

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** September 14-28, 2015, Year 22, Issue 16  
**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



# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Presently, parents on the BES islands get a break on their income tax for their dependent children. People with low incomes benefit little from this because they pay no income tax because of their low income.

To correct this unbalance in the benefits program a child allowance of \$38 per month (per child under 18, up to two children) will be paid directly to the parent as of January 2016. The parents of all 5,000 children in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will benefit from this new child allowance. Presently parents of about 2,000 children benefit from the children's tax break. The Second and First Chamber must still approve the draft bill.



► **InselAir will begin flights to Quito via Curacao and Aruba every Thursday and Sunday beginning October 29.**

Quito was a popular destination in the past for Bonaireans when KLM had direct flights there. Tickets can be purchased at the new InselAir ticket office at the airport or via local and online travel agents. From Curaçao to Quito there is an introductory fare of \$255 (NAf. 454) round trip, excluding Curaçao Airport tax.



► **Why are some Bonaire supermarkets more expensive than others?** Besides the decision of how much to mark up the items and the pressure of competition, according to a local supermarket manager it may be because of the number of different products the store features. Big markets like van der Tweel carry around 15,000 items, while the same owner's Warehouse market carries about a third of that number.

Supermarket differences – Monopoly

► **Geraldine Dammers, Jeanine Wong Loi Sing and Elsmarie Beukenboom of Bonaire's "Fundashon Akademia Papiamentu" were in Friesland, to learn how that province handles maintaining its own language "Fries" in addition to Dutch.** The trip is in connection with the 25th anniversary of "Splika" (Explain), an organization in the Netherlands promoting Papiamentu. Preservation of Papiamentu is considered an important part of Bonaire culture.

► **Five people a day commit suicide in the European Netherlands;** 1,835 people killed themselves in The Netherlands last year, down slightly from the 2013

total, the national statistics office CBS said on Thursday. This means an average of five people a day take their own lives. Most are aged between 40 and 65 and men are twice as likely as women to kill themselves, the CBS said. The figures were published on the day of the suicide of a popular Bonaire tour guide. More at <http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2015/09/five-people-a-day-commit-suicide-in-the-netherlands/>



► **Bonaire's Donkey Protection League and Citizens For Better Safer Animal Friendly Bonaire has some free bungee cords that can secure the top of the trash containers** to keep the clever donkeys from opening the lids and helping themselves. Go to their Facebook page and message them if interested.

► **For the 15th time, Youth Center Jong Bonaire is organizing its annual fundraising event Swim to Klein Bonaire,** taking place just before the beginning of the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta. This sport and social event brings together families and individuals of all ages to support the children of Jong Bonaire, one of the largest programs in the Antilles dealing with teenagers and serving hundreds of high school students here on the island of Bonaire. The event will be held as every year at Eden Beach Resort (starting point).



► **Following a recent arbitration the Bonaire Island Government (OLB) has clarified its policy and now aims to settle liability claims due to poor road conditions within six weeks.** It also promises to keep citizens better informed of the state of affairs.

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► **In recent weeks, the Royal Military Police (Marechaussee) and Bonaire's public prosecutor confiscated a batch of 10 brand new scooters and motorcycles thought to have been stolen in The Netherlands.**

Some of the vehicles were thought to have been used in street racing or "fever" activities.

The Public Prosecutor and the investigative agencies suggest that anyone considering a scooter or motorcycle purchases should ensure that the bike has a legal owner or risk of losing the scooter or motorcycle and being prosecuted for stealing. The police believe they are other stolen bikes on Bonaire.

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Flotsam & Jetsam (Cont. from page 2)

► **Bonaire's BOPEC is a large storage capacity terminal.** Many oil terminals are near full right now. And some producers with terminals in the Caribbean say now is a good time to put barrels into tanks and wait for US crude prices to rise from \$40-a-barrel dol-drum.

Demand for crude oil storage in the Caribbean, one of the world's most important oil hubs, is rising as producers and traders try to ride out the worst price crash in six years by holding onto more barrels or making blends that can be sold for premium prices. The last time tanks in the islands were this full was during the price collapse of 2009.

► **Prison tourism is flourishing.** The first of 240 Norwegian convicts arrived in Veenhuizen, The Netherlands, last month to serve out their sentences in a Dutch prison. The prisoners are being moved to the Norgerhaven jail which was originally built as a labor camp and workhouse for "anti-social families" in the 1820s and later became a penal colony. Bonaire is building a new penitentiary to augment the recently expanded lockup in downtown Kralendijk with completion scheduled next

**Medicinale Cannabis**  
 Informatiebrochure voor artsen en apothekers

Er zijn voldoende wetenschappelijke gegevens beschikbaar die aantonen dat medicinale cannabis werkzaam is bij:

- Multiple Sclerose (MS)
- Chronische pijn
- Kanker en aids (voor opwekken eetlust en verminderen van pijn, misselijkheid en gewichtsverlies)
- Syndroom van Gilles de la Tourette
- Glaucoom
- Morbus Crohn,
- Colitis ulcerosa
- Epilepsie
- Jeuk
- Migraine
- Reuma
- ADHD
- PTSS
- Alzheimer

► Information about **medical marijuana use** was made available on Bonaire earlier this month for doctors and pharmacists.

year. **The prison already has inmates from other Dutch Caribbean islands.** It's unlikely there will be a surge in local crime to fill the new prison, so perhaps it will serve as prison for other Caribbean islands?

► **Buddy Dive Resort has launched a partnership with the Fort Young Hotel in Do-**

**minica, to bring Bonaire's dive experience to that island recently devastated by tropical storm Erika.** Buddy Dive on Dominica is also offering whale watching trips

► **On Wednesday, August 26, a counterfeit \$50 was turned over to the police.** Keep a lookout for counterfeit money on the island.



► The Bonaire Business and Employers Association has named a new board of Directors. They are Anja Romeijnders-President; Martien van der Valk- Vice President; Meriam van Kampen-Scholte-Treasurer; Steven Ciereman-Vice Treasurer; Itishmira Croes-Soliana-Secretary; Burney el Hage -Vice Secretary and Eddy Carrillo - member. Their contact address is: [board@bonairebe.com](mailto:board@bonairebe.com)



day, Oct. 5, 9am to noon and 3 to 6pm; and Monday, Oct 6, 3 to 6pm

Reservations (incl. payment) are needed: Go to the Donkey Sanctuary and make your reservation. For more information: [serena@chichi-curaçao](mailto:serena@chichi-curaçao) or [donkeypalapa@gmail.com](mailto:donkeypalapa@gmail.com) Cost: \$99.

► **The Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary will host a fund raising workshop** led by Serena from Chichi Curaçao: Saturday, Oct.4 from 3 to 6pm; Sun-



A Chi-Chi Doll

► **Two healthful and popular classes at the extremes of body fitness are available on Bonaire.** For relaxation you can find yoga classes at The Smiling Buddha Studio at the Plaza Resort (See page 14) and at the Bon Bida spa (See page 5). For a hard workout to burn lots of calories and have fun doing it, take part

(Continued on page 19)

# FOR RENT Office/Retail Space

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# On The Island Since... March 2004 and January 2013 - Estelle Bruni



Antonio, Estelle and little darling Sophia

“I was living in London where I had a very busy life working with start-up internet companies, when a friend of mine talked to Nick Davies who had just become the general manager at Harbor Village on Bonaire. She asked Nick jokingly if he needed someone who spoke English, French and German. At the time the American market had slowed down significantly and Bonaire was looking at Europe for new opportunities. I was in Caracas for vacation and Nick, being a spontaneous guy, told my friend ‘Tell her to come over!’ I’d never heard about Bonaire, but I instantly loved the cute pink airport and the scent of the island when the plane opened its doors.

That same evening Nick gave me the contract. The next day he left for Miami and he gave me the keys of his car and the names of his contacts. I did the mangrove tour and I went to Ellen Herrera’s Rooi Lamoenchi plantation and I drove all over the island. Then I went back to Caracas where I called Nick in Miami and told him I’d accept his offer. Then I went back to London to quit my job. In March 2004 I got my permit. I was ready for the change, for my island experience, but I wasn’t thinking of staying longer than a year.

When I arrived on Bonaire, Antonio Bruni had just left, having been here for three years working as a chef at Elizabeth Wigny’s Croccantino Restaurant. Just as I’d completed my year on Bonaire and thinking of moving elsewhere I met Antonio who had come back to the island. I told Antonio it couldn’t be anything serious, just a casual relationship as I wasn’t planning on staying. I quit the job at Harbor Village but pretty soon after I became the head of Sales and Marketing for DAE – the Antillean airline – which had their headquarters on Bonaire. Then Antonio and I became serious and he moved in with me.

The moment DAE relocated their head office to Curacao we decided to leave. I wasn’t ready to stay; I thought there was more to accomplish and I wanted to grow professionally. It was October 2006. We went to London. In five minutes Antonio found a job as a chef and again I began working for a start-up internet company. For Antonio it was more of a challenge because of the big city pressure and having to adapt to the speed of it.

On August 20th, 2007, we got married

and our daughter Sophia was born two years later, October 20th 2009. The moment we realized I was pregnant we started looking abroad again, for a better quality of life. Through Delno Tromp, Antonio was offered a job at a hotel at Westpunt on Curacao, but somehow we weren’t ready to go. I was 38, it was my first pregnancy and we felt it was too risky. However, we did go to Bonaire for vacation and found it dead quiet. It was May 2009. At Sorobon we were the only clients. It was just before 10-10-10 and nothing was moving. Everybody was waiting for something to happen, so we went back to London.

Now London is a fantastic city, absolutely, but with a young family you don’t have enough time together. The first two years of Sophia’s life I was a stay-at-home

**“When you are lucky to be able to do something you like and you get great feedback, that’s the cherry on the cake!”**

mom, then I went back to work. Between work, kindergarten and home it was a four-hour commute every day. We saw Antonio for five minutes in the mornings and on Sunday afternoon after we had slept in. That was our family time!

When Nick Davies moved from Bonaire to Belize, he put us in contact with someone who was looking for a couple to manage a hotel/restaurant. We prepared our papers to go there, but six months later the papers were still not accepted, then they got lost. Then the guy from Belize sent us a message that he still wanted us to come. I had just accepted a job at the *Guardian* newspaper, so I told Antonio, ‘Go and check it out! Well, it wasn’t the place for us. The hotel bordered the jungle, it was very isolated and school was a one hour 40 minutes drive. So that was it!

I am French, born in the Alsace, a region in north-eastern France, but all my life I’ve wanted to travel and live abroad. I started in Frankfurt, Germany, where I worked for the Steigenberger Hotel Group

in Marketing (I have a Master’s in Marketing and Communication). From there I went to London, and once I got the taste of cosmopolitan life I loved it! Of course I love France too, but for me it’s too French! Now I’m used to another – more international – lifestyle

Well, we still wanted to move to have more quality time for the family, so we contacted our friends on Bonaire and Antonio was advised to get in touch with the new couple of At Sea restaurant, which he did. In November 2012, Rick (from At Sea) told Antonio that he wanted him there by January! Presently Antonio is no longer with At Sea. He worked for Sonia Home for two years and has just started a new challenge.

In the beginning I stayed with Sophia who was three, but soon enough I found out children on Bonaire enter school when they are four years old. We had her registered at Pelican School but she had to learn the language first. At home we speak English and she understands French and Italian, but she didn’t know a word of Dutch, so I put her in Dopey’s kindergarten to learn Dutch as soon as possible.

I was looking at work options on-line to create a company here, and in June 2013 I started a BV. I got the business license in



Estelle with her mouthwatering home baked scones

and I am a kind person so I want everybody to be able to try it, hey, it’s not gold! It’s eggs and flour and love and passion! I use fresh vanilla and fresh fruit. I make all the dough with butter and I use little sugar. I always try to get the best ingredients and in the end I give it a French twist, the taste I grew up with. The appearance is always important, but I actually like the home made look. I love irregularity! People are happy with my pastries and now I have to push it and make a living out of it. Last week I met a client of mine at the airport and she told me she’d frozen half her lemon tart to bring it to a friend on Curacao. That’s a great feeling, such a nice reward! When you are lucky to be able to do something you like and you get great feedback, that’s the cherry on the cake!

For us Bonaire has sentimental value, because we met here and we love the quality of life, the nature and the international side of it. People accept you the way you are. However, we knew Bonaire before 10-10-10 and it was so nice, like on the weekends when we went out, the whole island was out together, and now it’s only a group of people who can afford it, and that’s a shame.

What I loved in Bonaire was that part of the European way was integrated but still the Bonaireans were in charge. My hope is that they find a way to restore that again and that Bonaire will find its balance once more.” ■ *Story & photos by*

Greta Kooistra

For more info, go to Facebook: [Fait Maison – Bonaire](#) or call 782-5278 or mail [faitmaisonbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:faitmaisonbonaire@gmail.com)



December. Then it turned out that I needed a work permit for my own company which I got three months later. I did marketing, but somehow it didn’t feel right. ‘Why continue with something that belonged to another life?’ I thought, while I was considering the options I had. What could I do that would work on Bonaire?

Food was always a big part of my life, and since I was a little girl I’ve baked. Mid January 2015 I told Antonio that I was going to do a home baking business. First I started to work on the take-away license, then I asked the landlord for permission to transform the kitchen. They are fantastic people because they did the whole renovation for me. I got the license mid June and straight away I called TCB and asked for a stand at the ‘Taste of Bonaire.’ I really didn’t want to push it too hard because I needed to work on my recipes and I needed to find out what people on Bonaire like. I had to test my own skills as well and I had to price the pastries, and it’s difficult to put a price on your creations! I’m proud of my pastries



Estelle’s most delicious lemon tarts

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida



**B**en Hetherington holds a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida after just returning from his first trip to Bonaire with his mother, **Julia**, on his right. Julia had taken Ben to Bonaire earlier this summer as a high school graduation present. Ben's twin brother, **Grant**, went on a mountain climbing trip with their father to Mount Rainier, the highest mountain in the state of Washington, as his graduation present. We can all agree that Ben had the better of the two graduation presents enjoying the beautiful water of Bonaire.

The Kennedy Space Center is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) launch complex and was the launch facility for the United States' moon landing flights and space shuttle missions. Joining Ben and Julia at KSC was Jorge Oliva, who was visiting the family from Spain. Jorge was Ben's host brother when he spent a year living in Spain.

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter Langley, British Columbia, Canada



**L**arry Baillie's 2015 Wild Hog solo trip took him to Sturgis and Canada covering over 7000+kms. Larry rode a Harley Rocker-C over 7000+kms from Canada through the US on a trip that took almost a month. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota was amazing with more than 1,200,000 bikers attending the event. He then met up with the 3<sup>rd</sup> CAV (Canadian Army Veterans) in British Columbia, Canada, for a veteran weekend. Shown in the photo is Larry with *The Bonaire Reporter* at the Afghanistan Canadian Memorial for KIA (killed in Action) soldiers in Langley, British Columbia.

### 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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### CRUISE SHIP FEE HISTORY

Dear Editor:

Before the Bonaire Marine Park user fee was instituted many years ago, a meeting by the government was held with the stakeholders to go over the plan. At that time one member suggested an overall fee and not just charge divers. The then Lt. Governor said it might be discriminatory and illegal to charge such a "tax" to everyone. That alone raised many eyebrows. How can it be discriminatory to charge all but not discriminatory to charge just divers? In the end a \$10 user fee for divers was started.

For many years the dive operators kept asking for others to pay - such as snorkelers, windsurfers, sport fishing etc. It was always declined for various questionable reasons. Then one January it was announced that the fee would be raised to \$25 for divers and other users would finally be paying \$10. The dive operators and hotels were given 3 months to inform guests. It was also announced that cruise ships would now be paying but not starting until November. This gave cruise ships 11 months to prepare!

Sometime in late summer or early fall at a cruise ship convention in Miami there was a meeting which was supposed to be headed by the Director of STINAPA. After the STINAPA Director made all the arrangements to be present to inform the



Bonaire 2020?

cruise ship members about the new fee, the Director was suddenly told not to attend. Instead the delegation from the government came back saying the cruise ships claimed 11 months wasn't enough time and were given another year, making it 23 months for them to prepare. 23 months passed and the cruise ships complained again and were given another year. This continued year after year until the dive operators finally had enough and wrote a letter to the government stating the dive operators would no longer collect any fee until the cruise ships started paying. This was signed unanimously by the dive operators at that time.

In a very short time - days that is - the government acted on that letter and instituted a law stating cruise ship passengers were exempt from any fee except if diving. It is interesting to note at many other meetings where the public and the government discussed problems, those at the meetings asked for laws to be made to help various situations. The government always said that changing laws takes a long time. Why did this one only take days?

So here we sit, many years later, having lost millions of dollars in revenue that

could have been collected.

Why?

Bruce Bowker

### An Opinion About Fees

Dear Reporter,

We arrived in Bonaire almost three weeks ago, by sailing from Martinique.

My husband and I are currently doing a circumnavigation, having started in Turkey last May 2014.

We made a landfall in Antigua in January and have been sailing up and down the lesser Antilles ever since.

There are many beautiful islands in this region of the world, but we wanted to say how much we have enjoyed Bonaire and it's incredibly clear and rich waters. And everyone we've met on the island has been friendly and helpful.

We are very impressed with the job carried out by the Marine Park and fully adhere to its rules and regulations. Living on a boat, we have had ample opportunity to observe the effects of pollution and negligence on fragile marine environments and we do try to have as small an impact on our environment as possible.

So we were quite happy to contribute here by paying a small fee for dive and snorkeling tags.

In your latest issue, #15, I read the letters to the Editor concerning the Cruise ships.

If these letters are correct, it seems that cruise ship passengers are exempt from paying any of those fees. I think I agree with the two correspondents who feel this is not right. And I would like to add that probably most of those passengers, if informed and consulted, would be happy to pay the required fee. The majority of people today understand that we must protect what is left of our beautiful planet's natural environment.

So my advice to STINAPA is: set up some meetings with the cruise ship companies, suggest coming on board to do a presentation or conference on Bonaire's unique history and the Marine Park conservation philosophy, explain what the fees are for, and you'll find that the majority will be happy to buy the tag.

I also liked the idea suggested by one of your correspondents, to make the tag into a little souvenir of the island, a bracelet, a key ring or something similar.

Compared to many other Caribbean islands that are frequent destinations for cruise ships, Bonaire seems to have made a better job of maintaining its integrity and we do very much hope this will continue.

Thank you for your newspaper, I've enjoyed reading it as it is both informative and fun.

Priscilla Packer, S/Y Anemos

## Gezocht Medewerker "Dog Control" programma/Dierenasiel



BONAIRE ANIMAL SHELTER /STICHTING DIERENASIEL BONAIRE

De Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire gaat haar activiteiten uitbreiden en zal zich ook bezig gaan houden met het beheer van de honden populatie op Bonaire.

Ten behoeve hiervan zoeken wij een nieuwe medewerk(st)er, voor ± 20 uur per week.

De medewerker zal zowel ingezet worden voor dagelijkse werkzaamheden op het asiel, als voor het "Dog Control" programma.

Ten aanzien van het "Dog Control" programma zal hij/zij meldingen omtrent loslopende honden aannemen en administreren, zal op probleemsituaties met loslopende honden afgaan en daar, zoveel mogelijk in overleg met de betrokkenen, tot een zo goed mogelijke oplossing komen.

De medewerker zal zich verder bezig houden met het verstrekken van informatie en geven van educatie omtrent omgang met honden.

Wij zoeken iemand die past in de volgende profielschets

Man of vrouw.

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Zeer goed in omgang met mensen.

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Bereidheid tot werken op onregelmatige uren.

Is fysiek fit en in staat tot zo nu en dan zwaar tillen (van bijv. kennels met grote honden).

Kennis van Microsoft Office, o.a. Word Excel, Word en Power Point.

In het bezit van rijbewijs B.

is bekend met de wegen en buurten van Bonaire.

Spreekt vloeiend Papiaments en beheerst het, Engels, Spaans en Nederlands.

Schriftelijke sollicitaties, vergezeld van een CV, kunnen ingediend worden via email aan [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) of persoonlijk worden afgegeven op het dierenasiel aan de Kaminda Lagoen 26

## Vakatura part-time kolaboradó 'Dog control' program/Asilo di bestia na Bonaire



Fundashon Dierenasiel Bonaire ta bai ekspandé su tarehanan.

Nan ta bai manehá e populashon di kachó na Boneiru.

Ta buska un hende pa 20 ora pa siman.

E personan ta bai hasi e tareanan diario na Asilo di bestia, ademas e tareanan pa 'dog control' programma; manera tuma i registra keho di molester di kachó di kaya, - bai na e sitio nan unda tin molester di kachó di kaya, i ta resolvé e problema ku personanan i instansianan involvi, e ta duna informashon i eduka hende tokante kachó i kon pa anda ku nan.

Nos ta buska un hende;

homber of muhe

di 25 aña bai ariba

ku por anda bon ku kachó inkluso kachó agresivo

ku por anda bon ku hende

ku ta mustra outoridat

ku tin pasenshi

ku ta dispuesto di atendé entrenamiento i kurso

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ku ta konose Boneiru su infrastruktura i barionan

ku ta papia papiamento perfektamente

ku ta domina ingles, hulandes i spañó

Si bo ta interesa manda bo karta di solisitut huntu ku CV pa [Animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:Animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) of pasa lag'é na Animalshelterbonaire mes, na Kaminda Lagoen 26.

# The Best Ribs On Bonaire.

Some people think that Maiki Snack or perhaps Bobbejan's might have the best ribs on the island. Who knew that the best ribs might soon be found in Bonaire's historic boat, *Stormvogel*.

The volunteer crew of Project *Stormvogel* is busy these days gathering *kui* (mesquite) wood from the island's countryside. This rough cut wood will be shaped into the new ribs of *Stormvogel*, the last of the sailing cargo ships of the ABC Islands. When the boat was built on the shores of Playa Pabou in 1951, *kui* was used by shipwright Etche Craane and other local boat builders. It is a strong hardwood and the tree still thrives on the island. Project *Stormvogel* is ensuring a responsible, sustainable harvest of the *kui*.

But before the new wood replaces the rotted timbers of the old boat, this is your chance to become part of Bonaire's maritime history. Fundashon Patrimonio Maritimo Boneiru (Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation) is having a fundraiser. For \$50, you can adopt a rib of the boat and have your name inscribed into the wood. These pieces will be permanently installed in the new hull of *Stormvogel*. This is a chance to honor your family, give a unique gift to a friend and support the preservation of



Bonaire's maritime heritage. All proceeds from this fundraiser go directly into the restoration of the historic ship.

But don't wait too long. There are only 36 ribs on each side of the boat and people have been quick to buy their own personal piece of Bonaire history in the making. Already local residents Brian and Kevin Albus and Bärbel Heusinkveld donated \$50 for one of the first ribs. Bärbel's parents, Henk and Lida Heusinkveld visiting from Holland, also adopted a rib. Send your contribution now before it's too late!

To adopt one of the best ribs on Bonaire contact Patrick Holian at [projectstormvogel@gmail.com](mailto:projectstormvogel@gmail.com)

Send details on what name you would like inscribed in the wood and bank information will be forwarded to complete the transaction. ■ *Story & photo by Patrick Holian*

# From the Walking Path in Hato

For much of the year they are hidden, below even the shortest of grasses along the path – and in numerous other places where people gather on Bonaire.

It is during our dry spells that they are revealed. They rest on dead grasses, dozens of them, each only about an inch in length. Like the lionfish who have invaded our waters, they are poisonous, and their numbers are increasing. Their lifespan, around 15 years, is about five years more than that of lionfish.

Luckily for us, they differ from lionfish in a few significant ways. First, their poison delivery is passive rather than aggressive, leaking poison into the ground for the 15 years of their lives. Second, although their numbers are increasing it's not from reproductive behavior, but due solely to human behavior – and thus their numbers can also be reduced by human behavior.

How can we keep these nasty things away from the natural world on Bonaire, and from our children and pets as they walk along?

The answer is so simple: **place cigarette butts/filters in appropriate disposal containers** rather than throwing them onto the ground or road or pathway. Most cigarette filters are actually made of plastic, so they don't degrade for a long time. The filters are there to remove poison so the smoker receives less; when the filter is discarded it leaches the poison onto the ground. We can help the health and appearance of our natural world by not introducing cigarette filters into it. ■ *Dee Scarr*



JONG BONAIRE & SPICE BEACH CLUB PRESENT

## 15TH JONG BONAIRE SWIM TO KLEIN BONAIRE

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD**  
 Inscription at Jong Bonaire 17:00 - 19:00, Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar 16, Tel 717 4303.  
 Adult Participant Public Swim \$15; Kids till 12 years Participant Public Swim \$10; Participant Competition \$25. Safety boats of Wannadive, Caribe Watersports, Coast Guard and other volunteers will accompany swimmers.

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 4TH SCHEDULE**  
 08:30 Inscription for the public swim. 11:30 Caribbean BBQ with live steel band.  
 09:00 Official competition Barracuda's 14:30 Live band Sabor (Curaçao)  
 09:30 Warming up with the DJ 18:00 Regular Happy hour Spice Beach Club  
 10:00 Public swim to Klein Bonaire!

BBQ Participant \$10; BBQ Non-participant \$15; BBQ Kids till 12 years \$7.50 incl. free fruit punch

All proceeds will go to Jong Bonaire

**Sponsors:** Sunbelt Realty, Akkermans Auto Supplies B.V., Hyundai Bonaire N.V., DANI, Kia mobile, TOYOTA, LIQUI MOLY, HANASU, HYUNDAI.

**Q.** Where can I find The Bonaire Reporter?  
**A.** Just about everywhere!

<b>Airport:</b> Divi Divi Air Insel Air <b>Banks:</b> Giro Bank MCB-Main, Hato Orco Bank <b>Restaurants:</b> Between 2 Buns Bistro de Paris Bobbejan's Breeze 'n Bites Capriccio China Nobo Effie's Deli Delight Gio's Ice Cream Lover's Ice Cream-Hato Nadia's Snack Pasa Bon Pizza <b>Dive Shops:</b> Carib Inn Dive Friends WannaDive <b>Shops:</b> Antillean Wine Company Bonaire Gift Shop Botika Bonaire Botika Korona Budget Marine City Shop	DA Store DeFreewieler Dive Friends Dushi Shoes Dushi Style Exito Bakery Green Label Kooyman Napa Nature's Discount Playa Trading Tung Fung store <b>Hotels:</b> Capt. Don's Habitat Carib Inn Den Laman Divi Flamingo Eden Beach Harbour Village Hotel Plaza Resort <b>Supermarkets:</b> Bonaire Food Group Bondigro Hato Mini-market Famoso Lucky Market More for Less Sunshine	Top Supermarket Van den Tweel Warehouse Wing Cheung Zhung Kong <b>Government:</b> RCN (APNA) Bestuurscollege RCN Tax Office Building (Playa) RCN Building Customs BVO <b>Others:</b> Auto City Bonfysio at Bon Bida Spa Buena Vista Optics Caribbean Laundry Centro di Medico Chamber of Commerce Customs Extra Newspaper Office Green Label Hair Affair Harbour Village Marina Maduro Travel Notaris	Photo Tours Police Station Rocargo San Francisco Hospital Tax Office (Belasting) TCB Telbo WEB office <b>Bookstores:</b> Addo's Books & Toys Flamingo Bookstore <b>Realty Offices:</b> Caribbean Homes Harbourtown Realty Sunbelt Realty <b>In Rincon:</b> Chinese Store Joi Fruit Store Rincon Bakery Rose Inn Tusnara Market And more...
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# Recognizing Bonaire's Press Corps



Kingdom representative, Gilbert Isabella, talks to the press



Members of Bonaire's broadcast and print media at MCB's Mysteries Of Kralendijk press party

## RCN'S BONAIRE CULTURAL TOUR

Every year the Communication Department of the Dutch Caribbean Government on Bonaire (*Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland* or *RCN*) organizes an event to celebrate September 1<sup>st</sup> which has been baptized Day of the Press. Over the years it has become tradition to invite the press to celebrate this *Dia de Prensa* together to show appreciation for and strengthen the relationship with the local press.

This year a bus tour was organized for the members of the press with Bòi Antoin, Bonaire's renowned cultural and historical expert and editor of *Extra*, as tour guide. An in-depth quiz on Bonairean culture was handed out to the group and everyone was asked to individually answer the multiple choice options.

The correct answers were tallied up at the end of the evening, and, to many not

surprisingly, **Bubui Cicilia of BON FM and Stanley Balentien of Bonaire Awe came out on top.**

With Bòi Antoin recounting the oral history of Bonaire, the tour was a great learning curve for the journalists as well as a fun island visit with a photo stop at Goto Lake. At the lake the press was asked to separate into three groups and make a group photo as well as individual pictures as quick and as original as possible (with a pink flamingo cuddly toy to use in the ante). This caused a scrambling of cameras and groups running off into different directions. The winning picture was also rewarded with a gift at dinner.

The big surprise was a scrumptious dinner at the top of Seru Largu. This high-up a large tent was erected with a deliciously catered BBQ and drinks and even some wonderful live music. Everyone got a chance to chat and mingle and to enjoy a good meal while the sun was setting.

Kingdom representative, Gilbert Isabella, took this opportunity to address the press and announce the eligibility of sponsorship for local initiatives and organizations on Bonaire, Saba or St. Eustatius via "Corporate Citizenship."

"Corporate Citizenship," he explained, "is a social commitment of an organization to the society it is located in. With corporate citizenship RCN can also give some financial help to good local initiatives on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius." Apart from a small subsidy, payment can also be granted to a project in the form of voluntary work by employees of RCN. Isabella was very happy to announce this news. It fits with RCN's focus for 2015/2016: "Youth."

For more on subsidy and incentive payments surf to the RCN website: <https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/>. ■ *Story & photo by Sanny Ensing*

## MCB'S KRALENDIJK MYSTERY TOUR

Bonaire's MCB invites the press to several of its events each year. Most noteworthy are the holiday award to significant NGOs and the press recognition party on Press Recognition Day.

This year they surprised the press corps by challenging them to answer a long list of questions about Kralendijk. But to get the answers downtown Kralendijk had to be explored on foot.

The members of the press were randomly divided into four teams, supplied with team hats, ties, paper, pen and a water bottle and given an hour to complete the questions. **The Pink Hat Team led by Extra photographer Fittipaldi Pietersz scored the most points.**

A fantastic dinner complete with drinks and dessert was then served at the new La Cantina restaurant. ■ *G.D.*

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# Bonaire's Aviation Maintenance Technician School

Have you ever wondered when boarding an airplane if everything is under control to bring you from point A to point B? Let's go to the list.

These are the most common questions a passenger might ask. Are we on time? Are the people who are going to come to look for me there? Am I on time to comply with my hotel reservation? Let us hope that we will have a splendid vacation. Is the food good? Can I get all the merchandise I am going to buy? But these are not all the questions somebody may ask. There are also question like: Is the weather OK? Can we rely on the crew flying the aircraft? Or.....

Is this aircraft in good condition to bring me from point A to B? Wait a minute, who is responsible for that? We know that most of us do not really care about that. That's the responsibility of the aircraft engineer.

In 2008 a private company started the Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) School. In 2010 Bonaire became a "special municipality" of the Netherlands, which is a part of the EU. Therefore we must now comply with the aviation laws in the EU. Also our school must comply with these laws, next to the basic BES education laws



Carrying out cylinder compression check and instructions by Erwin

for vocational schools. The agency that is responsible for aviation safety in Europe is the EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency).

On June 25, 2012 the AMTS was certified in accordance with the Dutch law as a vocational school complying with the European Aviation Safety Agency and strict BES vocational laws on aviation maintenance. The teaching levels approved were level 3 and level 4. When finishing level 4 and with 5 years of experience that has been thoroughly monitored, the applicant will become a licensed aircraft engineer under EU laws. That means he/she can work anywhere in the EU. Here is one basic: for level 4, arithmetic for instance, has to be at level 3F, which is

equal to VWO.

In order to insure the highest level of knowledge, AMTS signed an agreement with the SGB, and in collaboration with our group of experts, we are now finishing the second school year of the first session. The school is also making the use of expertise of Aviation Maintenance Technician School in Maastricht, The Netherlands. This cooperation is due to the fact that the exams need to be issued by an approved training organization, ATO. We can say that the AMTS in corporation with SGB MBO is the only one of its kind in this part of the Caribbean.

The students of the second school year are already capable of understanding the basics of an aircraft, and according to the rules they need to start to practice on aircrafts. With the help of the aforementioned experts, we have an aircraft on which the students can practice. But that is not enough.

To maintain a high level of responsibility, confidence and safety, the students need to practice on an aircraft in operation. That means an aircraft that is executing normal flights. To do that we are going two ways:

1. Work on aircrafts during the apprenticeship period of six months.
2. Developing projects where a "live" aircraft is used.

For the apprenticeship sessions we have agreements set with airlines in the Dutch Caribbean and Holland. For the



Rachel and Ryan inspecting a carburetor

projects we are using private aircrafts of which our experts have a close connection

Recently the group of the second school year participated in a heavy maintenance on a twin engine aircraft. Flight controls were removed, inspected and reinstalled. The said work was planned and executed by our instructors which are all licensed aircraft engineers. Engine run was carried out and the aircraft was released for further flight. The hangar at the Flamingo Airport was used for the activities.

We may ask ourselves:

Is Bonaire changing from shipping to aviation? ■ Story & photos by Jacinto Frans



Kaya Grandi 32B, down a bit in the alley in between Best Pearls and Gio's Ice Parlor  
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# A Garden? Just Do It!

Who doesn't feel the heat these days on Bonaire? And so does nature. If you want to save your plants, water and shade is the answer. Cover the soil where you have your plants with tea bags, rotted leaves, dried grass, crushed stones or wet cardboard to keep the soil moist and protect the roots from the heat. Spray some water a few times a day. It only costs a few dollars more on your water bill, but you save your plants. Also remove dry and yellow leaves and stems, so the plant doesn't lose energy from these bad parts. Don't give up gardening! This is the worst time of the dry season. Soon this dry weather will change (hopefully) and Bonaire will look green again.

**One of the plants which can stand the heat and loves the sun is the tomato.** Most of us eat this world's very popular fruit. More about it.

The tomato is a berry fruit which belongs to the nightshade family *Solanaceae* and is called *Lycopersicon*. While it's botanically a berry fruit, it's considered a vegetable for culinary purposes. The species originated in the South American Andes, was later used as food in Mexico in 500 BC and spread later throughout the world. The leaves are in fact poisonous, although the fruit is not. Originally the tomato was yellow, but this changed after discovery of a mutant "U" phenotype in the mid 20th century that caused it to ripen uniformly. Prior to that most tomatoes produced more sugar during ripening and were sweeter and more flavorful.



Cherry tomatoes ripening on Bonaire

The tomato is now grown worldwide, with thousands of cultivars selected for varying fruit types and optimum growth in differing growing conditions. Cultivated tomatoes vary in size from tomatoes-5mm- through cherry tomatoes and wild tomatoes up to beefsteak tomatoes-10cm- and plum tomatoes.

Most cultivars produce red fruit, but a number of cultivars with yellow, orange, pink, purple, green, black, or white fruit are also available. Popular are the Roma type.

About 161.8 million tons of tomatoes were produced in the world in 2012. China is the largest producer followed by

India and the US. In 2012 tomato production was valued at \$58 billion. Tomatoes were the eighth most valuable agricultural product worldwide.

There are around 7500 tomato varieties grown for various purposes. Heirloom tomatoes are becoming very popular particularly among home gardeners and organic producers since they tend to produce more interesting and flavorful crops at the cost of disease resistance and productivity.

The tomato is used in diverse ways, including raw in salads and processed into ketchups or tomato soup. Unripe green tomatoes can also be breaded and fried, used to make salsa or pickled. Tomato juice is sold as a drink and is used in cocktails such as the Bloody Mary. In Mediterranean cuisine tomatoes are a key ingredient in pizza and pasta sauces, in Spain in gazpacho and on Bonaire in different *stobas* like goat stoba.

Tomatoes contains the carotene lycopene, one of the most powerful natural antioxidants. Tomato varieties are available with double the normal vitamin C, four times normal vitamin A, high levels of *anthocyanin*, and two to four times the normal amount of *lycopene*. A study revealed that tomato can protect against sunburn and help keep the skin youthful. Leaves, stems and green unripe tomatoes contain small amounts of the toxic alkaloid *tomatine*. They also contain solanine, a toxic alkaloid found in potato leaves and other plants in the nightshade family, However, levels of *tomatine* and *solanine* in the foliage and green fruit are

generally too small to be dangerous, unless large amounts are consumed.

Tomatoes easily grow by seed in almost every type of soil. The plant likes sun, but in dry weather it needs water two to three times a day. Bugs like these plant so spray them with tea from Neem leaves every other week. Store unripe tomatoes unwashed in a paper bag until ripened. They keep best at room temperature and out of direct sunlight. Refrigeration can harm the flavor.

The word "tomato" comes from the Spanish "tomate" which in turn comes from the Nahuatl word "tomatl". The Aztecs called it "Xitomat" which means "plump thing with navel" or "fat water with navel." In Mexico, "tamatillo," in Italy, "pomodoro" (from pom d'oro- apple of gold), in Papiamentu and in Surinamese, "tomati."

The heaviest tomato ever was 3.51 kg, the largest tomato plant reached 19.8 m. A massive "tomato tree" growing inside Walt Disney World Resort has been recognized as a Guinness World Record Holder with a harvest of more than 32,000 tomatoes and a total weight of 522kg. It yields thousands of tomatoes at one time from a single vine.

So the secret to looking young and staying healthy is the Tomato and it tastes good too. ■

Nature lover,  
Angliet











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# Ebo Domacasse First Bonairean Certified Diver

The last of the men who built the foundation of Bonaire's dive tourism industry passed away at the age of 91 on September 5, 2015, in Bonaire.

Hubert Marcelo Domacassé, better known as Ebo, was one of the diving triumvirate that included Basilo Marin and Captain Don Stewart who "invented" scuba diving on Bonaire.

To better know Ebo we quote from a story about him written in 1999 by Captain Don: "Ebo had been born to the sea: sailed before he could walk, swam with the agility of a fish and dove, holding his breath, down into the reefs to remarkable depths, often without mask or fins. There was no part of the sea which brought him fear.

He stood watching, fascinated, as two old gray haired ladies, tourists, pulled down their diving masks, locked arms and walked confidently down the old boat ramp to disappear into the sea.

He had watched Captain Don and his divers doing this for years - which stirred no real desire to learn. However, grandmothers?"

He was now motivated to learn to dive. He taught himself then went on to become the first certified diver on Bonaire. Captain Don who wasn't certified until five years later wrote: "It was not the certification or instructor status that propelled Ebo into the throngs of the developing diving industry but his phenomenal compatibility with the reefs, fish and the sea.

As a sailor, Ebo became a hero in 1968 when he bested Captain Don in a sailboat race that won him 27 cases of beer. It was the birth of the now famous Bonaire International Sailing Regatta (which this year will be the 48<sup>th</sup>). The compassion for this man Ebo Domacassé, who has been unceremoniously awarded two dive sites in his name- Ebo's Reef and Ebo's special - a gesture from other guides as well as from his wet guests, is enormous. There's a love and respect from every diving visitor whom he's touched. It was Ebo with his quiet ways and relaxed manners who has given so much of himself to the building of Bonaire's renowned underwater image."

Long retired from diving Ebo spent a lot of time on the waterfront at Playa Pabou until economic pressures motivated him to move to Antriol. He raised nine children and numerous grandchildren over the last dozen years until age took its toll and the children grew up.

In an interview by Greta Kooistra, published in 2004 in *The Reporter*, he expressed his concern about the way children were being raised. "They're teaching children how to swim in a pool in Antriol nowadays - good for the people who own the pool, but what's wrong with the sea? The sea's more hygienic and the water is nicer. Another aspect is that once they learn to swim in a pool they're afraid to swim in the sea; they think they will be eaten by a shark!

My problem is that the Government and the people of Bonaire are not doing enough to save the children. What can we do? It can't go on like this. It's going from bad to worse."

On Saturday, September 11, he was laid to rest in Bonaire's Catholic cemetery. Our hearts go out in sympathy to his children, grandchildren, partner Suzy Meyer, relatives and friends. ■G.D.



Ebo in the early days of Scuba diving on Bonaire.



Ebo (center front) with seven of his children in 2004

## A True Friend Of Bonaire Passes Away

Jerry Ligon., one of Bonaire's most beloved tour guides died suddenly last week. His lifeless body was found Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at the Oil Slick Leap dive site, according to reports.

He was a humble, gentle, private man with a talent for getting Bonaire residents and visitors passionate about the nature of Bonaire, especially its birds, butterflies and fish. He was not afraid to make his voice heard, however, when he spoke out and defended the island's environment and prompted the preservation of its wetlands. In past years he was a frequent contributor of stories to *The Bonaire Reporter*.

Numerous tourists said he was one of the reasons they loved Bonaire. Jerry's tours engendered that affection for the island he made his home for over 20 years.

Before finding Bonaire he had a career as a secondary school teacher in Colorado.

There are hundreds of expressions of sympathy and fond recollections of Jerry on Facebook pages that reflect the great loss people are feeling.

A memorial service is planned for Monday, September 14, 2015, from 6 to 8pm. at Bonaire's Consuelo Funeral Home. ■G.D.

A "Celebration of Life fund" can be found at the "Go Fund Me" website or if you are on-island, pass by Bonaire Dive and Adventure next to Sand Dollar and see Joan or Andre if you want to make a direct contribution.



"My main objective is the pursuit of Birds on Bonaire, but I also will not ignore Botany and Invertebrates that we come across." Jerry C. Ligon.

In Memory of Jerry Ligon  
Feb. 23, 1943—Sept. 9, 2015  
Our condolences to his children Tara and Chris, family and his friends.

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## 27 september 2015

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# Budget Marine News

MOVING TO A BRAND NEW STORE IN A NEW LOCATION SPACE FOR RENT —REGATTA FISHING TOURNEY AND PARTY

The staff of Budget Marine report that they are looking forward with great excitement to moving in October. The new store is in a brand new building that will be 1 ½ times larger than the current location. The move is only a few hundred meters to the corner of Kaya Neerlandia and Kaya Djabou, on the same road as RBC bank and M tech.

## MORE MARINE SUPPLIES AND EXTRAS

Upon having more space, new types of inventory such as Kayaks, Stand Up paddle boards, Metric Stainless fasteners, nautical knick knacks and much more will be added. There will also be space to increase the depth of the current inventory with more choices in brand, size and colors, such as more styles of life jackets, more water toys and stainless grills. Shortly there will be more styles of shoes and flip flops, technical T's and rash guards. As always, you will be able to find solar panels, inverters, marine radios and speakers, fiberglass and boat building materials, rust removers and waxes, ropes, hoses, fishing gear for both boat and shore and much more. Only now they will be easier to find!

We are always amused at how amazed people are when they walk in our store for the first time and see how many things we carry. They had no idea of the variety of items in the store, such as cleaners and polishes for nearly any type of surface, teak cleaners and oils, stainless hinges

and fasteners, glues, grommets, Velcro, bungi cords, just to name a few. Though it is a marine store, you can consider most of our island a marine environment, so many of the products are very useful in the home as well.

## RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE

The new building also has space for other retail stores, so if you are looking for a location to set up shop this will be the perfect choice. It is on a road with good traffic, near town with an established store to drive traffic to the building. There is plenty of parking. Each area is nicely appointed with quality porcelain tiles from Gartish. The areas are brand new with high ceilings so they are airy and fresh. There is one area of 75m2 and one of 150m2 that can also be divided in to 2 of 75 m2. Our goal is to have a great working relation with successful businesses, so the rent is very reasonable, particularly in the light of some of the silly rents around town.

## REGATTA SPONSOR AND SUPPORTER

Budget Marine is also a proud supporter of the Bonaire Regatta and is looking forward to a fresh start to this event. The entire event will be moving to its old home at Sunset / Coco beach. At this location, all of the activities will be centralized so everyone can enjoy the sailing, swimming and fun along with the music and festival together. The Regatta will be from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of Octo-

ber. Sailors can sign up at the beach starting Wednesday, September 7 from 4 to 6 pm and will be sailing Thursday through Saturday.

## WAHOO TOURNAMENT

Budget Marine will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Wahoo Tournament at the Regatta on Saturday, September 10. Again it will be a fun event where boats will be divided into two categories: large (17' and larger) and small (under 17') Each category will be awarded trophies for the largest single fish and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for the largest total catch. To encourage all fishermen to attend, the catch remains with the boat, so you can have a fun day and still sell or eat your own fish. As boats are docked at various locations on the island, it is permitted to bring the fish in by car. (photos on the boat with the fish must also be presented.) Boats can return directly to the pier at Eden beach but please be aware of swimmers.

## THE FAMOUS BOAT PARTY

Best yet, there will be the Boat Party in the afternoon, so you can immediately tie up and begin to party! Boats arriving from Curacao and Aruba are welcome to fish along the way, so long as they reach the dock by the deadline. You must clear customs and immigrations before reporting to the weigh station. Please sign up in advance at the Budget Marine store on your island or via email to [bonaire@budgetmarine.com](mailto:bonaire@budgetmarine.com)



Double Eagle landed 2014's biggest fish

As the goal is to have fresh fish to sell, the fishermen must present their fish at the weigh in station, cleaned. The weigh station will be open from 12:00 to 2:30pm. Boats coming to enjoy the music and party at the beach are allowed to tie up from 1pm and are able to stay as long as they would like. There will be bands and DJs will be performing and there will be plenty of food, drinks and entertainment on the beach.

There will also be Sailing races in the bay on Saturday so please be sure to give the sail boats a wide space to race. Remember, boats under sail always have right of way. We wish you an exceptional Regatta! ■ Story & photo by Pam Wer-dath-Teitel

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# Why Save Our Sharks?

Cover Story

Why is the Dutch Postcode Lottery providing €1.6 million to the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) for a conservation effort to save and protect shark species on all six islands of the Dutch Caribbean? Why make saving sharks a priority and create a three-year project to do it?



For one thing sharks groom many populations of marine life to the right size so that prey species don't cause harm to the ecosystem by becoming too populous. The ocean ecosystem is made up of very intricate food webs. For the most part, sharks, the apex predator, are at the top of these webs and are considered by scientists to be "keystone" species, meaning that removing them may cause the whole structure to collapse. The prospect of a food chain minus its apex predators may mean the end of the line for many more species.

Sharks play an important role in maintaining the health of the entire ocean, but they grow and reproduce slowly, which makes them particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure. One way of protection is to establish a shark sanctuary. The Dutch Caribbean's sanctuaries will cover all the islands' full exclusive economic zones (EEZs). Once they are implemented, all commercial shark fishing will be prohibited up to 200 nautical miles from each island, a combined total of 22,382 square kilometers (8,816 square miles).

Sharks are among the top species that appeal to scuba divers, making their presence important to our tourism industry. Safeguarding sharks strengthens the marine ecosystem, including coral reefs and commercial fish stocks.

Bonaire kicked off its involvement in the project with the recently completed Shark Week. During the week shark presentations were given at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort and Casino and at Captain Don's Habitat and people learned about the importance of sharks to our coral reefs and the peril that sharks are in worldwide. STINAPA staff organized shark programs and games at after school program Jong Bonaire every day during the week. (cover).

DCNA, a nonprofit organization created to protect the environment and promote sustainable management of natural resources within the six Dutch Caribbean islands, will oversee the project. ■ G.D.

# Sailors Ready for Sunfish Worlds in Peru



Sailors Brayan, Sipke, George, Yellowman, Nils and Ton

Bonaire/Playa –

On Sunday, September, 6, *Dia di Boneiru*, the Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA) organized some demo-races in front of the Kas di Regata for their friends and sponsors. After the captain's meeting the new T-shirts for the World Championships Sunfish Sailing in Peru were presented to the public. After the demo-racers the sailors sailed a loop around Klein Bonaire. Wind and weather conditions were good. Sailors and sponsors were happy and satisfied.

This year six sailors, all members of the BSSA, will represent their island during the World Championships Sunfish Sailing, to be held in the waters of Paracas, Peru. Brayan Thode and Nils van Eldik will sail the Sunfish Youth from October 8th until 11th. Both sailors have the intention to finish in the top 10 of their class. The main World Championships will be organized from October 13th to

18th. Representatives are: Yellowman, George Soliana, Sipke Stapert, Brayan Thode and Ton Nuijten. Last year our brave sailors represented Bonaire in the waters of Charleston, North Carolina. This year they will compete in Peru and next year they will defend our flag in Colombia. The BSSA has the intention to organize the World Championships on Bonaire in 2018.

All enthusiast racing sailors are training on a more than regular base to prepare themselves for Paracas, Peru.

The Bonaire Sailing School wants to thank their sponsors: Digicel, FWnB, Green Label, Gio's, Akkerman's Toyota, Rocargo, Budget Marine, Multi-post, E-zone, Crooij & Flipse, Sunbelt Realty, Rotary Bonaire, Jibe City, Tourist Corporation Bonaire, Buena Vista Sun Optics, Djambo and Flamingo Communications. ■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



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dition with case, caps, hood, and generic  
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For more details: 701-1188.

REAL ESTATE/RENTALS/ ETC...

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
<b>Mon 14</b>	01:58 0.50 ft	09:01 0.21 ft	14:47 0.53 ft	22:00 0.23 ft		6:25	18:37
<b>Tue 15</b>	03:07 0.44 ft	09:30 0.24 ft	15:22 0.59 ft	23:04 0.18 ft		6:25	18:36
<b>Wed 16</b>	04:11 0.41 ft	09:55 0.26 ft	15:55 0.65 ft	23:55 0.12 ft		6:25	18:36
<b>Thu 17</b>	05:05 0.39 ft	10:18 0.26 ft	16:27 0.72 ft			6:24	18:35
<b>Fri 18</b>		00:37 0.08 ft	05:48 0.37 ft	10:44 0.25 ft	17:00 0.78 ft	6:24	18:34
<b>Sat 19</b>		01:15 0.03 ft	06:22 0.35 ft	11:14 0.23 ft	17:35 0.84 ft	6:24	18:33
<b>Sun 20</b>		01:50 0.00 ft	06:52 0.35 ft	11:49 0.20 ft	18:12 0.90 ft	6:24	18:33
<b>Mon 21</b>	First Quarter	02:25 -0.02 ft	07:23 0.35 ft	12:30 0.17 ft	18:51 0.93 ft	6:24	18:32
<b>Tue 22</b>		02:59 -0.03 ft	07:55 0.37 ft	13:16 0.15 ft	19:33 0.94 ft	6:24	18:31
<b>Wed 23</b>		03:34 -0.03 ft	08:33 0.41 ft	14:09 0.13 ft	20:18 0.92 ft	6:24	18:31
<b>Thu 24</b>		04:10 -0.02 ft	09:16 0.46 ft	15:09 0.13 ft	21:07 0.87 ft	6:24	18:30
<b>Fri 25</b>		04:48 -0.01 ft	10:05 0.54 ft	16:18 0.14 ft	22:01 0.79 ft	6:24	18:29
<b>Sat 26</b>		05:29 0.02 ft	11:00 0.62 ft	17:37 0.13 ft	23:03 0.69 ft	6:24	18:29
<b>Sun 27</b>	Full Moon	06:12 0.04 ft	11:58 0.72 ft	19:03 0.11 ft		6:24	18:28
<b>Mon 28</b>		00:14 0.59 ft	07:00 0.07 ft	12:58 0.82 ft	20:30 0.05 ft	6:24	18:27

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## Cruise Ships in September 2015

Call #	Day	Date	Ship Name	In Port	Pass.	Cruise Line
1	Tuesday	22-09-15	Monarch	800-1800	2744	Pullmantur
2	Tuesday	29-09-15	Monarch	800-1800	2744	Pullmantur

### 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 Koeke 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**—Usually the last Saturday of the month, 8am-1pm. 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. Free entrance

• **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 Habitat 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. Contact +599 701 1188 or [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org) for private tours at least 48 hours in advance due to the remote location. Minimum of 2 people at \$25 each. Meet at the Dos Pos windmill and bring good shoes as it is 'off road'.

• **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 [peejeese@ gmail.com](mailto:peejeese@ 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 up-

stairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

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

### CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:** (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact; [Marytjin@gmail.com](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, September 19**— "World Clean Up Day" organized by Selibon N.V. Focus on collecting as much litter as possible all over Bonaire in one day. More on page 3

**Tuesday, September 22**-- **Labor Inspectorate** briefing on safety and health in construction work, at Kooyman on Kaya Korona at 4pm.

**Friday, September 25**—**Indian Food Buffet**, 12 dishes, at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona #47. Open 6pm, buffet at 7. Reservations: 700-5488, [tina@gogreenayurvedacom](mailto:tina@gogreenayurvedacom)

**Saturday, September 26** - **Fundraising walk from Donkey Beach to Sorobon.** 6 am. Benefit Bonaire Eye and Ear Foundation. Contribution \$10. Call 782-5058 or 780-2522 for info.

**Sunday, September 27**—**-Health Fair**, at Cocari, Rincon, 11am-4pm  
**-Fun Race, Kaminda Broertje Janga.** 8am. Info at DeFreeweiler. See page 11  
**-Lunar Eclipse and Supermoon.** See page 17

**Saturday, October 3**—**Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers Market)**, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-1pm. Local produce, food, plants, hand-crafts, 8am-1pm

—**Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**, 8am-1pm. Local crafts, produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. On the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon.

**Sunday, October 4** **Jong Bonaire Open Water Swim to Klein Bonaire** from Spice Beach Club. Registration 7- 8am. Swim starts at 9 am Distance: 1.6 K / 1 Mile. Donation \$25 More information: [bonairebarracudas@gmail.com](mailto:bonairebarracudas@gmail.com) The basic swim is NOT a race and open to all. But if you are a competitive swimmer, 14 years or older, you might want to join the racers. More on page 7

**October 7- 10 Annual Bonaire Regatta 2015, One of the oldest continuously operating sailing events in the Caribbean.** More on page 12.



# THE STARS HAVE IT September 2015

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family if you have a big project to finish in your domestic environment. You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims. Spend some time with the one you love. Pleasure trips will be satisfying. Your charm will be captivating. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Look into joining groups that can give you hands-on advice about business. Throw yourself into your work. Residential moves will be in your best interest. Your partner may be somewhat irritable this month. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Your high energy and discipline will enable you to complete any seemingly insurmountable tasks. So smile! Do not get upset about situations you cannot change. You could lose money or precious belongings if you aren't careful. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Minor accidents may occur if you don't concentrate on what you're doing. Make sure that you have covered yourself legally and try not to let your temper get out of hand. You need to do something that will make you feel better about yourself. You might have some problems balancing your books. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You may want to make drastic changes concerning your personal partner. Exhaustion will lead to minor injury if you don't know when to quit. Do things that involve children. You need to get out and be an observer. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Restrictions may be difficult for you to live with. Do not invest in joint ventures. You should make sure that your personal papers are in order. Your irritability may drive your loved ones crazy. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Keep your

mind on your work and stay away from situations that could ruin your reputation. Be extra careful with your valuables; loss and theft are evident this month. Romance may be likely if you travel. You can make rewarding connections through the organized groups you associate with. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't get involved in idle chatter that will hurt your position. Be an observer before getting involved. You can make changes that will enhance your appearance. Those close to your heart may be difficult to reason with. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Travel plans will be interrupted at the beginning of the week - delayed, cancelled or changed in some fashion. You can almost count on this. However, many will welcome change or an opportunity to learn more or experience something unusual, that in turn makes you feel more enlightened and liberated. Changes in your home environment are likely. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You need time to think things through. You can make a difference if you offer your help at functions that involve children. You may want to make changes in your home environment. Do not get upset over trivial matters. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You may be confused emotionally. Your reputation may be at stake if you partake in gossip. New relationships will surface through work relate events. Make changes that will enhance your appearance and entice potential partners. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your involvement in sports or entertainment will lead to new romances. Your charm will be captivating. Confusion could result when communicating with others. Avoid purchasing expensive items. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday. ■

Michael Thiessen



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\* \*to find it... just look up

## THE FALSE DAWN OF OMAR KHAYYAM AND MORE

It's nearing that time of year again where we talk about the **False Dawn of Omar Khayyam**.

Almost a thousand years ago, the Persian poet Omar Khayyam in his book of Poetry "The Rubaiyat," wrote his most famous line "A jug of wine, a loaf of bread and thou beside me singing in the wilderness." But elsewhere in "The Rubaiyat" Omar made a poetic allusion to a mysterious "False Dawn," which can only be seen at a certain time of year.

This year, as we approach the beginning of **Autumn**, the **week leading up to September 22 is your best chance to see it for 2015**, because there will be no bright moonlight to overpower this delicate astronomical phenomenon.

If we could go way out into space and look down on our **solar system** with super human vision we would notice a faint, almost imperceptible vast cloud extending outward from the **Sun** in the plane of the orbits of **Mercury, Venus, Earth** and slightly beyond, an enormous cloud of cosmic dust.

And while one would expect it would be impossible to see this super faint cloud from Earth, nevertheless in September, when the plane of our Earth's orbit is almost vertical to the horizon, we can see it in the Sky Park under the right conditions.

Those conditions require that there is no moonlight out and you must be far away from town lights because even the faintest moonlight or street lighting will wipe out the extremely delicate, ethereal glow of the False Dawn. As a general rule if you can see the **Milky Way** you'll have a good chance to see it.

To find it look toward the east about two hours before sunrise, before the real dawn. It will look like a dim, cone-shaped patch of light, about the same brightness as the Milky Way. And it will extend from the horizon, about one-third to half way up to the **zenith**, a ghostly, faintly glowing, rounded pyramid of light.

If you notice, the Milky Way is at an angle to this faint band of light. However, the Milky Way will be there all night long while the False Dawn will only appear as



dawn approaches. Again, that's about two hours before sunrise.

The scientific name of this phenomenon is the **Zodiacal Light**, and it's caused by sunlight scattering from all those trillions and trillions of dust particles which make up the great cosmic cloud lying in the plane of the planets, close to the Sun.

And while you're out there look over to the right and notice the early morning return of the stars of winter: **Orion the Hunter**, the brilliant **star Sirius in Canis Major** and the **twins of Gemini, Castor and Pollux** which will give you a good idea of where the top of this cone of light should be.

And if you look a bit farther to the left you'll be able to see the **Big Dipper** rising in the north-eastern sky.

**Remember, the next Lunar Eclipse will be Sunday night September 27 and this will be the fourth in the tetrad.** But wait, there's more. It will also be the night of the closest and largest full moon of the year, the... **Supermoon** ■

Dean Regas & James Albury



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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.

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**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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**Bonaire's most creative above or underwater video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life.** Drone photography too. ScubaVision, now renamed Bonaire Vision Films & Photo, has a new website at [www.bonairevisionfilms.com](http://www.bonairevisionfilms.com).

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## 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.



**Breeze n' Bites at the Den Laman Apartments.** Provides a memorable seaside dining experience with fine food. Specializing in Fresh Seafood and Select Meats. Happy Hour 4-6 pm.

**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 Secure Storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.



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## SUPERMARKETS

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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)

# Animal Shelter Tips & News

The Bonaire Animal Shelter is a refuge for dogs and cats that can no longer be cared for by their owners, have been abandoned, or were born in the wild and brought in by concerned citizens and tourists.

The Shelter also offers a boarding place for cats and dogs. And there is a gift shop on the premises to help raise money to sustain the Shelter.



## PAKUS DI PRUGA (FLEA MARKET)

Dedicated volunteers spend their time every Saturday at the Pakhus di Pruga and at the Bonaire Art & Craft Market to raise money for the Shelter and its residents. Help fund our cause by shopping in our second hand shop, the Pakus di Pruga, on Kaya Simon Bolivar, across the street from Brandaris Restaurant.

As prices go up all over Bonaire, the Shelter's Pakus di Pruga, open every Saturday, has become more and more popular. There is obviously a need on the island that is being filled by this little shop run by volunteers to benefit the Animal Shelter. In fact the place is just bursting with items – furniture, clothing, household items, garden items, children's furniture, clothes and toys and more – lots of cheap stuff!

And if you have things to get rid of, let them know 717-4989. They can even arrange pick up if it's something like furniture

## CRUISE MARKET

The cruise season is starting at the end of this month so the Animal Shelter booth is again opening at the Bonaire Art and Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park on the waterfront. Please visit and enjoy the Animal Shelter booth at the most unique market in the Caribbean whenever a cruise ship docks in Kralendijk.

Large variation of souvenirs, like driftwood signs, T-shirts, handmade collars, stuffed animals, etc. are sold to help gener-



Cruise Market Sales

ate extra revenue for our animal protection programs and to provide food and medical care for the animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire.

## When the weather is turning bad...

### HOW TO CALM YOUR DOG DURING A THUNDERSTORM



It is very common for dogs to feel upset by the booming thunder and flashing lightning of a thunderstorm. In fact, because dogs are especially sensitive to barometric pressure, they can sense an oncoming storm before you can.

They may start to act anxious, or chew on things or even run away in a panic. And while it may seem natural to sit down on the floor and cuddle your dog during a thunderstorm, this will only reinforce anxious behavior in the long run.

You can learn to calm your dog during a thunderstorm by teaching them that it's only noise and nothing to get upset about.

**To calm Your Dog's Thunderstorm Anxiety it is important to know that the calmness begins with you!**

# Pets of the Week



Meet Diesel (left) and Maxi (right)

Hi guys, I am Diesel. I was rescued by a nice cop and the Bonaire Animal Shelter team. I am almost a year old and I am very happy, I like to play and I'm looking for a cool family who likes to love and take care of me. They say I am a very handsome black Labrador mix. Well, I think they are right because last week I got a new girlfriend and she loves me!

Her name is Maxi. She is blond, pretty, very intelligent and likes to play with me. Sometimes she can be a bit stubborn, but well I don't care. She is my kind of girl! And hopefully yours too!

There must be a loving family who can take care of her too or who can adopt us together. We will promise to give you a lifetime of unconditional love, loyalty and friendship.

All the adoptable animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire are treated against ticks and fleas, are de-wormed, vaccinated and micro chipped.

If you interested in adopting Diesel or Maxi or even both of them, come and visit the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a or call for information 717-4989. E-mail to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com. ■ Story & Photo by Natalie Peterson

First of all, dogs can pick up on humans' feelings, so it is important for you to stay calm during a thunderstorm.

If they sense your anxiety, that will only make them feel and act worse. Remember, it's only a storm and it will pass.

Provide a safe, enclosed area where your dog can securely sit out the storm. A crate inside the house is the perfect place because they feel safer there. If your dog is an outside dog, cover his or her kennel with a blanket and make sure he is secured inside.

**TIP:** Put an ID tag on your dog's collar, and best of all, let your dog get a microchip

by the veterinarian. That way if your dog runs away, it will be easier for those who find your dog to bring her home.

If you can't calm your dog during a thunderstorm or your pet has other behavioral problems, call or e-mail (717-4989 – animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) the Shelter for more information. Maybe one of the behavioral experts can help.

■ Story & photos by Natalie Peterson



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# Creating Magic! Creating Magic!

MEET NOUSTHA AND ALEX

Two bright faces with big smiles greet me at Gio's ice cream parlor in town. Meet Noustha Koeckhoven and her partner Alex Kroon. These creative individuals have spent the past few months on Bonaire constructing an enchanting, vibrant world of fun for youngsters. Noustha produced eye-catching photos featuring Bonairean youngsters in underwater fairytales and Alex hosted innovative theater classes with island youth.

Noustha is bright-eyed and full of energy as she explains that she has had a fantastic time taking pictures underwater for her final project at the Photo Academy in Amsterdam. She has been creating magical underwater scenes in the bright blue waters here on Bonaire to illustrate a story book. Noustha tells, "When I finished high school I decided to go to the Photo Academy. I was given a camera for my birthday and before I knew it I was featured in the photo magazine *Spotlights*." She laughs and says, "I sent in some photos just to give it a go. By the time I heard back from them I had already taken tons of new photos and they liked them too. So one feature picture quickly became two and before I knew it there was an eight-page spread on my

photography work."

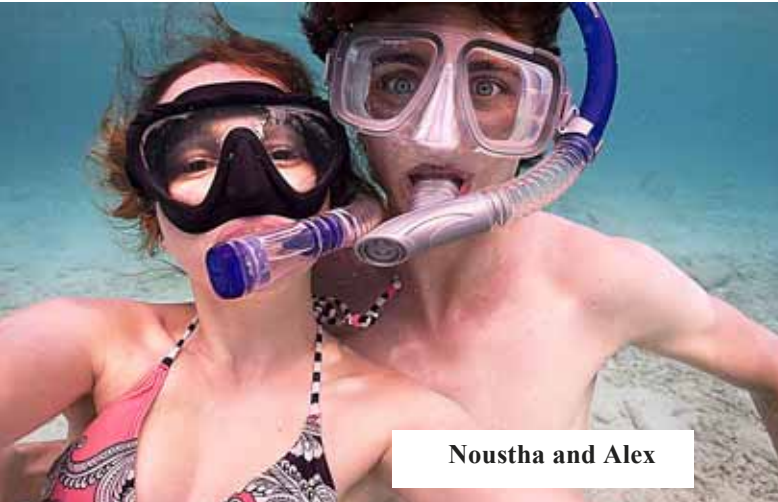
Noustha's photo style developed rapidly and she soon became interested by weightlessness. She'd ask models to hang from tree branches or stand on a step-ladder and then Photoshop the branch or ladder away. Soon she discovered that it was even more gratifying to take pictures underwater. Noustha smiles and says, "I was lucky. I was asked to look after a home with a pool in The Netherlands. It was a home of friends of mine and I quickly discovered that I could set up scenes underwater. Dresses billowing in the water look beautiful, and the whole idea of weightlessness became more profound in water."

Her partner Alex explains: "We threw in a bike and had someone bike underwater while Noustha took pictures. We placed a desk in the pool and filled it with stones so it would sink to the bottom. We added a chair and had someone sit on it reading a newspaper. It was fun and we learned a lot."

"I love working with children best though," says Noustha. She quickly had a following with some kids even skipping school to be part of her shoots. "They have to be able to swim really well though," she laughs.



Underwater fairytales. One of the beautiful ethereal underwater shots by Noustha featuring Bonaire children



Noustha and Alex

As her graduation neared her final photo project began to take shape. She wanted to picture children underwater, creating a magical and ethereal atmosphere and find a writer to pen fairytales based on her photos. She decided to issue an online contest asking writers to contribute and send in a story or an example of their writing, and that is how she met Remda Spoelstra. Noustha said, "It just clicked. I liked what she wrote and she had good ideas." Today Noestha creates the

underwater scenario as Remda writes stories around the pictures, and sometimes the other way around.

"Alex and I decided to come to Bonaire to do the shoots in these bright blue beautiful waters. It has been a wonderful time," they explain. They asked children on the island to participate. "It wasn't always easy for them," says Alex who has helped Noustha every step of the way. "They wear beautiful costumes brought by Noustha from Holland, like

colorful mermaid dresses with a real tail. They also have to stay in a certain position underwater. I am there, together with their parents, to help them and they can lean on me when they get tired," he adds.

In the meantime Alex, a graduate of the theatre school, brought his passion for theater with him to Bonaire and arranged an improvisation theater workshop for seven to 10 year olds and 11 to 15 year olds. "It was so much fun," he says. "With the seven to 10 year olds I played more, but I was really pleasantly surprised to work with the 11 to 15 year olds. They were free and full of enthusiasm. It was wonderful to teach them theater improvisation."

The two have enjoyed Bonaire immensely and hope to return in the near future. "We'd love to live here," they explain. They need to return to The Netherlands now to finish Noustha's book which will feature 12 fairy tales with pictures of children from Bonaire and find a publisher. The book will be for sale at Addo's bookstore in the Kaya Grandi.

Good luck to this dynamic duo, and we hope to have you back soon, Noustha and Alex!  
■ Story & photos by Sanny Ensing



*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Cont. from page 3) in the fastest growing fitness activity in the Western World - **Spinning or stationary bike classes**. Find out why it's popular at Bon Bida tomorrow, Mondays at 10am and every Wednesday Saturday at 09:00.

► **Reminder: On Saturday, September 19, Selibon N.V. will organize "World Clean Up Day" to focus on collecting as much litter as possible all**

**over Bonaire in one day.**

The mission of this event is to increase awareness of Bonaire people regarding the problem of litter and rubbish and that it is not only Selibon's responsibility to keep our Island clean but it is also the responsibility of each person as well. The cleanliness of Bonaire is often a top reason visitors say they prefer Bonaire over other places in the Caribbean. **Groups and individuals may sign up with Selibon. Tel. 717-8153. ■ G.D.**



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