**



**S**ylvie Gauthier and Régis Cassar from Montréal, Canada, sent us this photo taken near their home. Sylvie writes, "We spent the month of January on Bonaire. It was our second visit, and we loved it so much that we bought an apartment. We plan on spending more and more time diving and kite-surfing under the Caribbean sun, fleeing from those cold and snowy Canadian winters." ■

**WIN A PRIZE**

Take a photo of yourself with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Email it to [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) to be entered in our annual contest for the best picture. Be sure to include something about the place where it was taken and yourself.

Each year there is a new prize. Last year it was a fabulous dinner for two on the beach at posh Harbour Village's La Balandra restaurant. Take that photo today!



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# Bonaire's First Driving/ Biking/Hiking Trail Opens



The Governor and Commissioner opens the Bara di karta trail by unveiling the map

## A NEW TRAIL OPENS—FOR DRIVERS, HIKERS AND BIKERS—BARA DI KARTA

Lagun/Washikemba – Bonaire.

On Friday, June 26th in the afternoon Lt. Governor Rijna and Deputy Silberie officially opened the new tourist trail, Bara di Karta by unveiling the huge billboard with the map and information about the trail through the remote outback of Bonaire.

Bara di Karta is the area between Kaminda Lagoen and Kaminda Sorobon. Yellow signs indicate the some 15-kilometer trail for cars. Pink signs indicate walking tours and blue signs indicate two different mountain bike trails.

This tour and the whole area is named after the 57-meter-high hill, half way along the trail and in the mid of the terrain, Bara di Karta. The tour brings you to the Washikemba formation with brown, red and black rocks, volcanic material. Then to the Washikemba Plantation. The mansion is in the center of the plantation and is said to be haunted as ghosts appear on a more or less regular basis. The

Washikemba saliña shelters a lot of flamingos. During the dry season the saliña is almost without water. Close to the Boka Washikemba you will find Bonaire's longest tree, forced to grow in one direction by the trade winds. Size of the tree is some 100 feet. The mouth or boka of Washikemba is spectacular during windy weather, as is the blow hole or *suplado*. Big boulders on the coast were brought there by waves over 30 feet, caused by tsunamis, attacking the island from the west. The trail leads to Onnie Emerenciana's Kunuku di Mamai Rosa, operating since 1882, and other kunukus with wind mills and traditional cactus fences. Locals left their properties some 50 years ago to find a job and a living in downtown Kralendijk. Now they are coming back, doing their utmost best to make a kind of living with new agricultural techniques.

The Pos Bara di Karta is a wind mill, pumping up water for irrigation. Farmers and the government are busy restoring dams to keep the water on and in the island.

The Bara di Karta Hill is only 57 meters

high, a 15-minute hike, but the view over the island, the salt, the mansion, the *boka* is more than stunning. Finally you can find shelter at the picnic-area, under a tamarind tree and try its sweet and sour fruits.

After the unveiling of the billboard, after shooting some pictures, writing down some information, having a beer or two and a snack, my dog Sneetje and I jumped in the Puma-powered, British-made Land-Rover Defender.

Unpaved road conditions were good. Dry season. (once I got stuck for six hours in the Washikemba area. *Jb*) A four-wheel drive vehicle is not necessary. Some road clearance is advisable so a pick-up will do the job. Fourteen-inch rims or bigger are ok. Check the pressure of all tires, including your spare tire. Check the level of your fuel or take an extra canister with you. Always take fresh water with you. Even un-cooled water can be a relief. Do not drive too fast as rocks can damage the sump of your engine. (I had this once. *ljb*) Just think of a first aid kit and use your safety belts. An unnoticed bump or hole can easily lift you from your seat and cause a headache. Always descend a hill in the same gear as you approached it. Do not use your clutch while descending. Take your time and enjoy what your island can offer you. And this is just 1% of what our beloved Bonaire has kept secret.

Visit the website: [explore-bonaire.com](http://explore-bonaire.com) for more information in advance and watch the very interesting documentary about Bara di Karta by Hendrik Wuyts. Get a preview by watching it on Tourist TV.

Get a map of the area in advance at the tourist office of Bonaire on the Kaya Grandi, or at the bigger hotels. Have some fun in advance with your girlfriend, family or friends, planning the excursion.

The development of this trail is the result of the intensive work of POP (*Plattelands Ontwikkelings Plan/Plan di Desaroyo di Kumukeru/Development Plan of the Outback/jb*), the government of Bonaire and the Dutch Department of Economic Affairs.

And there is more to come. A trail in and around the Rincon area is under construction. ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

# BUDGET MARINE



Tabita Trenidad A new face in Budget Marine's shop

Kralendijk/Bonaire –

The crew of Budget Marine is enriched with a new face: 16 years young Tabita Trenidad. Tabita studied administration at the SGB (*Scholengemeenschap Bonaire*) and was a trainee at Budget Marine during a couple of weeks in spring 2014. Good looking Tabita is very happy with this job. She speaks English, Dutch and Papiamentu and is very willing and enthusiastic, helping clients. Unfortunately she will be assisting the Budget Marine crew only during this summertime as she will continue studying in Curacao.

Budget Marine is located in Kralendijk, Kaya Carlos A. Nicolaas #4, next to Napa Automotive Supplies. Budget has a wide range of water sports products, fishing gear, paints, parts and stainless steel.

Tabita and owner Pam Teitel inform this reporter about building activities along Kaya Neerlandia. Just 500 yards in the northern direction Budget Marine is building a huge new shop, close to the old location of Don Andres Shipping. ■ Story and photo by Jan Brouwer



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This is the 138th of a series of The Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n (always wear a helmet) Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels." Up to at least 200 articles!

**NICK MADLENER AND HIS LIVING HERITAGE.**

Tera Kora/Bonaire –

A couple of years ago I wrote an article about Nick Madlener, owner of Buena Vista Optics, and his little red four-stroke, single-cylinder quad. I was curious and a little skeptical about the vehicle as in my opinion a quad is unsafe at any speed. Nick informed me about his quad and told me it is not the quad but the driver who can make the quad unsafe at any speed. Then I agreed; Nick had a point.

Years passed by and boys grow older as do their toys. Nick had fantasies about constructing or assembling a trike, based on a motorcycle, based on, in his opinion, the motorcycle: an all American made Harley-Davidson...

So Nick searched the internet and found the Frankenstein Trike-site. Now Nick knew it was possible to order a kit and convert a conventional two-wheeler into a real trike. The next problem was to find a suitable "donor" bike. A Harley-Davidson Hugger was for sale. Unfortunately the motor bicycle was a little bit dented and neglected and the 883 cc engine was a little bit underpowered. Then Nick found

a 2011 built Harley-Davidson Sportster. An, almost needless to say, V-twin (Harley also produced single cylinder motor cycles as we all know. /jb), measuring 1200 cc, equipped with a smooth five-speed gearbox. Nick Madlener and Orlando Fransisca spend hours and hours, talking over the fantasies of Nick, converting them into a real plan. Then Nick ordered the kit, including huge 15-inch aluminum eight-hole five-nuts rims, fat tires, a pair of mud guards, a bracket and a rear swing arm, an axle, a disc brake. And Orlando mounted all parts to the no-more-original Sportster.

As Nick has problems with one leg he had to convert the shift system of the Sportster. Again he surfed the internet and he finally found a so called widow maker or suicide shift. A suicide shift is a shift mounted on the left hand side of the motor cycle, next to the tank instead of on the handle bar. So Nick got an old handle bar from Orlando and started to collect some pieces of old but still usable iron. The final result after a lot of studying, copying, drilling, welding, sanding, polishing and spraying was a custom made hand shift that did the job perfectly.

At the end of 2013 the project was fi-



nally successfully finished. Now Nick is the proud owner of a converted Harley-Davidson Sportster, equipped with a 1200 cc old fashioned long-stroke push rod overhead valve V-twin that gets its air and fuel by Screamin' Eagle. Finally two Vance Hines chrome pipes take care of the exhausts. By a belt the power from the engine is delivered to the two massive Hankook radial m+s tubeless tires, measuring 265x50x15. In the front and in the rear there are two disk brakes. Front shocks, electrics and electronics, the braking, all is completely original Harley-Davidson. The good looking black and flat black bike has only some 3500 kilometers on the gauge. Just recently Nick changed the 2.4 gallon peanut tank for a bigger one, containing 4.5 gallons. Nick: "Now I can make the southern loop and the northern loop without a break at home

to refill the tank! And there are plans to change the spoked front wheel for an all aluminum disk wheel. Plans and fantasies, but they will become reality!"

Then Nick shows me his driver's license. No license for a motorcycle, just for a car. The Sportster is registered: B – 564. By law this is not a motorcycle but a car, like in England and in the Netherlands. Finally he informs me about the fact that this unique motorcycle is completely financed by the heritage of his parents. Then he starts the engine.

A cloud of dust. Windows are trembling. Nick launches his bike. His parents can be proud of their son. ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



# High School Test Results Improved

The examination results of the Comprehensive School Bonaire (SGB) High School after completion of the second period are published below. On average, 74% of examinees of the national exam passed. **This rate is 6% higher than last school year.** In 2013-2014 of the 242 candidates, 164 passed for a success percentage of 68%. This year from a total of 227 students examined, 167 students passed giving a passing percentage of 74%. These are the figures for the candidates who participated in this year's national written examinations.

**Results:**

Course of Study	2014/2015			2013/2014		
	Number	Number Passed	in %	Number	Passed	in %
Vmbo-Basis en Kader	93	77	83	169	119	70
Mavo	64	42	66			
Havo	50	34	68	55	36	65
Vwo	20	14	70	18	9	50
Totaal met Centrale Examens	227	167	74%	242	164	68
Excluded from totals						
Vso	3	3	100	3	3	100
Pro	6	6	100	20	15	75
Lwt	4	4	100			
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>69</b>

Last week, diplomas were handed out to graduating students; on July 2, 2015 to pupils from VMBO plus pro, on 3 July, to the students of secondary school, general secondary education. (Liseo Boneriano)

The SGB congratulates the candidates obtaining their diploma and wishes them every success in their college or their career. The parents / guardians and ourselves offer our congratulations to the graduates too ■

Press release/G.D.

## In Memory of Victor February 14 1991 – July 15 2011

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(Presumably)

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# The Deep Sea Challenge

## Featuring Carlos Coste's Record Breaking Attempt



Boats circle around the platform that serves as a gateway to Carlos Coste's dive to the depths of the ocean. Coste is attempting to break the World Record free diving in the Variable Weights category that currently stands at 145 meters. That means he has to reach to a depth of 146 meters today with just one breath. A weighted sled, that is connected to a boat specially geared up with a deadweight pulley system should something go amiss, is used to send Coste down at a speed of 1.6 meters per second.

Once the desirable depth is reached he will let go of the sled, and, still connected to the rope, come up to the surface on his own power using a monofin (one fin for two feet instead of a separate one for each) to propel him upward. The tension is palpable as the judge counts down the minutes, and then seconds to Coste's last surface breath. Three, two, one and he's gone.



**Carlos Coste, host of the Deep Sea Challenge 2015, tried to break the world record free diving in the Variable Weights discipline.**

This is the first year that Carlos Coste and his wife Gaby hosted the Deep Sea Challenge 2015 - a free diving competition on Bonaire. The couple moved to Bonaire in 2013 and started a free diving school. In a press conference at the Plaza Beach Resort on June 17<sup>th</sup>, on the opening day of the Challenge, they explain why Bonaire is the perfect free diving destination. What makes it perfect for free diving is not only the clear and calm Caribbean waters and the immediate depth that surrounds the island but the fact that within minutes driving distance from home or hotel you'll find a decompression chamber, a hospital and great supermarkets stocked with good organic super foods, a free diver essential.

### The Challenge

The Deep Sea Challenge took place from June 17 to June 23, and in that time new personal records were set by the challenge competitors in a variety of disciplines. The competition included four different disciplines: Static Apnea; a discipline that focuses on time. How long can you hold your breath whilst floating face down in a pool? Dynamic Apnea; a discipline that focuses on distance. How far

can you go down? The Constant Weight category which involves swimming down with fins, taking a tag and going back up to the surface. The diver will have to announce the depth he'll try before diving down so the tag can be attached at the right depth, and the Constant Weight without Fins discipline which means depth is announced and the diver swims down breaststroke-style until he finds his tag on the line.

### Scores

Free divers from around the world participated in the Deep Sea Challenge. Meet Edgardo Andrade from Honduras who won the Constant Weight and Constant Weight without Fins category as well as the honor of most complete athlete overall, Boy Roozendaal from Bonaire/The Netherlands who did great and placed second in that category, Martyn Bromley, from Great Britain holds third place and Maarten Boon, from the Netherlands, fourth place. Sebastian Lire from Chile took first place in the Static Apnea category, Warley Resin De Souza from Brazil placed second and Courtney Williams, from the USA placed first in all disciplines as the only female free diver. Carlos Coste, apart from trying to break the world record Variable Weights also took first place in the Dynamic Apnea discipline.

### Coste's Passion

Carlos's free diving passion started in university when he got accepted into a prestigious underwater club whilst studying mechanical engineering. He was attending the Central University of Caracas in Venezuela when a study-partner introduced him to the World Underwater Federation (CMAS). This was a training club with a scuba course that was nothing like a regular PADI course but more like navy survival training. Only the best 25 out of 100 were allowed to do the course that

involved moving underwater from tank to tank whilst holding your breath. It was during this course that Coste became fascinated with free diving. He trained himself and together with some other enthusiasts formed a free diving team. They contacted the International Association for Development of Apnea (AIDA) and in 2000 the team competed in their first free diving world cup hosted in Nice, France. They placed third overall (out of 32 participating countries.) Coste explains: "It was so motivating! This was the first time we left our country and our first international competition and we had such a good score. It made me want to push on to see what else I could do." In 2001 the Venezuelans entered another world championship in Ibiza. "One team member wasn't that well trained and kept the team back," Carlos clarifies, "and so from that moment on I decided to go at it alone. I then broke two world records in one week, the Constant Weight at 90 meters and the Free Immersion at 93 meters." He also holds the record as first human being to dive down to



**Once the dive has been completed Coste needs to go back down to breathe oxygen from a bottle in order to minimize medical risks.**

100 meters in one single breath.

### Holistic Lifestyle

In order to be able to breathe optimally Coste practices yoga and pranayama yoga that focuses on breathing techniques and lung flexibility. Nutrition and sports are also very important. The focus is on super foods and TRX training - in order to toler-

*(Continued on page 9)*





Carlos on his weighted sled

dive and the depth he has to reach and to optimize the use of air between lungs, mouth and ears. Coste: "When I dive to these depths it is a very technical issue but I also want to feel good— I enjoy this."

**Workshops**

During the Deep Sea Challenge various complementary workshops were held for the general public such as yoga workshops, including SUP yoga, hosted by USA free diver Courtney Williams and the Smiling Budha Studio, a Tai Chi workshop, as well as a choice of kids' workshops such as yoga for kids, a STA pool challenge and a swimming and dynamic challenge for kids. Coste held an informative talk on the importance of good nutrition and super foods that help keep the body in optimal condition such as quinoa, kale, broccoli, sweet potatoes, walnuts, cranberries and much more. The pair's daughter even made examples of daily recipes that participants could look into.

**World Record Variable Weight**

As Carlos tries to reach a depth of 146 meters he stops at intervals to equalize. The weighted sled has a clutch that he can release for a second. The AIDA



Coste takes a breath and off he goes.



Carlos on the way up

referees track him with a fish tracker to measure the depth he reaches. Rescue divers with tanks are waiting for him at 70 meters and free divers a little higher, at 30 meters. On the first attempt, Saturday June 20, he reached just over 120 meters, on the second attempt on June 27, 126 meters. Coste had ear issues. This means that the world record Variable Weights is still in the hands of Canadian William Winram. Coste is happy though, he had a beautiful Deep Sea Challenge and plans to try and break another world record, this time in another category. Here's to Coste and his wife Gaby and here's to the Deep Sea Challenge 2016!

Carlos Coste and his wife Gaby would like to thank the sponsors that made it possible to host an event such as the Deep Sea Chal-

lenge 2015. Thanks goes out to: Plaza Beach Resort Bonaire, Tourism Cooperation Bonaire, Budget Marine, Van der Tweel Supermarket, Oris Swiss Watches, Gaia Pro, Ferregraphics, El Navegante Boatyard and in collaboration with Maduro Curiel Bank, Cressi, Oceana, Reefsurfer, Stinapa, Dive Medical Bonaire, PWC, Sunbelt Realty, Rocargo, South Caribbean Sailing, Red Cross and Bonhata.

Story by Sanny Ensing

All Photographs are courtesy of underwater photographer Casper Douma.



(Continued from page 8)

ate CO2 and low oxygen levels. Other methods that rate high on

his list are visualization, meditation and Neuro Linguistic Programming or NLP. He uses these techniques to pre-focus on the

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# Dreams After Turning 50

## COLORFUL INTERIOR DESIGNS WITH A SURPRISING TWIST

I'm talking to Wilco Harbers, who, after a life of social work and taking care of other people's needs, decided it was time to do something completely different. So he became an interior decorator. "As a teenager I always wanted to do something creative, and I was really attracted to interior design, but the way things were then, my parents didn't think it was a wise choice. The impression I got from them was that they wanted me to follow a solid education. I was a good student, so I did higher professional education (HBO) youth welfare work- care and support for children and their parents in need. From the early 1980s until 2014 I was a youth social worker. I did a lot of specializations and worked in various managerial positions. On Bonaire I worked in education, and during the last three years of my career I was the director of the expertise center for education care, EOZ.

When I was approaching 50 - ha! - it does sound like a cliché - I thought, 'Shall I continue on this path or am I going to give my creative side a chance?' And then I started training as an interior designer and I hope to graduate any day now. It's a liberation. Really.

Mind you, I have no regrets whatsoever of what I've done all those years in social work. On the contrary, I think I benefited greatly from that experience in the relationship I have with my clients now. I have an extensive knowledge of human nature, and over the years I've learned how to find out what it is people really want, and I try to give them confidence and support them in trying something quite different and taking more risks when it comes to their interiors. But of course, in the end, it's always the decision of the client.

For me the criteria is that what's realized should fit the clients- their lifestyle, taste and needs- but also it should reflect the surroundings. And what I enjoy very much personally is when we bring something gutsy, something daring into the design, something the client never thought of or dared to think of before.

The fact we are here in the Caribbean has everything to do with my designs. Light and the use of colors are my passion but also my expertise. I am good at that. What I often bring into my projects is the sea. We're on an island and if you don't see her, you feel her. I try to make people aware of the special characteristics of Bonaire- its colors and temperature, the sea and all that lives in it and the sky - 90 shades of blue - but also all the different greens - and the special scent of this island.

We are living in a gorgeous, unique place and to bring the special beauty of this island home and incorporate it in your interior, that's a challenge, that's huge. But when you have done so and the interior of the house fits you like a glove and makes you feel it's part of you, then the picture is complete and we have a full circle. Presently I'm working at Store 25, across from Warehouse, so if people are interested, feel free to pass by."

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Wilco Harbers



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# Junior Rangers Graduate

Perhaps the most significant program for teenagers living on Bonaire is the STINAPA (Park Authority) Junior Ranger program. It was started in 2009 and now the program consists of about 35 youngsters who meet weekly to learn about the environment of their island and to learn the skills needed to appreciate it, preserve it and enjoy it. A major focus is on SCUBA diving.

Last week the Junior Rangers, the support staff, volunteers and friends got together in the Divi Flamingo conference room for graduation. There are seven levels to progress to finally be qualified as a Nature Ambassador for the island.

Junior Rangers receive diving certifications and learn to understand the ethics necessary to protect Bonaire's valuable land and sea resources. By being knowledgeable SCUBA divers so they can recognize the value of and understand ocean habitats and underwater ecosystems.

They learn about the significant Bonaire terrestrial environments of birds, plants, caves, bats and bees.

They become leaders and role models for other youngsters which is the program's ultimate objective along with passing on knowledge and appreciation for nature and environmental issues. ■ G.D.



*Younger Rangers enjoying the proceedings. The room was packed with Rangers, parents, friends and supporters.*



*Diane Werdath and Alyssa Wijnand advanced in rank. Governor Rinja presented the certificates.*



*The driving force behind this project is Desiree Croes, Stinapa Environmental education coordinator.*



*Ranger Tom Lensink moves up.*



*Volunteers and supporters of the program were honored as well.*



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# A Restaurant Worth Discovering

## BREEZE 'N BITES OCEANFRONT RESTAURANT

A Bonaire landmark restaurant is back at the top of Bonaire's best places to eat. It's Breeze 'n Bites at the Den Laman Apartments. Now owned and run by an "old Bonaire hand," Dick Bos, who's just returned after 15 years in Holland.

You can't find a better location, on a deck right on the sea, where you can hear the quiet lapping of the waves and witness a Bonairean sunset.

Chef Bos brings his in depth culinary experience to Breeze 'n Bites. His dinner specials are amazing (Barracuda topped with shrimp in a saffron sauce). He's creative (balsamic ice cream for example) and innovative, featuring Thai curries or pea soup. For one guest he made a meatless vegetarian dish—aromatic vegetables en crouete. His fish dishes are lightly prepared, perfectly done and mouth watering. Chef Bos explains his philosophy: "This is a cozy place where the food should be fresh, tasty and nice."

Dick was a chef for the old Den Laman in the 90s. In Holland, working as a chef for an agency, Bos cooked in all kinds and sizes of restaurants from small to huge, perfecting his craft and creativity. On a ship in Antarctica for three months he cooked for 50 people, three meals a day (13,000 meals in total). All the provisions were brought aboard before sailing. "No skimping," Bos relates. "There was duck breast and tenderloin for example."

He invites you to come and enjoy this professional but friendly source of exciting and delicious dishes and have a toast to the rebirth of a fine restaurant at the Den Laman.

You may dine there every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner except Wednesday. Breakfast is from 7:30-10am. One special in July is a Complete Breakfast for \$14.50. Happy Hour is 4-6 pm daily (except Wednesday). Once this place is discovered it going to be tough to get reservations.

■ Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo (at right with the pineapple fruit with banana ice cream dessert)



Proud chef Dick Bos with waitress Ilja in front of the Specials of the Day board



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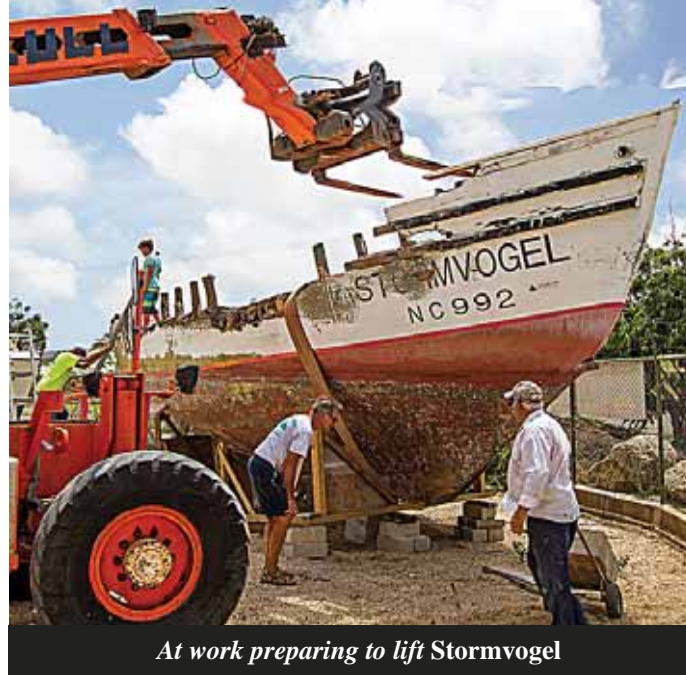
# Bandera Riba! Flag Up!

Drive down Kaya Gobernador De-brot on any given day and you just might see a 10-foot long streamer flying above Navegante Boatyard just north of the desalinization plant in Hato. That is your personal invitation to visit Bonaire's historic ship, *Stormvogel*.

*Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru*, the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation, is currently restoring the old boat. Launched from the shores of Playa Pabou in 1951, *Stormvogel* is the last remaining sailing cargo boat built in the ABC Islands. These ships were central to Bonaire society in the days before regular airplane service. They bonded the islands by uniting friends and relatives, supplying news and delivering vital cargo.

"The foundation is just beginning Phase Two of Project *Stormvogel*," explains board member Johnny Craane. "With our all-volunteer crew, we are doing an extensive, historical restoration of the boat. Later, she will become a museum for the island, hopefully a floating one, where both residents and tourists will have a chance to learn about our rich, nautical past."

The first Bandera Riba!, Flag Up Day, took place on June 27th. The goal was to reposition *Stormvogel* higher to make working on her easier for the crew. The ship was also leveled. Navegante Boatyard owner, Lelle Davidsson, operated his crane to lift the 7-ton boat. The rest of the volunteer crew was Johnny Craane-head of the restoration, his nephew-Bob Craane, Jim Madden and myself. Once the boat was repositioned, the crew removed the propeller and rudder. These



At work preparing to lift Stormvogel

parts will be included in museum displays below deck when *Stormvogel* becomes the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Center after restoration. Hendrik Wuyts, owner of Bonaire Vision Films International, filmed the work. Hendrik is making a video that will track the entire restoration process of *Stormvogel*. That will later be shown below decks in the maritime heritage center's mini theater.

But not all of the volunteers of Project *Stormvogel* are adults. The foundation is making a concerted effort to include youth in the project. Starting soon, students from *Scholen Gemeenschap Bonaire* (SGB School), STINAPA Junior Rangers

and CIEE Research Station will participate in the Junior Shipwright program, a 10-hour informal educational course where students get hands-on experience working alongside Bonairean shipwrights while completing nine hours of restoration work. Additionally, they will attend one-hour talks on the islands' nautical heritage presented by local historian and board president, Bôî Antoin. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds of the Caribbean region. It is expected that 100 students will become Junior Shipwrights.

There is also a campaign to get younger students, ages 6-12, involved. The foundation plans to organize class field trips for school kids on the island. The students will tour *Stormvogel*, learn about the



Jim and Bob work at removing the huge propeller

golden days of sail on Bonaire and receive informational pamphlets about the island's maritime history. Xiomara Frans, an educator on Bonaire for over 20 years, will act as liaison between the schools and the foundation. "Project *Stormvogel* offers something for everyone on Bonaire," says Craane. "We want this to be a project for the entire community."

And Flag Up! Days are a great way to participate. When the *Stormvogel* flag is flying above Navegante Boatyard, stop on by. You can watch the restoration crew at work, ask Johnny Craane about the boat's history or buy a *Stormvogel* T-shirt (\$20), bottle koozie-insulator (\$5) or a bumper sticker (\$3). All proceeds go directly to Project *Stormvogel*. Bandera Riba!

■ Story and photos by Patrick Holian (holding *Stormvogel*'s prop). →



For the latest news ... <https://www.facebook.com/StormvogelBonaire?fref=ts>

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MISCELLANEOUS

**REAL ESTATE/RENTALS/ ETC...**

**For Sale: Apartments on good  
location in Playa.** Starting from \$95  
mil, doesn't have to rent anymore  
....Info: **717-1880.**

**Oceanfront 2- bedroom, 1.5- bath  
condo at Sand Dollar** for rent from  
June 6 until December 1. \$1500 month.  
Community pool, tennis court, dive  
shop on site. Please email me at: [esk-  
with@gmail.com](mailto:esk-with@gmail.com)

**For sale: Private property located  
North of Rincon, 22.500 square meters,  
\$7,50 per meter, Kadaster # 533, digital-  
is1956@hotmail.com, 795- 4342, 795-  
5726, 717-3696.**

**House For Rent** – Kaya Mississippi  
#1, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, porches front  
and back, 2 minutes' walk to Regatta  
House Beach. \$1,000/month. 717-8603

**For RENT in Belnem: 2-bedroom  
apartment fully furnished.** Garden,  
private entrance and parking. Good loca-  
tion in quiet and safe area. Long term  
\$800.00 per month. Free wireless internet  
+ Cable TV. 2 months Deposit requested.  
No pets. Call **796-5530.**

**House  
for rent. 2  
bedrooms,  
1 bath,  
kitchen**



with lots of  
cabinets, large living room, front-porch,  
back-porch with garden terrace and  
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4A, 2 minutes walking distance from  
Bachelors Beach. Rent \$750 utilities  
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deposit. Dogs not allowed. Minimum  
one year contract. **Mobile phone 785-  
9900, house phone 717-2698 [therese-  
bonaire@gmail.com](mailto:therese-bonaire@gmail.com)**

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
	03:45	11:49	17:57	23:50			
Mon 06	0.76 ft	-0.28 ft	0.56 ft	0.21 ft		6:16	19:04
	04:43	12:23	18:36				
Tue 07	0.66 ft	-0.28 ft	0.71 ft			6:16	19:04
	L Quar-	01:13	05:42	12:57	19:17		
Wed 08	0.14 ft	0.54 ft	-0.26 ft	0.84 ft		6:16	19:04
	02:29	06:43	13:32	20:00			
Thu 09	0.07 ft	0.42 ft	-0.23 ft	0.96 ft		6:16	19:04
	03:39	07:45	14:08	20:44			
Fri 10	-0.01 ft	0.31 ft	-0.19 ft	1.03 ft		6:17	19:05
	04:46	08:50	14:44	21:30			
Sat 11	-0.08 ft	0.22 ft	-0.14 ft	1.08 ft		6:17	19:05
	05:51	10:00	15:19	22:16			
Sun 12	-0.13 ft	0.15 ft	-0.09 ft	1.08 ft		6:17	19:05
	06:55	11:17	15:54	23:04			
Mon 13	-0.17 ft	0.11 ft	-0.02 ft	1.06 ft		6:18	19:05
	07:55	12:44	16:28	23:51			
Tue 14	-0.19 ft	0.10 ft	0.05 ft	1.00 ft		6:18	19:05
	New	08:52	14:27	16:59			
Wed 15	-0.20 ft	0.13 ft	0.12 ft			6:18	19:04
	00:39	09:43	16:29	17:22			
Thu 16	0.94 ft	-0.20 ft	0.19 ft	0.19 ft		6:18	19:04
	01:26	10:26	17:14	19:03			
Fri 17	0.86 ft	-0.18 ft	0.26 ft	0.26 ft		6:19	19:04
	02:13	11:02	17:37	20:57			
Sat 18	0.77 ft	-0.16 ft	0.34 ft	0.31 ft		6:19	19:04
	02:58	11:32	17:59	22:35			
Sun 19	0.69 ft	-0.14 ft	0.41 ft	0.32 ft		6:19	19:04
	03:43	11:56	18:20	23:57			
Mon 20	0.60 ft	-0.11 ft	0.48 ft	0.30 ft		6:19	19:04
	04:27	12:17	18:41				
Tue 21	0.52 ft	-0.09 ft	0.56 ft			6:20	19:04
	01:06	05:12	12:37	19:03			
Wed 22	0.26 ft	0.45 ft	-0.07 ft	0.64 ft		6:20	19:04
	02:06	05:57	12:56	19:28			
Thu 23	0.21 ft	0.38 ft	-0.05 ft	0.72 ft		6:20	19:03
	First	03:01	06:42	13:15	19:56		
Fri 24	0.15 ft	0.31 ft	-0.04 ft	0.80 ft		6:20	19:03
	03:52	07:27	13:35	20:26			
Sat 25	0.09 ft	0.24 ft	-0.04 ft	0.87 ft		6:21	19:03
	04:43	08:14	13:58	20:59			
Sun 26	0.04 ft	0.19 ft	-0.04 ft	0.93 ft		6:21	19:03
	05:33	09:04	14:24	21:36			
Mon 27	-0.00 ft	0.14 ft	-0.04 ft	0.97 ft		6:21	19:03
	06:22	10:01	14:56	22:17			
Tue 28	-0.04 ft	0.10 ft	-0.03 ft	1.00 ft		6:21	19:02
	07:09	11:06	15:37	23:01			
Wed 29	-0.07 ft	0.10 ft	0.00 ft	1.00 ft		6:21	19:02
	07:54	12:21	16:31	23:50			
Thu 30	-0.10 ft	0.12 ft	0.05 ft	0.97 ft		6:22	19:02

**Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter**

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**The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher;

Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor

Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Also available on-line at:

[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) *Published every two weeks*

**Reporters in this issue:** James Albury, Bula Bonchi, Jan Brouwer, Sanny Ensing, Jane Madden-Disko, Greta Kooistra, Patrick Holian, Nathalie Peterson, Dean Regas, Michael Thiessen,

Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

**Distribution:** Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline, Ava Rose Wuyts (mailing)

**Housekeeping:** JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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Free listing in this directory for regular Reporter advertisers

## AIRLINES

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

## AUTOMOBILE DEALER

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

## BANK

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



## BEAUTY

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing. Great new shop on Kaya Grandi. Walk-in service too.

## BIKES

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

## DENTURE REPAIR

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

## ON and IN the WATER

**BHM Bonaire Hydro-test & Maintenance** offers repair of Scuba Equipment, dive tank hydro testing pressure tests with computerized accuracy. Pickup and delivery too.

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

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

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

## HOME CARE

**PPM- Prestige Property Management** Can care for your property when you are off island doing Check-Ups, House sitting, - Contractor Supervision, Gardening & Landscaping, Meet & Greet guests, and more.

## LIQUORS, WINES and MORE

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



## RESTAURANTS

**Bobbejans**— Bonaire's quintessential "rib joint" not only has some of the best ribs but tasty extras like Gado-Gado, pork chops and fries. Open Friday night and weekends only.

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



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

## RETAIL

**Dushi Shoes & Dive Friends Shops** – featuring Clarks, Guess, DC Shoes, Reefs – as well as Tee Shirts for men and women.

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

**Penny Lane** is Bonaire's first upscale fashion consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price.



## SECURITY

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

## STORAGE

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



## SHIPPING

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## SUPERMARKETS

### TOP Supermarket—

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## 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)

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of an American soldiers' camp during WWII, Self guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry

**Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

**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, 717-6435.

**Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park)** Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entry.

## Saturdays

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

• **Tera Kora Ranch Market**—2nd & last Saturdays- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items

• **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**—Last Saturday of the month, 8am-2pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon

• **Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 9:30am-2pm in front of Van den Tweel Supermarket

• **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 on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 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. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

• **Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis DE TUIN on the road to Lac Bai. Info: 786-0150

## Sundays

• **Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace** of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai – Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6 pm. Tel. +599-786-6816, +599-701-1982. A Forsa training school.

## Mondays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour**—9 am. Meet the goats, see milking, cheese making and more. **\$10 includes cheese tasting and tea, Kids \$5.** 786-6950- Also on Wednesdays & Fridays.

• **Happy Hour at Captain Don's Hab-**

**tat Bar.** The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: Island Adrift, Shangri-la, Sea Trauma and the newest book Reef Windows. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

## Wednesdays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour**—9am. See Monday for more information.

• **Echo Parrot (Lora) Foundation** tours at the Dos Pos Conservation Centre. Get an insight into Echo's work and their efforts to protect this endangered species. Book your private tour for \$30 per person (minimum of 2) through Flow: [info@flowbonaire.com](mailto:info@flowbonaire.com) Phone +599 788 4636. Or come to the weekly tour on Wednesday 4.30 pm. Meet at the Dos Pos windmill and bring good shoes as it is 'off road'. We invite you to enjoy Bonaire's nature.

• **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)

## Fridays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour**—9am. See Monday for more information

## 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

**Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. **Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays.** 10am-3pm. **1st Sunday of month**, live performances of local musicians, arts & crafts. Free but donations appreciated. **Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon. 786-6420/78-7842**

**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

**Bridge Club** - Every Wednesday, Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-4200or788-2819 or [peejeesee@gmail.com](mailto:peejeesee@gmail.com)

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

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

**Toastmasters Club** meets every **two weeks**. For more information call Cruscita 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](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)

**International Bible Church**, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:00 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride [bonaireibc@yahoo.com](mailto:bonaireibc@yahoo.com)

**Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk** – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8332.

*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.

**Iglesia di Cristo (Church of Christ)** Sunday: 10:30am & 7pm; Wednesday: 7pm. Services in Papiamentu (English also if needed) Address: Kaya Msgr. Nwndt. 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721. email: [iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com](mailto:iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com)

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Saturday, July 11 & 25 – Tera Kora Ranch Market** – Second and last Saturdays of the month-local produce, food, games for kids, second hand items

**Saturday, July-18-** Dive Friends Clean Up Dive 3 – Dive Friends Bonaire organizes the third quarterly Bonaire Underwater Clean Up Dive 2015. On each Clean Up Dive, a different area of Bonaire's coastal reefs or beaches is selected and any trash which has not become part of the reef is collected.

## Saturday, July 25

**-Mindfulness Meditation Retreats** A full week of Mindfulness From July 25th till August 1st, participants can enjoy daily guided meditations at various locations in Bonaire. There will be alternating periods of seated and walking meditations as well as 1-1 supported sessions to discuss your practice and expand on your personal goals. Yoga and nature hikes will be incorporated into the retreat.

**-Mangazina di Rei Cultural Market** - The Cultural Market has a fusion of local arts & crafts, plants & vegetables and educational presentations. Enjoy the delicious food while listening to some of the best local musicians as they play live at cultural park Mangazina di Rei located at the east-entrance of Rincon. 8am-1pm. Last Saturday of the month

**-Taste of Bonaire** – At the Taste of Bonaire, visitors will have the opportunity to experience food, culture, local handicrafts and all things offered on Bonaire, at Wilhelmina Park on the waterfront, 6-10pm. More information at Tourist Corporation Bonaire

**Saturday, August 1** – Kriabon Farmers Market at Kriabon, Kaminda Jato Bako #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-1pm – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month

**Saturday, August 15 - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bonaire Wounded Warrior Scuba Diving Certification Program.** A special week from August 15th-22nd, 2015 on Bonaire that welcomes and celebrates a group of wounded warriors and their families. They will be hosted by Captain Don's Habitat and many other businesses & individuals.



**Visit our modern salon. Call for an appointment or just walk in.**

**We do hair, make up, removal of facial hair, coloring of eyebrows and eyelashes plus eyelash extensions.**

**See you at HAIR AFFAIR Now open Tuesday and Friday between 12 and 14 (2 pm)**

**Kaya Grandi 67 In the Old Dutch Building, Across from Scooters Open : Tues-Fri: 9-6 Sat: 9-2 - Lots of Free Parking**





# THE STARS HAVE IT

## July 2015

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Caustic language may cause you to want to get out of the house. Be discreet about your personal life or whereabouts. Be mysterious. You will be entertained and intrigued by the logic foreigners possess. Help those incapable of taking care of their personal affairs. Your luckiest event will occur on a Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Delays are evident. You can enjoy the company of others and come in contact with an ideal mate, if you get out and mingle. Take things slowly, especially for the sake of those you love. Take time to relax. Stress and pressure at home may have worn you ragged. Your luckiest event will occur on a Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Don't let other people meddle in your private affairs. Family outings should include visiting friends or relatives. You will be prone to carelessness that could result in accidents. Romance may be better than you ever thought possible. Your luckiest event will occur on a Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You may need the space, but you need the extra cash more. Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. Don't be a pest or a troublemaker this month. You can discuss your findings behind closed doors with your boss. Your luckiest event will occur on a Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Try not to jump to conclusions. Opportunities for travel and communication are evident. Concentrate on your career and on making money. Overindulgent people will cause disruptions in your life. Your luckiest event this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 3) You will do well in social settings, and new and interesting individuals may spark a romantic curiosity. Look into alternatives that would better suit both your needs. Your emotional life may be up in the air if your mate has been going through a change of heart. You will both have to bend if you want this union to work. Your luckiest event this month will occur on a Sunday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may have to take a short trip to visit someone who hasn't been well. Sudden changes regarding your domestic scene are probable. If you're single, get out there and you'll meet someone new. You will find that friends or relatives may not understand your needs. Your luckiest event this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) A little overtime may help you reduce the workload. You may have problems with those you live with. Cultural activities open your eyes to new ways of doing things. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation. Your luckiest event this month will occur on a Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can make favorable changes in your home environment. Remain calm and you'll shine. Passion should be your goal. Opportunities for romance are present. You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. Your luckiest event this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can make moves, but they won't be settling. Don't overspend to impress someone who interests you. You must not let others talk you into doing things that will probably limit you financially at a later date. Your attitudes at work will open new avenues for you. Your luckiest event this month will occur on a Friday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Take time to reevaluate your motives regarding friendships. Deception regarding joint finances or investments will cause upsets between family members. Don't prejudge. You may get drawn into a personal situation that will not be to your liking. You can ask for favors or run your ideas by those who will be able to support your objectives. Your luckiest event this month will occur on a Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Risky ventures may turn in your favor. You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better. Stress coupled with diet will add to stomach problems. You may find your self in a romantic situation. Your luckiest event this month will occur on a Saturday. ■Michael Thiessen



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## CELEBRATING SUMMER SKIES

What better way is there than to celebrate our first full month of summer than by spending the night under the stars? You had a good chance when several hotels, like Captain Don's Habitat, shot off fireworks for American Independence Day on July 4<sup>th</sup>, but the stars will remain pretty much the same for this week.

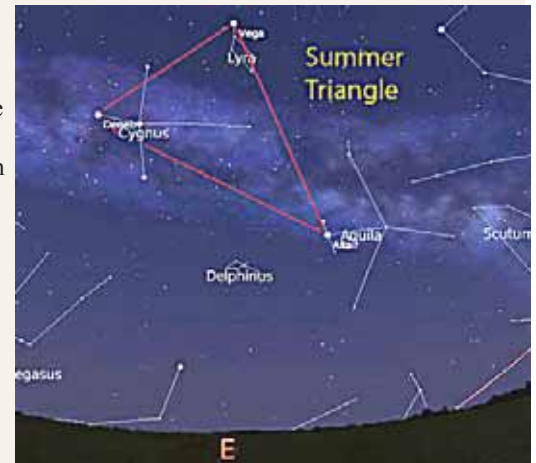
You can check out a host of bright constellations all over the sky. Face west. The first thing to draw your attention will be two bright, non-twinkling lights. Those are the planets **Venus** and **Jupiter**. Venus and Jupiter had a super close conjunction on June 30th. Even this week they'll still be very close to each other and will make an excellent spectacle in the dwindling twilight.

Jupiter is the bright light on the right and Venus is the brighter one to the left. Both planets are visible right below the stars making the head of **Leo, the lion**. Leo is one of the most popular spring time constellations and in a few weeks, it will disappear below the horizon. The **bright star Regulus** marks the heart of the lion and is a multiple star system almost 80 light years away from us.

If you aim your gaze toward the south in the Sky Park, you'll see my favorite constellation of summer, **Scorpius the Scorpion**. Scorpius is easily found if you look for a j-shaped pattern of stars. The top three stars marking his face are **Graffias, Dschubba** and **Pi Scorpii**. And not far from Graffias and Dschubba is the **ringed planet Saturn**. Saturn is in an excellent spot for viewing this week, so I strongly encourage you to view it through a telescope.

Even through the most modest of telescopes, you'll be able to see Saturn's magnificent rings. A ring system that Galileo said resembled ears.

If you follow the stars of Scorpius away from the three stars marking the face, you'll see a bright red star named **Antares**, because of its resemblance to the planet **Mars**, which itself was named after the Roman god of war. Continue to follow these stars through the curve in the tail and you'll see two stars that are close to each other which mark the stinger of the Scorpion. These stars are **Shaula** and **Lesath**. Shaula is a



blue-white star approximately 570 light years from **Earth** and **Lesath** is a white star 580 light years away and six times the diameter and 11 times the mass of our **Sun**.

If we now aim our view to the east, you'll see the stars marking the **Summer Triangle**. The brightest and bluest of the three stars in the Summer Triangle, is **Vega**. Down and to the left is **Deneb** and way over to the right is **Altair**. Each of these stars belongs to its own constellation. Vega is 25 light years away and is part of **Lyra the Harp**, whose stars make a little parallelogram. Vega's blue-white color tells us that it's much hotter than our Sun. In fact, compared to our Sun's temperature of 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, Vega blazes away at a fierce 17,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Altair is 17 light years away and it's the eagle eye of the **constellation Aquila the Eagle**. Altair is pretty close to us as far as stars go, and it's the 12th brightest star we can see. If we compare it to our almost million-mile-wide Sun, Altair is not only 1 1/2 times its size, but since it's a hot white star, Altair is actually nine times brighter than our cooler yellow Sun.

Lastly, we have **Deneb**. Deneb is approximately 3,000 light years away and marks the tail of **Cygnus the Swan**. Not only is Deneb bigger and brighter than the other two stars in the Summer Triangle, but it also happens to be the **North Star on Mars**. So, if you ever get lost roaming the surface of Mars, look for Deneb and you'll find north. Of course, if you get lost on Mars, finding north will be the least of your problems. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury

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# Pet of the Week

## NIKOLAS

**E**xotic, different, beautiful, gorgeous.....these are just some of the words used by admirers of distinctive Nikolas. Rarely do you see a cat on Bonaire with the coloring, patterns and head and body style that this handsome young man possesses. His white coat is artistically painted with grey, black and silver markings with a few dabs of coffee color. Unseen in the photo are his fabulous legs....Nikolas looks like he's wearing striped leggings!



In addition to his artistic coat, Nikolas bears a head style reminiscent of ancient Egyptian sculptures and paintings. His ears, large lemon shaped eyes and broad flat nose conjure up images of the "sacred" Egyptian cats. Perhaps somewhere in Nikolas' genetic pool lies one of the Sphynx cat breeds that have these similar characteristics but lack the soft, luxurious coat of hair that he has. His long legs and lean, muscular body create a portrait of feline grace when he walks and runs.

Nikolas is about 11 months old, healthy, vaccinated and sterilized. Like many of the Sphynx breeds he is energetic, intelligent and curious and unafraid to express his affection for people. He plays well on his own, inventing games with toys or "invisible" things to chase. He also gets along well with other cats, particularly the many kittens that he currently has as roommates. He would be a perfect single companion cat or a unique addition to a multi-cat household.

You can visit handsome, unique Nikolas, as well as his feline and canine friends, at the Animal Shelter Bonaire from 8 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday at Kaminda Lagun 26, 717-4989. You may also catch a glimpse of him on the Kenoffel Cat Cam [www.bonairecatcam.com](http://www.bonairecatcam.com). ■ *Jane Madden Disko*



# Animal Shelter Tips & News

## The Kenoffel Cat Cam

**T**he Bonaire Animal Shelter launched a web cam this year — or what it calls "the Kenoffel Cat Cam" — to allow feline fans a view of adoptable cats in the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

The cat cam is called the Kenoffel Cat Cam because the cam was donated by Bonaire residents and cat lovers, Lourae and Randy Kenoffel and their cat Bandit (a former Shelter resident). Lourae and Randy wanted to do something for our feline friends on the island and thought that a cat cam was a great idea. More cats would be adopted and the Shelter could raise funds and donations with the Kenoffel Cat Cam. Unfortunately, Randy passed away in July 2014 and was not able to see the cat cam in action.



## Adopt a Bonaire Cat

Watch our Kitty Cam and see what fun our feline friends are up to! You might see cats exploring, kittens playing hide and seek, or just taking a cat nap. All the cats are available for adoption. Animal Shelter Bonaire has wonderful cats and kittens of every color, age and size. We hope you will consider adding one of them to your home. You'll receive a lifetime of love for it!

## Help the cats (and dogs) on Bonaire

**I**f you enjoy this cam, please consider making a donation to the Animal Shelter Bonaire who not only make the lives of rescued dogs and cats so much better, but take the time and effort to provide these live cams. The web page will also have spots available for sponsors which board members hope will eventually bring in extra funds for the Animal Shelter Bonaire.

Your donation helps in many ways:  
 - \$8.50 helps to microchip a pet  
 - \$50 buys a day's pet food  
 - \$450 spays or neuters 10 dogs

Visit our website or Facebook page and donate online! <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com> <https://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire>

If you'd like to help please visit the Animal Shelter at Kaminda Lagun 26, or call for more information. (717-4989) or e-mail us at [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) ■

Story & photo by Natalie Peterson





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# Word on the Street

Items not necessarily confirmed but are being talked about "on the street"

**R**estaurant Report... numerous rumors on the street. The opening of **Blue Garden Brazilian Grill & Pizza Gourmet** (at the site of the former Casablanca) is imminent, within the next 10 days. The Brazilian owners will feature classic Brazilian Beef Picanha and gourmet Brazilian pizza....reportedly quite different than what is commonly known as pizza.

- **Breeze 'n Bites**, the new eatery at Den Laman condominiums, has successfully procured all their permits after a 14-week delay. Breakfast, lunch and dinner in addition to happy hours and snacks are now available. See story on page 12
- **Zen's Bar and Cafe** has announced another change. They are no longer serving lunch and have announced "updated" business hours. Monday through Saturday 5 pm to 11 pm, dinner served from 6 pm to 10 pm.
- **June's Taste of Bonaire** was quite successful and enjoyable...lots of people and great entertainment featuring lots of very talented Bonaire youth. Only "bad taste" of the night was the lack of adequate Klikos for garbage. The few placed on site were overflowing within an hour or two and created some unsightly areas. The "powers that be" behind the event should take note.



• **Real estate prices seem to be dropping a bit.** So that means we need ANOTHER real estate brokerage. New real estate office, NLC Real Estate, run by old Bonaire hand Frank Nelissen, recently opened its doors at the former location of Lily's Ice Cream, adjacent to Sunbelt Realty Rental offices. According to the 2015 Bonaire Telephone Directory and internet there are at least 14 real estate companies on the island....that's about one company for every 1,200 people!

• **The Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard's Cougar transport helicopter** in Curaçao helped transport mostly plastic garbage from Curaçao's offshore island of Klein Curaçao. The Carmabi Nature Foundation organized it as part of its Sea Turtle Conservation effort. Bonaire's Klein Bonaire could also use their help. Ideas anyone? ■ *Bula Bonchi*



# Changes At Echo

**T**here are changes underway at Echo, Bonaire's "parrot protection" foundation: new management, new aviaries, new nests, more rescues.

Echo's founder **Dr. Sam Williams** is stepping back from day-to-day management and will be leaving Bonaire to take on new bird conservation responsibilities in Costa Rica. In 2003 Sam first visited Bonaire as a predoctoral student. He's been studying the local parrots (Bonaire's unique endangered Amazon Loras) and improving their conditions ever since. Some think his work is responsible for the almost tripling of the Lora count population over the years.

In 2010 he founded the Echo Foundation, now established at Fontein and Dos Pos, to continue to try and do something about the threats to the Loras. Although he's leaving the island he will remain as Echo's Director and fully committed to Echo and the conservation of Bonaire's amazing Loras.

The change makes room for two new team members. **Lauren Schmaltz** is Echo's new General Manager and is supremely qualified. In 2009 Lauren Salerno (her maiden name) was living on Bonaire working for CIEE and wrote for *The Reporter*. She volunteered for Echo, and even continued to support it during her travels and back to the US.

Lauren has a Master of Environmental. For the past two years Lauren has sat on Echo's Board of Trustees where her formal training has repeatedly impressed the Executive Committee.

**Nathan Schmaltz**, Lauren's husband, will



**Echo's Nathan and Lauren Schmaltz**

be managing Echo's operations on the ground. Nathan's has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science and is a practical guy with team management experience. Both Lauren and Nathan are keen divers and ecologically minded.

**It's Lora breeding season again** and we can hear males making their distinct call to announce their arrival with food for the incubating females. Soon, when the chicks have hatched, they will become vulnerable to poachers. Thanks to the support of donors last year there are several covert motion sensing digital cameras and these have been put out in hidden spots overlooking vulnerable nests. We hope that no poaching occurs but if it does we expect to get images of the poachers that can be used to enforce the Loras' protected status.

Echo's Lora homes are expanding. Initial construction went very well and rapid progress is being made. In addition to those dedicated to the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrots, we have built another large aviary for a pair of Green-winged Macaws. More changes on the way. ■ *G.D./Press release*



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