

It's Still
FREE

BONAIRE May 7-21, 2018, Year 25, Issue 10 Remember Mom on May 13
The REPORTER

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 796-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com



Volunteers at the opening of the Sunday Shelter Adoption and Book Fair



Keeping Bonaire Literate!

Another great book fair at the Animal Shelter Bonaire was held this last Sunday, May 6. What a fantastic service to the community—books of all kinds, in different languages, for adults, for children, sci fi, romances, non-fiction, thrillers, mysteries—everything you can imagine and they were inexpensive. \$1 per book or 6 books for \$5. Leftover books can be found at the Saturday Shelter flea market. Wonderful volunteers organized them beautifully, just like in a real library! And all the proceeds go to keeping the Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs. A Big Thank You to All!



As the 2017-2018 cruise ship season ends it's clear that **cruising the Caribbean has become big business.** Beginning in the last edition, and continuing in this edition on page 5, is a discussion of the merits of expanding and maintaining cruise ship tourism for Bonaire.

According to the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), in 2015 the Caribbean received 28.7 million stay-over tourists and 24.4m cruise passengers generating in total onshore visitor spending of about US\$30bn. Of this, around US\$2.4bn came from cruise passengers while US\$27.6bn – 11.5 times more – was spent by stay-over visitors. Put another way, although arrival numbers for cruise and stay-over visitors are roughly equal, the gap between what Caribbean nations earn from cruise and stay-over visitors remains substantial.

Last year cruise ship head taxes vary from \$1 in the Dominican Republic to \$60 in Bermuda, with a Caribbean average of \$8.92 per passenger. Bonaire's charge is currently \$2 with a rise to \$3.50 under consideration.

►The Netherlands has to show more muscle to Venezuela, Retired Dutch Lt. General Rob Verkerk says. He suggests a trip to Curaçao with frigates or a submarine. "You show that you have the potential to use this type of resource," according to Verkerk. The military previously warned of "military adventurism" from Venezuela towards the ABC islands.



Dutch Walrus-Class submarine navy photo

►Last weekend on Curaçao two drones dropped drugs and cell phones from the air during the outdoor exercise of the convicts in the 425 inmate SDKK prison. Prison Director Urny Florán did not detail how they were intercepted. "But it went very fast. One of the drones had five phones, the other drugs." Does the new Bonaire Prison have anti-drone defenses? (Dick Drayer)

►Another feather in Bonaire's conservationist hat.

In mid-April 2018, the WHSRN (The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve



WHSRN photo

Network) Council voted to accept the nomination of Cargill Salt Ponds Bonaire as a WHSRN Site of Regional Importance. This is the first WHSRN site in the Dutch Caribbean, and only the second WHSRN site in the Caribbean as a whole – joining Cabo Rojo Salt Flats in southwestern Puerto Rico. The nomination was prepared by **Daniel DeAnda Jr.**, Cargill Salt Bonaire's Production Manager, in collaboration with **Lisa Sorenson**, Executive Director of BirdsCaribbean.

The site comprises 3,700 hectares, 2,700 of which are artificial wetlands - primarily solar evaporation ponds for salt extraction. Brine shrimp fill the ponds, and the dike roads between them are covered with brine flies, a crucial food source that attracts thousands of shorebirds to the harsh landscape between these mountains of salt.

►Did you know that Echo has been growing over 5,000 trees in their reforestation nurseries just this year? They are planning to double that number before the start of the rainy season in October. Then, hopefully all of these native trees can be planted. To find out more, attend the presentation on Tuesday, May 8, at the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) building from 7pm to 8pm. (Also see Happenings page 12)

►Bonaire resident and proponent of "Laugh Therapy," **Florence Ditlow**, R.N., attended the 28th Annual Conference of the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor (AATH) in San Diego, CA, April 12-15. This year's theme was "Resilience: Har-

nessing the Power of Humor," and focused on the latest research in the field of neuroscience and its relationship to therapeutic humor and well-being. "The power of humor has meant better health, perspective and fun for so many!" said Ditlow.

She will share more resilience techniques at Plaza Resort every Thursday, 5:15- 5:45 pm, at the Smiling Buddha Yoga studio. There is no charge. Attend, laugh and learn. For more information, visit www.aath.org.

►The Bonaire island government announced a **price reduction for diesel, large and small cooking gas tanks and a price increase for gasoline and kerosene.** The price drop for diesel was 13.1 cents, for large gas tanks (100 lbs) \$1.62 and small gas tanks (20 lbs) \$0.28. Gasoline however rose by 1.2 cents and kerosene 2 cents. The next adjustment of fuel prices is in June 2018.

Gasoline 95	112.80 USDct per liter.
Kerosene	55.70 USDct per liter.
Diesel	80.00 USDct per liter.
LPG 100LBS	34.39 USD per cylinder.
LPG 20LBS	8.78 USD per cylinder.

►About 1,000 ex-students who live in the Caribbean Netherlands have received student loans from the *DienstUitvoeringOnderwijs (DUO)* in the Netherlands to further their education. **In order to deal with student loan defaults, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science offered the ex-students in the Caribbean a one-time, customized payment scheme.**

►THE HAGUE--The Dutch Government did not make the May 1 deadline to publish the research report to permit setting a benchmark for the social minimum* in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. They said more time is needed to allow the Governments to share their view on the preliminary report. **BES islanders were disappointed and disgusted** at this additional delay to correct such an obvious injustice.

On April 24 Dutch State Secretary of Social Affairs and Labor **Tamara van Ark** informed the entire Dutch Parliament of the delay. The State Secretary didn't provide a time as to when the draft report would be published and sent to Parliament. It was reported that she questioned "the factual accuracy, completeness and consistency" of existing research.

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

Two years ago the Dutch Parliament, specifically the First Chamber, insisted the Government set a benchmark for the social minimum*. All the research and surveys to meet that objective to date have shown the present support levels for social welfare allowances, the elderly pension AOV and the minimum wage, which are far below those of the European Dutch residents, need significant upward adjustment, perhaps above European levels in some cases. Independent evaluations show these low levels of support contribute to poverty which has been on the rise since the islands became Public Entities of the Netherlands in 2010.

* **The Social Minimum-The Dutch system is supposed to guarantee a minimum income for people who are not able to support themselves independently.** This social minimum serves as a policy boundary by which people can get financial help to achieve a 'minimum acceptable lifestyle for the Netherlands.*

► Pending the outcome of discussions on the exact fee structure for electricity, WEB has announced that the **current fee structure will stay in place for the month of May 2018.** Keep in mind that WEB already raised the per kW charge in January 18 by about \$05.

► Almost 3,000 Dutch people received recognition from the Crown on the eve of King's Day, 24 of them from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom: eight on Aruba, four on Bonaire and 12 on Curaçao but none from St. Maarten, Saba or Statia, reportedly because the nominating committee was preoccupied with the restoration of the is-



OLB photo

Bonaire's new members of the Order of Oranje-Nassau in the left foreground

lands following last season's hurricanes. **Bonaireans honored as Members in the Order of Orange-Nassau: Amado Felix, Sue Felix-Sheets, Patun Saragoza and Ezzie Semeleer.**

The annual honors list is always announced the day before the monarch's birthday and focuses mainly on people who have made a major contribution to society, usually in the form of volunteering. Some 64% of the recipients were male and the average age is 60. Most people were made Members of the Order of Oranje-Nassau – which has six levels. That honor was introduced in 1892 for foreigners and the "lower classes." The first Dutch honor was introduced by King Willem I in 1815.

► **Bonaire will soon have a new source of fresh water for agriculture and livestock.** After months-long preparation the Coöperatie Punta Agua was formalized on April 29, 2018 at the office of Notary Arends on Bonaire. The Co-Op has three member-initiators who form its Board:

(Continued on page 4)

Mystery Lionfish Disease

A few months ago people in Bonaire's water sports activities began to notice something strange about lionfish. Charter sailboat *Woodwind* saw numerous lionfish floating at the surface off the east side of Klein. Then a paddle boarder found one floating at the surface. It had a skin wound similar to an ulcer. Occasionally a speared lionfish exhibited similar wounds. As news of this spread via social media other cases on Bonaire were reported. Divers were asking is it disease, pollution, a predator? "Professional" lionfish dive-fishermen have seen a falling off in the quantity of their catch as well.

Concern is escalating as reports from the University of Florida related similar cases dating back to August 2017. The first documented report of lionfish with skin ulceration was of lionfish harvested from artificial reefs near Destin, FL where 40% of 503 lionfish presented ulcers. Researchers additionally received reports of ulcerated lionfish from the West Florida Shelf, East Florida Shelf, Florida Keys, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands and now Bonaire. STINAPA is involved in participating in the continuing research, but since the departure of CIEE the island is without a lab facility. Divers are advised to report details of their discovery on ulcerated lionfish to STINAPA.

To summarize the research to date from at the University of Florida:

1) The percentage of fish presenting with skin ulcers varies with the highest percent-



Ulcerous lionfish STINAPA photo

age of affected fish being reported from the Florida Panhandle.

(2) The proportion of lionfish with active ulcers in the Gulf of Mexico greatly declined in winter and early spring along the Florida Gulf Coast regions, and several fish displayed what appeared to be healing lesions.

(3) Diseased fish collected in the Gulf had a lower relative condition factor than apparently healthy fish -- i.e. they are significantly "skinnier" -- however, the effects of skin ulcers are still unknown.

(4) **Researcher have never received a report of human illness** due to ingesting healthy lionfish or ulcerated lionfish. But they cannot make any definitive statements regarding human health.

(5) Researchers from several Florida schools plan to continue monitoring observations and begin molecular studies on disease etiology, which will focus on a potential viral origin or association. □ G.D./press releases

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)



-Ms. Nadine A.C. Emerenciana, President.

-Mr. Harlton "Onnie" Emerenciana, Secretary.

-Ms. Martine Groenendijk, Treasurer. Nadine Emerenciana initiated the project. Without her tirelessness and driving force there would not be a Punta Agua. As *The Reporter* understands it, seawater from the east coast, near the Punta Blancu Farm, will be desalinated via a modern reverse-osmosis plant powered by renewable electricity. The product water will be optimized for farming and animal husbandry, not human consumption.

Punta Agua is planning a meeting in the near future to describe its plans and recruit more members for the Co-Op.

►According to an internal communication, the five Van den Tweel supermarkets

in the ABC Islands have been sold to a new owner, Gassan Azan from Jamaica. Gerard van den Tweel (73) will continue to manage the markets for up to five years. No changes to present procedures were mentioned. The BFG wholesaler is not included. -Dick Drayer

►A financial lien has been placed on the BOPEC facility and its contents by the Houston-based company, Conoco Phillips, to satisfy past debts. At press time there was no information on how this would affect the fuel supply to Contour Global which supplies electric power to WEB and its Bonaire customers. Contour

►Although the goal to bring Billy Valentine to Bonaire last month wasn't met, activities and fundraising are continuing. The updated donation Bank Account number for Bring Billy to Bonaire is Account# 100913605 MCB- Bonaire, Account name: Ban yuda Billy See story in the previous edition.



KPCN photo

Global, located adjacent to BOPEC, gets supplied by pipe line from a BOPEC tank.

►The Police Corps Caribbean Netherlands introduced their new operational uniform in Bonaire on April 30. Saba and St. Eustatius will follow in the third quarter of this year. The Biker Team also keeps their special uniform.

A four-week "wearing test" was conducted by police officers on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. The reactions of the officers involved were positive and it was decided to introduce the new uniform in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands. Bonaire Police will be the first to wear the new uniform shown at left.

►One of California's top practitioners and teachers of energy healing will be

conduction classes here in June. Susan DeSalvo-Reed, who has family on Bonaire, is again offering Bonaire classes at half the US price. Her Energetic Healing procedures are used by medical professionals as well as individuals who want to learn the proven techniques. See the poster on page 10 for more details.

►Remember your mother on Sunday, 7 May. You are here thanks to her. Celebrate together.

►One of *The Reporter's* phone numbers has changed. The new number +599 796-6125 replaces the previous one that had the same number with the 777 exchange code

G./L.D.



SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

AIRLINES

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

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ON and IN the WATER

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.

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RESTAURANTS

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

RETAIL

Dushi Shoes, Dushi Style, Reef & 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 2.

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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**QUESTIONING BONAIRE
CRUISE SHIP ECONOMICS**

Dear Bonaire Reporter;

First of all, thanks very much for your information provided for so long. I am a repeat guest and have come to Bonaire since 1986. When at home in Switzerland, I really enjoy reading your paper with high interest.

So now my comments: I just came back from Bonaire after a 3-1/2 week stay (April 2018) and was really shocked with what's going on with these cruise ships.

After downloading the 9 April issue of *Bonaire Reporter* I came across your first article in the Flotsam & Jetsam section -re. the tourism officials in Aruba said that cruise ships did not bring any financial benefit to Aruba.

I especially loved the passage "one that more than compensates for all those passengers creating unpleasant queues at attractions, generating traffic jams, and annoying the higher-paying overnight visitors."

I see myself as one of those "higher-paying overnight visitors" and it really pisses me off, that many days of the week you simply cannot go to downtown Kralendijk because of the masses of people. Also Sorobon and Coco Beach at that time are not usable. The passengers using the golf carts block the roads and the dramatic

increase of tour busses clog the roads, especially to the north and the dive spots. Talks with local people gave me the impression that only a very small group (mainly Dutch newcomers) make any money from of the ships' passengers. Most do not! Restaurant owners say that passengers drink at the maximum, a beer. Food is free on the ships. Shop owners related that the passengers just try on the clothes, but don't buy, but as a result, the clothes are full of sun block oil. One told me that when a cruise ship is in port she closes down the shop.

Why is the Bonaire government not listening to the people and the tourists who spend thousands of dollars to enjoy an unspoiled island and ignore the knowledge gained in Aruba (and in other places around the world)? I hope there is not a kind of corruption going on upon the shoulders of mother nature.

I heard also rumors among repeat tourists that a couple of years ago a selecting factor for deciding the visiting time in Bonaire was the season and eventually good flight offers. NOW, and that makes me very sad, that a third factor comes into the game and that's the cruise ship calendar.

Bonaire has to be very careful now not to scare away long term visitors (who spend real money) in favor of the cruise ships.

CCA photo



Cruise ship passengers disembarking

Even, when I hear, that Curacao has a passenger fee of 20 USD and Bonaire 6 USD (I heard that, so don't take it as a fact). *Editorial note -TCB says that Bonaire's fee is \$2.00/person, with a proposal going to raise it \$3.50*

Increasing the fee, would be at least the first measurement to reduce the amount of landings without losing money and maybe bring more money for Bonaire.

I read here in Swiss newspapers, that a lot of towns (like Venice in Italy) are already banning cruise ships because of the negative impact.

Why is Bonaire going the other way? Not understandable !!

Thanks very much for listening (and I think I am not alone with this opinion :-)

Didi (Zurich)

(A frustrated repeat guest)

The Reporter also wants letters and commentary that define the benefits of cruise ship calls and list the economic benefits to Bonaire, like local employment, increased recreational opportunities, profits retained locally, etc.

**Are Cruise Ships
Visits Worth The Trouble?**

Are the financial benefits for allowing large cruise ships to call at Bonaire worth the investment in port facilities, inconveniencing residents and other tourists, escalating traffic problems and discouraging higher-paying overnight visitors? More and more Bonaireans are asking that question. They find an answer in the research done by Professor **Ross Klein** at Memorial University of Newfoundland.



He finds that the touted huge economic benefits to compensate for all those passengers creating unpleasantness are a bit bogus. He discovered that the reports that show how much passengers are spending per shore visit (typically about \$80 - \$150 a day) are largely conducted by the cruise lines themselves (!) and lack a certain amount of scientific methodology. They mainly rely on surveys left in passengers' rooms to fill in when they return from their on-shore visit. The survey is completely voluntary and only a small percentage of passengers actually take the time to complete it, which any basic survey book

(Continued on page 6)

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Cruise Ships (Continued from page 5) or expert will tell you means it contains "voluntary sampling bias." A more scientific way is for island tourism departments to ask a randomly selected sample of passengers while they are visiting the port. It's difficult to recall purchases unless people sit down with their receipts. Imagine you went shopping and eating for a day and spent roughly \$80 – \$150 per person in your group and were given the survey below at the end of the day. It would be difficult for many to recall exactly how much was spent, especially when some of it may have been booked and paid for months in advance.

Survey expert, **Matt Champagne**, Ph.D., looked over the questionnaire as well. He had two immediate observations:

- 1) "They make the error of attempting to survey the facts. There are numerous observational and archival ways of comparing the amount of money spent on an island when a ship is in port vs. not in port, each with their own biases but all more accurate than relying on the recollection of the 2% or 3% of guests who bother to return the form."
- 2) "Responses may over-represent passengers who spent more. That is, few passengers will take the 20 minutes needed to fill out a 40-item survey that reveals exactly who they are, where they live, and how much income they make, just to tell their hosts that they only bought one T-shirt."

In other words, it's not terribly scientific.

"When local tourism organizations or ports conduct similar studies, they almost always find that the sums are significantly lower," says professor Klein. And that's if they disembark at all.

All those on-board waterslides, surfing machines, climbing walls and other attractions are affecting the bottom line for destinations. The idea of getting access to these on-board toys without the crowds is appealing. As **Kevin Sheehan**, CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line, explained in a *Skift* article (*Skift*, Inc. is a media company founded in 2012 that provides news, research, and marketing services for the travel industry), "more passengers are choosing to play on the ship rather than get off in some ports."

If they stay onboard, the cruise lines earn money at their spas, bars and shops. And, of course, cruise lines also earn money on the shore excursions. Not just by selling tours (typically at a 50% markup of that money), but also on fees for promoting shopping at certain stores (a modern, more sophisticated and lucrative twist on traditional kickbacks). In one example, Professor Klein cites a single shop in the Bahamas that paid \$100,000 a year to be included on a map and in the shopping program. "If a cruise ship is recommending a shop," says Klein, "they're getting money for it." The bottom line is that less money actually stays in the destinations than is officially calculated. **G.D.**

The next installment of this series will describe how destinations help sell cruises and get little in return.

DID YOU KNOW?

About the huge school of tightly-packed little fish swimming in the same direction that you come across while snorkeling or diving? If so, then you saw a "baitball," when small fish swim together in a behavioral response to predation.

While baitballs may be found in all oceans, from cold to tropical waters, the predators involved in these hunting parties differ. For example, if you're lucky enough, here in the Caribbean Sea you may see bottlenose dolphins, yellowfin tuna, marlins, blue runners, jacks, tarpons, yellow jacks, and even seabirds feasting on several thousands of small scad, sardines or juvenile jacks. But be quick with your camera, this exhilarating spectacle may not last long! Even large baitballs can be decimated to only very few survivors when so many predators are found feeding in the same area.

What you witness is not just one of Nature's amazing wonders, but is also a display of carefully-planned and coordinated survival and attack strategies. You see,



A diver meets a baitball

protection is the main reason why all those fish swim together at such high concentrations. Unlike a solitary prey, schooling fish may confuse and disorient the predator due to their large numbers, making it difficult to identify and select a single individual for a directed strike. Having their eyes located on the sides of their heads gives them a wide field of view which, in addition to swimming at constant speeds, creates the perfect conditions to distract. This ingenious defense mechanism acts as a danger signal by creating a single, all-seeing large body of fish able to sense changes in pressure and movement in the water. A fish of a different size,

(Continued on page 14)

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The 30th commemoration of Rincon' day began with the Scouts raising the town flag...



...and a Mass at the Catholic Church with a memorial procession



It was a time for friends from other islands to visit and party

Rincon Day 2018, the 30th time the event was held, really lasted more than a week. Streets were repaved, village houses decorated (the best judged house got a prize of a trip to Holland), musical events abounded, stands were constructed, goats were slaughtered, costumes finished and an air of expectation was everywhere. All agreed, it was the best yet. **G.D.**



More people than ever wore colorful traditional outfits. Beauty and excitement were everywhere



After dark the crowds swelled



Photos thanks to Rudolf Wout, Nina den Hayer, Elvis EJ Tjin Asjoe, Ivy Lo Tam Soen, Dalitza Rijna and others



Music was everywhere



The day after Rincon Day has the traditional bike parade

On the Island Since... 2001 – Youp Schmit

“I came here when I was six with my two brothers and my parents. Before we left I saw a windsurfing picture on a folder and I knew immediately I wanted to learn that. On Bonaire I got my first lesson from Ronald at Jibe City and I fell in love with the sport. And next to that there were all the local heroes: Taty, Tonky, Kiri and Choco. I looked up to them and to all the crazy tricks they could do on the water.

I started to compete in local competitions and did well. Then I began competing internationally, first at the Aruba Hi-Winds and then in international professional competitions. I wanted to go to the World Cup really badly because I felt I had a chance but I was too young, 14.

I asked Jibe City to help me out and they supported me to go to my first World Cup in 2010 in the Canary Islands, Spain. For the first time I was competing against the big boys who were my heroes, my idols and 10 years older than me! But I ended up in the Top 20. All the big sponsor brands approached me and wanted me on their team; it was a dream come true! I was in my last school year at Mavo, and the sponsors wanted me to go on the World Tour, but I was forced to finish the school year. It sucked, but I only missed two events out of seven, because five of them took place during my school vacation. So, I was still able to do what I wanted to do: to compete and travel and dedicate myself 100% to windsurfing.

That summer I graduated, but sadly,” *he grins*, “I couldn’t be at my graduation, because I had a World Cup to attend. From that moment on I was on board with the biggest brands on the market and I travelled the whole world. I was nine months abroad and three months at home. I got to go to Hawaii for photo shoots; I went to amazing competition and training locations all over the world; chasing wind and waves, being on the water every day.

I won two Youth World Champion titles on the professional World Tour and I was a standard dangerous rider on the Top Ten of the professional Men’s World Tour. In the summer of 2014 I was first in the Top 5, then in the Top 3. I was at the highlight of my career and heading for the top, but at every competition I felt my knee was not in its place and I knew I was making it worse, but I was so successful, I couldn’t stop.

Then, at the same location where I’d started my career, Canary Islands, Spain, I tore the ligaments in my knee and had to fly straight away to Holland where I was operated and an 11-



Youp Schmit Greta Kooistra photo

month-long recovery followed. My sponsors left me and I had to start at zero again. It was devastating but yet I was very hungry for a comeback.

I am a 100% go-getter. Of



Youp on the water in North Carolina Tom Brendt photo

course it’s the adrenaline and the tricks and the crazy things we do, but it’s also the pride and the honor – for me and the island. At

fracture in my calf and I was walking on crutches for weeks. But the sponsors stayed with me. I dropped to ninth place, which is still good in the World Cup, coming back from a year knee injury

and getting kicked out again because of another injury. I had three months to recover for the next World Cup tour competition,

“I got involved with ‘Stichting Project’ and ‘Forsa,’ helping kids learn how to windsurf, have fun and keep ‘m off the streets.”

the same time I feel very thankful for being in this moment. Windsurfing is my life. The moment I am on the water I forget everything that’s going on – it’s pure freedom.

From being injured to coming back, I had to find new sponsors and get my ass back on tour. It was a hard struggle to find someone who would believe in me but I found two new brands: a new board sponsor, 99 NoveNove, and a new sail sponsor, Avanti Sails. I got a tiny budget and together with the local support of Jibe City I was able to go back on tour in 2015. At the first event, going for a fifth place, I slipped out of the foot strap of my board, lost control and crashed really hard. This time it was a muscle

which was enough. I made it to the next event and finished that year in the Top 10. Okay, I wasn’t happy because I am always aiming for the best, but I was super stoked and thankful to be back on tour, travel and live this life style and be able to finally windsurf again.

Along the way I became an ambassador for the sport and for Bonaire windsurfing. I got involved with ‘Stichting Project’ and ‘Forsa,’ helping kids learn how to windsurf, have fun and keep ‘m off the streets. I’m helping the project to get local kids from eight to 15 into windsurfing. They love it and they open up and some of them speak English now because they’re always on the beach and talk to many differ-

ent people. It has a very positive influence on them; they learn to socialize and their behavioral problems get fixed in a playful and natural way. ‘Stichting Project’ uses it with some of the most difficult children. In general these kids are far from easy, but the moment they are with me, they cool down and their behavior becomes perfectly normal, because they want to go windsurfing with me! And along the way I guide them through the Forsa method. Besides my professional windsurfing this has become a whole other part of my life. It’s an amazing, giving back to Bonaire and the children of Bonaire. I love it!

Yet, I am still 100% a professional windsurfer and traveler around the world, so I can’t be with the kids all the time. But I share my videos and stories and adventures with all of them. While I am on tour I keep in touch and see how they are doing, how they are progressing and

I keep on motivating them from a distance.

Right now I just came back from North Carolina, where I was at the International Windsurf Tour. I took the Pro Freestyle title back to Bonaire, which was cool. It was great being there and winning with the whole windsurf world watching. When I arrived on my island, all the kids I support were at the airport together with a lot of other people, which was an amazing feeling and an honor.

On Bonaire we do have a lot of promising kids in windsurfing. One of them was – or is – Shepherd ‘Cheppi’ Gustowski. He is incredibly good He’s got more talent than I and he is an amazing kid, but... because windsurfing is



Joup being greeted at the airport following his return from North Carolina FB photo

such a poorly paid sport he decided to go study in Holland.

The worldwide windsurfing level is extremely high, but the financial return is extremely low. So you have to love surfing and training, but don’t expect to become rich. Even if you are in the Top 10, you are not making big money. I think when I am older I still will be very much involved in the windsurfing industry and windsurfing world, like coaching or being a board shaper. I do board designs for my board sponsor and I also help in the development of future windsurfing products like boards and sails and clothing. I already have a small clothing brand which is called ‘Hey You,’ which comes from ‘Hey Youp.’ I’ve sold my shirts on the beach to sponsor my windsurfing. People loved the shirts and the simple design. I started selling a lot in the global windsurfing world and it’s still a great success, thanks to the international group of tourists that visit the island and all the people I get to meet on my world tours.

When I am on Bonaire I get up at 5, eat a full breakfast. From 6 to 7:30 I work out. Then, from 8 to 11 I am a personal trainer at the gym, ‘Mr. Fat Killer,’ and at 11 I go to the beach to train on the water. I eat a big lunch and in the afternoon I pick up the kids to go windsurfing. Around 9 or 10 pm I fall asleep! That’s the program when I am here, non-stop! Bonaire to me is 100% home. It is my dream to one day build my house on this island and I am working on it very hard right now. I see my future here, because Bonaire is my mother, the island that built me and made me who I am today.” ■ Greta Kooistra



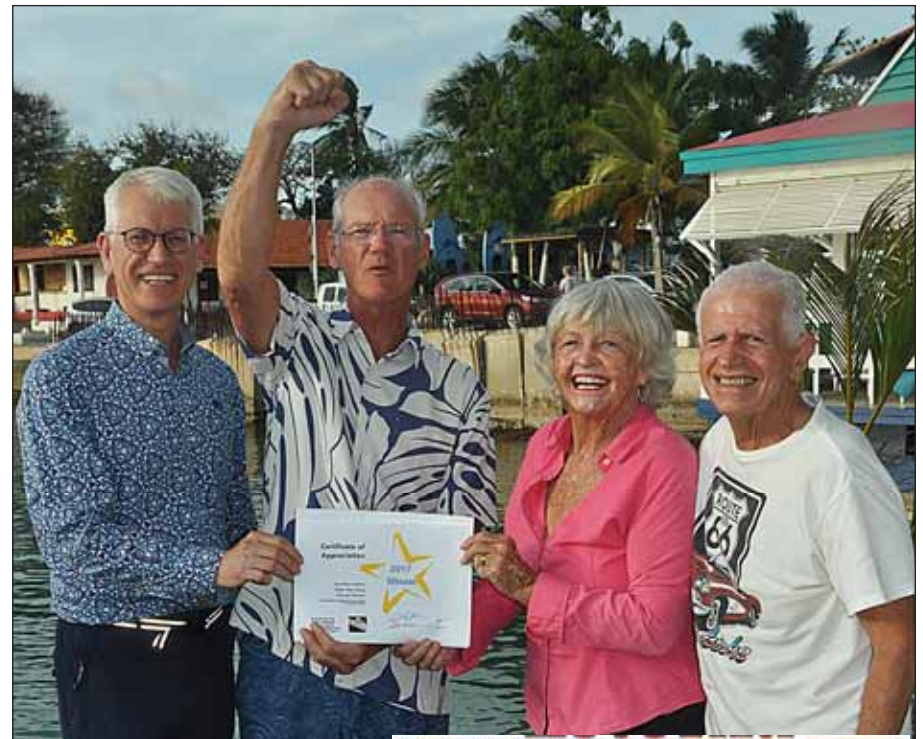
Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Primosten, Croatia



Steve and Peg Gallay sent us this photo taken on the Adriatic Coast of Primosten, Croatia, in May 2017. They wrote, "We are guests of beautiful Bonaire for the month of February every year." □

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands (CN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. All 2018 photos are eligible for the next contest.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter Annual Award Winner



Peter Berveling, center, and Job van Benthem, accepting for Marcel Daman, receive the certificate of Appreciation from the Reporter's Laura and George DeSalvo for submitting the winning "Picture Yourself in The Bonaire Reporter 2017."

The prize was a Dinner for Two at the new Porchia's Restaurant.

Peter is a frequent visitor to Bonaire.

Their winning photo was taken on the 3000-km., five-day car rally, called "The Garbage Run," from the Netherlands to the Baltic States with 500 other cars, all worth less than €500. They traveled in their decorated "Bonaire" car accompanied by their rooftop "flamingo." □



BEST CARE ZORGWINKEL

Nieuwe winkel voor
BEST Care Zorgwinkel Foundation

Architect: Jorge Luisiano Bonaire
Bouwaannemer: cts Constructora Tecnica Silvousa N.V. Bonaire
Opdrachtgever: NR Netherlands Caribbean Netherlands Realty BV Bonaire



Soon in our new home

The island's health care foundation offering products and services for sale and rent: hearing aids, special food products, diapers, diabetics, disability aids, impaired vision devices, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, electric scooters, patients beds and more. Cooperating with Bonaire's health care insurance

Opening Hours: 7:30-17:30 Non-Stop
Kaya Jean B. Vitté 3
Kralendijk Bonaire Caribisch Nederland
Tel:(599) 717-5543 Fax: (599) 717-5724



EVENT CALENDAR BONAIRE CULINARY TEAM

Don't miss out

We have quite a few dinners coming up for you to enjoy. The best thing is; you can already make your reservation for all of them! Our team trainings are every Sunday morning (not open for public), here we train full power to serve the best during the dinners and the competition! Also, stay tuned for the BBQ!!



6 May SOLD OUT
Fundraising Dinner
6pm – It Rains Fishes

13 May sold out
Fundraising Dinner
6pm – At Sea

BBQ OF THE TEAM
3 June, pending location

27 May
Fundraising Dinner
6pm – Jibe City

10 June
Fundraising Dinner
6pm – It Rains Fishes

TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN
22- 26 June in Miami

BONAIRE CULINARY TEAM 2018

[f Bonaire Culinary Team](#)

Reservations:

+ (599) 787 4010 or 701 6820

dekok@culivise.com

Flamingo Mystery



Bonaire's usual February baby flamingo boom has taken an unexpected and worrisome turn. Relative large numbers, more than 10 times normal, of young flamingos, both chicks and juveniles, have been turning up on the roads and populated areas of the island. The specific cause of the exodus from their normal nesting zones is uncertain. According to Elly Albers of Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab, so far this year more than 100 baby flamingoes have been brought in to her Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab at Mangrove Center near Lac Cai: 30 are in house now, 43 have been released and 15 to 20 have died. The time that the first ones were brought in was at the same time as the onslaught of the sargassum arrival in March. The chicks (under 6 months who need to be hand fed) and juveniles (6- 12 months) were weak and malnourished. Some had already died by their nests at the creche.

A STINAPA press release says it's possibly due to high winds or low tides which have cut the food supply to adult flamingoes. The tide has remained low and remains of the sargassum assault may have poisoned some habitat. The youngsters' presence in populated areas is attributed to strong winds blowing them away, but even with moderate winds they're still weak and underweight

Consequently, the adult parents or "baby sitter" flamingoes cannot produce enough regurgitate to feed their baby chicks during their first six months of life. So some adults must fly south to the vast salt pans of



Elly Albers feeding one of the chicks with a tube-syringe. About eight others were waiting in line.

coastal western Venezuela to feed and then return to Bonaire. The birds are fast flyers; the trip takes only a few hours. It's a normal behavior, but never in living memory have so many baby flamingoes gone AWOL from the nesting area.

But the economic situation in Venezuela has resulted in human food shortages. According to *The Miami Herald* and other media that may be a death sentence for the returning birds as people are now shooting flamingoes for food.

No one really knows the reason. At this time Most of our flamingos breed in the flamingo sanctuary in Pekelmeer, a Ramsar site, which is completely off-limits and managed by Cargill. But the water level of Pekelmeer where most nests are located is not regulated by Cargill and is too low for their source of food. The tide has remained low and there are still remains of the sargassum present.

At the Wild Bird Rehab the babies are housed in cages with the youngest group, eight to nine weeks old, who need to be fed with a high protein reconstituted food via a syringe four times a day (see photos). Older birds who are brought in who are weak are

also fed this food until they are stable.

At about eight weeks, normally developing chicks start to get their feathers and become "juveniles." At that point they can start to eat by themselves. In the Wild Bird Rehab they're fed a pellet mix soaked in water in a shallow dish.

Elly says that Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab got started with the oil spill in Trinidad last summer that affected our birds. She reached out to Odette, a vet in Curaçao, and Monique from *Stichting Vogelklas Kare Schot* in Holland which deals with 10,000 injured birds a year. They gave training on handling, how to "water proof" birds, how to draw blood and more.

On Bonaire Elly has dealt with tropic birds, shearwaters, ospreys, egrets, barn owls, ruddy turnstones, caracaras and pelicans

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you see chicks and juveniles outside the sanctuary, follow Stinapa's rescue guide <http://stinapabonaire.org/flamingo-rescue-guide/>

Elly emphasizes that these birds are wild and should be treated calmly and quietly. Do not pet them. Wrap a towel around them and keep them quiet until they're brought into the Rehab which is on the road to Lac Cai, next to the Mangrove Center.



Tube feeding a really tiny flamingo, four times a day



The younger the bird, the straighter the bill

Donate Royal Canin Convalescence Support Instant Diet. You may ask friends to bring it down or donate to the collection box at Bondigro Supermarket which will deliver it to the Rehab center.


Cash donations can help to pay for the food and resources needed to save all these chicks. You may donate via the Mangrove Center, MCB Account 41010104, specifying "rehab" as the reason. Or, via GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/help-the-flamingo039-on-bonaire> **L.D./G.D.** Photos by Elly Albers & Laura DeSalvo



Buena Vista Optics

- Experienced Staff**
- Eye Exams on site**
- Insurance Accepted**
- Advanced Equipment**
- Lens Fabrication**
- Top Brands: Ray Ban, Oakley, Lacoste, Chanel, more**

☆☆☆ New Location ☆☆☆
Kaya Grandi 36, Across from Littmans
Phone: 717-9181



ENERGETIC TOUCH CLASSES

Coming to Bonaire

JUNE 23, 2018 - Energetic Touch 1
 JUNE 30, 2018- Energetic Touch 2
 Hosted by Yogarriba 8am to 6pm

For Beginner and Experienced Energy Workers

Take one or both classes! You will learn hands on techniques to heal yourself and others. Discover techniques for pain management, balancing, clearing, back work, advanced practice and more! These techniques are used all over the world in hospitals, wellness centers and homes. Energetic Touch Classes are life changing.

Half Price for Bonaire- \$159/class or \$300 for both

For more information and registration
 Contact Susan
 Email: Susandereed77@gmail.com
 Website: www.healingtouchwithsusan.com
 Phone in US: 707-355-0959

A Garden? Just Do It

TROUBLESOME PLAGUE OF ANTS

I've heard it from so many people these days: ants in the house, ants everywhere in the yard, ants all around. I've had the same problem so I needed to look for information on how to get rid of them in the house. They were coming from far away. I followed the line and it started from the street, from the dirt container to my yard and into the house. That was a real awful thing. They were everywhere: in my food (stored food, fresh food), everywhere on the kitchen counter, in the bathroom, in my bed, in my plants, I almost went crazy from it.

So I went into action and I GOT RID OF THEM! Oh, what a relief.

So let me share with you all the information I found and my experience and I hope you will be as successful as I was.

One of the most common household or yard pests has got to be the common ant. There are over 12,000 species of ants. The most common is probably the regular pavement ant, the ones that come into your home as soon as you spill sugar and forget to sweep it up. They like sweets and if they don't find them outside in your garden, they will come inside and find what they need. Another common one is the carpenter ant. These guys start eating your home if you find them indoors. So our question is, how do I get rid of ants in my garden and home without pesticides?

I wanted to use something harmless in the garden because I don't want pesticides to get onto my vegetables. So I looked for info and also I knew a simple solution from Grandma. Let me start with her remedy. Grandma used her morning urine on the ant nests in the yard. As soon as she noticed a lot of ants she looked around to find the nest and poured her urine on it. It helps, I tell you. I know people here who follow this advice and they got rid of the ants in their yard. It's a cheap remedy, nature friendly and you always have it with you! Ha ha. Grandma was the best in these down-to-earth solutions. (The secret is that ants don't like the sour smell of pee). But now, what to do when the nest is near your neighbors or they're coming in the house. You cannot go to pee there. No way.

So here are some solutions to try when you don't like grandma's shocking way to deal this problem.

-Pipe tobacco. Soak the tobacco in water overnight and make tea with it. Discard the wet tobacco, pour the liquid over the ant hills and soak them. Wear gloves because your hands will smell for hours from the strong tobacco smell. This tea can be used for other bugs too and against the white fly (piespies).

-Mix boric acid and sugar together to make a paste. About one tablespoon of boric acid to a cup of sugar. Drop pieces of this paste near the hills and anywhere you see ants. They will feed on the poisoned sugar and take it back to their nest to the queen, which will wipe out the whole colony. You also can mix **corn meal with the boric acid and a few drops of water.** After many remedies I tried this one, and finally I got rid of the ants. I put the paste around the house and especially close to the windows and doors where they used to come inside. After three days no ants in the house any more. This was just a week ago. So it means that it works. They took it to the nest which is maybe in my yard but also somewhere else. But anyway, without strong pesticides



Keep your cooked and/or sweet food safe. Put it in a bowl with water. When I had that ant attack in my kitchen this was the only way to keep my cooked food safe!

I got rid of them.

- Good old fashion **Clorox bleach** in a small spray bottle. Spray it right on the nest when you find it.

- **Boiling water** on the nest.

-Regular black pepper, red pepper, nutmeg powder, baking soda, chalk. They don't like powders and certain smells on their legs. So when they smell this, they stay away from that spot. But then they still come via other ways. That's why they came via my bathroom window into the house. So I needed to put these powders everywhere, which is impossible. The best solution for me was to let them take something to their nest, which work out the best.

- **Household vinegar, fresh lemon juice** works too for cleaning the kitchen. Ants don't like the smell.

On the other hand killing all the ants in your yard is not good for your plants either. Ants play an important part in the health of the soil and bringing over seeds and other stuff. Unless it is the nastiest ant infestations, try to find some creative ways to deal with them.



Corn meal mixed with boric acid and baking soda put around the house and where ant lines are. It helps.

Garden ants can actually be beneficial by crawling around from bloom to bloom looking for nectar, and they can kill off harmful

Making Bonaire "Accessible"

OUR WHEELCHAIR-CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE, PART 10- BECOMING DISABLED



Not every person with physical challenges was born that way. Oftentimes they acquired the handicap after an accident, a CVA, a disease, etc. This means that they had to learn to accept and to adapt, which is a very hard and long process. This acceptance is just like a mourning process. They lose something that was very important and need to learn how to cope. It starts with denial. After that there is anger—anger at the world, the people surrounding them and caring for them. Then there comes the sadness. The bitterness ...and at last comes the acceptance.

Now this is a very long process and not everybody runs the process in the same way and in the same sequence. Some people stay for a very long period of time in the anger phase and never reach the acceptance stage, which, of course, is very understandable.

But almost all these people get to stay in a convalescent center where they can learn. Everything that is needed to learn a life as normal as possible is taught by therapists who are highly specialized. Psychologists, physiotherapists, ergotherapists, logopedists, and of course a long line of specialized doctors help and guide the patients in this acceptance process and help them to be able to function on an acceptable level.

This takes hard work and dedication, for the patient as well as the therapists. Anger, tears, deep sadness, but also defeat and winning. But in the end it is all worth it, because they can leave the convalescent-center and live at home again with their families, where they belong, and who are by their side 24 hours a day.

And being at home also is hard work! Because you need to keep up, exercise every day, stay on it because if not... you go back to stage 1 again. And that is not where you have fought for so hard and so long.

On Bonaire we have no convalescent center. We need to go to Curacao to get

this kind of help. That means that you cannot have regular visits from your loved ones. Or they need to go and stay there for a long period of time to be with you.

So we have been thinking ... would it not be awesome if we could have a center like that on Bonaire? We have the hospital, the *Kas di Kuido* (old folks home), the FKPD (disability center). One of those could easily create a small facility where a few patients at a time could stay and all the therapists could come in and offer their services. We have a lot of good para-medicals here on Bonaire, and if needed, we could fly them in. Just like it happens now: neurologist, optometrist, gynecologist, every specialist comes to Bonaire, stays for three months and leaves and another takes over.

It is an idea that deserves a good thinking about.

MiVaBo is working together with the FKBO on an interesting project. They visit the schools where they tell about life with a handicap and let the children experience how it is and feels when you have to be in a wheelchair. This is an eye opener.

Should you, with your organization, like to experience this as well, you may contact these organizations and make an appointment: MiVaBo at WWW.mivabo.org and FKBO, phone 717-5765.

□ Story by Ria Evers-Dokter



caterpillars. These ants do not typically harm vegetation by stripping leaves from plants. The only time the ants might pose a problem is if the population becomes very large, resulting in an outright infestation.

Something to watch for with ants in the garden is aphids, Ants are attracted to aphids due to the fact that aphids give off a sweet secretion. The ants will also protect the aphids from predators. If you do find ants in your garden, check to make sure that aphids are not present as well. Treat any found aphids as soon as possible.

Be careful with ants too. They may even spread bacteria like E.Coli, salmonella, Shigella, Streptococcus, and Staphylococcus.

A last solution against ants is the Ultrasonic Ant Repeller, an electrical device which plays sounds that you will never be

able to hear, but they say you get rid of the ants in only 48 hours. That would be good in your kitchen if you don't want to use anything else.

So, you've got it all now: work for you in your yard and in the house when you have ant problems. Remove old useless things from the yard, clean up heaps of dead leaves and rotten wood, look under stones and rocks where ants and bugs like to make nests and pee there (ha ha), clean things like the Selibon container and around the house.

Start now. Just do it. □ Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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. Entry fee based on income level.

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 2017: stinapabonaire.org/events

Saturdays

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

•**Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers Market) at Kriabon-First Saturday of the Month**. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon

•**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 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

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

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.

Wednesdays

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

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

•**General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)** -Every Wednesday at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: 12stepbonaire@gmail.com

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

• **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.

Fridays

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

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 Wilhelmmina; 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 Cochrane-Herrera at ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800 English//Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

Cruise Ships

Date	Ship	Time	#PAX
09-May	<i>Carnival Sunshine</i>	0800-1600	2974
10-May	<i>Equinox</i>	0700-1600	2850
15-May	<i>Monarch</i>	0700-1800	2744
16-May	<i>Caribbean Princess</i>	0700-1700	3200
22-May	<i>Monarch</i>	0700-1800	2744

EXHIBITIONS

— “**Salute to the Sailors**”— old maritime photos from the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation, Museo Bonaire, Kaya Kachi Craane #34, free.

—**Coral Restoration Exhibit- Terramar Museum**

— **Mead Lowance Art Exhibition** at Bistro de Paris Restaurant. Modern mixed media and texture paintings inspired by nature. Free entry

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

•**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, 717-0423, 780-4327

•**Museo Bonaire** on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte, Kaya Kachi Craane #34. 717-8868. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. Free

• **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

•**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.

•**Yana's Fine Art Museum at Lagoen Hill 19**- Call for appointment: 599 785 -5002. Free entry.

•**Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Thursday through Saturday and cruise ship days, 10am-4pm. Free entrance ■

CLOSE IN EVENTS

Tuesday, May 8— Presentation by Echo Foundation at the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) from 7 to 8 pm. Kaya Finlandia #10 Reforestation results including data on growth and survival rates of thousands of native trees planted on Bonaire

Thursday, May 10 - Ascension day, Holiday

Saturday, May 12— Cleanup at Te Amo and Donkey Beaches. Sponsored by STCB, Jr. Rangers, Wildconscience, Selibon, 8:30-11am. Info: [Kaj Schut- 717-2225, cepa@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:KajSchut@bonaireturtles.org)

Sunday, May 13 —Mother's Day —Culinary Team Dinner-Sold out (more on page 9)

Saturday, May 19 — F.K.K. Animal Rescue Open Day in Washikimba from 11am to 3pm. Phone 599 780 8020 for directions.

Sunday, May 27— May 28-June 4 —Bonaire Restaurant Week

June 3—Bonaire Culinary Team BBQ. More on page 9

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset	
Mon 07	Last Quarter	00:13 0.24 ft	05:58 0.70 ft	14:20 -0.23 ft	20:26 0.35 ft	6:13	18:50	
Tue 08		01:07 0.23 ft	06:35 0.65 ft	14:46 -0.20 ft	20:50 0.39 ft	6:13	18:51	
Wed 9		02:04 0.22 ft	07:13 0.59 ft	15:10 -0.16 ft	21:15 0.45 ft	6:13	18:51	
Thu 10		03:07 0.20 ft	07:55 0.50 ft	15:32 -0.12 ft	21:43 0.52 ft	6:12	18:51	
Fri 11		04:18 0.17 ft	08:41 0.40 ft	15:52 -0.08 ft	22:15 0.60 ft	6:12	18:51	
Sat 12		05:37 0.12 ft	09:37 0.29 ft	16:13 -0.04 ft	22:51 0.69 ft	6:12	18:52	
Sun 13		06:58 0.04 ft	10:50 0.19 ft	16:34 -0.01 ft	23:31 0.79 ft	6:12	18:52	
Mon 14		08:13 -0.06 ft	12:26 0.11 ft	16:58 0.02 ft		6:11	18:52	
Tue 15		00:16 0.87 ft	09:15 -0.17 ft	14:17 0.08 ft	17:30 0.05 ft	New Moon	6:11	18:52
Wed 16		01:06 0.94 ft	10:09 -0.27 ft	15:53 0.10 ft	18:20 0.09 ft	6:11	18:53	
Thu 17		01:57 1.00 ft	10:56 -0.35 ft	16:54 0.14 ft	19:39 0.13 ft	6:11	18:53	
Fri 18		02:51 1.03 ft	11:40 -0.41 ft	17:37 0.21 ft	21:06 0.15 ft	6:11	18:53	
Sat 19		03:44 1.02 ft	12:22 -0.44 ft	18:17 0.28 ft	22:29 0.17 ft	6:10	18:53	
Sun 20		04:38 0.99 ft	13:02 -0.44 ft	18:57 0.37 ft	23:47 0.17 ft	6:10	18:54	
Mon 21		05:31 0.91 ft	13:41 -0.42 ft	19:38 0.47 ft		First Quarter	6:10	18:54

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Did You Know (Continued from page 6)
color, speed or temporarily away from the group represents the perfect target.

However, schooling fish are not the only ones that have tricks up their sleeves. Predatory fish, birds and mammals have some really efficient strategies to increase their hunting success, which focus on the baitball's vulnerabilities. Pikes, for example, fish similar to barracudas, rely on stealth and powerful, sudden movements. After orientating to nearby prey, they use their pectoral fins for propulsion. Once closer, they accelerate and then strike. You may think this method would not be effective. Without the element of surprise it should be 'game over' for them. Yes, it might be...sometimes... However, their body shape is less detectable by prey from a cross-sectional view (from the side). Tarpon gang up like wolves and herd the school until one of the small fish makes a mistake and then WHAM! It's a goner. Whether using brute force or high intellect, the marine world never ceases to amaze. Did you know that, often in pairs or in small groups, thresher sharks are known to scare and confuse their prey by circling it and splashing the water. Then, in a powerful strike like a whip, they stun the fish using their incredibly long tail fin.

As you can see, several factors determine the survival of a baitball. However, the biggest threat for many of the ocean's wonders is still mankind. Future generations may not be so lucky enough to see these majestic displays in their natural setting. There is still hope for our oceans, though... but time is running out. Will future generations still be able to witness these beautiful works of Nature in the wild? Or perhaps only in aquariums? □ *Story by Alessandro Corubolo, STINAPA intern. Connecting People With Nature.*

Alessandro Corubolo is an intern from Italy working in the Nature Unit. He's currently involved in numerous marine conservation projects including daily Sargassum monitoring, coral bleaching analysis, sponge transplantation and bird monitoring. In addition, he will also help with outreach and education.

He is a graduate in Marine Biology from the University of Aberdeen.



ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

CAN YOU HELP?

How can you say "no" to this precious puppy? He and his Shelter roommates need your help.

Many of our Shelter volunteers are "seasonal." They arrive on island in October and depart back to their "other" home in May for the warmer weather. In addition, two of our long-time, year-round volunteers are leaving the island and returning to Holland permanently next month. In short, we need your help! If you have two hours to spare on any morning of the week, the puppies, kittens, dogs and cats would really appreciate it. Duties include cleaning kennels, washing and refilling water and food bowls and the best part....playing with all the Shelter residents! If you can help out any morning from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. (there is some flexibility in these hours), please contact us at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com, stop by during open hours for a visit or call us at 701-4989.

Want to do more than just volunteer? The Shelter is also looking to fill paid staff positions as animal care giver. If you have a big heart for animals and are looking for a part time job, 18-22 hours per week, the Shelter would love to talk with you. Please send an email to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com to arrange an appointment. □

Story & photo by Jane Madden-Disko



Pet Of The Week

MEET MISS MIKKIE

Mikkie is a quiet, loving, very big beautiful cat with a sad story. She is about 15 years old and was brought in for boarding at the Shelter while her owners prepared for their move back to Europe. Staff was told the husband would pick Mikkie up in two weeks to take her back to Europe with him. The day arrived for Mikkie to be picked up and no one came for her. Weeks went by and all attempts to contact her owners failed....she was abandoned after 15 years!

Mikkie is very healthy and quite large for a female cat. She has "longish" soft, silky hair and a big fluffy tail and loves to be stroked and cuddled. She knows her name and will come when you call her. Mikkie deserves a REAL loving home in her twilight years. In a good home, protected from harmful elements, she could very well live into her 20's!!

If you are looking for a loving, affectionate, quiet companion...please come and meet Mikkie. Remind her that there are human guardians willing to give her a truly fur-ever home and she will love you unconditionally for as long as she lives. You can visit Mikkie and her companions at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989. □ *Story & photo by Jane Madden-Disko*



MISS MIKKIE





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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

CANIS MAJOR AND CANIS MINOR

Have you been watching that bright star in the western sky after sunset? It not a star but a planet Keep watching **Venus** as she climbs higher in the sky.

We often write about **Orion the Hunter** in the Sky Park, but rarely do we ever get to talk about his dogs, **Canis Major** and **Canis Minor**.

After Orion was stung by **Scorpius** the Scorpion, he was placed in the sky. However, like most dog-lovers, Orion was lonely without his beloved hunting dogs. So, Zeus placed his dogs in the sky to keep him company.

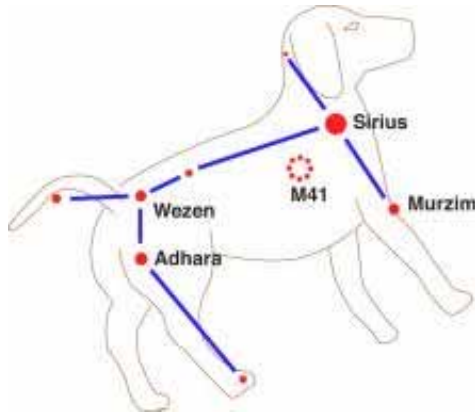
About an hour after sunset, any night this week, facing south. High in the sky, you'll see the familiar stars of Orion the Hunter. The three stars forming his belt make him easy to find.

To find Canis Major, use **Orion's belt** and start with the star on the far right; that star is **Mintaka**. Then draw a line from Mintaka, through **Anlinam** and **Alnitak** and keep going and you'll run smack dab into the brightest star in the Sky Park. That star's name is **Sirius**. Sirius is the brightest star in the night sky because it's relatively close to us. At roughly eight light years away, Sirius definitely makes its presence known. You can easily see Sirius twinkling brilliantly in the southern sky.

The name Sirius comes from the Greek word for "scorching" and it's actually a **binary star system**. The companion star, **Sirius-b** is a white dwarf with an orbital period of almost 50 years. Sirius-a and Sirius-b had their smallest **angular separation** from each other back in 1993. Their greatest angular separation will happen between 2020 and 2025.

Up and to the left of Sirius we have **Muliphein**, a blue-white giant star 441 light years from **Earth**, and on the other side of Sirius we have **Mirzam**, Mirzam is 500 light years away and its name means "the announcer, because from most locations, it rises just a few minutes before Sirius.

Just to the south and east of Sirius, you'll see a small triangle of stars which mark the hind quarters of **Canis Major**. The star at the top of the triangle is named **Wezen**, a yellow-white supergiant about 1600 light



years from us. This star's name means "the weight" and for good reason. Wezen is massive! It's 17 times the mass of our **Sun**, over 50,000 times as bright and its diameter is the same as the orbit of the Earth. Therefore, if it took the place of the Sun in our solar system, we would be skimming across its surface.

Just to the left of Wezen we have the star **Aludra**. Aludra is even brighter than Wezen, but only half its diameter. Aludra is a blue-white **supergiant**, shining over 176,000 times as bright as our Sun and is a whopping 2000 light years away.

The other star in the triangle is **Adhara**. Today, Adhara is 430 light years away, but almost 5 million years ago, Adhara was close enough to the Earth to be the brightest star in the night sky, dramatically outshining Sirius and even rivaling the brilliance of the planet Venus.

Let's now talk about Orion's other hunting dog, **Canis Minor**. Canis Minor only has two stars you can clearly see from most locations. But, believe it or not, this tiny constellation has over 50 stars!

To find Canis Minor, take Orion's shoulder stars **Bellatrix** and **Betelgeuse** and draw a line toward the east and you'll run into the two stars **Procyon** and **Gomeisa**. Procyon is the brighter of the two and is only 11 light years from us.

Gomeisa is 162 light years away and is 195 times as bright as our Sun with a surface temperature of over 20,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Get outside tonight and check out Orion's two hunting dogs in all their celestial splendor. □ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



THE STARS HAVE IT

May 2018

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your lover may be annoyed if you have been flirtatious or not attentive to their needs. Opportunities for romance will flourish through travel. Try to spend time with those having similar interests. Residential moves will be hectic and may be unsatisfactory. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can be sure that any dealing with large institutions should go well. Don't even bother trying to get their approval on the things you want to do. Don't make promises that you can't possibly keep. You can make extra cash if you act on a hunch. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Difficulties at an emotional level may be likely. Don't make promises that you can't possibly keep. You can meet new and exciting lovers through work related projects. It might be time to do some of those chores at home. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You can make financial deals, but it may be best if you're not using your own cash. Your involvement in sports or entertainment will lead to new romances. Changes in your domestic scene are apparent. You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Do things that involve children. Be careful not to misplace your wallet or belongings. A better diet, exercise, or a change to a relaxed atmosphere could be ways to soothe your nerves. Keep an open mind when dealing with youngsters. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Be careful not to hurt the ones you love. Put your efforts into moneymaking ventures. Try to be precise in your communications. Don't be too quick to judge. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You are best to move quickly and to get in good with the boss. Dazzle them with your

intellectual conversation. Your partner's a little jumpy. You will have additional discipline that will aid you in your objectives. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Pleasure trips will induce exciting and passionate encounters with those of foreign extraction. You can help them more than they can help you. Involvement in groups will be favorable. Business partnerships will prove lucrative. You can change your living arrangements. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may become rundown if you take on too much. Find ways to make extra cash. Start making things or reusing rather than buying ready made. Make some notes regarding the changes that you should make. Things have been moving so quickly that you need to do something physical to release your tension. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Insincere gestures of friendliness may be misleading. Your mind will be on matters that deal with secret affairs. Your mate may not have been honest with you. Chances to express your ideas and beliefs can bring popularity as long as you're not arrogant. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday..

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you. Patience will be of utmost importance. Go with the flow and don't let the unsettled atmosphere get on your nerves. Get involved in jobs that require creative input. You can win points with both peers and superiors. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Make arrangements to spend quality time together. This may not be your day if you are overly melodramatic and unnerving everyone around you. Your creative ideas must be put to good use. You need to put some trust in others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday. □

Michael Thiessen

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