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The REPORTER

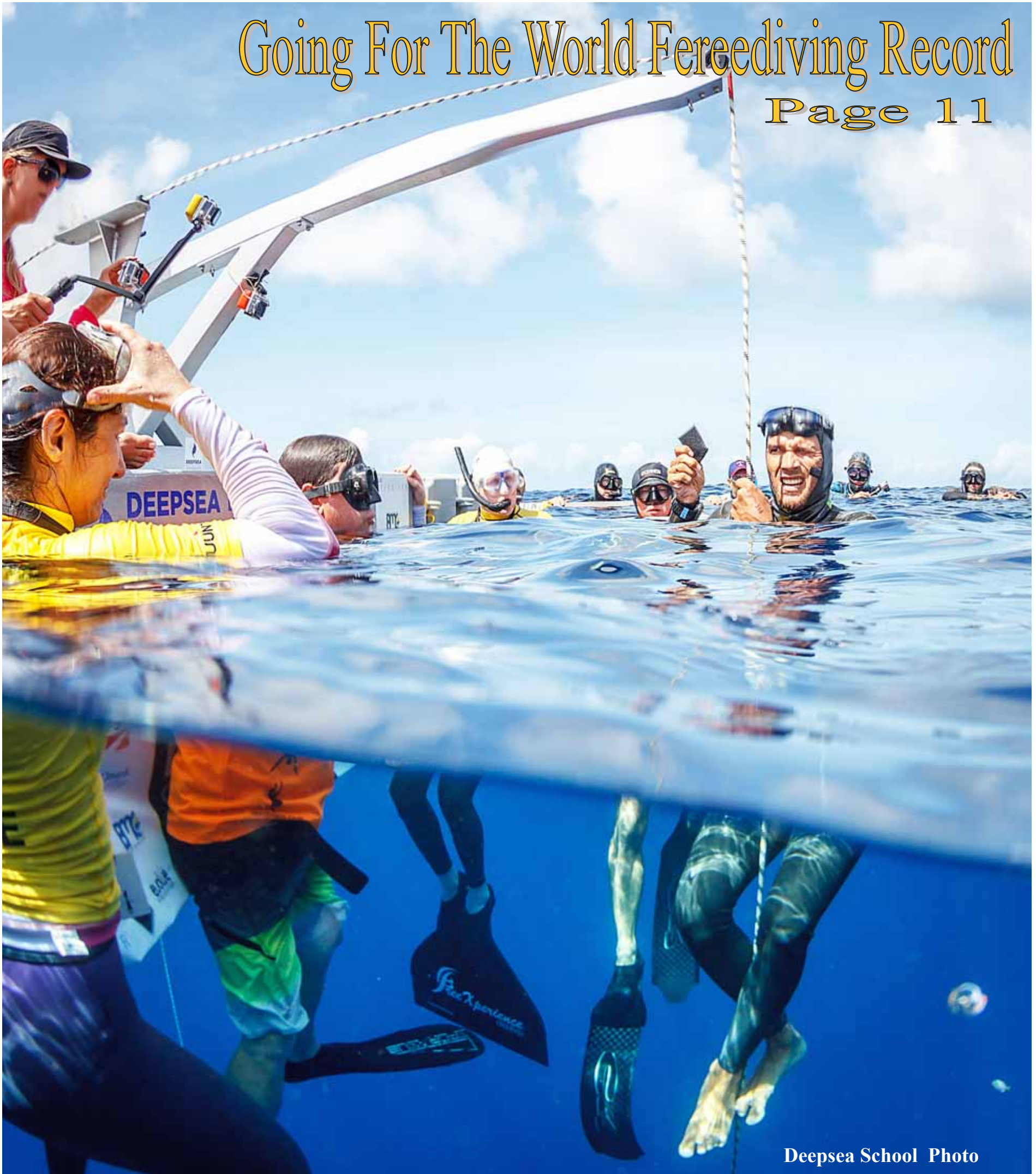
BES Island News Too

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Going For The World Freediving Record

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Deepsea School Photo

Last week James Finies, (at right) the Chairman of the Foundation Nos Ker Boneiru Bek (NKBB) - We Want Bonaire Back,- visited Anguilla, Dutch St.



Maarten, French St. Martin, St. Eustatius and Saba in a bid for solidarity and support among the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands. This past June the NKBB submitted a request to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization to add the Caribbean Netherlands to the list of non-self-governing territories. The request was submitted to the UN during the International Week of Solidarity.

NKBB seeks more autonomy from the Netherlands, as it feels that Bonaire is overwhelmed by an increased influx of Dutch residents and civil servants. "We feel overwhelmed and overpowered by the Dutch on our small islands. We feel that we cannot exert our democratic and fundamental human rights, because we have become a minority on our own island and have no voice in The Hague," Finies explained, adding that the NKBB is not fighting for independence. His organization has hired a specialist with the UN in pursuit of efforts to include Bonaire, Saba and Statia on the list of non-self-governing territories.

► **The 3D printing of coral is being tried on Bonaire.** First tried and tested by the Reef Design Lab, an Australian organization dedicated to finding new ways to save coral reefs. With the success of the 3D printed coral in places such as Monaco and Bahrain, Bonaire is now starting a project at Harbour Village's Ocean Learning Center. Harbour Village hopes to introduce 3D printed coral into the Caribbean region to help replenish the fragile ecosystems which are being depleted by global warming and other factors.

The 3D printing coral project itself is an initiative between ocean preservationist (and Jacques Cousteau's grandson) Fabien Cousteau at the Harbour Village Beach Club.

They plan to design and print 3D pieces of artificial coral that bear the same shape, texture and even the chemical makeup of organic coral in the hopes that it will attract floating coral polyps and other species that

rely on the coral reefs for protection.

Coral recruitment and growth has been underway at other Bonaire dive operations for several years but relies on treelike frameworks rather than 3D printed structures.



► **On Wednesday, September 21, representatives of the local and Dutch governments were given a tour by General Manager Koen Hietbrink of the Marriott hotel under construction by the airport.** It's planned that in December the hotel will open its doors. During the tour, the staff got a picture of the rooms and facilities it offers. The general manager said that the staff is the most important for the organization. "Because happy employees will give the best service to our customers," according to Hietbrink. Recently, 400 local job seekers attended an information day organized by the OLB and Social Affairs, and registered for 31 different jobs (such as maids, waiters, cooks, front office agents and bellboys) for a total of 78 vacancies.

► **The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), Health Department, Mas Eventz and The Bonaire Wellness Committee have teamed up to plan a wellness themed "Taste of Bonaire evening"** on Saturday, November 19, at Wilhelmina Park. This event seeks to spotlight all of the talented practitioners and specialists on island who promote health and well-being and bring to the local community a greater awareness of good health. There will be live demonstrations on stage and a Zen Area where those interested can try yoga and meditation. The event will feature vendors who promote health and well-being on island including Reiki, Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates and Zumba to name a few.

All are invited to attend. Should you be interested to participate as a vendor or Wellness practice please contact TCB at 717-8322 Mr. Angelo Domacasse. Last day for registration is October 3, 2016.

► **The Botica Sabana pharmacy in Bonaire has received an official warning from the Dutch Healthcare Inspection Agency, IGZ, because it failed to comply**

with a number of basic requirements in the monitoring of medication. The pharmacy must comply with the instruction before October 15, 2016. All other pharmacies on Bonaire are owned by *Fundason Mariadal* who also owns the hospital.

► **On Monday, November 7, the Annual Study & Career Event Bonaire** will be held again. Preparations for this event, are in full swing. The event supports the youth of Bonaire in making a choice for their further education or profession. It focuses on young people who are in the last classes of the middle- or vocational education. Because the young people can become with further education, it is easier to make a more informed choice.

► **Lots of effort on the part of TCB, tour operators and others has paid off. Bonaire has been named the Best Southern Caribbean Cruise Destination in the first-ever Cruise Critic Cruisers' Choice Destination Awards.** The awards are given based exclusively on consumer feedback, based on reviews posted to the Cruise Critic website over the past year – so not based on a poll or survey, but based specifically on first-hand feedback from cruisers themselves. If you're unfamiliar, Cruise Critic is the world's largest online cruise resource.

► **Delta Air Lines extended its peak season schedule from Atlanta (ATL).** Every Saturday, Tuesday and Friday the southbound Delta flight DL380 will depart (ATL) at 9:45am and arrive at Bonaire International Airport (BON) at 2:45pm. The northbound return flight DL672 will depart Bonaire at 3:48pm and arrive at Atlanta at 7:07pm the same day.

► **Unkobon, Bonaire's independent consumer advocacy organization, continues to experience stonewalling and frustration when seeking solutions** to unreasonable long lease land price issues, postal service, complaints about telephone service, Internet and MiTV outages. Scant progress is reported and several issues are being escalated.

► **BONDIGRO, the supermarket that broke the price barriers on Bonaire, expects to soon occupy its new building opposite Rocargo.**

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► A seventh suspect was arrested early last Thursday morning in Bonaire in connection with the home invasion and robbery (DRUM case) on August 17 this year that claimed the life of police officer Ferdinand "Ferry" Bakx.

The local Police Force, helped by the Arrest Team of the Curaçao Police, arrested a man nicknamed "Kike" for which a warrant had been issued earlier that week. The assistance of Bonaire residents were requested to help police find this Venezuelan man.

Based on an anonymous tip that the police received, the Arrest Team went to a home on Kaya Gloria where they found a man with the initials J.E.E.P. who fit the description of the suspect. Three other persons who were present in the house were also arrested. One of these three was a man with initials T.T.B. de J. whom authorities had been searching for in connection with a severe act of violence. The two other suspects, both women, with the initials V.R. and P.T.S., were arrested for aiding the arrested men in their escape from police.

Military personnel who came to Bonaire from Curaçao helped search the area around the robbery site that was difficult to access. They found several firearms that may have been used in the fatal armed robbery. Authorities didn't disclose how many firearms were found.

On Wednesday, three of the suspects who were arrested earlier in this investigation, code-named DRUM, were returned from the Aruba KIA prison to Bonaire aboard the *Pelikaan* navy transport vessel for further interrogation.

The suspect E.F.S. who was arrested on August 22, a few days after the robbery, because he used a white van that may have been used in the crime, was released and cleared of wrongdoing.

The case involves an undefined number men who committed a home invasion armed robbery at a luxurious house in the Sabadeco neighborhood on August 17. While the robbery was in progress, police officer Bakx and a colleague responded to a call from someone inside the home. The suspects fled the scene, but shot down and killed officer Bakx during the pursuit.



Shack house where suspects were arrested

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

► Based on statistics collected and reported by Bonaire International Airport (BIA) for passenger arrivals and departures YTD June 2016, the Tourism Corporation Bonaire announced an **8% year-over-year growth in international air arrivals from key source markets of Europe and North America.**

Driven by marketplace demand and capacity increases by our airline partners, Delta and TUI Fly, arrivals have grown to 75,174 for the first six months of this year, up from 69,596 passengers recorded for the same period last year.

Growth of arrivals from the European market increased by 10.7% as compared to last year, primarily driven by a seat capacity increase of 50% on TUI Fly.

Arrivals from the US market grew at a rate of 4.4% as compared to last year. This is with a 29% capacity decrease on United and a concurrent 48% capacity increase on Delta.

► **The local economy is growing.** On two of the three islands of the Caribbean Netherlands, the value of the gross domestic product (GDP) increased in 2014 (the latest year that official figures are available). On Bonaire the increase was 4.1%, on Saba 1.8%. According to Statistics Netherlands (CBS), St Eustatius was the only island where the value of GDP declined relative to 2013, (-4.4%).

The GDP values on Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba were \$403, \$100 and \$46 million respectively in 2014. The respec-

tive amounts per capita were \$21,600, \$25,300 and \$25,100. The population on Bonaire in 2014 was 18,659.

► **Volunteer opportunities abound in Bonaire.** The NGO Platform Bonaire invites visitors and residents to check out the latest volunteer opportunities on www.ngobonaire.org, which includes opportunities for long term, short term and 1-day activities such as:

1. Beach patrol to check for sea turtle nesting activity and possible sea turtle hatchlings (1 hour a week).
2. A local children's daycare is looking for volunteers to help the kids eat their lunch (1-2 hours a day/week).
3. Website maintenance for a civil rights organization (1 hour a week).
4. Gain practical experience in botanical work while also learning about parrot conservation management as a volunteer in the Rincon area.
5. Several NGOs are looking for board members such as secretaries and treasurers (long term).

For more information about the many foundations and associations on the island contact Bonaire's volunteer center: NGO Platform Bonaire, Kaya Grandi 52C, 717-2366.

► *The Reporter publisher's* phone number has changed. The prefix is all sevens- (+599) **777-6125**. Editor Laura DeSalvo's number is the same as before: (+599) **786-6518**. ■ *G./L.D.*

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On the Island Since... June 2014 - Karon Kuindersma



Karon Kuindersma

“The function of the physician is to rule out disease and to guide the patient back to health. Vitality and happiness are not things that are taught in medical education, which is called medicine studies for a reason!

Well, as a child I wanted to become a pilot. My dad was a general practitioner and the last thing I wanted to be was a doctor like my father. When I was looking for my direction during my high school years I researched almost everything in the field of engineering and science. In the end I decided to attend an open day of medicine. Everything I heard there I found so fascinating, exciting and fulfilling that my search ended right there and then. The procedure in Holland was that for a specific study there is only a fixed amount of places available; the student is admitted by means of a draw. On my very first attempt I was one of the lucky ones, as if it was meant to be. I had a very strong feeling about it and I never had any regrets.

However, the questions I had during the training were – at least for me – never satisfactorily answered. As a result I started looking for answers in different directions. Questions like ‘Who am I’, ‘What am I doing’, ‘What am I capable of’, ‘What is it I want to do’, ‘What is the meaning’ and ‘What inspires me’ were very important because I want to live from inspiration.

During my training I went to Curacao where I did my internships in 2001. After I graduated I became acquainted with Transcendental Meditation which is one of the very few movements in the world of meditation and awareness training that has gathered a lot of scientific foundation to support the technique. The scientific justification opened the way for me to investigate and experience this personally.

My first job was in outpatient psychiatry where I got an hour per patient to listen to the story of their life. And of course – within this contact, during that one single hour – a whole lot was going on. That was my first experience and most of my medical knowledge did not apply; it was very special. During that time I had a girlfriend who was from Curacao. We were getting married and she was the main reason we moved there in 2007. Eventually we did get married, but it didn’t last and we separated after four years.

I worked at the St. Elisabeth Hospital in Curacao where I did internal medicine for two years while I was trained as a hospital physician, something I experienced as a lot

of fun but at the same time very intense. Then I worked in the Emergency Room for two years. From there I became an acting GP – filling in for my colleagues which I did for two years. However, on Curacao there was a moratorium law which meant you needed an exemption to be allowed to fill in continuously for other doctors because if you work constantly as an acting GP, it counts as an extra doctor on the island.

So then my present girlfriend Gandha and I went to Taiwan, where she’s from, to see

“As Rein, the doctor, I limit myself to the earthly forms of healing, and as Karon I am connected with everyone and open for everything

if we could build a relationship and a life together there. In Taiwan I couldn’t work as a physician, but together with Gandha I gave awareness trainings from which we could – barely – live. The financial tightness was clearly felt! Then Dr. van der Vaart called me from Bonaire and asked me to work for him. When I was living on Curacao I’d worked for him, hopping back and forth with Divi Divi Air. I liked it and loved Bonaire, but somehow I found the island too small - pretty and attractive yes - but just for the weekend. However, when Dr. Van der Vaart came with his offer it was very tempting, but still it took a while before I definitely made up my mind.

The one who finally brought me here was Dr. Hermelijn. It was my birthday, I was in Holland when he called me and told me he was starting to work as a GP and had to give up his position as medical director of the walk-in medical clinic, *Huisartsenpost Bonaire*. So there was a position available and would I be interested? That’s when I came to Bonaire.

I am a BIG-registered physician, which means I have the right registration to carry out my profession as a general practitioner. But in addition I also immersed myself in various holistic healing methods. I am certified as an Alpha Chi consultant and as a spiritual teacher in the Agni tradition, and I am a dean in the Sacred Medical Order of the Church of Hope. The background of that church is quite complex, but what they

strive for is the sovereignty of every human being, in particular in medicine. Which means you may help people, but you always have to keep in mind that the person is complete and intact, for no man is broken. However, a person may experience that he or she is damaged or sick in which I have a role as a healer or a doctor. There is no light with-

out darkness, no completeness without incompleteness and so being sick is part of being healthy. It’s part of life.

Accidentally, that’s how I earn my living, but I prefer to see people healthy rather than sick. That’s my vision. The medical profession is highly restricted by guidelines, but if you feel that you are gifted or talented in other ways which could contribute additionally in helping your fellow man, you are allowed to use that talent. And that’s where the term Monastery Medicine comes into the picture. Monastery Medicine is the way followers of the Christian faith in former times healed people. The difference between sickness and health – your reality – is directly determined by your belief system and especially by what you do not believe because what you do not believe, you deny. In reality everything is possible. Instant healing is a possibility, but for most people it belongs to the impossible. However...” he laughs, “I prefer not to go too deep into the subject as I want to be held accountable for this beyond my regular office hours because in my position at Dr. Van der Vaart’s office I work solely according to the guidelines and the general consensus of the Dutch general medical practice.

Being a doctor is my function and I work according to certain guidelines when I am present as a doctor. Then I am ‘Rein Kuindersma’ and my doctor’s title is registered in that name. In addition I am ‘Karon.’ That’s what my parents and my friends call me. As



Gandha and Karon

Karon, as a spiritual healer, I help people who are searching, who experience a sense of incompleteness. But you don’t have to be specifically searching; it’s enough to be you! And maybe, in the future, if there is enough interest, Gandha and I will organize courses like crystal healing and meditation here on the island.

At the doctor’s office I am the doctor and the other person is sick. I have knowledge which the patient doesn’t have. But... I can be sick too. We’re all people. However as Karon I only see a friend and fellow creature suffering from - or bothered by - certain sensations which they perceive as undesirable. As a doctor there are expectations which I more or less have to meet, which I deliberately choose for and definitely enjoy doing. As Karon I am free to react the way my heart tells me - from the idea that we are one. If I let the other person suffer, I will let myself suffer, and when I bring happiness to others, I will experience happiness through the other. That’s what I prefer to focus on. There is nothing more beautiful than to make another person happy: oneness is the essence of healing. As Rein, the doctor, I limit myself to the earthly forms of healing, and as Karon I am connected with everyone and open for everything.

At the moment I work 10 days a month at the walk-in medical clinic, *Huisartsenpost Bonaire*, and three days a week at Dr. Van der Vaart’s office. Two days a week I use for consciousness development, because peace arises with the recognition of your origin. Spiritual growth is like a tree that develops from a seed. Its growth comes from inspiration, the deeper the breath, the more inspiration.

Bonaire is my home. I like the tranquility and the simplicity of the island and there is so much room to evolve. It feels just right to be here. It’s a place where the knowledge of Atlantis was preserved, a personal power place where you can flourish and where your personal development accelerates. It’s where I feel good.”

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



From Boston to Bonaire: A 40-Year Journey

Beginning a two-part insider's perspective of Bonaire diving history by prominent environmentalist George Buckley beginning and continuing with Captain Don Stewart.



Forty years ago I decided to go to the Caribbean to study land snails and coral reefs at the suggestion of **Bill Clench** and **Steve Gould** at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology where I had been working in the Mollusk Department identifying seashells.

Quite by happenchance I ended up in Bonaire as someone at the Boston Sea Rovers ocean conference said that they heard there was this really interesting guy that had a dive operation there and that he even had his own flag! Thus I met the Captain himself, **Don Stewart** who queried me about this letter from the **Lt. Governor St. Jago** that was awaiting me at the new Aquaventure Habitat. I told him it was permission to study and collect mollusks to which the Captain asked "What the hell is a mollusk?" "Clams and snails, Sir," I replied. He said, "All right, 'CLAM,' and don't call me Sir!"

That moniker has stuck for 40 years as some folks know me only by that. So, some 125 trips and thousands of dives later we

are at the joint Anniversaries of the Captain's beloved HABITAT and my ventures to Bonaire's turquoise blue waters and the dynamic sea-life below.

We dove off cliffs, traveled in garbage trucks to get to dive sites and broke fingernails and toenails building flattop boats and docks. I have skin cancers named after those boats and docks! **But we got to dive!** That was key. I learned how to fix boat motors in the dark as Don had only 35 HP Johnsons and lots of spare parts. If a boat was down we'd concoct a massive Treasure Hunt that kept guests more than busy hunting for a Guilder, or an Amstel beer or a free dive token! The "Monks Cells" were rooms for the hardy souls, but who the heck comes to a place like Bonaire to sleep? The Wicked Mind's Eye of the Captain was right again as he was with pioneering drip irriga-

tion and recycled battery power. He was off the grid before there was a grid and was practicing and teaching what is now called "Sustainability" before the term had come close to common usage.

As the decades flew by there were adventures and misadventures, great successes and some ill fated failures but all **with lots of fun** and no small amount of rum consumed! **Dee Scarr** and I began what was a lifetime of slide shows about marine life and better yet took people diving to see what we had just shown!

The giant Atlantic tarpon learned to follow night divers, all the better to more easily find food.. and scared the living crap out of a few newbies. I brought thousands of students on study groups over the years to learn about the marine and terrestrial ecology of this special island. A young **Philippe Cousteau** joined me to study octopus as had his dad. He was followed by his sister **Alexandra** and mother **Jan** to dive together at Habitat. From those early days grew their environmental Foundation, "Earth Echo," that Habitat's **Jack Chalk** and I helped to form and then serve on its Board of Directors to give special assistance to the many students from Watertown High School's Biology Club



Jack Chalk (RIP) Claire Sealy, Present Manager of Captain Don's Habitat, Captain Don Stewart (RIP) and Albert Romijn (RIP)

and the Harvard University Sustainability and Environmental Management Program that joined me. The students would always vie to pick up Jack at the Boston Sea Rovers conference and when he came to lecture at Harvard where the Dean gave him a special commendation for his series

of presentations to my program there. ■

George "Clam" Buckley



Continued in the next edition.



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Wonders of Nature

Every day I see new trash and that makes me wonder. I will share my wondering about this waste and nature with you and hope that this might contribute to putting waste where it belongs: in the landfill.

HOME ALONE

Curious as I am, I walk along the site of the open-air living room that I discovered a few weeks ago. To my disappointment I find no one at home and I also see that the living room looks quite different. The coziness is gone and most of the furniture too. What remains is a plastic chair and a crate. What has happened here? What happened to Shahaira, Nelson and their four children? In my imagination I see the tragedy that took place.

Shahaira and Nelson are evicted by their cousin Harold and are forced to bivouac in the open air living room that also serves as a bedroom. With the six of them they try to make the best of it, but if you stay somewhere against your will of course irritations easily arise. They have a beautiful living room, but the kids, after a short while, start whining that there is no fridge, and Shahaira misses a washing machine and running water. The children get scratches from the prickly bushes that grow into the living room after the rain. They look grubby because of the dust. During the weekend, that's not a problem, but they cannot show themselves like that at school. Nelson feels himself being put under pressure by their complaints and sees all their eyes looking at him for a solution. He has none, and as many men do at such a moment he gives a big mouth to everyone. "I have no problem with how we live, so you can fit in or f*** off, you stupid wimps." With actions like this the atmosphere is not fun anymore and all family members make sure that they are outdoors as much as possible (strange word in this context, but you understand what I mean). The children stay most of the time with their friends or family and Shahaira sits all day at the nearest snack. There she meets a widower looking for female companionship. One thing leads to another: she moves in with him, takes her children with her and enjoys all the facilities that are normal for most of us. Nelson is a stubborn man and does not want to admit that the great outdoors has its limitations. He remains in his post that now consists of a chair and a crate. His cousin Harold regularly stops by to drink a beer. He feels guilty because he's the one who put Nel-



son's family on the street. Therefore, after a few weeks, he asks Nelson if he wants to come back in his house. But, as already mentioned, Harold is stubborn and says he has enough having his chair and crate and he has no need at all for that materialism which makes people wimps nowadays. "I'm not a wimp and am not planning to become one," he says. Then suddenly one Sunday in the "dry" season a rain that surpasses all other rain showers starts to pour down. Harold has no shelter and washes away. Sitting on his chair he goes with the flow in the direction of the east coast. Just before the rocks at the coastline he manages to cling to a divi-divi tree. The chair has fallen over the rocks into the sea. Soaked to the bone he staggers back to his crate after the shower finishes hours later. He sits down, the crate breaks under his weight and thus does his persistence. He breaks and tears stream down his cheeks, unseen because of all the raindrops that drip down. Dripping, he walks to the house of his cousin. Once there he receives a warm welcome: "Hi Uncle Nelson, you're a wimp with a crate!" the children shout to him. He turns around and pulls the crate from his behind. He is a broken man and realizes that he cannot pretend otherwise.

Moral of this story: if you crate falls apart, it's time to bow your head. ■

Story & photo by Justine Verschoor



SUPERFOODS: SUPER HEALTHY?

Superfoods are foods that are mostly plant-based but also include some fish and dairy. They are thought to be nutritionally dense and thus good for one's health. Blueberries, salmon, kale, oatmeal, pomegranate and acai are just a few examples of foods that have obtained the "superfood" label. However, there are no set criteria for determining what is and what isn't a superfood.

Personally, as a dietitian I think superfood is more of a marketing term for foods that have health benefits. Eating foods that are loaded with nutrients is certainly a good idea, but the key to a healthy diet is to have a variety of nutritious foods in the right amounts.

Superfood isn't a scientifically or technically defined term either. It's not a word that medical professionals or researchers actually use. It has little meaning in the medical research community.

Some of the nutrients that can be found in superfoods are antioxidants, phytochemicals, fiber and healthy fats (i.e. omega 3). They are thought to ward off cancer, heart disease, reduce inflammation and stabilize blood sugar levels to name just a few benefits.

Antioxidants for example protect body cells from free radicals. These are reactive molecules that originate from sources like cigarette smoke, processed foods but also from the metabolism itself. Too many free radicals will damage the body cells that can lead to cancer for instance.

Blueberries are a well known superfood. They are rich in vitamins, fiber and phytochemicals known as flavonoids. But these nutrients can also be found in apples, strawberries and raspberries among others. According to some research foods containing large amounts of flavonoids may reduce the risk of heart disease.

Pomegranate, for example, contains ellagitannins which have known anti cancer properties. But raspberries also contain these nutrients.

Kale really lives up to the hype of a superfood but so do most dark leafy greens like Swiss chard, spinach, collards and cabbage. And don't forget broccoli! All these vegetables are packed with vita-



mins A, C and K as well as fiber, calcium and other minerals.

Sweet potatoes and squash also make the superfood list for the same reasons as the mentioned leafy greens. They are good sources of vitamin A, fiber and many other nutrients.

Salmon, sardines, herring and mackerel are rich in omega 3 fatty acids which are thought to lower the risk of heart disease, stroke and inflammation.

We can also include green tea, dark chocolate, coffee, yoghurt, walnuts and almonds to the superfoods list for a variety of reasons mentioned above.

Research has shown that the ideal diet is one that is largely plant based with a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, legumes, fish and dairy. Superfoods may be a good entry into healthy eating, but there are lots of healthy foods to explore even if they aren't called superfoods!

No single food item or even all superfoods combined have enough super powers to replace a varied, balanced and healthy diet. Combining this with avoiding excessive intake of alcohol, processed and refined foods—that's all you can do nutrition wise to support a healthy and long life. ■ Lucinda van der Wardt

Lucinda van der Wardt has been a registered dietitian and sports instructor for more than 18 years. After working for more than 10 years in a University hospital in Amsterdam and later in her private practice she is currently owner of Food and Vitality Dietitian practice located at Bon Bida health centre in Kralendijk. More info:



www.foodandvitality.info tel: 599 785-0170 email- lucinda@foodandvitality.info

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Word on the Street

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



There's a plan to revitalize the 325,000 barrel-per-day Isla refinery (above) on Curacao. Under a deal that would begin when the Venezuelan oil company PEDVSA's lease expires in 2019, the Chinese state-controlled commodities trader Guangdong Zhenrong, would invest up to US \$10 billion to upgrade and modernize the century-old facility. It would provide all of the capital expenditures needed to improve the refinery, storage facilities and shipping terminal, build a new gas terminal and also upgrade the refinery's power and water services infrastructure. An estimated US\$2 billion is needed just to correct the present pollution problems. The Isla refinery provides most of Bonaire's petroleum products. The refinery is downwind from Bonaire so our island isn't affected by the refinery's pollution.

- **New Middle Eastern restaurant Mezze (pronounced meh-zay) opened its doors** September 17th, located at the former Four Seasons Restaurant. The restaurant is co-owned by father and son team, Ahmet and Efe Canbazoglu. According to their website <http://www.mezzebonaire.com>, Chef Efe has international experience and is a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu in London. The menu looks extremely appetizing and brings a fresh new culinary experience to the island. They open at 6 pm, closed on Wednesdays.
- Long time residents were pleased to hear that **Hagen Wegerer** had returned to Bonaire and was recently head chef at Barrel Wine Bar at the South Pier for awhile.
- **Could Bonaire be diving in to the food truck craze?** There's a new food truck getting rave reviews: King Kong Burgers and Hot Dogs, open Tuesday through Saturday 11am til sunset at Bachelor's Beach. One of their occasional specials the Blue Funk Burger (featuring blue cheese, bacon, jalapenos and onion compote) prompted this Facebook reaction: "Blue Funk burger will NOT leave you singin' the blues, but have you dancin' a blue-footed boogey! Yum!". Word on the street is that the hot dogs (including Chicago Dog and Junk Yard Dog) are also "yummy." The truck is the brainchild of Asko and Jana. (See Bonaire On Wheels story for more info.
- **Another little truck is often located across from Trans World Radio at the traffic circle in Hato.** Selling dee-licious ice smoothies in a variety of local fruit flavors and more.
- **From the "horse's mouth," former owner of Top Supermarket (formerly Cultimara) has purchased Best Brands** and will be expanding its brands and inventory. Top Supermarket has been sold.
- **On the entertainment front, another "event planning" group has been established. EEM Foundation (Everything Entertainment and More)** recently signed the official foundation papers through the notary office. EEM joins MAS Events and HYPE Events in promoting a noticeable increase in entertainment events on our little island.
- **Speaking of entertainment events, HYPE Events**, which is organizing the entertainment portion of the Bonaire Regatta for the second year, recently announced an international talent as the main event. Gyptian, a Jamaican born artist will be the headliner this year. While he may not be known to some, he is well known in the US, Europe, South America and the Caribbean, with over 4 million views on some of his YouTube videos. According to *Billboard* magazine, "not since Wayne Wonder's ["No Letting Go"](#) has an underground reggae artist garnered as much attention in the United States as Jamaica's own Gyptian." Gyptian's style is considered reggae roots, R & B and dancehall. ■ *Bula Bonchi*



CRUISE SHIP INCOME???



Dear Editor:

Is there a conspiracy regarding cruise ships and the claimed money they bring to Bonaire? In January 2014 a report stated that the busiest week ever for cruise ships brought in \$1.15 million, a figure that many questioned and some asked for proof. Only one vague answer was given and that was that most of the money came from all the island tours by the passengers. More about that later.

For the sake of discussion, if the cruise ship season has a low estimate of 26 weeks and those weeks only brought in half the above amount then the total for that season should have been close to \$15 million! By season end what was subsequently reported was an estimated guess of \$10 million. This averages about \$354,000 for the remaining weeks. This does make the \$1.15 million for that one week rather doubtful.

Regarding those island tours by passengers, the average price for these tours is about \$35. That would mean for that one week alone 32, 857 passengers would have had to take tours to make the \$1.15 million! Since there was just over 16,000 passengers that week, even if all took the tours that still is just over \$560,000. Many passengers don't even get off the ship. Others don't take tours. So where does this \$1.15 million figure come from?

Bonaire is being fed information that is very questionable. In June of 2015 Bonaire was told that the anticipated cruise arrivals will be about 250,000 for the 2015 calendar year to grow to approximately 400,000 in 2016. Also, "The cruise ship season will be year-round beginning in the summer of 2016." Have these happened?

Where are these figures and predictions coming from? How many business owners have been requested to turn in their sales figures from cruise ships? Or is this just a ploy to convince people that cruise ships will pave Bonaire streets in gold? So far nothing has met the predictions by various offices. You have to wonder if anything is accurate and honest regarding cruise ships and their overall value for all of Bonaire.

A Skeptic

SUPERMARKET STICKER SHOCK



Dear Editor:

Before we left Curacao I wandered around the supermarket and noted a few prices. Bonaire prices are much much higher. So, I attach the following:

We all know what that is. It is when you walk into a store, look at the price of an item and exclaim in disbelief "How much?!" I recently spent a few months in Curacao and when I returned to Bonaire I was pleasantly surprised to find that prices in both places were quite similar. For example, potatoes. Bonaire 2.29/kilo and in Curacao 2.00/kilo. Unfortunately it soon dawned on me that the two islands use different currencies. Bonaire, of course uses the US dollar. Curacao uses the Netherlands Antilles guilder despite the fact that the Netherlands Antilles no longer exists and despite the fact that it is written as NaFl and referred to as the Florin. Whatever they call it is not important. What is important is that the NaFl is worth 57 cents in US currency. Suddenly price differences are appallingly apparent. How can potatoes be 100% more expensive in Bonaire than in Curacao? Are there import tariffs to protect the Bonairean potato industry? Does the International Union of Potatoes (IUP) insist that their members travel in first class on the way over from Curacao? I decided to check other items. The following is a list of the cost of a few staple items in Bonaire and Curacao.

Potatoes, kilo: \$2.29 Bon/\$1.14 Cur
100% increase
Onions, kilo: \$2.49/\$1.42 75%
Eggs, dozen: \$2.84/\$2.79 2%
Rice, 2 lbs: \$2.24/\$1.82 23%
Flour, 2 lbs: \$2.29/\$1.66 38%
Spaghetti, 500g: \$2.39/\$1.80 33%
Whole Chicken, 1.3 kilo: \$4.60/
\$3.57 29%
Chicken Breasts, kilo: \$6.99/\$3.64
92%
Carne Mula (ground beef), kilo:
\$9.99/\$6.04 65%

There are apparently market forces beyond comprehension at work in Bonaire.

Webster (Web) Burrfish

A Garden? Just Do It

SOIL TYPES

What a rain! What a blessing for nature! As Bonaire starts turning green all your gardening efforts will pay off.

Besides the seeds and plants you just planted start growing you may see all kinds of other plants that you once planted but had never grown...until now. I was surprised to see that my bitter melon vegetable and the string beans suddenly popped up. I planted them a while ago and thought they were lost to the drought. So look carefully before you start pulling out plants. Of course all kinds of strange wild plants will grow now too, and there might be very good medicinal plants and wild veggies which I wrote about. Like the wild veggie Bembe which pops up all over my yard. I have already eaten some of it.

Now here is some very interesting information about the different soils of Bonaire. There is a map of Bonairean soils and their locations. When you want to garden, it's good to know what kind of soils there are and where they are.

So here's the list:

- Soils of limestone formation
- Reddish soils of lower depositional terrace
- Reddish soils of middle depositional terrace
- Yellow brown soils of middle depositional terrace
- Rock land or depositional and erosional terrace
- Plateau land
- Miscellaneous land types of limestone formation
- Soils of Washikemba formation
- Soils of plains
- Stony land
- Stony plateau land
- Hilly land
- Alluvial and coluvial land
- Rooi bottom and plain soil
- Soils of roois (rooi= arroyo)
- Soils of the fans (edges of Bonaire)
- Remainder

Now wherever you have your house and garden or kunuku, the best thing to do before starting to plant is to make a mix of different soils of Bonaire. We have all the ingredients right here on Bonaire to mix soils so that it is healthy and good for plants. It doesn't cost anything- only time and care and some knowledge about this.

So take top soils from under trees where goats have walked. This top soil you can find in the "mondi," like on the road to Rincon.

Take top soil from the reddish soils where dried grass and leaves are lying, sometimes with old dry donkey fertilizer. (Don't take too much of this as some plants cannot stand a lot).

Then have some "potgrond" (black dirt sold in Green Label or markets) ready too and mix this all together. The soil gets a reddish brown color with the dry leaves and grass, old, small pieces of stems and broken clay pots (good for aerating the soil) and some small stones. Also some burned wood and ashes are very good

The reddish soil gets very hard when it dries so make the mix so that the soil stays soft so that roots can find their way easily. The potgrond and black topsoil lose liquid very fast. That's why it's important to mix

it with the hard reddish soil. And the compost from old leaves, grass, goat droppings and some little stones make the dirt get air and vitamins. Sunlight is important too. Some plants can stand the strong sunlight the whole day but most plants need shade and only a little bit of the strong sunlight.

So figure out where the best place is to



Old leaves around the tree to keep the soil moist and soft



Just planted in a soil mix

make your garden. I have some little trees around my garden. I put the plants which cannot stand the sun right under these trees. Then I have plants which get half day sun and half day shade. And also some with a little bit of light and 75% shade.

It's important to have some information about your plants and their needs. Because I pay attention to all these needs of my different types of plants, I still had a green garden during the long drought on Bonaire. Of course it needs your constant attention, but gardening needs attention wherever you have a garden on this planet. And of course it depends too on the type of plants you have. If you have a rock garden for example, it needs less attention than a vegetable garden. But it always pays off to have some green in your garden. Trees, rock plants, veggies, a wild garden, whatever, for many reasons green around your house is a good healthy thing.

So, with all the rainwater we get now (try to catch some rainwater with buckets so you have some extra water for the plants- they love it and it saves on your WEB bills) you must succeed in having a green garden. Just do it now, never put off until tomorrow what you can do today. (And remember rain on Bonaire does not last a long time). ■

Story & photos by Angliet- Nature lover



SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION NEWS

The Bonaire Sea Turtle Conservation (STCB) group continues its efforts to protect and better understand this island's sea turtles.

Four times a year, STCB staff and volunteers conduct in-water surveys at Lac Bay. These capture and release efforts provide valuable data over time to help us determine growth rates of sea turtles and estimate abundance. The in-water surveys also enable us to learn more about the movement patterns and the health status of Bonaire's resident turtles. Monday, September 12, was the start of a new week of in-water surveys at Lac, and it turned out to be very successful! We captured, tagged and released 40 Green turtles, 3 Hawksbill turtles, and one juvenile Loggerhead! The latter was a great surprise. Never before, in 14 years of netting efforts, did we capture a Loggerhead.

In 2015, STCB launched a pilot project called 'Adopt-A-Nest,' offering local companies the opportunity to adopt a sea turtle nest. The project was a great success: seven nests were adopted, saving 693 hatchlings.

In 2016, to celebrate our 25th anniversary, local companies adopted 25 sea turtle nests on Klein Bonaire and Te Amo Beach. The first nest of this season was laid in May, and this year's Adopt-A-Nest came to a successful end

on September 16th, when the last adopted nest hatched. In all, 2446 hatchlings made it to the ocean from these special adopted nests!

STCB raised \$2,661 with its first ever crowd-funding campaign, which means that it can immediately put into use two brand-new GPS trackers, six new nest barriers and saved one turtle in trouble (it had a hook in its mouth).

August marked the beginning of STCB's involvement in the Ecological Restoration of Lac and the South of Bonaire, a project that is coordinated by the *Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire* (Island Government) and funded with the so called 'natuurgelden' (nature funds) made available by the Dutch government. The main aim of this project is to increase the accessibility and biodiversity of these areas. As part of this project, STCB partnered with the OLB and Wildconscience BV to carry out a variety of activities on Te Amo and Donkey Beaches. First of all, we replaced the old and decayed fence. STCB staff and volunteers subsequently attached palm leaves to the new fence, thereby creating a natural barrier that also limits light pollution. The new fence has already proven to be a great success: so far, twice our nesting turtles were prevented from going to the road because of the fence! In addition to the fence, we placed boulders and information signs to discourage people from driving on the beach, making fire pits and taking dogs in this area. In the future we will also plant more vegetation and will increase the trash collection facilities on the beach. ■ Press release



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This is the 144th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n (always wear a helmet) Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons who are "on wheels." Up to at least 200 articles!

Asko Zuidam and His Land-Rover Food Truck and Trailer

Just recently Asko Zuidam started his own new and fully street and beach legal enterprise, "King Kong Bonaire Burgers, Hot Dogs and Fries." For this enterprise he received official permission from the Bonairean government on September 2, 2016. For some time Asko was walking around with ideas and plans to start his own and independent company. He went to Europe and started searching for a classic Dutch handmade food trailer. Finally he found his all-aluminum trailer, made in Groningen in the 70s, and he shipped it to Bonaire. His two-wheeled handmade trailer is durable and stylish on the outside and completely new on the inside with a brand new stainless steel frying compartment, stainless steel and aluminum work desk and counter and new and durable trespapanelen for maximum hygiene. Asko also bought a brand new wallet, a new and stylish apron and a pepper grinder shaped as a baseball bat. The food trailer is equipped with a serious fire extinguisher and a fire extinguishing blanket. Asko is as proud of his new food trailer



Land-Rover Defender.

as he is of his food trailer towing truck: a real classic Land-Rover Defender. This Defender is a right hand drive ex-military vehicle, built in 1987, fitted with a traditional push rod slow and long lasting four-cylinder diesel engine. The Land-Rover proved to be very reliable and towing the trailer is, according to Asko, a piece of cake.

That first day in the parking of Bachelor's Beach, Asko's girlfriend Jana Isaza, showed up, also in a Land-Rover Defender. This Lady-Landy is a five-door station wagon, a little bit more modern and less Spartan compared to the ex-military trailer towing truck. Now it is all aluminum trucks and trailers in the parking lot of Bachelor's Beach, all ready to fight the influence of the climate and the salt for the next 90 years!

Asko is happy with and proud of his enterprise. Every day except Sunday and Monday you can find him at Bachelor's Beach from 11 in the morning until sunset, serving his home made burgers in a bun in a basket. The burgers are home made as is Asko's original onion compote. And there is the home made barbecue sauce, proudly poured out from the recycled Old No. 7 Jack Daniels bottle. Asko says, "I always go for the real stuff. No artificial preservatives, just pure beef and natural ingredients. No plastic cups, no plastic straws, no plastic cutlery you will find here. My food is as real and uncomplicated as a Land-Rover. It only tastes better!" ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



Picture Yourself With The Reporter in West Point, NY, USA

Joan and Alan Zale, winners of the 2015 Picture Yourself in The Bonaire Reporter Contest, took the issue naming them the winners to graduation week at the US Military Academy at West Point, NY. They are with their good friend, Alexandra Baker, who was enjoying her last day as



a Cadet Captain at the Military Academy, also known as West Point. The following day, Alexandra was one of 953 cadets who made up the 218th graduating class at West Point and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in US Army. West Point was founded in 1802 by President Thomas Jefferson, with the goals to educate, train, inspire the Corps of Cadets, preparing them to become officers in the US Army. Joan and Alan, who own a condo at Sand Dollar, are regular visitors to Bonaire with more than 40 visits to the island and, given the number of times they have appeared in the paper, never go anywhere without a copy of The Bonaire Reporter. They hope to have Alexandra, a diver who has never experienced the beautiful waters of Bonaire, join them when she gets leave from the Army. ■ Photo by Anthony Baker

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DeepSea Challenge

Bonaire SCUBA divers were amazed as scores of free divers plunged to depths that were too deep for them to try using their compressed air tanks.

For more than a week in early September many of the world's best free divers gathered on our island to take part in the Second Annual Bonaire Deepsea Challenge Freediving Competition.

The competitors made their dives using only the air from the last breath they took before diving.

The event is organized by Carlos Coste's Deepsea School based on Bonaire's Kaya Grandi. This year's Bonaire Deepsea Challenge was a success on many levels. The eight days of competition culminated in one world record, two continental records, seven national records, two Guinness record attempts and countless personal best dives (See summary chart). The competition was comprised of four freediving disciplines spanning six official diving days. All events took place just off Bonaire's shoreline at several venues along the sheltered west coast.

Carlos Coste set a New Continental South American Record of 69 meters (226 ft.) on 5 September in the purest freediving discipline of Constant No Fins (CNF) in 3 minutes 33 seconds. Four days later Carlos broke his own Guinness World Record of 150m (492 ft.) longest distance freedive in open waters with one breath to 177m (580 ft.) establishing the 12th world record...

These Guinness World Record attempts were of considerable interest. Spectators lined the piers of downtown Kralendijk while the Venezuelan resident of Bonaire Carlos Coste and Marina Kazankova of Russia prepared. Marina impressed onlookers with a 154m (505 ft.) swim in a mermaid tail. The swims were dedicated to conservation of Bonaire's ocean. The records are pending approval by the Guinness Record Board.

Both records were confirmed by a panel of AIDA judges and official witnesses and island notary Kenneth Arends, from the Bonaire community.

Other notable performances from the event included dives by Jeanine Grasmeyer of the Netherlands who broke the AIDA (International Association for the Development of Apnea) Free Immersion (FIM) record to 92m. (301 ft.). The record was taken from the late



Liv Philip and Jeanine Grasmeyer.

Natalia Molchanova of Russia. This marks Grasmeyer's second world record in the discipline.

Other noteworthy dives included one by Carolina Schrappe of Brazil who plunged to 95m. (311 ft.) on a Variable Weight (VWT) dive. VWT means that Carol used a sled to drag her down to depth while ascending under her own power.

Alfredo Roen from Tenerife, Spain surpassed his own national record by reaching 102 m. (630 ft.) in Constant Weight and become the Winner of the competition.

Ashley Chapman, American freediver, set two national records for the US of 84 m. (85 ft.) in constant weight and Free Immersion winning the competition as the most complete athlete in four disciplines.

Alex Alvarado, the first Puerto Rican to compete internationally in this sport achieved three national records: Static Apnea, with 5 minutes 29 seconds under water; and 50 m. (164 ft.) deep in free immersion and Constant weight.

Aurore Asso, from France set a new national record 54m. (177 ft.) in constant no fins.

Thanks to the sponsors who supported the event : Plaza Beach Resort Bonaire Sonrisa Hotel, @oriswatch @bonairetourism @turismobonaire @paditv, El Mundo Restaurant, @evolvefreediving, Aerotech OPS, It Rain Fishes, Bistro de Paris, Blue Garden Restaurant, Karel's Beach Bar, Carib Inn, Bonaire Marine Center, Budget Bonaire, AMCAR, Giro Bank, MCB, Budget Marine, Gaia, STINAPA, Compass, Dive Friends, and Elios Sub. ■ Press releases/ G.D.

For more information:

Deepsea Challenge: <http://deepseabonaire.com/deepsea-challenge-2016/>

STA									
Pos	Last Name	First Name	Country	Gender	Discipline	AP	RP	Record	POINTS
1	KAZANKOVA	Marina	RUS	F	STA	3	0	5:55	71
2	CHAPMAN	Ashley	USA	F	STA	3	0	5:29	65.8
3	PHILIP	Liv	GBR	F	STA	3	12	5:17	63.8
1	ALVARADO	Alexander	PRI	M	STA	3	0	5:21	NR
2	ROEN	Alfredo	ESP	M	STA	4	8	5:11	62.2
3	BOON	Maarten	NED	M	STA	7	30	5:11	62.2
4	ROOZENDAAL	Boy	NED	M	STA	2	0	5:3	60.8
5	APARICIO	Elyoenal	ESP	M	STA	4	5	4:44	58.8
6	FARINA	Jose Luis	ESP	M	STA	3	0	4:39	59
7	SOUZA	Warley	BRA	M	STA	4	3	4:6	47.2
8	MADURO	Daniel	NED	M	STA	1	0	3:52	3

CNF									
Pos	Last Name	First Name	Country	Gender	Discipline	AP	RP	Record	POINTS
1	CHAPMAN	Ashley	USA	F	CNF	60	60	NR	60
2	ASSO	Aurore	FRA	F	CNF	54	54	NR	54
2	KAZANKOVA	Marina	RUS	F	CNF	54	54	NR	54
4	PHILIP	Liv	GBR	F	CNF	45	45	NR	45
1	COSTE	Carlos	VEN	M	CNF	69	69	CR	69
2	ROEN	Alfredo	ESP	M	CNF	50	50	NR	50
3	ROOZENDAAL	Boy	NED	M	CNF	41	41	NR	41
4	FARINA	Jose Luis	ESP	M	CNF	37	37	NR	37
4	BOON	Maarten	NED	M	CNF	37	37	NR	37

CWT									
Pos	Last Name	First Name	Country	Gender	Discipline	AP	RP	Record	POINTS
1	CHAPMAN	Ashley	USA	F	CWT	84	84	NR	84
2	PHILIP	Liv	GBR	F	CWT	75	75	NR	75
3	KAZANKOVA	Marina	RUS	F	CWT	65	65	NR	65
1	ROEN	Alfredo	ESP	M	CWT	##	##	NR	102
2	FARINA	Jose Luis	ESP	M	CWT	75	75	NR	75
3	ROOZENDAAL	Boy	NED	M	CWT	60	60	NR	60
4	APARICIO	Elyoenal	ESP	M	CWT	58	58	NR	58
5	ALVARADO	Alexander	PRI	M	CWT	50	50	NR	50
6	SOUZA	Warley	BRA	M	CWT	53	49	NR	44

FIM									
Pos	Last Name	First Name	Country	Gender	Discipline	AP	RP	Record	POINTS
1	GRASMEIJER	Jeanine	NED	F	FIM	92	92	WR	92
2	CHAPMAN	Ashley	USA	F	FIM	84	84	NR	84
3	PHILIP	Liv	GBR	F	FIM	65	65	NR	65
4	KAZANKOVA	Marina	RUS	F	FIM	51	51	NR	51
1	ROEN	Alfredo	ESP	M	FIM	65	65	NR	65
2	ROOZENDAAL	Boy	NED	M	FIM	55	55	NR	55
3	MADURO	Daniel	NED	M	FIM	51	51	NR	51
3	APARICIO	Elyoenal	ESP	M	FIM	51	51	NR	51
5	ALVARADO	Alexander	PRI	M	FIM	50	50	NR	50
5	FARINA	Jose Luis	ESP	M	FIM	50	50	NR	50
5	BOON	Maarten	NED	M	FIM	50	50	NR	50

Summary of results

AIDA: The International Association for the Development of Apnea, AIDA, is the international sanctioning body for freediving, individual and team competitions, and freediving world record attempts. <http://www.aidainternational.org>



A real-life mermaid: Marina Kazankova of Russia impressed onlookers with a 154m (505 ft.) swim in a mermaid tail.



The Bonaire surface platform used to conduct the freediving events is considered the best in the world



Freedivers on the rest day diving at Salt Pier. With Ren Chapman, Warley R. Souza, Carlos Coste, John Viney, Marina Kazankova, Liv Philip, Danny Mad and others

TCB's 25 Years

Kralendijk (September 15th, 2016) – Tourism Corporation Bonaire is celebrating 25 years of developing and promoting the island of Bonaire in world-wide tourism markets. With a quarter-century of accrued experience, the organization is well structured for the future and looks forward to positioning Bonaire as a green destination, keeping the island's natural and cultural resources in balance.

HISTORY OF THE TCB

The organization first opened its doors as Tourism Corporation Bonaire in 1991, and was a derivative of the governmental tourism office. The new TCB was managed under the stewardship of its first director, Mr. Peter van der Veen.

Through the years, the organization continued development under the leadership of other directors, all placing a focus on the development of Bonaire as a world renowned tourism destination. Notable projects include the installation of Bonaire as a KLM hub to South America (including non-stop flights from Amsterdam to Bonaire); the arrival of US airlines American Eagle, United Airlines, and Delta; TAP, a tourism awareness program developed to train and instruct those working within tourism about the importance of the visitor's experience to Bonaire; and the Hello Tourist project, with notable icon, Mama Smile. Additionally, the initial venture to bring cruise tourism to Bonaire is also a notable historical accomplishment, as now cruise tourism is a valuable asset to the island's mix of tourism products.

TOURISM CORPORATION BONAIRE'S FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

TCB is now focusing upon positioning Bonaire as a green destination, as the island is not yet tapping its full potential. TCB will work towards providing an energetic and knowledgeable team who understand the vision and who are eager to help bring it to fruition. TCB will act as a leader in this effort, ensuring that the island has a viable Master Plan, a vision for the next 10 to 20 years. Cooperation with the island's private sector stakeholders will be crucial for a successful implementation of the vision to become a sought-after green destination.

"We, TCB and Bonaire's tourism sector, need to come together and work on a common vision and a common goal. We shouldn't see each other as competitors, but, instead, as colleagues with a common vision, firstly, promoting Bonaire internationally as a tourism destination, but also as an example of how successfully a destination can grow in balance with the environment," stated TCB's Director of Tourism, Mr. Maurice Adriens.

Bonaire recently was awarded the Silver Coastal Quality award, after a successful assessment of the island's capabilities as a green destination. Increasing these capabilities in the coming years will be a major focus for TCB, in the hope that Bonaire will achieve a Gold, or even Platinum, status in future assessments.

Malinda Hassell, Marketing Manager of TCB, stated, "Growing Bonaire's tourism in a sustained manner will be a proc-



The TCB staff at the evening reception

ess. It is imperative that we get the Bonaire brand working successfully and a common vision by all those working within tourism will be necessary for success. Bonaire is a destination with so many possibilities and throughout the years we see that Bonaire is becoming a popular Cruise and Stay Over destination. This could not be possible without the current TCB Team and past TCB employees."

TCB offers its congratulations to Mrs. Joanny St.-Jago Trinidad and Mrs. Evelain Marchena, on reaching their 25th anniversaries with TCB as well.

Throughout her 25 years with the organization, Mrs. St.-Jago Trinidad has

worked within administration, marketing, statistics, and product development at TCB. She recalls the early days when all statistics were manually compiled, using the ED cards filled in by arriving visitors.

Mrs. Marchena has assisted TCB as a hostess, not only for those visiting TCB, but also for those arriving to the island. Her happy smile is a welcome sight for many arriving visitors, and she is affectionately hailed as "Mama TCB."

For more information please contact the Tourism Corporation Bonaire at +599 717-8322 or email info@tourismbonaire.com. ■ Press release

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Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

DUTCH SHOPPING VERSUS BONAIRE SHOPPING

*There's a wonderful world where all you desire
And everything you've longed for is at your fingertips
Where the bittersweet taste of life is at your lips
Where aisles and aisles of dreams await you
And the cool promise of ecstasy fills the air - Bruce Springsteen*

It's been raining *pijpenstelen* (Dutch equivalent of "cats and dogs") for the last two days, while the temps are near freezing, 'round 40 degrees Fahrenheit. That's how cold it feels to me, anyway. Bon biní (welcome) to summer in the Netherlands. Hub Bob is looking cool and crisp. In contrast to me, he savors the chilly, high-latitude climes, at least in summer. Fortunately, some of his annoying friskiness disappears upon discovery of our vacant-looking fridge. Time for a shopping spree. I love shopping! He, not so much.

While I'm cloaked in rain gear, scarf, woolly hat with umbrella glued into my right icicle -- I mean frosty hand -- Bob is sporting an orangey anorak, comfy shoes and shorts - typical American garb. Notwithstanding the icy forecast, the fave Bermudas come out, preferably complemented with winter coat, socks and lace-up shoes. Yikes! He says, "Hey, it's summer!"

We quickly peddle our Dutch bikes (*fiets*, like the sound they make when rushing by) to a nearby Albert Heijn supermarket, affectionately known as, "Appie." It's a challenge to park our bikes. Cycles galore, wherever we look, and most are equipped with two baskets, front and back, and many trailing tiny attached wagons for accompanying dogs and/or kiddies.

We find the store packed with grumpy Dutch. No small talk. Just grab and go,

back to the flippin' rain. I sigh and think about dushi Bonaire...

The air is thick with moisture, not rain mind you, just humidity back on Bonaire. I feel like using a knife to take a slice out of it. We're on our way to Van den Tweel supermarket, also known as Bonaire's "Appie" or "BonAppie." Forget biking here to do your groceries. Roads and most drivers here are "hell on wheels," in either sense of the term, and my mountain bike is equipped with numerous water bottle holders, not baskets. Nevertheless, I cherish my routine in visiting BonAppie. I don't think of it as a chore -- "gotta go to the store" -- but rather as a visit to a treasured companion. For me, BonAppie symbolizes maintaining and keeping up friendships while babbling several languages in one or two sentences, "Hey dushi, alles goed? Yes, love you!" Or, while weighing various passion fruits in one hand and hugging a long-time-no-see amigo with the other, "Bontardi mi amiga, how's life? Niet zo hopi bon? Ok, Cuba manaña!" The conversations usually center around simple matters; however, they make me feel happy. Socializing at BonAppie is pleasurable and yet short enough so I won't lose much of the rest of the day.

Back in DutchAppie, I blend in with the dour Dutchies. I actually become one. My hubster, being a good American-Bonairean, attempts to chat up a tall blond who's all legs and no brain (in my "honest" opinion). Most Dutch might not want to forge lasting friendships while brooding over a drawer full of *boerenkool* (kale), but they just might like to whine about the long-lasting precipitation. This chickie does not desire a weather update; get lost creep! When we finally reach the cashier's line, all is calm and efficient. The queue is straight and narrow. So Dutch. I continue to sigh and recall . . .

There's no such thing exactly as standing in line at BonAppie. It resembles more a parade of characters, of distinct calibers, colors and cultures. Not just friends are trying to converse with you; strangers often enjoy a little chitchat as well. Just a few weeks ago, a fellow in



Chilly, wet Dutch shopping



Cozy, chummy Bonaire shopping

front of me asked me with a straight face if I would mind paying for his groceries. At first, I wasn't entirely sure he was pulling my leg, but surely hoped he was. We both had a good laugh about it. Since then we greet each other by waving. Now, that wait at the check-out could just be a while. Oh well, all the better to catch up with each other's lives. At least, Bon-Appie's cashier *bondia-s* or *bontardi-s* us and everybody else as well.

When it's our turn at DutchAppie, the checkout lady brusquely acknowledges our existence and grumbles what sounds like a four-letter word. My hubby wonders what exactly she'd just uttered. I tell him it means, "Hello, how are you doin' darlin'?" Hub admires the Dutch language for being succinct and compact. But then she mumbles something about all manner of stamps, coupons and discounts, and neither of us has a clue what she's saying.

When it's time to pay the bill, my hubcap marvels at the cheap bottom line, especially when compared to the purchase of shopables at BonAppie. And this is the tally for two heavy bags, including mucho vino and the Euro-Dollar difference figured in.

Two happy campers leave DutchAppie, meeting the heavy downpour with smiley faces, just pretending we're back on Bonaire. And besides, we need the rain!

Story & photos by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour



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DID YOU KNOW?



PLASTIC PROBLEMS

Discarded fishing line kills wildlife. We've all heard about it. We can imagine it. But how many have actually seen an animal dying from it?

Last weekend my husband rescued a pelican whose wing and legs were wrapped up in monofilament line. Its leg was hooked and the weight was still dangling from it. After freeing it, we were thrilled! But we also realized that this was one of the lucky ones. Of the children sitting near me while I'm writing this article, they have all seen wildlife suffering from fishing line – sea turtles with fishing line wrapped around and cutting the skin around their flippers, birds with fishing line around their necks, and many different types of fish with hooks still attached. Most of these animals die a slow and agonizing death. NOAA – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – estimates that over a million birds and 100,000 marine mammals die from marine debris. When rescuing wildlife, fishing line is the number one culprit. Many people are trying to help: STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire) has helped raise awareness of the threat and has fishing line receptacles all over the island; Dive Friends Bonaire organizes regular under-

water clean-ups; STINAPA, STCB, Selibon, Bon Doet and many other groups clean the beaches of Bonaire in an effort to beautify the island and protect wildlife both above and below the sea surface.

Many supermarkets have eliminated plastic bags – another killer of marine life. Sea turtles, although graceful and beautiful, are not too clever and often mistake floating plastic bags with one of their favorite food items – jellyfish. At least 8 million metric tons of plastic leak into the oceans each year – that's one garbage truck every minute (source: World Economic Forum). It's clear that plastics are a huge problem for the oceans and their inhabitants. Let's each one of us do our best to limit the plastics we use and collect the discarded plastics we see drifting them. ■

*Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist.
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Bonaire Sunfish Team To Curacao



Sunfish Team Bonaire just before leaving for Curacao From left to right: "Opa," Sipke Stapert, "Yellowman," Peter Winterwerp, "HotDog" and "Kabes"

On Friday, September 16, early in the morning, the Sunfish Bonaire Team in their small boats sailed to Curacao for the Curacao Championships.

The Sunfish Team Bonaire is in training in preparation for their participation in the World Championships to be held in November in Cartagena, Colombia.

The next day, four races were sailed. It was a long match that was very difficult for the Bonaireans because they had no idea where exactly the small fixed buoys were. It was therefore a bit of a search. The afternoon races on the other hand were very nice on a

short, clearly marked race course. Due to the short duration of these races, any mistake proved very instructive.

The second day had the same structure as the first. The short competitions were again very competitive and therefore proved excellent training. Bonaire's Sipke Stapert earned a respectable second place!

Thanks to main sponsor Digicel and all other sponsors and the great hospitality and good organization of a great sailing weekend. ■ *Press release*

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On November 27, the Bonaire Animal Shelter will be holding its bi-annual auction fundraiser. We would like to ask for donations of pieces of wooden furniture such as tables, chests, and chairs that need to be refurbished. Since we have many clever artists and craftspersons on the

island we plan to ask some of them to refinish and creatively decorate these pieces into genuine collector items for the auction.

If you have something to donate please call Dabney Lassiter at 717-3949 or email at dabney38@yahoo.com, to schedule a pickup of the item. Whichever pieces are not rehabbed can be sold at the shelter Pakus which is open every Saturday from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm and is located across from Brandais Café.



Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 26		04:23 AST -0.10 ft	09:43 AST 0.50 ft	15:30 AST 0.16 ft	21:21 AST 0.89 ft	06:24 AST	18:28 AST
Tue 27		05:09 AST -0.03 ft	10:33 AST 0.52 ft	16:32 AST 0.19 ft	22:14 AST 0.78 ft	06:24 AST	18:28 AST
Wed 28		05:53 AST 0.04 ft	11:24 AST 0.55 ft	17:42 AST 0.21 ft	23:12 AST 0.66 ft	06:24 AST	18:27 AST
Thu 29		06:36 AST 0.12 ft	12:15 AST 0.58 ft	19:01 AST 0.22 ft		06:24 AST	18:26 AST
Fri 30	07:16 AST 0.18 ft	13:05 AST 0.61 ft	20:25 AST 0.20 ft	New Moon		06:24 AST	18:26 AST
OCT. Sat 01	00:18 AST 0.56 ft	07:55 AST 0.24 ft	13:51 AST 0.65 ft	21:42 AST 0.16 ft		06:24 AST	18:25 AST
Sun 02	01:35 AST 0.48 ft	08:30 AST 0.29 ft	14:33 AST 0.69 ft	22:45 AST 0.11 ft		06:24 AST	18:24 AST
Mon 03	02:59 AST 0.43 ft	09:04 AST 0.32 ft	15:11 AST 0.73 ft	23:35 AST 0.07 ft		06:24 AST	18:24 AST
Tue 04	04:18 AST 0.41 ft	09:36 AST 0.34 ft	15:47 AST 0.77 ft			06:24 AST	18:23 AST
Wed 05	05:20 AST 0.40 ft	00:16 AST 0.03 ft	06:06 AST 0.40 ft	10:10 AST 0.34 ft	16:22 AST 0.80 ft	06:24 AST	18:22 AST
Thu 06		00:51 AST -0.00 ft	06:39 AST 0.40 ft	10:45 AST 0.33 ft	16:58 AST 0.84 ft	06:24 AST	18:22 AST
Fri 07		01:24 AST -0.02 ft	07:06 AST 0.40 ft	11:23 AST 0.32 ft	17:33 AST 0.86 ft	06:24 AST	18:21 AST
Sat 08		01:56 AST -0.03 ft	07:30 AST 0.40 ft	12:03 AST 0.30 ft	18:11 AST 0.88 ft	06:25 AST	18:20 AST
Sun 09	First Quarter	02:26 AST -0.03 ft	07:55 AST 0.42 ft	12:47 AST 0.28 ft	18:49 AST 0.88 ft	06:25 AST	18:20 AST
Mon 10		02:56 AST -0.02 ft	08:22 AST 0.45 ft	13:37 AST 0.26 ft	19:30 AST 0.85 ft	06:25 AST	18:19 AST

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Coastal Clean-up Day



The clean up crew

STINAPA, in association with VIP Diving, Rent-O-Fun and SELIBON, conducted a coastal cleanup at Morotin/ Playa Grandi on September 17. A confirmed weight of 1,660 kg. (3,660 lbs.) of trash was collected to observe International Coastal Clean up Day

Morotin/ Playa Grandi is a beautiful area on the east coast of Bonaire bordering on Washington Slagbaai National Park.

STINAPA's Junior Rangers and CIEE students did most of the collecting. Large amounts of rubbish from neighboring countries, and even places much farther away, drifts with the ocean currents and washes up on our coast.

A few months ago SELIBON and the STINAPA Junior Rangers cleaned up the same area. But judging by the amount of trash that was there before the start of this clean up it seems that nobody has ever done anything in the area.

More than 100 trash bags were filled with this garbage. SELIBON weighed the trash to confirm the weight. Most of the trash consisted of plastic. One of the volunteers made a list of the trash she collected. On this list there are even injection needles.

If you think that this area is now clean after taking out so much trash you will be surprised. There is still so much trash left

PLASTIC MATERIALS COLLECTED	
Beverage Bottles: 2 Litres Or More (plastic)	200
Bottles: Bleach/cleaner Bottles	100
Bottles: Oil/lube	100
Cigarette Lighters	100
Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives, Spoons (plastic)	50
Food Wrappers (plastic)	300
Straws, Stirrers	1000
Syringes (plastic)	3
Toothbrushes	20
Plastic Fragments	2000
Rope (plastic/nylon)	20

behind! Bonaire needs the help of the whole community to keep this area clean. STINAPA cannot do this by themselves. If people or a social organization could adopt this area and do monthly cleanups this area could be kept clean. STINAPA's Junior Rangers have already adopted the beach at Lagoen and are keeping it in check with regular cleanups. ■

Press release

Help Plant Trees



Tree planting volunteers

On Saturday, October 8, from 8am to 12pm, Echo will be hosting a Tree Planting Day inside Washington Slagbaai Park. We are pleased to announce that the first reforestation area is complete and ready to give 600 trees a new, protected home. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact :info@echobonaire.org or Quirijn at 785-4128.

We will provide a shuttle service from the Park entrance to the work site for those who need it. Community groups are welcome! Refreshments and snacks will be provided. ■ Lauren Schmaltz- ECHO

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What's Happening



REGULAR EVENTS

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.

Nature Organization, STINAPA, has frequent events—bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for more information of events for the rest of 2016: stinapabonaire.org/events

Saturdays

•**Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)**- Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, across from Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products. .

•**Tera Kora Ranch Market—2nd & last Saturdays**- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2nd 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

•**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

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

• **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

#	DAY	NAME	Time in Port	Cruise Line
Cruise Ship Schedule				
No ship		Next Cruise Ship Oct 12	More ships in October	Royal Caribbean

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 Farm Tour—9 am.** Meet the goats, see milking, and more. **\$10 includes 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 Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information.

•**12-step meeting (AA/NA).** Every Wednesday at **Bonaire Basics**, Kaya Korona #47. Walk in from 18:45, starts at 19:15, ends at 20:30. Feel free to mail : 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com or 12stappenbonaire@gmail.com for more information.

• **Echo** offers free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tours at 4:30. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email info@echobonaire.org. Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

•**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday**. STCB presentation will be taking place upstairs at Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, Kaya Playa Lechi 24 courtesy of Dive Friends.

•**Chess Club** meets at to play starting at 6 pm in Tera Cora Ranch.

Fridays

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

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

• **Mangasina di Rei, Rincon.** See, Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Monday-Friday. Cultural Market last Saturday of the month. Call 786-2101

•**Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. Open Thursdays through Sundays. Call for reservations 717-3183 or 795-2021 Free but donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.

•**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**

•**Bonaire Museum**-on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. Free

•**Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free

•**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.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints --Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/ Espanol 9:00 am to 12 noon Add'l Info **(599) 701- 9522** Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm Add'l Info **(599) 701-2892**

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

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.)

Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride bonaireibc@gmail.com. **Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk** – Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol- Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 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

Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. Hours: 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm. Contact Ellen Cochran-Herrera at

ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or 005999-540-9800

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 27- CIEE PUBLIC TALK - "The ecological and historical treasures in the caves of Bonaire." CIEE, Kaya Gob. Debrot 26. 7:30 pm. Free. Light refreshments

Tuesday, Oct. 4—Celebrate World Animal Day at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, 3-5 pm. See page 18.

Saturday, Oct. 8

—**Tree Planting with Echo at Washington-Slagbaai Park.** Info at Echobonaire.org or call Qujirijn at 785-4128.

—**Festival di Kor in Rincon**, see poster on page 15



Sunday, Oct. 9 -Jong Bonaire 16th Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire, Spice Beach Club. \$15 adult, \$10, child. To benefit kids from Jong Bonaire. May sign in Saturday, Oct. 8, at Jong Bonaire or at the beach before the swim. Includes t-shirt, lunch, drink. More information call Jong Bonaire 717-4304.

Oct. 12—16—49th edition of the Annual Bonaire Regatta. Sailing races in the harbor and shore activities at Coco Beach. Info WWW.bonairegatta.org

Saturday, Oct. 15

—**Dive Friends Quarterly Clean up Dive**, 8am-5pm. Free air & potluck. Register 717-2929. Info- Divefriends.com

- **Brandaris Hike at Washington-Slagbaai Park**—sponsored by STINAPA. See a spectacular sunset from the top of Brandaris. Max 20 people. Pre-register at STINAPA, 717-8444. Info- Stinapabonaire.org

Saturday, Oct. 22—Birdwatching—sponsored by STINAPA, 5-6:30pm at LVV facility on Kaminda Lagoen. Reservation 717-8444. Maximum 15 people. Meet at LVV office next to wastewater tanks.

Sunday, Oct. 23— 7th Duo Xtreme Bonaire Mountain Bike Race. Registration Friday, 21st and Saturday, 22nd, 5-7pm at Divi Flamingo. Registration Sunday 6 am. Race starts at 6:30 am. More info Bonairextreme.com

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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.



BARS

Woodstock - the place to be to meet and have fun with Happy Hours, Dancing, Oldies on Vinyl, Live music and more. Downtown off the waterfront promenade, behind Terramar. Wonderful; atmosphere and warm hosts. Find them on Facebook.

BEAUTY

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

BIKES

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ON and IN the WATER

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if it's not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems. Ad on page 11.

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 Style on Kaya Grandi and new dive retail shop at the roundabout in Hato.

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. See pg. 2

OPTICIAN

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PHOTOGRAPHER

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, recently renamed Bonaire Vision Films & Photo, has a new website at www.bonairevisionfilms.com.

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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. Ad on back page



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.

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. See page 18.

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.



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Animal Shelter News

WORLD ANIMAL DAY AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER BONAIRE



• **Spread the word** – Tell friends and family about World Animal Day. Like and share our Face book page <https://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire/> and visit our website <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com/> Pick a few of the ideas from this website and suggest that your friends and family might like to get involved too.

• **Offer to help out at the Animal Shelter.** Or even better, volunteer your services on a long-term basis, not just for World Animal Day.

For more information call (+599) 701-4989 or 717-4989 or e-mail to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com and you are welcome to visit us at the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26 during opening hours, Tuesday to Friday, 9am to noon and 3 to 5pm, Saturday non-stop from 8am to 3 pm.

You are invited to Celebrate World Animal Day at the Animal Shelter Bonaire on **Tuesday afternoon, October 4, from 3 pm until 5 pm.**

Visit us for a tour to get to know the Shelter animals better and to give the cats and dogs lots of TLC!

We also can inform you about our boarding facilities and our free spay and neuter program.

The October 4th World Animal Day gives us all a chance to celebrate animal life in all its shapes and sizes and appreciate the positive influence that animals have in our lives every day.

What can you do to help the Animal Shelter Bonaire?

• **Adopt an animal** – If you have been thinking about sharing your home with a new animal companion, World Animal Day would be a wonderfully symbolic time to do so. But you must be 100% sure that you want to take on this commitment.

• **Sponsor or foster an animal** - World Animal Day would be a great day to make a pledge to sponsor a dog or cat at the Animal Shelter Bonaire.

• **Buy a few extra tins and packets of cat and dog food.** - You may donate them to the Animal Shelter. Blankets, collars, leashes, toys and feeding equipment also make useful donations.

SOCIAL MEDIA PHOTO CHALLENGE

Dear Animal Lover,
Whoever you are and wherever you are.

Would you like to help improve the lives of cats and dogs on Bonaire? We would like to ask you to take ONE photo of your loving (rescue) pet to help promote World Animal Day. Even if you aren't participating in an event for World Animal Day, you can still play an important role for the Animal Shelter Bonaire. Like our page <https://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire/> Share your photo with friends on social media and tag Animal Shelter Bonaire. If you'd like to tell the story about your rescue pet let us know. **Please e-mail the story and photo before the 3rd of October to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com.** ■

Story & photo by Nathalie Peterson



Pet Of The Week

CARTER

This handsome young man is one of the biggest cats to reside at the Shelter. Bonairean cats tend to be on the small side compared to American and European cats, so Carter is an exception to the rule. He weighs about 15 pounds and is not fat...just a big, strong boy. Despite his size, he is a gentle, quiet cat who one might describe as "lazy." He prefers napping and lounging as opposed to more "strenuous" activity.



Carter

Carter's large frame and unique facial markings and gray/black striped patches on his white coat make him a standout in the "looks" department. He is about a year and half old, and arrived at the Shelter in February with his much smaller sister, Cassie. Cassie recently found her fur-ever home and Carter is hoping that his chance of finding a loving guardian is just around the corner.

Carter would be a perfect "single cat" as he prefers to spend his time with people or on his own...napping in sunspots or chilling out in a cardboard box. He is, however, very protective of the other cats when it comes to dogs. When a Shelter "house" dog or other canine

resident comes to check out the cat compound Carter is the first to "charge" and let the dog know it better behave (that is if Carter isn't sleeping through the visit!). Seems Carter is not very fond of dogs, which is probably indicative of a bad experience when he was on the street.

Carter is healthy, sterilized, vaccinated and ready to add a large amount of feline love and companionship to your home. You can visit Carter and all the other Shelter residents at the Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Tuesday-Friday, 9am-12noon and 3-5 pm, Saturdays 8am - 3 pm non-stop. 717-4989. ■

Jane Madden-Disko



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THE STARS HAVE IT

September/October 2016



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

"Cygnus The Amazing Celestial Swan"

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Try to channel your energy into professional endeavors. Offer good conversation and a nice soothing lunch. You could have trouble persuading others to accept your ideas and opinions. You may find yourself in a predicament with family members. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can make financial deals, but it may be best if you're not using your own cash. Things are looking good for you, so open your eyes and get to it. Minor accidents may occur if you don't concentrate on what you're doing. You will find that uncertain individuals will want to draw you into joint ventures. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) It might be best to spend time fixing up your premises and making changes that will be appreciated. Accept the inevitable. Broaden your horizons and look into programs that will teach you awareness and relaxation. Pay attention to small but important details. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Travel will be good if you are seeking knowledge. Problems with relatives and friends could surface. You haven't been watching your spending habits and you may have been neglecting your duties. You may get some opposition. Personal changes will be to your benefit. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Don't blow situations out of proportion. You should regain some of your self esteem if you get involved in organizational functions. Someone envious of your popularity may challenge you to a debate. Avoid getting involved with married individuals. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) It's time you let your true feelings out. Put your efforts into being creative. Talk about your intentions and confirm that you both feel the same way. You will profit from home improvement projects and real estate deals. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You are best not to nag or criticize. Your persuasive nature will win the heart of someone you've had your eye on. You will learn a great deal about yourself if you go somewhere secluded. You may find acquaintances being deceptive. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Older family members will make demands on your time. You can ask for favors and get sound advice from close friends or relatives. Be aware that you don't get anything for nothing. New projects may lead you into a dead end. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't get into heated discussions. Changes in your home environment may cause friction. Don't get involved in secret affairs or underhanded involvements. Your determination and stamina will make your work look flawless and effortless. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Someone may be trying to damage your reputation. You might find added popularity with those around you this week. Empty promises are evident. You could be drawn to events that concern children. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation. Not the best day for business trips. The only thing you'll accomplish is a bad reputation. You can get into self awareness groups or look into physical enhancement programs. Your lucky day will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will be able to make favorable changes in your living quarters. Difficulties with children will surface if you try to break a promise you made. Groups and organizations that indulge in social events to raise money will be conducive to meeting new and exciting lovers. Sign up for courses that will help you understand yourself better. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday. ■ *Michael Thiessen*

Now that autumn has begun in the northern hemisphere, it's time to say farewell to the constellations that kept us company all summer long. One of the most beloved of these constellations is **Cygnus the Swan**. Even from brightly lit cities, this is a constellation that's easy to find. But, did you know that Cygnus has both a poetic and a scientific history that rivals many of the constellations we can see?



Just after sunset any night this week look almost directly overhead You can see the familiar stars of the **Summer Triangle: Vega, the brightest star in Lyra the harp; Altair, the brightest star in Aquila the eagle; and Deneb the brightest star in Cygnus the swan.**

To find the swan, simply draw a line from Deneb inward toward the center of the Summer Triangle. The first star you'll encounter is **Sadr**. This marks the heart of the swan. Then if you draw lines to the west and east of this star, you'll find two more stars. These mark the right and left wings of the swan. Going back to the star Sadr, we continue to draw a line outward to form the neck of the swan, ending at the star **Sibireo**.

In one legend, Cygnus the swan is said to be the great musician **Orpheus** who was transformed into a swan, and placed in the sky next to his harp, the constellation, Lyra.

However, in modern times, Cygnus has turned out to be a place of great discoveries.

During a rocket flight in 1964, a galactic x-ray source known as **Cygnus x-1** was discovered. Cygnus x-1 is now widely accepted to be a candidate for the first **black hole** we've discovered, and it's estimated to have a mass almost 15 times the mass of our Sun, yet an event horizon radius of only about 16 miles.

In more recent times, Cygnus has been the target of study by NASA's **Kepler space telescope**. The Kepler telescope studied over 100,000 stars in Cygnus. Its goal was

to find planets orbiting other stars, and since its mission began, thousands of these **extra-solar planets** have been discovered and confirmed. The **Planet Kepler- 22b** was announced as being the first **Earth-like planet** orbiting a Sun-like star.

And speaking of planets, if you ever get lost on **Mars**, Deneb is the north star on Mars. We never really think about it, but each of the planets has a different north star or has no north star at all.

All the planets in our **Solar System** rotate on an **axis**. The direction the axis points with respect to the plane of the Solar System determines the angle of **axial tilt**. Our Earth is tilted 23.5 degrees with respect to the plane of our Solar System. Mars tilts at 25 degrees and **Saturn** has a tilt of almost 27 degrees.

However, compare that with **Mercury** and **Jupiter**, which barely tilt at all; between 2 and 3 degrees respectively. Yet at the other extreme you have **Venus**, which is practically upside down at 177 degrees and **Uranus** which lies on its side at 98 degrees.

So since every planet tilts in a different direction, each planet should have a different north star; or, no north star at all. So that's why our north pole is pointing near **Polaris**, and Mars is pointing near Deneb.

So, if you ever get lost on Mars, look for Cygnus the Swan and you'll find north. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury

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