

**IT'S
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FREE**

BONAIRE

September 30 to October 7, 2005 *Volume 12, Issue 36*

The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Artists at the Cinnamon Gallery: Dianir Rivas-Torres, Sipke Stappert Jake Richter, Nina Ledezma, Willie Dijkstra, Linda Richter. (front) Avy Benhamron, Wilna Groenenboom

**A New
Art Year**

Page 10

Flotsam and Jetsam

Atlantic Airlines, a new business, is in the final stages of completion for operation out of Curaçao. According to the Dutch language newspaper, *Amigoe*, the feasibility study is necessary to obtain its business license. Atlantic Airlines will pursue its Business and Air Operator Certificates simultaneously to save time. It plans to base three Boeings 737-200s on Curaçao to fly to Caribbean destinations and South America. Cura Hulanda resort developer Jacob Gelt Dekker is involved with the company.

► **The southern Caribbean was without centralized air traffic control** beginning last Monday afternoon and lasted for 20 hours. Many flights were delayed and some cancelled. It was caused by a defective \$250 "strip printer" at the control tower at Mahuma, Curaçao. The printer output strips, part of the 16-year-old air traffic control system, are used to coordinate aircraft movements.

The system is due for replacement next year when a new radar installation goes on-line.

► **Antillean Prime Minister Etienne Ys is paying a working visit to Washington D.C. (September 24-30)** to cement the good relations that exist between the US and the Netherlands Antilles. The visit comes in the wake of new accusations by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez that the US is planning an invasion of his country and has been preparing warships in neighboring Curaçao.

Recently American Christian missionaries were required to leave Venezuela following inflammatory comments calling for his death by an American TV evangelist, who later retracted his statement.

► **Soon you won't be able to buy Amstel beer brewed from seawater.** The employees of the Amstel Beer brewery in Curaçao were officially informed that a majority of its shareholders had decided to close the plant after 45 years because the Antillean government "failed to meet all its commitments to protect the local industry." Some 55 jobs involved in the production process will be lost. Only 25 of the current 108 jobs will be saved, including the 10 in Bonaire. All Amstel products will now have to be imported.



► **The Bonaire Petroleum Company, BoPeC, the oil transshipment facility owned by the Venezuelan state-owned oil company PdVSA, which also leases the Isla oil refinery in Curaçao, celebrated its 30th anniversary last week.** BoPeC has 70 workers and says they employ about the same number through contractors, which would make it the biggest employer on the island. In a presentation attended by top Bonairean government officials, top PdVSA management and local press the company showed a review of its history and environmental accomplishments. *The Bonaire Reporter* was not invited, perhaps because of its inquiries into some of their oil disposal procedures and policy of diving at the Windjammer dive site.

► After talking with the PdVSA man-

agers, **Bonaire officials were excited about the possibility of purchasing Bonaire's fuel needs directly from Venezuela.** Currently Bonaire appears locked into a monopoly contract with the Curaçao island-owned fuel distribution company, CurOil, who buys from PdVSA, until 2014. A study is underway to see if a direct purchase, at lower prices, is feasible.

► Concerned about the price of fuel in Bonaire? Consider that a liter of unleaded gasoline currently costs around 1.35 euros (\$1.65 - **NAf2,92**) in France vs. **NAf1,95 in Bonaire.**

► The current Immigration policy, set by the Central Government, is **that a foreign worker must earn a minimum of NAf3.000 a month to be able to bring his or her partner to the Antilles.** Last week, following a challenge by a guest worker, a Curaçao judge ruled that NAf3.000 was disproportionately unfair and that a NAf3.000 limit would disqualify 70% of the native population of the Antilles.

He gave the Central Government six weeks to come up with a new arrangement which will probably be set at NAf1.500 a month. The income figure was NAf1.200 a month until increased to NAf3.000 guilders at the end of 2003. About 60% of the population makes NAf1.500 a month or less according to government figures. About 20% earn NAf1.000 guilders a month or less and the lowest paid normally appeal to public funds for supplementary assistance.

► Curaçao's FOL party is questioning a **request for NAf109.578 to buy two cars for the Land Registry (Kadaster)**

in Bonaire. According to the Curaçao Member of Parliament, Maurice Adriaens, whom readers might remember was the one who refused permission for BonaireXel when he was Transportation Minister, the amount of money is way too high and unacceptable, especially now that the central government has big deficits.



► On Sunday STCB and STINAPA organized the annual **International Clean Up on Klein Bonaire.** The Clean Up was a success; 75 people participated. Most were Bonaire teenagers - one group from the SGB High School, one from Jong Bonaire and another from the scouts, *Grupo Trupial*. The cruise ship *Freewinds* sponsored the food and drinks and also sent a group to do clean up.

They picked up 80 bags of trash. A group from the SGB was in charge of collecting the data from the bags, specifically to identify the type of debris, to send it to the Ocean Conservancy for their annual report on the sources of ocean pollution.

► **Bonaire was without power last Wednesday afternoon beginning around 3 pm.** A total shutdown of both generators at WEB Central in Hato and TWR in Belnem was to blame. After analysis, repair and switch work, all dis-

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Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

tricts had power again around 4:10 pm.

According to reports, a production unit at TWR had a technical problem and all the production units at Hato and TWR had to be disconnected. An attempted restart using the Agrekko-generators failed at first and it was more time before all units were back on line.

Coincidentally, the original NA f1.3 million contract for temporary backup electric generation with Agrekko was for 16 weeks with three, three-week extensions. That time is about up.

► Ronella Croes, the head of Bonaire's Tourism Corporation (TCB), announced the latest tourism figures as well as a list



TCB head Ronella Croes presents the tourism report

of the accomplishments of the TCB since she took over in January, 2004, in a multi-part presentation at Movieland last Friday. **Tourist visits were up by about 5%** as compared to last year which placed Bonaire in the top 10 "growth" islands in the region. Commissioner Burney el Hage dubbed her "Captain (of the TCB) Ronella" for her achievements which in-

cluded the release of two promotional DVDs, a rise in cruise ship anticipated arrivals up 75% and a large grant from Holland (USONA) to expand the promotion of Bonaire as a vacation destination.

► During the same evening's "3 in 1" Special Event **Jake and Linda Richter introduced the official Bonaire 2006 calendar** which they produced. Each month offers an inspiring artistic impression of Bonaire scenes. Finally, **Lucia Beck launched a new endeavor, the "Tourist Information Radio Station"** which is now being aired over Mega 101 FM.

► **Two British divers, who were reported missing 30 minutes after they were expected to return to their boat,** spent several hours drifting along Australia's Great Barrier Reef after currents swept them away from their boat. They described how a shark circled them as they waited for rescuers. Louise Woodger, 29, and Gordon Pratley, 31, drifted 10 km (6 miles) from their original location in an incident mirroring the disappearance of two American divers in 1998. Tom and Eileen Lonergan, were believed to have drowned or been killed by sharks off Cairns in Queensland. The episode led to tighter safety regulations after it took two days for the couple to be reported missing.

► **Corals in the Caribbean are being damaged by the same warm seas that have fuelled Hurricanes Rita and Katrina,** the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) conservation group said on Friday. Corals off Florida, Barbados, Puerto

Rico, the Virgin Islands and Cuba seemed to be undergoing the worst damage, known as bleaching. "The same heat that's causing the hurricanes is causing the bleaching of corals," Lara Hansen, chief climate change scientist at the WWF, told Reuters news service.

Temperatures in some areas had been around 29-33° Celsius (84°-91° Fahrenheit), high enough to cause damage to corals and well above the 26.5°C needed to create hurricanes. However, hurricanes can reduce bleaching of corals by stirring up cooler, deeper waters.

► Noted forecaster **Professor William Gray predicts an early end to this year's hurricane season.** He believes that in October it will be all over, though the "official" end of the season is November 30.

► Nanette Lomarda, acting chief of the tropical cyclone program division at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), **said the number of category 4 and 5 storms over that ocean has nearly doubled** over the past 35 years. "The next tropical cyclone, named Stan, may be gathering over the Atlantic," Lomarda said. If Tammy, Vince and Wilma follow, then the Greek alphabet (Alpha, Beta, etc...) will be used to name any storm with winds exceeding 63 km (39 miles) per hour. See "Preparing for a Hurricane," an article on dealing with hurricanes in Bonaire, page 18.

► **The Caribbean island country of St. Kitts and Nevis is hosting a four-day cruise ship conference which began on September 27.** Some 1,200 cruise stake-

holders, including several from Bonaire, will visit St. Kitts. Bonaire anticipates significant growth in cruise ship arrivals in the next few years.

► **SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management company, has prepared a**



proper site for the deposit of trash at Morotin, an area north of Rincon. For years the site was used as an illegal dump, especially for bulk trash and vegetation, perhaps because of the long distance to the Lagoen Road landfill.

Engineer Rudsel Leito, the interim Director of SELIBON, announced that now a huge dumpster is on site which will be emptied into the main landfill periodically. Erik Frans, a SELIBON employee, will be on site to give advice and direction.

► With urging from the Small Business Center (CKB), the Tourism Corporation of Bonaire (TCB), and the Section for Culture, Art, and Literature (SKAL), **the cruise ship market organized in Wilhelmina Park will get a new look.** The market has been in operation for five years and readers of *The Reporter* get its schedule from the "Happenings" section. It fea-

(Continued on page 4)

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3) tures artwork, jewelry, and local handiwork products. There are plans to further expand it. Contact the CKB office on the first floor (upstairs) of La Terraza shopping center in Kaya Grandi if you want to participate.

► **Special Olympics Bonaire received a very generous gift of NAf600 from the students at the St. James Medical School.** The money will be used to help Bonaire's Special Olympics athletes get to Aruba for the National Games on November 17 to 19. The Bonaire team will participate in Bocce, Athletics and Swimming. The Bonaire team functions completely on donations so Thank You, Students!

► **Bonaire SGB Hotel School Students leave for Italy on Sunday, October 2.** The five students from SGB Chez Nous who were selected to participate in this year's stage (apprenticeship) program in Italy in the Emilia Romagna region leave Sunday from Flamingo Airport. They are Channethon Jansen, Minoasca Mercera, Angel Albertus, Shakira Matthew and Gianna Martines. The reserve student is Mariana Cicilia. Their culinary teacher, Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn will accompany the group. Teams going to Italy from Curacao and Aruba will join the Bonaire contingent at Flamingo airport. The students will meet at the airport for goodbyes and press photos at 11:30 am.

► **The annual Regatta Boat Parade will be on Thursday evening, October 13.** The parade will begin around 5:30

pm from the water in front of Regatta House. Official boats, commercial boats (dive and fishing) will be followed by the sail charter boats and finally all the pleasure boats that want to join in. Call George DeSalvo at 786-6125 or Byron Tromp, 785-0333 for more information.

► **This year's Bonaire Regatta will begin with the traditional Parade of Nations at 7 pm on Sunday evening,**



October 9th. Last year Bonaire residents from 38 countries took part. Parade participants are encouraged to wear clothing representative of their countries. People from the US who wish to take part should contact Donna Wuyts at 785-9332.

► Recently several readers alerted us to some **scams occurring at the gas stations on the island**, where the pump operator misrepresents the guilder amount and pockets the difference. This alert was published in *The Reporter*. Lisa Gas' Gaby Felix says this situation at his station was taken care of immediately.

Hospitality Training Begins

On September 21st at Capt. Don's Habitat, BONHATA and Match Consultancy conducted a presentation on the Hospitality Training Program launching a unique and innovative way of training. "The focus of this training program is 'our people,' says Annette van Rooijen, Match Consultancy Director. "By listening to their needs and connecting with our people we can strengthen their self-esteem, motivation, attitude, pride, trust and communication between the numerous cultures residing on our small island." Strengthening these



Merel Zanen, Trainer and Annette van Rooijen, Director of Match Consultancy.

skills is the basis for any other personal or job skill development."

A number of organizations were represented: CKB, BONHATA, Bonaire Tours & Vacations, BAS air services, TELBO, Budget Rent a Car, Magazina di Rei, Rum Runners, Habitat, Divi Flamingo, Harbour Village, Plaza and Eden Beach. Thanks to a CKB subsidy, Match Consultancy can offer BONHATA members a special rate for this training program.

(Continued on page 5)

"We have checks and double checks," he said. "This cannot happen at Lisa Gas. At the end of each shift we have checks. The employees wear name badges and the name of the manager of that shift is posted. So if there is any problem at all or if anyone suspects anything they can report it to the manager."

► **The Benetton models in this issue** are Edshel Martha and Jermainy Diaz from Jong Bonaire. They were photographed at the Cappuccino Bar at Karel's Beach Bar. The Benetton ad is on page 10. *G.L.D*



Muscle cars in Aruba

ANOTHER ANSWER TO "THE 'IT'"

Dear Editor:

After several weeks stay on Aruba, I was happy to return to our island.

On Aruba I was, as always, confronted with the consequences of continuing mismanagement by the government of the island. I had to wait more than two weeks before the garbage, piling up in big heaps in front of the houses in our street, was eventually collected (They have never heard there about standard garbage containers used on Bonaire, and regular collection times exist only in theory). Due to a terrible traffic jam in the city center, I arrived a half hour late for my dentist appointment. In the news on the local TV I saw reports about a recent assassination and several violent robberies. In the framework of the current very heated election campaign, I saw on the TV the Prime Minister who just came back from Italy where he held negotiations with banks about the possibility of coming to a final agreement concerning the debts in connection with the guarantees given in the past by the government of Aruba. With enormous pride, the Prime Minister informed the people of

Aruba that he succeeded in reducing the existing debt to the Italian banks from US \$220 million to "only" US\$110 million. He forgot to mention that it was the government of his party which made the terrible mistake of giving these guarantees. (Besides these debts to the Italian banks there are more than another US\$100 million which the people of Aruba have to pay to foreign banks and investors, mainly in the US, in connection with a number of never realized projects).

After my return from Aruba, it was really a shock for me to read the letter "The It" sent to the editor of *The Bonaire Reporter*. I recommend that its author learn all the facts about the "development and prosperity" on Aruba before he writes another similar letter.

He will then understand that the development on Aruba cannot serve as a model for Bonaire but more as a deterrent example of mismanagement.

Fortunately for the people of Bonaire, even if powerful foreign investors do pump many millions into the hotel development on our island, **mass tourism, like on Aruba, can never come to Bonaire** because Bonaire lacks long and wide beaches, the basic condition for a mass

Hospitality Course. (Continued from page 4)

The Training Program will be offered to **all companies** on Bonaire at the regular fees and consists of the following seminars: Spirit of Hospitality & Guest Services; Self Esteem; Food & Beverage; Restaurant Service; Food & Beverage; the HACCP way; Front Office/Reservations; Housekeeping "exceptional attendant;" and Leadership Skills.

The training sessions combine theory with role-playing, games, and team oriented activities. The sessions are fun and engaging while transmitting the important message of our industry; professional hospitality.

Besides these seminars Match Consultancy offers on the job trainings and customized training, depending on a company's needs.

For further information on the training possibilities, contact Annette van Rooijen at Match Consultancy, tel: 786-5711 or E-mail; info@matchconsultancy.com.

Press Release



Presentation at Habitat

tourist development. The hotel industry on Aruba could be developed only because this island has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and that is what attracts a majority of the visitors to this island. Aruba is lucky that it is not only rich in abundant beaches, but additional sand, necessary mainly for road construction, is regularly being extracted in big quantities from a depth of 25m. offshore at the western tip of the island and deposited in enormous piles for the use of the construction industry.

On Curaçao, to find and transport sand for construction of new hotel beaches and their maintenance (most ho-

tel beaches are artificial and sand needs to be supplemented regularly) is difficult. On Bonaire, it is impossible. Outside of the Bonaire Marine Park along the whole coast of the island, the water depths of more than 200m. make extraction of sand practically impossible so that no artificial beaches can be created and therefore a hotel development like on Aruba can never be realized unless the sand would be brought for enormous costs from very far places. This is the first fact that the author of "The It" had to refer to his superiors after his last visit to our island!

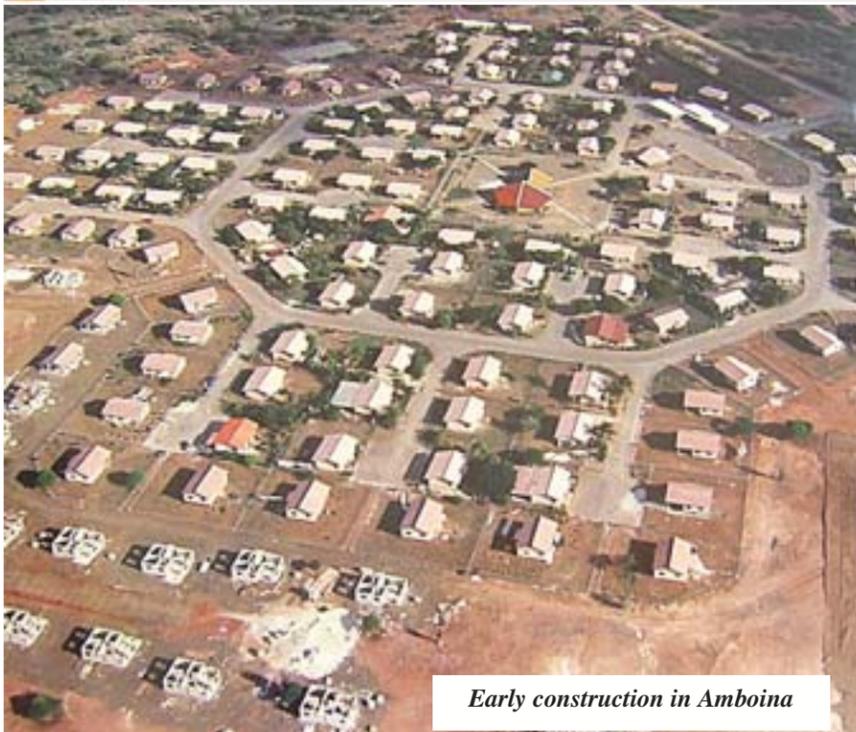
Jiri Lausman

Bonaire's Sentro di Barios:

**Bonaire's Newest Community-
Amboina**



A Candidate for Funding from AMFO and the NGO



Early construction in Amboina

I knew something was going to be very different about the barrio (neighborhood) called Amboina as soon as I located it on my Bonaire island map. As you follow the lines on the map, east on Kaya Nikiboko Noord, from the big Catholic Church in the center of Kralendijk, way past the corner of Kaya Pos Di Amor, you will see something that appears quite abnormal for a local community on the island. Located about two kilometers from the town center is the symmetrical, octagonal outline of the Amboina barrio complete with 16 evenly spaced cul-de-sacs on four of the eight sides. It looks like a sunburst!

Covering an area of 11.5 hectares, Amboina, which originally was the site of a mai-shi (maize) plantation, gets its name from the Taino Indian word meaning "where numerous wells have good drinking water." A totally planned community, it was conceived and built by the Fundashon Cas Bonairiano (FCB), to provide improved, private, starter housing for island residents relocating from other neighborhoods.

Amboina Is Unique

Unlike many of the other barrios that evolved over time as families settled on Bon-



The "traffic training" playground

aire, Amboina was planned, constructed and occupied on a schedule that began in 1981. When you enter you immediately notice that the streets are paved and all the utilities are underground. At the present time, there are 182 homes, all sequentially numbered, and each one is situated on a 500-square-meter building lot: 172 are three-bedroom homes for families with children, and 10 are single-bedroom homes for single adults or couples without children. The Fundashon makes the homes available to qualified families at an affordable rent. The goal is ownership after several years of occupation. According to Denise Coffie, a social worker at FCB, applicants must show legal ID, sufficient income and proof that they live on Bonaire. Jacqueline Janga, secretary of the Social Department of FCB, told me that out of the 182 houses built, 104 have been sold. The owners can choose to mortgage their house through FCB or through a bank. The houses range in price from NAf35.000 to NAf43.000 depending on the year they were built.

There is a mini-market, new Community Center, a pre-school and after-school care center with a playground, and an on-site police patrol. The *Speelschool Jiwiri* was built in 1984 for Amboina and nearby neighborhoods. It has large, contemporary, open-styled, interconnected buildings surrounded by a huge playground with a variety of swings, climbing houses, pretend centers, and a tricycle pathway fashioned as a two-lane road complete with miniature buildings, street lights and a refueling gas stop with twin self-service pumps. It's a wonderful active facility with cool breezes (even today when the rest of the island has still air!) and plenty of room for playing or resting children.

Sentro di Bario Amboina - serving "A Young Community"

It's a youthful neighborhood. No houses are over 25 years old, and the average age of the residents is only 25 to 30! Today, I am visiting with Egon Manuel who has lived here for 19 years, since the age of 10. He is helping me learn about Amboina. As the Community Center's president for the past five years, he meets with his colleagues on the board twice a month to plan neighborhood activities. We enter the attractive blue and white Community Center which was completed just nine months ago. Inside, I see a meeting room, storage rooms, a large common area, a fully equipped kitchen, preparation area, serving section, and bathrooms. All are handicapped accessible. Outside is an area for basketball and football. The Center pays for its utilities by charging a fee to groups who want to use this new, well-organized building. With its up-to-date facilities and cooling easterly breeze, this is a great spot to rent for wedding anniversaries, birthday parties, or other celebrations.



Egon Manuel preparing for the mariachi festival

With its up-to-date facilities and cooling easterly breeze, this is a great spot to rent for wedding anniversaries, birthday parties, or other celebrations.

Popular Amboina Community Center Activities

To meet the needs of the community, a dedicated worker keeps the Center in good repair and opens it for neighbors who want to play cards, dominoes, ping pong, or football. He usually works 9-12 and 3-7 unless the Center needs to be open for evening activities or special events. Football (soccer) is much loved in Amboina. Coach Ricardo Alberto leads the active Amboina Dolphins football players, an energetic group of about 60 children, ages six to 10. They work hard not only at their sport, but also at raising money by putting on a variety show, selling raffle tickets, and having barbecues. For three weeks this past summer, helped by FESBO funding (Foundation of Sentro di Barios), the Center was an enjoyable summer camp for its school-aged children. Trained volunteers lead the daily fun of games and education. As a special addition to the September Mariachi Festival, three of the volunteers - Raydel, Rude-laika, and Romy - demonstrated the artistic talent they had been sharing with the children. They created hats and guitars out of cardboard, fabric, cord and sequins.

Hopes and Plans for the Future

"The young ladies who ran the summer camp have proposed doing a Saturday 'life skills' program for children ages six to 12. I applaud their initiative. They want to help the kids learn to take care of themselves practicing skills like cooking, doing laundry, making beds, etc. Of course, they also want to read stories, do crafts, and play."

"By the end of October," Egon Manuel continues, "we want to survey the neighborhood to find out what they want at the Community Center. Then the board can decide what to offer with our available funds. If there is interest, we hope to have a Movie Night on Saturdays starting in November or December. We already have a TV and a DVD player." Egon envisions the Center being used in the mornings by the adults,

(Continued on page 7)

Amboina (Continued from page 6) including the 60 Plussers. Then from 3 to 8 pm, there would be activities for the teens. "We have someone who is willing to work with the kids to develop a band; we only need the instruments," Mr. Manuel continues. "I would also love to offer an Internet center for the teens, especially the girls who aren't going to Jong Bonaire. To do that, we need to convert a 20-foot container. Do you know someone who can donate a container? We are looking for picture books to use with the summer camp or Saturday group children. We always need materials for doing crafts, including pens, markers, paper, and cardboard."

Egon explains that his community is made up of many young families.

"Sometimes they have trouble stretching their pay to the end of the month. It would be good for the Community Center to offer workshops on how to budget money. Our young mothers also need workshops about how to best raise their children. I have one more wish for Amboina's Community Center: ceiling fans for the large central room! It gets hot in there during the summer camp programs!" *Story & photos by Barbara Mason Bianculli*



The new Community Center

25 Years Old in 2006



A part of the island for almost 25 years! In March 2006 the families of Amboina will celebrate the 25 year anniversary of their neighborhood. Originally, the spirit and family-oriented social atmosphere, which is the foundation of most of the local barrios on Bonaire, was not part of the Amboina neighborhood. There were very few extended family groups. The large concentration of renters caused a social imbalance and many of the residents were strangers to each other. Those challenges have been overcome by an aggressive program of home ownership

sponsored by the FCB. A newly revived neighborhood spirit, highlighted by the investment and completion of the beautiful Community Center building for all to see and use, has taken over the hearts of the people living in Amboina. The pride of ownership is evident in the improvements and additions made to many of the homes. Gardens are maintained, attractive walls or fences are being built, houses are painted and expanded, patios are paved. Some families have lived here for most of the 25 years and want to encourage others to stay and build a strong community. B.M.B.



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NGO Platforma Bonaire: *New address as of August 1:* Plaza Terras, Kaya Grandi 23, Rooms E,F,G. Tel. 717-2366, Fax 717-2367, website: www.ngobonaire.org, email: Platform@ngobonaire.org

New Spirit at Harbourtown

M eet Kees and Renée van Dartel, the new owners of Harbourtown Realty. "We've been coming to Bonaire over 10 years on vacation, and we love the island and its people," Rene said. The knowledgeable and professional couple was in the real estate business for 20

years near Utrecht, Holland, where they also offered insurance and mortgages to their clients – kind of a one-stop shop.

"We were waiting for the right opportunity to start our business in Bonaire – not a restaurant or a bar – but something we were doing already," Renée said. "That's why we're here. If you love a place then that will reflect how you deal with the people."

What about all the other competition, we asked. "In Holland we were never the only ones in town," Kees answered. "It's a great challenge, but we think that competition makes people work harder. There's room for everyone. It's important that all of us (realtors) work to-

gether." Renee continued, "We're residential experts, we love people and we love houses!"

In addition to acting as agents for buying and selling real estate they offer short and long term rentals, that department being handled by Amanda Castan.

The couple has two daughters, 9 and 21, both of whom are on the island with them. What do they do during their time off? "We're trying to teach our puppies to swim," Renée said with a smile, referring to their two pups they recently adopted from the Bonaire Animal Shelter. *L.D.*



Broker/Owners Kees and Renée van Dartel and Office Manager Amanda Castan



"The Mission 2005"



All of Tonky's tours begin at Flamingo Airport

This is the last report on my windsurfing tour of 2005. After completing the event in Belgium I only had one stop left: the Netherlands. I was sent on assignment to the Netherlands where I had to attend THE Dutch windsurfing event called "The Mission," on August 21st and 22nd; this time not as a participant but as a representative of my board sponsor, F2.

During this event several great brand names (F2, Fanatic, Quiksilver, Maui Sails, JP, to name just a few) are represented by their professional riders. These professionals give clinics to the amateur participants. We "pros" also give demonstrations of our boards, sails, booms, as well as tips to these top amateurs who are the sport's

future professionals. It is aimed at young windsurfers up to 18 years old. Guys and girls from all over Europe attend the event since there are lots of great prizes. It is one of those events where a rider could get noticed by one of the sponsors!

There were 196 competitors, 318 registered testers and around 8,000 visitors. It seemed that all of Holland's wind was sent to Brouwersdam that Saturday. It had fantastic wind while rest of the Netherlands was windless. About 15km away from Brouwersdam, a huge black cloud was hanging all morning in the sky and it was raining, raining and even more rain. Nearby roads and houses got full of water, but we had about five raindrops all together.

Continued on page 9

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Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN)

YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS PAGE

(Mission 2005. Continued from page 8)

There were 26 successful heats of downwind slalom racing on Saturday. After these heats it was time for "The Battle of the Giants," where I gave a demo of super cross and also a Freestyle super session along with big names such as Kevin Pritchard, Cheo Diaz, Jonas Ceballos and Peter Volwater. The crowd just loved it, and we could hear from out on the water how they were screaming for more at the beach.



Some of "The Mission" crowd

When I got safely back to land I met with Kevin Mevissen's (my colleague windsurfer) family who came especially to Brouwersdam to see me perform. This surely was something to be appreciated because they drove four hours to get there!

In the evening it was BBQ time. After this a big party followed with a "tombola" (drawing) and lots of prizes. These prizes were sponsored by the top board and sail manufacturers. Amateur windsurfers appreciated the sails, masts, booms, boards, and the other gear they received. It was funny to see the winners of the big prizes "crowd surfing" after they received their prizes. It wasn't long before we were forced to follow their example. Whether we liked it or not we were overcome by the enthusiasm and were crowd surfing too.

On Sunday there was no wind. But since the party ended late (around 5:30 am), it was okay because otherwise it would have been very difficult for us to wake up and walk around with happy smiles.

During midday the competitors and spectators participated in product clinics. My task was to introduce the F2 boards for 2006. In one of my prior reports I mentioned that I took part in a board presentation in Rhodes where the top man of F2 himself gave a demonstration. I tried to remember his techniques and his speech and did my very best to build up interest in the F2

boards.

There was also a rigging contest against the pros. We really had to work because we were never left alone: there was always someone who wanted to know something or a little kid who wanted an autograph. We pros put on a no-wind freestyle show where we were bombed with water balloons by the spectators. I have to say that the Dutch crowd is a very impudent crowd!

Finally I had my own special moment where I introduced the "Tonky-style speedboat freestyle." My board was towed by a speedboat and I executed shakas and flakas on the mini-waves generated by the speedboat. The crowd applauded from the beach, and the other pros called me crazy. Crazy or not, this move certainly made me the center of



Tonky does the Loop

attention. In all the reports in the windsurfing magazines, Tonky-style speedboat freestyle was featured. Ask me if you want to see the video. Ha. Ha!

After this performance all the pros lined up to give autographs to the fans. At one point I couldn't even feel my hand anymore. I must have signed hundreds of posters, brochures, boards, t-shirts and even arms!

People would hang around me more than they did with the other English-speaking pros because they wanted to know why I could speak Dutch, where I came from, what it's like in my country, et cetera. Of course I did some promotion for our nice island of Bonaire! The autograph session was followed by the prize giving and the last part of the "tombola." Traditionally the winner of the second board landed in the water. With more than half of the public under 18 years of age, I think that "The Mission 2005" can be called a mega-success.

The week after "The Mission" I returned to Bonaire. Looking back it has been a great European tour. I competed or promoted my sponsors in Greece (Rhodes, Paros, Mykonos), Gran Canaries, Lanzarote, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. It may sound like a great adventure to many, but this traveling around is, in fact, hard work. The windsurfing world is getting more and more competitive and a pro has to stay sharp in order to exist in that world. I made a lot of contacts in all these places and I can't complain about my overall performance. During the tour I even got a clothing sponsor of a new line of windsurfing gear: ION. This gear was presented to the public last summer and is likely to become very hot since several pros are wearing it. *Story & photos from Tonky Frans*



Signing autographs can be tiring

Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB) for believing in my talent and providing sponsorship for my air tickets so I could take part in the events. I would also like to thank Laura and George (The Bonaire Reporter) for giving me this space to report about my whereabouts. A thank you note also goes to the family Mevissen who has been like family to me during these last months. But most of all I would like to give thanks to the Bonairean people who showed interest in my whereabouts during this tour: your attention has really been a support to me! Tonky

I would like to especially thank

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
9-30	6:05	1.0FT. 12:04 1.3FT. 15:30 1.3FT. 22:31 1.6FT.	53
10-01	6:02	1.1FT. 12:04 1.4FT. 16:47 1.2FT. 23:11 1.5FT.	62
10-02	5:38	1.2FT. 12:15 1.5FT. 18:18 1.2FT.	70
10-03	0:47	1.3FT. 4:54 1.2FT. 12:35 1.6FT. 20:11 1.2FT.	77
10-04	2:40	1.2FT. 3:33 1.2FT. 13:10 1.6FT. 22:29 1.1FT.	83
10-05	13:45	1.7FT. 23:55 1.0FT.	86
10-06	1:01	0.9FT. 14:30 1.8FT.	87
10-07	1:50	0.8FT. 15:29 1.9FT.	84

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alina	Freestyle	Marisol	Slow Dancin
Alter Ego	Gallivanter	Mimo	Sylvia K
Angie	Good Hope	Moana	Tish
Angelique	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Moonglow	Theis
Algese	Helde	Orion	Ulu Ulu, USA
Augustine	Jan Gerardus	Paws	Unicom, Norway
Bedouin	Josina	Samantha Nova	Valenza
Bright Sea	Key Lara	Samba	Valkerie
Camissa, Chan Is.	Luna C. USA	Santa Maria	Varedhuni, Ger.
Cape Kathryn	La Baronne	Sandpiper, USA	Ventoso
Chalice	La Serena	Seascape	Vijia
Deneb	Lazzorone	Sea Witch	Wingin
Delphinus	Live Your Dream	Sho Fun Time	Ya-T, BVI
Elenoa	Makai	Side By Side	Yanti Paratzi
Endangered Species	Maggi	Sintella	Yus Do It
Flying Cloud, USA	Mandolin	Sirius	Zee Vonk

Rivas-Torres and Staperé Opening at Cinnamon



Dianir Rivas Torres and Sipke Staperé in front of Sipke's driftwood sea-horse and Dianir's jewelry at the Cinnamon Gallery Opening.

The crowd poured into the Cinnamon Art Gallery last Saturday evening for the opening of guest artists Dianir Rivas Torres and Sipke Staperé's

eclectic show. Some said the big turnout was the result of a pent-up demand for an art show after the long summer months devoid of new art openings. But then again maybe it was the show itself which had observers oohing and aahing. A number of pieces were sold not long after the doors had opened. In the crowd were a number of other artists who have shown at Cinnamon (see cover photo).

Dianir and Sipke's work shows great diversity, with jewelry, underwater photography ceramic pieces, and driftwood sculpture. Particularly interesting are the one-of-a-kind pieces that Dianir makes with driftwood and drift-seeds that floated in to Bonaire from continental South America. Sipke's photography shows a known subject in an unusual or exotic way. His amazing "paintings" and designs with (deceased) land snails are meticulously put together with an artistic and creative eye. Don't miss this show.

The exhibit will continue until October 24.

Cinnamon Gallery is a project of the Bonaire Artists Foundation, a non-profit entity created to promote the work of local artists in a permanent gallery setting. The Gallery does not accept any payment for the work of its featured artists -- when guests purchase Gallery art, 100% of the

monies received flow back directly to the artist. Private donations provide all of the funding for exhibits and the on-going cost of maintaining the Gallery. Cinnamon Art Gallery is at Kaya APL Brion #1, behind Banco di Caribe on Kaya Grandi. Tel. 717-7103. Open Monday through Friday, 9 am to noon, 2 to 5 pm. Website: www.CinnamonArtGallery.org.

L.D.



Scanning Sipke's Seed Collection

Bistro de Paris - Stone Cooking -



Bistro de Paris Owner Patrice Rennou demonstrates hot stone cooking.

Patrice and Fred of Bistro de Paris are celebrating the restaurant's one year anniversary and have come up with something new to add to their already tempting "real French" menu. It's cooking on a hot stone right at your table. It's a relaxed, fun, romantic way to spend an evening under the stars. "Carpaccio" style thinly sliced meats and vegetables, arranged on a serving plate arrive at your table, where already the stone is hot and ready. After a sprinkling of salt on the stone you start cooking. There are four kinds of meat: pork loin, beef tenderloin, bacon and chicken breast. Vegetables may include asparagus, peppers, onions and others of the season. But the awesome part is the three sauces: Black Pepper, French Dijon Mustard and a Garlic Sauce. It's all accompanied by a very robust freshly baked potato. Price is \$15 per person. Bistro de Paris is located on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46, just south of the Harbour Village Marina. Tel. 717-7070 *L.D.*

Picture Yourself with the Reporter McLean, Virginia, US

Did you recognize them in fancy clothes? It's "Wildside" Larry Baillee in a tuxedo and Janice Huckaby looking outrageously lovely. Their friend Nadine Rubin sent us this once-in-a-lifetime shot taken with *The Bonaire Reporter* (naturally) during a wedding at the Ritz Carlton in McLean, Virginia.



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, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2005 photos are eligible.)

Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire Fund Raiser

Have you ever looked longingly over at Klein Bonaire and had a desire to swim to it, but you knew it was too dangerous with boats traversing the area? Now you can make the swim and do it safely. Get ready for Jong Bonaire's Fifth Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire. Volunteer boats will escort the swimmers and pick up anyone who needs a ride. Everyone who can swim is invited – all ages, all levels of expertise. Every year the event gets bigger and bigger and more fun. Tickets are NAF15 and all proceeds go to Jong Bonaire. The price includes lunch, a drink – even a tee shirt! Get your tickets at Jong Bonaire, BonFysio or DeFreewieler.

It's Sunday, October 9, at Bongo's Beach. Be there at 8 am. Even if you don't swim, come along anyway and cheer them on. *L.D.*

Entry Fee: NAF 15,-
Includes lunch and drink & T-shirt

5th swim to Klein Bonaire
Sunday 09 October from Bongo's Beach
Be there at 8 AM

Tickets at Jong Bonaire,
Bonfysiotherapie & De Freewieler

A Jong Bonaire fundraiser
for anyone who can swim!

Got something to buy or sell?

REACH MORE READERS than any other WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
by advertising in THE BONAIRE REPORTER

Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):

FREE FREE FREE FREE

Commercial Ads only NAf0.70 per word, per week.
Free adds run for 2 weeks.

Call or fax 717-8988 or email ads@bonairereporter.com

JANART GALLERY

Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

BONAIRENET

The leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). Phone: 786-0956

Bonaire Images

Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lover's Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com

MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive.

Call Donna at 785-9332.

LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981

SALT TREASURES BONAIRE

100% natural body salts "Scrub Me" 100% natural Bath Salts available at Chat-n-Browse, KonTiki and Jewel of Bonaire or call 786-6416 for more information.

JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/

EMPLOYEE WANTED



We are looking for an experienced **Secretary/Receptionist**. For more information or to apply please call Marieke Schmitz telephone number 717-3630.

JOB WANTED

Donna Gassert is looking for a job - 20+/- hrs per week. Work Permit not required. Will consider full-time position. Please call 717-7735 afternoons.

For Sale

Toshiba HD projection t.v-61A62, a.g. a.n, biggest in Bonaire: (1,3mx1,5mx0,65m) (4ftx5ftx2ft) with warranty: 2600Naf

Sony MHC-GN800 prof. Hi-Fi component surround system with 5 speaker boxes, MP3,mic,c.d. (3),double tape deck etc. 700Naf (was 1100Naf) also a Stroller 100Naf Tel.:717-7977

Aluminum sliding doors for sale. Blue profiles. Second-hand. Sizes: 2m high x 4.75m wide (4 doors), 2m high by 1.6m wide (2 doors), 2.3m high by 3.5m wide (4 doors), 2m high by 4.8m wide (3 doors), 0.5m high by 1.1m wide (2windows). Discount for buying all 5. 791-1886.

3 single beds for sale. White wooden head boards and foot boards. 791-1886.

LADA NIVA (jeep) for sale
1991-4X4 drive 1.6 Cyl. 95.000km
NAf5.400 717-2844 or 786-2844

Property, Sales & Rentals

For rent: Fully furnished well secured one bedroom apartment with big porch and garden in quiet surroundings for max. 3 months. Tel.717-7977

For Rent: Fully furnished one bedroom apartment in Hato. NAf425. Water and electricity included. Available immediately, Tel.790-7674

For Rent: Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-privacy & security. Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293; (US) (570) 586 0098. May 20 until Jan. 8th. info@pelicanreefbonaire.com or www.pelicanreefbonaire.com -

RENT (available for immediate occupancy) Unfurnished apartment with one bedroom in Antriol. Price: Nafl. 800,- per month, exclusive utilities For more information: please pass by our office or call Amanda at Harbortown Real Estate 717 - 5539

Regatta ta den Kurpa atrobe... Ta e temporada ku tur hende ke bin bishita nos dushi Isla Bonaire. Abo tambe ta bini bin selebra huntu ku nos den regatta? Bo ta buskando un lugar pa bo keda den e dianan ei?

Awe nos tin e lugar korekto pa bo s apartament aki ta kompletamente muebla den un area hopi tranquil

I pega ku playa. Dos kamer kuchina sala porch prijs pa huur lo ta NAf123- pa anochi. Pa mas informashon kontakt nos na RE/MAX Paradise Homes Tel 717-7362

Regatta is coming ... It's the time that every one comes to visit our sweet island of Bonaire!

Are you coming too? To help celebrate Regatta with us? Are you looking for a place to stay?

We have the right apartment for you. A two-bedroom, totally furnished, kitchen, bathroom and porch, in a very quite area close to town. Rental fee for only: NAf123- per night. For more information please contact us at: RE/MAX Paradise Homes: 717-7362

Playing in Movieland Cinema;

Supercross by Steve Boyum

starring Steve Howey, Mike Vogel, Cameron Richardson and Sophia Bush. Although I was a bit skeptical in the beginning I found myself really enjoying this film. Extreme close-ups, sudden slow-mo, chrome, other digital effects, aerial jumps and tight action shots are framed with excellent form detail and clarity and make the motocross action jump off the screen. Don't expect great acting performances or an intriguing story. Just sit back and watch and go with the flow. Dodo

Wanted

URGENTLY NEEDED FOR AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH PROJECT

Small School Bus or Large Transport Van suitable for 10 passengers, daily Use Noon to 6 pm. Softball & Bat, Computer Printer & Paper, Ink Cartridges. Call Mick Smit 786-6816, Stichting Project, Teen Training Center, North Salina

LOOKING TO BUY: Home Exercise Weight Training Equipment for Captain Don. Used, good working condition. No electric treadmill or step machine. Call Don & Janet 786-0956.

LOOKING TO BUY: Hewlett Packard HP Deskjet Old Model Computer Printer compatible with HP45 ink cartridge (42ml). Used, good condition. USB or SCSI. Many compatible models include Deskjet 710c/712c/720c/722c/ 820cse /820cxi/830c/832c/850c/855c/870cse/ 870cxi/880c/882c/890cse/890cxi/ 895cse/ 895cxi and the DeskJet 930, 950, 960, 970, 990, 995, 1120, 1220 series. Call 786-0956.

Wanted to buy: Dingy, 2 to 3 meters long to carry 2 to 3 persons. Call J. Maciel at 785-9500.

Wanted - Video player/recorder to play European VHS tapes. Must be compatible with the PAL system and in good working order. Tel: 786-4456 or 786-8648

A Mysterious Visitor – A Dugout Canoe From ??



A present day sailing canoe in the Orinoco



The recovered dugout canoe

Just before a nice sunset on Tuesday, the 6th of September a unique piece of “driftwood” came over the reef into the Lagun inlet. It was a nearly-18-foot-long dugout canoe (length 5 m. 93 cm., height 32 cm., width 40 cm., weight, 80 kg), lying deep in the water. Knowing it was a unique find we brought the canoe home.

Wondering where this canoe started its journey we started checking on the Internet and asked Louis and Patricia Gorrin, who both have a lot of know-how and experience with the Amazon and Orinoco River regions. They consider the delta area of the Orinoco river the best possibility because of the fact that most of the drifting debris like plastics, driftwood and drift-seeds that Bonaire receives on its windward side are from that area and also because the length - and the mast-step for a sail rig- of the canoe suggest use in big open spaces of river with relatively flat water. Also the general shape resembles dugout canoes used around the Orinoco delta.

The condition of the canoe and the debris that was drifting in around the time that the dugout arrived on Bonaire may also point to an origin different than the Orinoco – perhaps even the Amazon River! Another indication of possible Amazon origin may be seeds that drifted in around the same time. They are endemic to a rainforest where one of the main feeding rivers of the Amazon, the Napo River, runs. The canoe’s general features also resemble dugout canoes used in the Amazon delta and well upstream.

In June this year Bonaire received a huge load of drifting trees, plants and seeds from the Orinoco. A wide variety of insects, early stage growth of marine organisms and the length of the holes made by shipworms (*teredo navalis*) gave that debris an estimated drifting time of around four weeks. Normally it’s six weeks, but if it’s fewer than six weeks - for example the June 2005 peak of debris drifting in - there are a lot of indicators: lots of insects, green plant parts in just a

beginning state of decay, just the first boring stage of the shipworm larvae in driftwood, and the very early stage mussel growth on drifting objects.

However, the condition of the canoe suggests an estimated drifting time of between three and three and a half months. The relatively long drifting time can also be a result of the canoe’s being caught in one of the eddies formed in the eastern section of the Caribbean Sea where floating debris can be caught for long periods of time.

Driftwood and drift-seeds are currently one of the topics in climate research. Ocean currents play a major role in the forming of climates. At this moment research is being done on old layers and deposits of driftwood in Alaska and Greenland. By dating the wood and determining the species there are new pieces of the puzzle appearing - some over 6,000 years old. Sometimes rocks are transported in the root systems of trees. Also these rocks are “hard” evidence of ocean currents.

Canoe Craft

It takes several weeks to make a dugout canoe. A tree is cut and shortened to the desired length, hauled to the village, and through a process of burning, scraping and stretching, the main method of transport is made. Mostly used is wood from the Marupa tree (*Simarouba medicinalis*) that can grow up to 25 meters with a diameter ranging from 50 to 80 cm. Dugouts made from this tree are very resistant to rot and can last up to 10 years!

The tree is a medicinal one and is indigenous to the Amazon rainforest and the tropical areas of Mexico, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and Central America. *Simarouba* bark tea is still the first line of defense among the natural products available for amebic dysentery and diarrhea. Research has shown that the tree has more properties, among others: anti-parasitic, anti-viral, anti-hemorrhagic, anti-cancerous and anti-leukemia. *Sipke Stapert*

Interesting subject? Please visit the Cinnamon Art Gallery from September 24th till October 24th. See some of these drifting rocks and check out a display of 203 different species of drift seeds that were found on Bonaire’s windward side.

Sipke Stapert

Pet of the Week

Here's peppy little "Goofy" who makes us laugh just looking at him. At first when he was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter he was very shy. But now that he realizes the people taking care of him are loving and gentle and that he has nothing to fear he's totally turned around! He's full of enthusiasm; he's smart; and because he goes out of his way to please he will respond beautifully to training. He will make a very good watchdog too.

Goofy is about a year old, he has short, black, easy-to-care-for fur and is a medium sized dog. Of course, like all the adoptees at the Shelter he's in tip top health, has had his testing and shots and is sterilized. The NAf105 adoption fee for dogs includes all that.

You may meet Goofy at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

Don't forget the Shelter fundraising



"Goofy"

event - "Dog Wash 2005." Bring your dog or a friend's or a neighbor's dog to the Warehouse parking lot this Saturday, October 1, from 9 am to 2 pm, and get the dog washed for only NAf7,50. All proceeds go to the Shelter. See announcement below. *L.D*

Dog Wash 2005



Saturday, October 1st from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm at the Warehouse Supermarket parking lot.

Cost-NAf7,50 all to benefit the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

Tickets for sale at:
Warehouse Bonaire
Veterinarian Jan Laarakker or
call:
Lydia -tel. 717-8721
Hans -tel. 717-3207

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Four Brothers
(Marc Wahlberg)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)
SUPERCROSS

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)
Children under 12 - NAf12

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
CLOSED MONDAY TUESDAY
AND WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM
Sky High

THIS WEEK

Saturday, October 1—Rincon Marshe—
Monthly Big Market—Lots of local color, music, food, gifts, fruits, vegetables, plants from 6 am to 2 pm—**Don't miss visiting the cultural heart of Bonaire.**

Wednesday, October 5 – C-Run with prizes, 2/4/5 km. 5:30 pm, sponsored by COMCABON. Call 717-8629, 780-7225, Richard Pietersz

Until October 24— Art Exhibit by Sipke Stapert and Dianir Rivas Torres at Cinnamon Art Gallery.

COMING

October 9 – 15- International Bonaire Sailing Regatta

Sunday, October 9—Jong Bonaire 5th Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire, 8 am, Bongo's Beach (see page 11)

Sunday, October 9—Parade of Nations. Meet at 6:45 in the empty lot south of the post office. Wear traditional clothes. Contact Donna Wuyts at 785-9332.

Thursday, October 13—Regatta Boat parade. Boats meet at 5:30 pm in front of Regatta House. Call George at 717-8988 for info.

Friday, October 21 - Antillean Day, Market & Cultural Activities all day, Niki-boko Cento di Bario

November 24-26— Bonaire Investment Conference

EVERY WEEK

Saturday Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handi-crafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

Saturday—Mountain Bike Ride— Everyone is welcome, no matter what the skill level. It's free. Just bring a bike and your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel Angel Brito leads the pack. Telephone him at 785-0767 for more information.

Saturday -Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse, 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Wine NAf2,50 a glass.

Sunday -Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar. Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live **Fla-Bingo**-great prizes, 7 pm, Divi Flamingo

Monday -Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesday -Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225 /717-7500, ext. 14.

Every Tuesday Night @ 6:30pm - Bonaire-

Talker Dinner/Gathering at Gibi's, known for great local food. Call Gibi at 567-0655 for details, or visit www.BonaireTalk.com, and search for "Gibi."

Friday -Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort, 5:30-6:30 pm
Friday- Open House with Happy Hour at JanArt Gallery Kaya Gloria #7, 5-7 pm.

Daily- The Divi Flamingo Casino is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm- 4 am; Sunday 7 pm- 3 am.

Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- Discover Our Diversity Slides pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

Sunday - Bonaire Holiday -Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat.

Wednesday (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation Slide Show by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

Wednesday -Buddy Dive Cocktail Video Show by Martin Cecilia pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 7117

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.an

Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. 717-7103.

Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4303.

Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

Special Olympics - Contact Roosje 717-4685, 566-4685

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings -every Wednesday; Phone 717-6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.

AI-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank. All levels invited. NAf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire or formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions are welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at Casa Blanca Restaurant. All Rotarians are welcome. Tel. 717-8454

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018

Visit the Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

Sunday at Cai- Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire's popular musicians.

Join the Ride



Mountain bikers after a Saturday afternoon ride

It's now a regular Saturday at 15:45 pm event – a mountain bike ride starting at the Caribbean Club at Hilltop. Just show up and join "Fun Training Tours" on and off the paved roads. Everyone is welcome, no matter what the skill level. It's free. Just bring a bike and your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel Angel Brito leads the pack. Telephone him at 785-0767 for more information. *L.D*

CHURCH SERVICES

New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Wilhelmianplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am.**

Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm. Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services on Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu 717-8304. Saturday at 6 pm at Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

Send events to *The Bonaire Reporter*
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Brasserie Bonaire Royal Palm Galleries Kaya Grandi 26, Next to Re/Max, 717-4321	Low- Moderate Lunch and Dinner Open 11 am -2:30 pm 5:30-9 pm Closed Saturday and Sunday	Lots of parking in big mall lot Kitchen Open 11 am-2:30 pm, Dinner 5:30-9 pm Breezy terrace with airco inside—Also serving big sandwiches at dinner
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and turquoise sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine.
Croccantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight! Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes with authentic ingredients. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open 7 days	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Cuban cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 am to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
The Last Bite Bakery Home Delivery or Take Out 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers gourmet class items -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The Lost Penguin Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner until 6 pm Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111

SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



APPLIANCES/ TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances. Fast service and in-store financing too.

ART GALLERY

Cinnamon Art Gallery non-profit gallery for local artists has continuous shows. Each month a new artist is featured. Stop by. Free entry.

BANKS

Maduro and Curiel's Bank provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

BEAUTY PARLOR

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

De Freewieler rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

APA Construction are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

COMPUTERS

Bonaire Automation B.V. fills all your computer needs: hardware, software, supplies, service, repair and more.

DIVING

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine) -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

FITNESS

Bonfysio offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

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.

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

The Bonaire Gift Shop has a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

HOTELS

Golden Reef Inn is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk to diving and the sea.

The Great Escape Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar.

METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V., offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

Nature Exploration

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapeling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 717-4555 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. **Now-full digital services.**

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.

Re/Max Paradise Homes: International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community.

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

REPAIRS

Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed

or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345

RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

SECURITY

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

SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.**

SUPERMARKETS

Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

VILLAS

Bonaire Oceanfront villa for up to nine people: five kitchens, five bathrooms. Ideal for divers.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

YOGA

Yoga For You. Join certified instructors Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:

Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518

ON THE ISLAND SINCE . . .

November 13th 2002

Roan Jaspars

“I came here with the idea of starting a kite surf school. I’d never been here, but when I was giving kite surfing lessons in Holland I met someone who told me how beautiful Bonaire was and that there wasn’t a kite surf school. For years I’d had the idea of starting my own business. First I thought of snowboarding, then wakeboarding, then I got hooked on kite surfing. I was always looking for the right place and time. When that guy told me about Bonaire I just felt, this is my thing! He knew Ernst from Jibe City and Martin from KonTiki. I started e-mailing them and made the deal with Martin that I’d come to Bonaire and work for KonTiki while I was exploring my options.

I arrived November 13th 2002. Day Three I ripped the tendons of my knee while I was wakeboarding and couldn’t do anything but lie in bed. Then I went to the hospital where they put my leg in a cast for eight weeks, followed by a brace for four more months. I couldn’t work anymore. My brother Allard came from Holland and started giving kite surf lessons, sharing his money with me so that I could stay because I didn’t want to leave. It wasn’t just misery - the cast had some advantages too. I wrote in capitals, KITEBOARDING BONAIRE.COM, and it started lots of conversations, and when I was hitchhiking back and forth to Playa I got to know many great people.

My plan was to start a kite boarding school at Lac Bay, and I met Otto Bartels who was a wonderful help with the paperwork for the permits. While I was still wearing the brace I started teaching kite surfing and then it suddenly all stopped because kiting was forbidden in Lac Bay. It was bizarre! Again I was working any odd job at KonTiki and building websites for people - anything to survive. What kept me going every day was the thought, ‘The permit will come tomorrow.’ But in reality it would take one and a half years.

Carla arrived January 2003. We’d met at work in October 2001 -in IT for the same company. I’d already resigned my job as I was planning to go to Australia for a year. I had my ticket, my visa, everything ready, and then I met her two months before I was supposed to leave. We fell in love. I changed my plans and went first to Bali for six weeks with some friends, my brother and Carla. She went back to work in Holland and I traveled on to Australia. Carla took two months unpaid leave and came to Australia for that time.

Three weeks after she left I went after her. Back in Holland we lived together in Amsterdam the whole summer. I was giving kite lessons at a school on the coast, then I met this guy who told me about Bonaire...”

“When Roan went to Bonaire he had a ticket for a month. I stayed in Holland because I had to work, but the way things went I decided to follow him. I wanted to be with him and support him,” Carla says. “In the beginning I didn’t like the island very much. I’m from Santiago, Chile, a big city girl. I was 18 when I went to Holland and I thought Amsterdam was just like a big village. When I came to Bonaire I thought it was super small! In the beginning it was fun, because it felt like vacation, but after a while I thought, ‘what am I doing here?’ Now I’ve accepted it, but I still need the bustle of a big city once in awhile. Since I discovered how easy it is to jump on a plane and be in a big city in a couple of hours it feels better. I felt very lonely in the beginning, but Miriam of KonTiki was always there for me and helped me a lot. Now I feel at home, but still... I

“I arrived November 13th 2002. Day Three I ripped the tendons of my knee while I was wakeboarding and couldn’t do anything but lie in bed. Then I went to the hospital where they put my leg in a cast for eight weeks, followed by a brace for four more months.”

have to go now and then! So, that’s why I’m keeping my house in Amsterdam.”

“When I arrived,” Roan says, “it seemed there was nothing more beautiful than Bonaire - the wind, the blue sea - nothing could outshine this place. Well, when the ban on kite surfing in Lac Bay was made we went on vacation to Holland. We visited my parents, and my father insisted on having a family portrait taken, something he’d never done before. We came back to Bonaire



Roan Jaspars and Carla Gomez-Serrano

and got the message that my dad had been operated on and that there had been complications. Between September and November we traveled back and forth to Holland. My father’s condition went up and down. November 3, 2003 we arrived on Bonaire again, and on November 9, I got a telephone call at 12:30 am that I had to come immediately. My father’s condition had deteriorated rapidly. I raced to the airport, stood at the desk buying my ticket when my phone rang. They told me my dad had died. I collapsed, started crying. The lady of KLM kept the plane longer on the ground to give us time to arrange everything. After the funeral we returned to Bonaire, but just for a while, because we’d planned to go with the whole family - except for my dad - to South Africa for Christmas to see our family there and to go through the mourning process together.”

Roan Jaspars (32) and Carla Gomez-Serrano (33) are a loving couple. There’s a lot of respect for each other, and they’re very responsible and enterprising people.

“January 6th 2004 we arrived again on Bonaire - and - we went through an unbelievably difficult time; we’d left everything behind just like that. But one thing I never doubted: I still believed in a kite school on Bonaire - I’d believed in it from day one! The most beautiful spot on earth to have a kite school! It was my chance, that’s how I felt. Every time we’d come so close that I thought, I won’t give up! The application for the permits was running and there still was hope.

A friend called and told us we could make real good money selling flower bulbs to tourists seven days a week at the world famous *Keukenhof* in Holland. We thought it would be wise to get back on our feet financially so we went for three months. Back on Bonaire I got a phone call July 24th 2004, ‘Mr. Jaspars, your permit is ready!’ I couldn’t believe it was happening! Finally I could start doing what I wanted to do so badly when I first came here. By mu-

tual arrangement of the government and STINAPA we got the location at ‘Atlantis.’ I bought a boat for safety reasons. Without a boat you can’t kite at ‘Atlantis’ as the wind is off-shore.

I already had the website. It had become more and more popular, and once I got the permit I got lots of reactions. On the island there were many people interested. It went fast. It became real busy, and I needed someone to help me, so a friend of mine, Steven, came from Holland and stayed for three months. When he left, Stef, another friend, came. He’s still here because the business has grown so fast that the two of us are busy full time. Six months ago the school was recognized by IKO, the International Kite boarding Organization, and I’m really proud of that. It’s like the PADI certification in the dive business.

Three months ago we bought the pink dive bus from Photo Tours with the idea of creating shade and to offer facilities to the kite surfers and everybody else. From December on Carla is going to do the bus. We’ll be operational daily at Atlantis. We want it to be a hangout that everybody can count on.

We’ve been in business for over a year now, and it has been amazing! More and more people from all over the world looking for a kite school end up with me, and at the same time they get to know Bonaire. It’s a new market and it’s good for Bonaire as well.

The island is really super great, and I’m living the way I always wanted to - working outdoors, surrounded by friendly, easy going people, making lots of new friends. For the time being I’ll stay here because I found what I always wanted, and I have plenty of ideas for the future. This is our life!”

photo and story by Greta Kooistra



Preparing for a Hurricane

Part II of Hurricane Information Night

Continued from last week...

After Alex Semeleer broke the taboo by discussing hurricane preparation on Bonaire, he brainstormed with the audience how to prepare for a hurricane. Here's what they came up with:

Hurricane Tips

1) Buy food that won't go bad well **ahead of time**: canned food, all kinds of flours, crackers etc., and, of course, water. The use of the old fashioned *regenbak* (rain-water cistern) should once again be promoted. Bonairean rainwater is regarded as fresh and clean and can definitely be used as drinking water for some time. However, due to the lack of flour, sodium and other minerals added by modern water companies, it's not suitable for life-long consumption.

2) Acquire and "warehouse" medicines also in advance: a first aid kit, medicines for diarrhea, headaches, fever etc. Also for chronic diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes etc.

3) Secure your home. Protect the windows with plywood, tape a cross or "X" on windows to prevent glass shattering. On doors take care of the sections open to the wind. Repair the bolts now. Seal any roof leaks and secure loose parts. Back in time our ancestors used to "cut the tail" of the roof (the parts that stick out at the end of the roof) to "break heavy winds." Clean up your garden and take care of "potential projectiles" lying around. Can you imagine your car being smashed into your house? It can definitely happen with a hurricane of category 4/5. So secure it by putting it next to a wall or in your garage.

Bags of sands can be handy to break the force of the wind and water but won't be of much help to keep the water outside your home.

4) Make sure you have candles, matches, fuel and flashlights. Also batteries for radios, flash lights etc.

5) Create a special network for picking up and taking care of the elderly, the (mentally) disabled, children and ill people. This network can consist of assigned family members or friends for each person with special need(s).

6) Create a shelter in your own house. Find a room with least windows (this would be usually your bathroom). An underground shelter is dangerous because of the floods and rain. Look for a firm closet to hide in.

7) The "eye" of the hurricane' is treacherous, as it seems like it's all over while the hardest part is yet to come after a couple of hours of silence.



Problems in Bonaire

After these tips, there were discussions on what went wrong in the US with *Katrina* and how we can prevent this happening in Bonaire. Underestimation of the facts and delay in the execution of the calamity plans (e.g. sending troops on time) were mentioned as aspects that went wrong and from which we could learn. There was not enough investment in dams and banks in New Orleans, as had previously been advised. For Bonaire these would be, for instance, cleaning up the drainage systems and restoring the existing dams.

Everyone agreed that potable water might be the greatest problem on Bonaire in case of a hurricane. The topic of shelters was intensely discussed. Appropriate places for shelters might be on higher grounds, like Seru Largu.

However, Jan Janga of the Fire Department (see his comments at right) said that the Seru Largu option was scrapped due to the danger of collapsing rocks as result of winds and rainfall. One of the criteria for a good shelter is that it should not be in the path of natural runoff (called a *rooi* in Bonaire— from *arroyo*). Some people were concerned since some buildings are already in paths of the *roois* like around Beatrix School.

The shelters should meet common basic requirements like having sufficient toilets and cooking facilities. But what most people forget is the emotional part. Despair, anxiety and boredom during the shelter period can be eased with games, people assigned to entertain, etc.

Depend on the Government?

As ABC islands we may not be able to help each other as we might all be in the same

Expert Advice

Jan Janga, who was in the audience, elaborated on the different topics discussed. Janga is head of the Bonairean Fire Department and also a staff member of the Disaster Commission of the Island Council of Bonaire.

According to Janga the ABC islands learned a lot from the Hurricane Louise experience of the Windward Islands. In case of a disaster the common law can be overruled by the Lt. Governor. Unlike the US, authorities on Bonaire have the legal right to force people to evacuate. Telbo, the Red Cross and the Fire Department have satellite communication. The local government can communicate directly with the Home Department of The Netherlands. The Coast Guard will relocate critical equipment in advance to safe areas for protection so they can return with them when needed. Bonaire can also get fast help from the Dutch Marines.

We expressed concern about protecting WEB and the Curoil fuel depot. Unfortunately, according to Janga, no actions or precautions for either plant are in place by the Disaster Commission of the Island Council of Bonaire. However, there are long term plans to move the WEB plant to another site.



Janga: "The airport is not as vulnerable as we think, as studies proved that the water could be (naturally) cleared in one or two hours." The most pessimistic view is that electricity and water could be out of operation for one year. Our electric system is not underground so all the poles along the road might be destroyed. St. Martin has since put its electric network underground.

Disaster Plan Shelters: the Sport Complex, Kristu Bon Wardador School, the Evangelical Church, Sentro di Bario Antriol, Sentro di Bario Nort di Saliña, Club Vitesse, Playa Catholic Church, Sport Complex in Rincon, doctors' clinics. All the physicians should be available full time at their clinics.

Janga advised everyone to buy generators and keep all important documents with you all the time. N.W.

situation afterwards. The public agreed that despite the fact that the government was aware that Hurricane Ivan passed close last year, people were not sent home or warned in time. Suggestions came also to discuss arranging special wholesale prices with stores to buy hurricane survival gear, generators for example.

At the end of a very interesting evening, marked by informative and heated discussions, all agreed on one thing: instead of depending on the government, let's work on what we, as a community, can do for ourselves and each other. The people once again proved this by organizing and attending this storm preparation meeting.

For more information search on the Internet on how to build a shelter or to take further precautions for a hurricane. A brochure is also available at the Bonaire Fire Department. You can contact Chief Jan Janga at 717-7729. Natalie A.C. Wanga



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up



Mars is a planet

...while...

Antares is a red hot sun

The Moon Visits the Goddess of Love and the Rival of Mars Plus- Mars Becomes Master of the Eastern Sky

This coming month **Mars** dominates the eastern sky in early evening and is almost at its brightest as it continues to come closer each week. And next week the **Moon** not only visits the planet named for the goddess of love, **Venus**, but also parks incredibly close to the star **Antares** whose name literally means the "Rival of Mars."

Around 10 pm Sky Park time this week and next, face east where the brightest object you'll see will be reddish-gold 4,000-mile-wide Mars, which by Halloween will be the third brightest object in the sky outshone only by the Moon and Venus. It's racing toward us, and at the beginning of October is only 49 million miles away. But by the end of the month, on October 29th, the date of its closest approach to **Earth**, it will be 6 million miles closer, only 43 million miles away. And that's close for Mars. In fact, it won't be this close again until 2018. And if you compare it to where it was way back 13 months ago, on September 6th, 2004, it was 248 million miles away, 205 million miles farther away than it will be on October 29th.

Right now you can easily see some detail on its surface through a small telescope. But please don't make the mistake of thinking you are going to see it the way we do with the Hubble space telescope. Remember it's only a 4,000-mile-wide planet, only half the size of our 8,000-mile-wide Earth.

Now, just for fun, if you want to see how Mars usually looks you can go out just after sunset where you will see its sometimes look-alike rival. Look toward the southwest where you'll be absolutely dazzled by Earth-sized, 8,000-mile-wide Venus which is always the brightest planet and which this week is only 86½ million miles away. Then if you look up to Venus' left you'll see the reddish gold star that marks the heart of **Scorpius**, the scorpion, and whose name literally means the Rival of Mars because Mars often looks just about the same color and brightness, although right now Antares can't even touch Mars in brilliance. And when Mars is far away from us on the other side of its orbit it actually becomes much dimmer than Antares. So sometime this week and next visually compare Antares' and Mars' brightness.

And in case you're one of those who has a hard time making sure you've found the right star or planet, well next Thursday, October 6th an exquisite crescent Moon complete with earthshine will be parked right beneath Venus, and on Friday, October 7th will almost slam into Antares. Once again, Moon and Venus, October 6th; Moon and Antares, October 7th. Wow! What a way to open October - the Moon visits two exquisite objects, and Mars enters the final stretch. Keep looking up! *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: September 26-October 2, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your childlike quality may get you into big trouble this week if you neglect your responsibilities. Don't let children or elders put demands on your time. Financial limitations will not be as adverse as they appear. Romantic opportunities will flourish through travel or communication. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can make progress professionally. Opportunities for financial gains through investments and games of chance are likely. Some relatives will be extremely perplexing. Don't reveal any personal details. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Take the whole family and make it an enjoyable outing. Don't let your mate stop you from attending an event that could be most important. You can enjoy your involvement in organizations that make charitable contributions. Problems with skin, bones, or teeth may mess up your schedule. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Try to curb your bad habits. You will reach the most people if you speak out at an organizational function. Children may be difficult to handle. Don't let your partner get away with spending too much of your money. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Be up front if you don't want to be embarrassed. Spend time getting into physical activities with your lover. Your partner may not understand your mood swings, but if you are willing to communicate, a lot of grief can be avoided. Opportunities to meet new lovers will come through pleasure trips or social events. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) In return, the satisfaction you get is enough for you. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive. Hassles with female colleagues may lead to problems with your boss. You need to spend time with friends and family. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your mate may not be too sure about your intentions. Family members may feel anxious if you make promises you don't deliver. Your ability to add a sophisticated touch will help you capture the look you're after. Unexpected romantic connections can be made if you go out with friends or take a pleasure trip. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Partnerships will be favorable and contracts can be signed. Money may slip through your fingers. Anger could lead to problems. You must try to include your mate in your activities this week. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Having your own business is a good idea. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally. Romance can develop; however, it will most probably be short-lived. You are best to concentrate on your professional endeavors. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Do not let them in on your plans if you want things to run smoothly. Don't try to hide your true feelings from your mate. Try not to take others for granted. Tempers could get out of hand this week. Get them to pitch in, if you need help. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't turn down an invitation or a challenge that could enhance your chances of meeting someone special. Plan your days carefully. Discuss your objectives with peers or lovers. Expect to have problems with the ones you love. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can make wonderful contributions to any organization that you join. Don't be a pest or a troublemaker this week. You will have additional discipline that will aid you in your objectives. Get involved in the activities of children. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.