

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

**BONAIRE**

October 14 to October 21, 2005 *Volume 12, Issue 38*

# The REPORTER

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**SINCE 1994**

## **Regatta Roars**

Pages 5 & 10



**Elvis Martinus, Boeboei Thode and Victor Wijnand prepare the race marks**

Tonky Frans photo



**Racing Starts**



**Parade of Nations page 10**

# Flotsam and Jetsam



Flying to Bonaire from the US is getting easier. There are already American and Air Jamaica flights that fly to Bonaire after one intermediate stop. A weekly "charter" will fly non-stop from Ft. Lauderdale, which is host to almost all US low-cost airlines, every Saturday beginning next month. And on December 16, Continental Airlines will launch weekly round-trip service from Houston, Texas, to Bonaire. The southbound flight will depart George Bush International Airport on Fridays at 11:30 pm, arriving in Bonaire on Saturdays at 6:15 am. The return flight will leave Bonaire on Saturdays at 8 am, arriving in Houston later that morning at 11:05 am.

For the convenience of those arriving on this dawn flight, many of Bonaire's hotels are offering early check-in and other services. For example:

**Buddy Dive Resort** has special check-in procedures and services for guests arriving on Continental Airlines. They will strive to have all rooms ready for check-in by 9 am. Beginning at 6:30 am an American breakfast buffet will be offered. On the morning guests depart, the resort will provide a complimentary breakfast box. For more information visit <http://www.buddydive.com>.

**Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino** will welcome their guests with a seaside breakfast beginning at 6:30 am (additional charge). Check-in will be upon arrival, but if the room is not available, luggage will be stored in the secure luggage storage area at the front desk at no charge. Divers will be able to store their gear at the dive shop beginning at 7:30 am and will be able to do their Dive Registration and Marine Park Orientation at 9 am. Changing and shower facilities will also be available. For more information visit <http://www.diviflamingo.com>.

► **Air Jamaica, having undergone a nine-month period of restructuring, is expected to return to profitability by 2009**, said the outgoing chairman of Air Jamaica, Dr. Vincent Lawrence, at a press briefing last week. He emphasized that Air Jamaica today is far healthier financially and operationally than the Air Jamaica the board took control of back in December of last year. Lawrence refuted reports that the airline had lost US\$100 million for the first nine months of the year and is expected to record a loss by year's end in excess of US\$150 million. Rather, he said, Air Jamaica lost US\$79 million and is expected to lose no more than US\$100 million for the year. **Air Jamaica flies to Bonaire every Saturday and is key in providing air travel for American visitors to the island.**

Lawrence announced that for their 15 aircraft, utilization has gone up to 10.6 hours per day with room to improve. He said the ideal number is 11 hours a day and that that target would be achieved in the not-too-distant future.

Commenting on Lawrence's assessment, an industry source, speaking under anonymity, said: "This good news is for public consumption. Salaries remain the same, the leases are the same and nothing has been done to reduce costs. The airline is struggling to get decent load factors. As far as load factors are concerned, September was disastrous for Air Jamaica with the carrier losing US \$20 million. Its on-time performance is atrocious and it has lost market share. Talk of aircraft utilization of 10.6 hours per day with 15 aircraft is pie in the sky. It is just not possible."

► A report published by the Dutch Air Inspectorate last week revealed that the aircraft chartered by the defunct Curaçao Airline, **DCA, from Luxor for trans-Atlantic flights, did not meet international safety and security standards**. So serious were the deficiencies that one aircraft was grounded.

► **Everyone's favorite inter-island airline, Divi-Divi, added a fourth plane to its fleet**, another Britten-Norman Islander. This type of aircraft is noted for its reliability and load carrying capacity and is said to be popular with crew and passengers, although a bit noisy. Its high wing design offers exceptional visibility for passengers.

► Boy Clarendia, a well known Bonairean, has taken exception to the apparent policy of BonairExpress **not to use Papiamentu for in-flight announcements** between Aruba and Bonaire. He feels that it is an important security issue for the language to be used so that safety procedures are clearly understood.



WEB with auxiliary units.

► **Bonaire's water and electric utility, WEB, held a press conference last week to talk about its future direction.** It plans to explore alternative fuels like heavier (cheaper) fuel and bio-diesel and from sources other than Curoil. Alternative energy like wind power will be evaluated. An objective is to have half of Bonaire's electric power supplied by windmills.

The plant matter for the production of the bio-diesel might come from seaweed (algae) grown and harvested on Bonaire, perhaps in salt pan areas. A technique, called deep-sea cooling will also be investigated. The additional cost of this development is estimated at NAf63 million. WEB's basic rates haven't been raised in 15 years, according to a WEB

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(Flotsam & Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

spokesman. However, electricity currently costs the consumer almost twice what it did a year ago because of rising world fuel prices.

Almost half of WEB's electricity production capacity at Hato was destroyed in a fire at the WEB central production plant during the night of February 6-7. This lost capacity is being made up by using rented equipment from Agrekko.

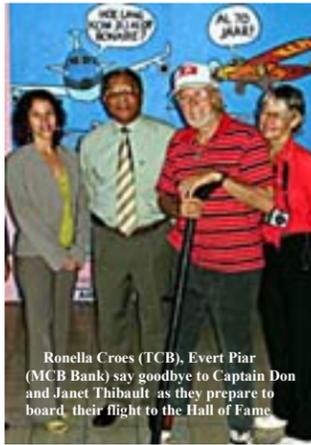
► **Last week the attorney for the convicted Curaçao political leader Anthony Godett filed a petition for clemency with the Court.** The petition for clemency postpones his imprisonment while his appeals continue. Last Tuesday the Dutch Supreme Court in The Hague confirmed Godett's conviction, 15 months in jail of which five are conditional, by the Antillean Court. Godett was found guilty of corruption and money laundering. In addition to the petition for clemency, Godett's attorney in The Netherlands, Gerard Spong, announced he would also file a complaint with the European Court for Human Rights. If the European Court accepts the complaint for review a procedure could be started in the European Supreme Court. A procedure at the European Court could take a year or longer. Godett still maintains that he is innocent.

► The Dutch Minister of Kingdom Relations, Alexander Pechtold, will visit the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba from October 14 through the 23rd. This official visit is a prelude to the **Governmental Summit leading to the restructuring of**

**the Antilles to be held on October 21 in Bonaire.** His official visit to the Antilles will start on the 16th when he will attend the anniversary of the Bonaire Marine.

► **As we go to Press Captain Don Stewart is being inducted into the Diving Hall of Fame in the Cayman Islands.**

Three other dive pioneers are also receiving the honor: Dewey Bergman (deceased), Ernie Brooks and Andreas Rechnitzer (deceased). Captain Don's foresight has allowed Bonaire to remain in the forefront of ecology and dive tourism. He introduced the mooring system that preserved the reefs, advocated the Caribbean's first spear-fishing ban which saved the fish, organized a region-wide association of dive operators (CURO) to help the industry. He is also credited with starting the Bonaire Regatta, the 38th edition of which is underway this week, with a race with Ebo Domacassé for 27 cases of beer. Captain Don is already the recipient of numerous awards including the DEMA "Reaching Out Award." On page 18 of this issue you can read Captain's Don's account of diving at Klein Bonaire



Ronella Croes (TCB), Evert Piar (MCB Bank) say goodbye to Captain Don and Janet Thibault as they prepare to board their flight to the Hall of Fame

in 1965.

Captain Don's trip to the Cayman Islands was made possible by support from Maduro and Curiel's Bank-Bonaire.

► Last week the ruling Patriotiko Party (UPB-Green) provided information on **the progress toward developing closer ties with Holland**, an initiative selected by voters last year and dubbed by the party as *Boneiru Nobo* (New Bonaire). The services that are now the responsibility of the Central Government, such as police, justice, prison, postal services, meteorological services, labor legislation, social insurance, foreign exchange/money and banking, telecommunications, education and health care as well as major tax regulation will have to be provided either by Bonaire itself or The Netherlands. The ultimate objective of the UPB vision for Bonaire is financial and social equality with Holland and maintenance of Bonairean culture and values. The target for the reorganization of the Antilles that will bring about this change is 2007. To work toward that objective a six-man commission was formed consisting of three Dutch representatives and three Antilleans. Their first task will be to formalize an "agreement in principal" with Holland. Representation from all sectors of Bonaire is necessary to form definitive content for the agreement, said Commissioner Jonchi Dortalina.

► Bonaire has numerous (about 80 at last count) charitable foundations, NGOs - Non Governmental Organizations- as they are sometimes labeled.

Most of these are run by volunteers who sit on the boards of directors and make policy and financial decisions for their group. Many of these volunteers have no training or skills to guide them. Until now that is.

On Tuesday, October 4th, FAJ (Antillean federation for youth care) together with Match Consultancy, presented a **new training program focusing on "Board of Director Skills."** It was given as a "gift" during the semi-annual meeting of FAJ members at the NGO office, thanks to a subsidy from JEANA. Annette van Rooijen of Match Consultancy said, "Our main objectives will be developing personal interactive skills." For more information about Training Programs contact van Rooijen at 786-5711, e-mail: info@matchconsultancy.com.

► **"No Tin Cement."** That sign saying "there is no cement" was posted in Kooyman Hardware and other locations. **For several weeks, the second time in six months, Bonaire ran out of the cement** that is used to make concrete, the basis for almost all island construction. Some major projects were suspended until the material arrived. Normally, a shipload from Venezuela arrives every few weeks. Delays, because of material shortages, severely hurt Bonaire's large construction sector.

Earlier this year sand was not available, a problem exacerbated by a ruling that forbids the crushing of stone taken from government land.

(Continued on page 4)



► **Bonaire gets a gated community in Tera Corá** with the opening of a new residential area of 53 nicely designed two and three bedroom/two bath bungalows with gardens, and a community swimming pool. The Regatta Residence project has two, one-story home designs available from 117 to 140 square meters. They are represented by Sunbelt Realty (717-6560).

► **World sea levels could rise 30 centimeters (12 inches) by the end of the century** and freak weather will become more common due to rapid global warming, according to a new study by the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg, Germany. Computer models it has created showed the average global temperature could rise by as much as 4.1° Celsius by 2100, melting sea ice in the Arctic. A 30-centimeter rise in sea level would flood most of Bonaire south of Belnem.

► The former Tropical Storm Vince made a rare European landfall early Tuesday along the southwestern coast of Spain. The weakening tropical depression with 35-mph winds was **the first tropical cyclone on record to make landfall in Spain**, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Vince had been the 11<sup>th</sup> hurricane of the season, and the 20<sup>th</sup> named storm. Forecasters say this appears to be the

farthest east and north that a tropical storm has formed in recorded history in the Atlantic.

The official forecast calls for up to 21 named storms and 11 hurricanes in the season that began June 1 and ends November. 30. While conditions for hurricane development get less favorable as the year goes on, about every other year a hurricane forms in November.

Wilma is the only name left for storms this season. After that, storms are named after letters in the Greek alphabet - which has never happened in more than 50 years of regularly naming storms.



► **Yoga For You announces a Yoga for Kids 6-week program** beginning the Wednesday after Regatta (October 19) at Kaya Haldu 2. The class time for children from 4-7 years is 3-4 pm and for 8-12 years 4:30-5:30 pm.

Yoga for children increases body awareness with a physical activity that



► These children received their A-Level swimming certificates on October 7 at Sorobon. Their teacher is Enith Brigitha, "Dutch sportswoman of the year 1975," from the Zwemschool Enith Brighitha in Curaçao. Brigitha gives swimming lessons every Friday. Congratulations to all! *story and photo Wilna Groenenboom*

is non-competitive. Benefits are increased flexibility, coordination and concentration. Yoga classes help children express creativity and imagination which helps to open up a peaceful and relaxed state of mind and body. The cost is NAf60, due at the beginning of the program. To register call 786-6416; E-mail: info@aplaceforyoubonaire.com

► **The pretty model in the Benetton ad this week is Imka Thomas** from Jong Bonaire. She's shown at the Royal

Palm Galleries in front of Re/Max Paradise Homes. The Benetton ad is on page 11.

► **Photo corrections from last week** - There was a mix up in names in last week's edition. On page 6 (Platforma Rincon) **Sinaida Janga** was misidentified as Roosje Vinck. On page 9 the photo of **Jaeger Sint Jago** was misidentified as Payo Soliana. *The Bonaire Reporter* apologizes for the mistakes. *G./L.D*

Last Sunday was registration day for most of the participants of Regatta 2005. I arrived at *Kas di Regata* around 9 am and it was already busy. Lots of chattering and laughing - everybody was clearly into the Regatta spirit. It was very remarkable that even though it was so early in the morning, nearly all the teens participating in the Regatta event in the windsurfing category were already at *Kas di Regata* to sign up. When I arrived they were sitting in the registration room where the elder ones were helping the younger ones fill in the forms.

When one of them couldn't figure things out, Liesje Saragoza would pitch in to help them. Liesje: *"It is a big job being responsible for all the registrations. You have to help the participants with their forms in an efficient and effective way in order to prevent waiting lines. I've been sitting here from early in the morning and I will be sitting here for a while today! But I really enjoy doing this."*

For windsurfing in Regatta 2005 the following seven categories have been defined: Men/Women, Juniors, Big Kids, Kids, Super Kids, New Kids and Formula. There are plenty of participants



*Liesje Saragoza helps with the registration*

registered in all seven categories.

Two other nice ladies whom you will encounter during these Regatta days at the *Kas di Regata* are Evelaine and Jessy. They are in charge of the sales of Regatta t-shirts and other Regatta items. So if you do not have your Regatta shirt yet, it is still not too late to get yours and wear it during the last days of Regatta. You're not only helping to enhance the Regatta



*Filling the registration forms - Jaeger, David, Bjorn (his brother Jurgen standing behind), Payo, Keke and Kiri*

spirit, but you're also contributing to Regatta funding.

The Regatta spirit was not only inside the *Kas di Regata*. Many people were enjoying the atmosphere, just standing on the boulevard and watching all the preparations. Elvis Martinus was very busy giving instructions to my grandfather, Boeboei Thode, as to where to place the marks in the water. These marks will indicate the course to the participants of all categories so they can keep on track.

For Regatta 2005 I was asked to be the official for freestyle windsurfing. This means that I'll be taking care of the free-

style event that will take place at Sorobon on Wednesday (October 12) during Regatta week. It is my responsibility to arrange the heats for the kids (who will go against whom); to prepare the kids along the shore for their participation (no more than two kids at the same time on the water); and to judge the performance of the kids (who performs the moves in the best way and/or who can do the most tricks). The winners of the individual heats will automatically compete against each other until the last moment when we have only one winner left. I asked my brother, Taty, to give me a hand in judging the partici-

*(Continued on page 11)*

**Bonaire's Sentro di Barios:**

**Platforma Rincon: "Solid As A Rock" Part 2**



**A Candidate for Funding from AMFO and the NGO**



Extra photo

*Roosje Vinck (PR & head of Security/Safety), Maritza Juan Pedro (President & Head of Infrastructure and Tourism), Jeanette Juliet-Pablo (President of the Unidat di Bario di Korsow -Union of the Neighborhoods of Curaçao), Ermine Pourier (Secretary of the board & head of Spirituality), Janie Rombley (Second Secretary & member of Youth), Christopher Frans (Vice President & head of Youth).*

*This concludes the Rincon Platform Report which began last week.*

Religion and spirituality have always played an important role in the Bonairean culture. Ermine Pourier reported that the **Spirituality committee** held meetings with the poverty alleviation group and spiritual leaders to agree on projects that will sustain the community spiritually and are conducting surveys to determine the community's weakest points.

Gacha Coffie, representing the **Senior Citizens committee**, expressed her gratitude for the summer vacation plan for the elderly that AMFO sponsored completely. Some funny anecdotes were shared on the 'good ol' times they had at the different 'ranchos.' She said they'd like to be able to take them out at least once a month, important for them socially and emotionally.

When Bonaireans talk about culture, Rincon is usually one of the first names that comes up. The **Culture committee**,

under the leadership of Lourdes Winklaar, reported that they were representing the Platform during the July Art and Culture Day. She said that traditional practices are vanishing. "Because the younger generation doesn't want to name their children Pedro or Juan anymore, soon we won't be able to celebrate the San Pedro or San Juan days." So her committee started discussions with different culture experts on Bonaire like Papi Cilia and Frans Booi to organize workshops. Also coming soon is a weekend cultural program especially for tourists.

Dorothy Cilia represented Echi Trinidad on the subject of **Family**. Different projects are "Meals on Wheels" for senior citizens, road maintenance and more lighting on the streets. An inventory was made of poor persons' houses which require serious maintenance. A children's "traffic park" and a complaint office were also on the list of future projects.

Maritza Juan Pedro and Ben Oleana spoke about the projects and accomplishments of the **Infrastructure and Tourism** committee and answered questions.

Oleana said the average age of teenagers getting pregnant is getting lower. Together with Bo-nairiaanse Jeugd zorg, Sebiki and Jong Bonaire, the committee is preparing a project to combat



Extra photo

**Commissioner James Kroon at the Platforma meeting**

teenage pregnancy. Riet Sealy will be the coordinator.

They plan to work with **KOKARI** (elderly group). The number of elderly is rising in Rincon, and a survey should be done to help come up with a policy plan.

Besides the drug problem among the youth, alcoholism in Rincon is also alarming. A survey project to determine the numbers was submitted to AMFO.

Despite the above, crime has been reduced by the community acting repressively as well as preventively. For example, not only is the goat thief prosecuted, but so is the buyer.

The committee will be reopening **Kas Krioyo** as a main tourist attraction in Rincon. A variety of new walking routes have been developed (Dos Pos, Altamira etc.) and will be published in a brochure. Meetings are being held with TCB to synchronize the cruise ships visits with the business sector in Rincon (shop keepers, marché sellers, Mangasina di Rei, etc.).

The committee is exploring solutions to the transport problems for Rincon inhabitants.

The public afterwards expressed their satisfaction on the whole afternoon meeting and achievements in such a short period of time.

Seems like Ben Oleana's wish may be realized after all. ("I hope that the Plat-

forma Rincon will be a model for other towns and neighborhoods in Bonaire.")

**After the meeting I spoke individually with James Finies, President of the NGO Platform Bonaire on this interesting afternoon:**

NW: *What is your general impression of this meeting?*

JF: First of all I want to congratulate the Plataforma Rincon for their accomplishments and new board. It takes courage to take the initiative to gather groups to contribute mutually.

NW: *What can you advise the Plataforma Rincon on certain difficult issues with different parties involved?*

JF: Like I said already: it takes courage to sit together and work as everybody has his/her own goals. So in practice it's not always easy to reach a general agreement. However, discussions are healthy as they make an idea 'grow and become better'.

NW: *'grow and become better'?*

JF: Yes. With the condition that the discussion is held in a respectful way, each party's idea can lead to other new ideas. Different input can broaden your own idea that you first thought was good and improve it.

NW: *Mr. Finies, thank you for this opportunity once again.*

JR: You're welcome, Natalie.

*Natalie A.C. Wanga*



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## At The Rincon Marshé



A popular stand at the Rincon Marshé is "Mi Mochila" where Yùfrou (teacher) Jooy sells fresh fruits and vegetables. The Marshé is set up every Saturday morning at 8 am until 2 pm. There's a "Big Marshé" the first Saturday of every month.

➔  
At the Rincon Marshé on Saturdays Amelia Finies sells salted pork, maishi (sorgum), maishi flour and tutu (cornmeal cooked with beans). Here she is with Felipe Sint Jago and Marco Anthony.



## Animal Day at the "Dierenasiel"



Kolegio San Luis Beltran kids visit the pets at the Shelter

In honor of Animal day, the Bonaire Animal Shelter (*Dierenasiel*) last week hosted 47 students and their teachers from the Kolegio San Luis Bertran from Rincon. As you can see from the photo, the children, ages four, five and six, had a very happy time. In fact they stayed for two and a half hours and even had a picnic lunch there. Making it easy for the teachers to tour the children around, each cage had a little sign about the animals. "How many puppies do you see?" "Which do you think have the same mother?" "Which have big ears? Small ears?" "All the animals are vaccinated. Why is that important?" Thanks to Cultimara for donating the juice for the visitors.

The next day, still to honor Animal Day, a smaller group of even smaller kids (six months to four years) from a nursery school in Rincon also came to visit the Shelter. According to Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema they had a great time too.

L.D.

# THE BONAIRE GARDNER

## Native Plants – Bonaire's Gift

The rain that started falling two weeks ago proved again how much Bonaire's nature depends on it. After several months without rain, all the plants in the wild and in the gardens responded immediately to the deluge. But areas like Belnem, where it didn't rain nearly as much as on other parts of Bonaire, are still suffering from the drought.



Agave Plants

In my last article I wrote about sick **Coconut trees**, and hopefully they will be better soon, but keep a close watch on them!

This brings me back to my earlier article about using **native plants** on Bonaire. We had a lot of responses to the fact that it is always good to save as many native trees as possible on building sites. Some people replied that most of the native trees are more vulnerable to termites or white ants, and I think this is true. But this is only because most of the native trees, especially the older ones, have a lot of dead branches, which are perfect for nests for these insects. So if you prune well, take out the dead branches and seal off the wounds, there won't be any bigger problem than for any other trees. People ask me if it is wise to irrigate these local trees. My experience is that that it doesn't help very much. The only thing that really helps is, again, rain!

Other great native plants to use in gardens are of course all the **Cactus** and **Succulents**. There are several nice Cactus varieties in the wild to use in rock gardens. But I think that using only those is a bit simple. There are a lot of different, maybe not native, types of **Agave**, **Yucca**, **Aloe** and **Euphorbia** available on Bonaire.

There are a lot of positive things to say about a **Cactus and Succulent Rock Garden**:

- They are mostly maintenance friendly
  - Most succulents are cheap to buy and everybody can add to them from friends' and neighbors' gardens!
  - Succulents use very little water. But even if you install a garden with only Cactus and Agave, you still have to water them in the beginning! All plants need some water to get started. Depending on the weather, once a week is normally enough.
  - There are almost endless ways of using the different varieties. We are always looking for new types and species to add to our assortment. Some people bring small cactuses from Holland or the States and a lot of them do well here. Some will die, but then you know that they don't belong here.
  - Most materials to start a rock garden are available on Bonaire - stones, diabaas and machines - they are all here!
- As you might have noticed I'm really a big fan of using Cactus elements in gardens. But there are of course some more negative aspects.
- The first and most important one is that most of these plants are very SPINY - especially some varieties of the Agave (Papiamentu name, *Kuku*) are really nasty!
  - Because of those spines maintenance can be difficult. It's not easy getting weeds out of spiny bushes!
  - Some local Cactuses and Agaves will die after some years. This is because they are transplanted or because it is just natural. Everybody knows the big Green Agave flowers, then dies after blooming. Trunks can get up to five or six meters!
- A lot of garden owners have taken **Bulb cactuses (Turk's Cap Cactus)** from the wild, but because they have such an extensive root system when they are pulled up the roots are damaged and the cactus eventually dies. (*It is also prohibited by law to take it from nature. Ed.*) Also other Agaves can get ugly after some time.
- In the next article I will write more about the use of rock gardens and their endless possibilities! *Ap van Eldik*

**Ap van Eldik** owns *Green Label Landscaping* which designs, constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. Two nurseries and a garden shop in Kralendijk carry terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410. **NOW OPEN SATURDAYS, NON-STOP 9 TO 4.**



## YACHTING AND WATERSPORTS

### BONAIRE NAUTICO MARINA A Family Affair



Bonaire Nautico Marina with the *Kantika di Amor* water taxi.

The Bonaire Nautico Marina is fairly unique among Caribbean yacht facilities. For starters it is right downtown, and it is a family affair. It was originally owned by Club Nautico which went bankrupt, but now it's operated by the Ram family. Henk Ram, Jr., who formerly worked for Club Nautico (together with Carlos Rodriguez, a friend, now the manager of Harbour Village) is the dock master.

Beginning with a 19 ft. Mako sport boat named *He Swa*, they bought a 21 ft. skiff from the Trinidad work crew who came over to repair damaged docks after Hurricane Lenny. With this skiff renamed *Skiffy*, Henk started a regular water taxi service from Nautico Marina to Klein Bonaire. Two years later, the built-in-Bonaire, 30-seat catamaran, especially adapted for beaching at Klein Bonaire, the *Kantika di Amor* (Love Song) was added. This catamaran has been a valuable addition to Bonaire's tourist transport fleet.

In 1995 Henk Sr. and his wife Christina bought the 40-ft. Endeavor sailing catamaran *Mushi Mushi* to sail the Caribbean for several years, occasionally leaving her up-island to spend time in their seaside Bonaire home.

Two years ago Henk Sr.'s other son, Bob, with his wife, Inge, and four-year-old daughter, Kimberly, came from Holland to join the company. *Mushi Mushi* was added to the charter fleet with Bob and Inge doing charter/snorkel trips in Kralendijk Bay. You will see her often during the day or evening with her bright white sails and big

red letters.

In the meantime a sister vessel of *Mushi Mushi*, now called *Dushi Dushi* (previously named *Luna C*), can be seen at their dock too. This catamaran is now being used by Henk Sr. and Christina to allow them to continue cruising the Caribbean, leaving the business side to Henk, Bob and Inge.

Because of its spot along the unprotected seafront, throughout the years the marina has experienced damaging swells from wind reversals and passing hurricanes, which damaged the dock in one form or another. During these times all docked vessels must leave as well as those on the Park moorings. From time to time passing power boats create a heavy wake causing unpleasant motion aboard the docked vessels.

Even with these restrictions the marina must be the best deal in the islands. Sailors can get a slip for US\$7 per night, with water and 120/240, 50Hz power available, plus free cable TV at most slips. Water depth is around 2 meters. For full details call Bob at 786-5399 or on VHF 68.

**There has been a recent change in policy.** Up until now Bonaire Nautico has not charged anything for dinghies to tie up. It was to foster a spirit of camaraderie with the cruisers from the yachting world and to provide a sort of welcome. However, this is no longer realistic, and they now ask a token of US\$10 per week from Saturday to Saturday or any part of it. This can be paid at the water slip at 10, 12 or 2 pm

(Continued on page 9)

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

# Beach Cats to Klein Curaçao

(Bonaire Nautico Marina. Continued from page 8)

(except Sundays at 10 am only).

A sign has been posted and each yacht's name recorded on an honor system. If this does not work out further steps will be taken. Henk Sr. says, "Visiting yachtsmen should realize that all of us are connected to the sea and we have a lot of sympathy for sailors. Some of the visiting sailors do not realize that we are the owners of the dock and some of the boats. Our names are just Henk, Bob and Henk and very often one of us is at or around the dock. A little friendly greeting would be appreciated and we certainly will always give them a hand or information when needed." *Henk Ram, Sr.*

On the 17th of September, it looked like it would be a perfect day to sail back and forth to Klein Curaçao with our beach catamarans. One is a Hobie 16 and the other a Nacra-Inter 20. The forecast was perfect: 12 knots coming out of the southeast, with waves of 1.1 meter. At 7 am Geerlof and Anita were ready to leave. Eduard and I left about 15 minutes later, so we could keep an eye on each other. (Normally, because of how our boats are rated we would catch up after about one hour of sailing.) We had planned that the trip would take about two to two and a half hours going. As we sailed along we felt the wind shift more to the east, so Geerlof and Anita had an especially hard time going downwind. The Nacra has a lot more sail and could do it in one leg. Our time was two hours, 29 minutes.

For the Hobie it took three hours. We met again on the beach of Klein Curaçao. It was a beautiful sight: the colorful sails, the blue sky and the white beach. But an unpleasant aspect of our last half hour was an incredible amount of debris floating around in the sea: plastic, tree trunks, grass, etc. So it was a bit of slaloming, trying to avoid it all, to the finish.

After a little rest we prepared to go back. Again Geerlof and Anita left first and we a little later. This was a whole different experience. The waves around Klein Curaçao are bigger than in the center of the course. The first half hour was really pounding, but we kept the speed up to about 18 to 20 km/h (around 11 knots) After exactly two hours we passed the last oil tanks at BoPeC. From there we had to tack a few times and arrived three hours, 14 minutes after leaving Klein Curaçao. It was a trip well worth it.

For the statistics: Geerlof sailed 117 km (58.41 to and 56.17 back); Pieter 106.72 km (47.14 to and 59.58 back).

As far as we know, **Anita was the first woman in the history of sailing to do**



Successful sailors on the beach at Klein Curaçao: Anita, Geerlof, Eduard and Pieter

**this on a beach cat.**

The next plan will be Curaçao and back in one day. If the conditions are perfect we'll do it. We are looking for a south wind around 12 knots and small waves.

Story & Photo by Pieter Zweers

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)									
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides									
DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
10-14	5:06	1.0FT.	10:41	1.4FT.	15:51	1.1FT.	22:16	1.7FT.	70
10-15	5:08	1.1FT.	11:12	1.6FT.	17:22	1.1FT.	23:11	1.5FT.	81
10-16	0:05	1.4FT.	4:52	1.2FT.	11:44	1.7FT.	18:52	1.0FT.	89
10-17	1:54	1.2FT.	4:04	1.2FT.	12:19	1.8FT.	20:27	1.0FT.	95
10-18	13:07	1.9FT.	22:09	0.9FT.					97
10-19	13:54	1.9FT.	23:23	0.8FT.					95
10-20	0:25	0.8FT.	14:44	1.9FT.					90
10-21	1:24	0.7FT.	15:40	1.9FT.					81

## Regular FERRY TO KLEIN BONAIRE

From Bonaire Nautico Marina



HOTEL PICKUP SERVICE

TRIPS Every Day

THE ONLY

WALKON / WALKOFF

Catamaran *Kantika di Amor*

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Trips Every day via resorts

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Except Sunday at 10 am only

YACHTSMEN!

Tie up dockside for \$7/day +tax

Water/115/220V & Cable TV

Dinghy tie-up at north-inside dock

at US\$10 weekly from Saturday to Saturday.

Pay at *Kantika di Amor*

water taxi daily 10 am, 12, 2 pm.

Sundays 10 am only.

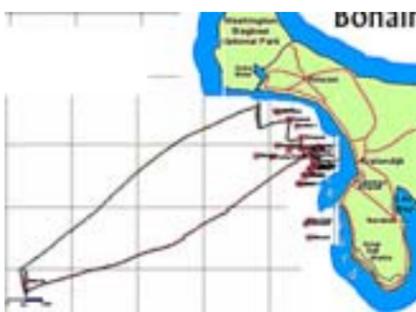
Your boat name will be recorded.

BONAIRE NAUTICO MARINA

At It Rains Fishes Restaurant

Call Henk at 560-7254 / Bob 786-5399

www.bonairenauticomarina /VHF 68



Pieter and Eduard's Route as recorded by GPS

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Aeson	Destiny	Makai	Synergy
Altair	Double Bugey	Maggi	Tish
Alter Ego	Elenoa	Mascalzone	Theis
Amorita	Ete Infini	Noorhinder	Ttuut lele
Angie	Flying Cloud, USA	Papyro	Ulu Ulu, USA
Angelique	Freestyle	Paranda	Unicorn, Norway
Annke	Gallivanter	Propinquity	Valkerie
Aguila	Good Hope	Rache VSamba	Varedhuni, Ger.
Augustine	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Santa Maria	Ventoso
Baku	Guerdo	Sandpiper, USA	Volare
Bright Sea	Jan Gerardus	Seascape	Water Musik
Calliope of Arne	Jomi	Sea Horse	Whitewings
Camissa, Chan Is.	Josina	Sho Fun Time	Ya-T, BVI
Cape Kathryn	Key Lara	Scintella	Yanti Paratzi
Casse Tete	Luna C. USA	ShalimarSirius	
Cruzincat	La Baronne	Sol Y Mar	
Dauntless	Lazzorone	Sparti Vento	
Delphinus	Live Your Dream	Sylvia K	

COVER STORY

# Regatta Week Begins



*Colombian-Bonairean Beauties*

The 2005 Bonaire Regatta roared into action with the first official event, the Nations' Parade, on Sunday night. Hundreds of Bonaire residents, most in costume or their native dress, from 22 of the 48 countries that make part of Bonaire's population, marched from the post office through Kralendijk then back to Wilhelmina Park. They were cheered by large crowds lining Kaya Grandi and the waterfront promenade. After brief speeches Regatta Week was declared officially open.

Regatta Week weather was typical with unsettled conditions, overcast

mornings and fitful winds. The Around-the-Island Race got off to a slow start on Monday morning with winds from the west instead of the usual easterly trades.

It was a long trip around Bonaire because the wind was so light. The last boat finished at 11 pm and several others just gave up and motored home.

In the smaller classes there was spirited competition with the sailors testing their light air skills. Fishing boat and Microboat classes begin later in the week.

Look for race results in the next edition of *The Reporter*.



*The English showed color and spirit*



*Some of the Surinamers*



*Chinese youngsters in traditional dress*

(Regatta Registration Day.  
Continued from page 5)



*Eveline and Jessie are long-time dedicated Regatta workers.*

pants on this day just to make sure that we will have everything under control.

Next week I will be reporting about the results of the windsurfing category, how the participants performed and also some cool pics. Stay tuned!

*Tonky Frans is a frequent contributor to The Bonaire Reporter.*



## Klein Bonaire Swim Postponed

Last Sunday, despite thunder and lightning and the threat of rain, a large crowd showed up at Bongo's Beach to register for the planned swim to Klein Bonaire. According to officials, 230 people signed up, but there were even more in line behind them when the skies opened and the rain poured down and everyone ran for cover. This was a record number (last year there were 207) and should be even higher next Sunday when the Swim has been rescheduled. See you next Sunday, October 16 at 8 am at Bongo's. L. D.



*Storm clouds gather*

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

**RESCHEDULED**

**5th swim to Klein Bonaire**  
Sunday **16** 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!

# Picture Yourself with the Reporter

## Peter Island, British Virgin Islands

Here's Cynde Lee and her husband Michael Dickinson, holding *The Bonaire Reporter* in front of Peter Island in the British Virgin Islands in June. The BVIs are a Mecca for yachts - so appropriate for this Regatta issue.



**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](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2005 photos are eligible.)

### 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](mailto: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.

#### 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.

#### 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>

#### 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/](http://www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/)

#### POSITION WANTED

**Position Wanted** - Donna Gassert is experienced in Quickbooks & Quicken; preparing monthly tax forms; a fast and accurate typist; process oriented; mechanically inclined; dependable and honest. Please call 717 - 7735

#### For Sale

For Sale **Suzuki Samurai 1995** - Good condition. Big tires, only NAf3.800. Call 786-6796

For Sale: **Refrigerator**: A big refrigerator with 2 slicing doors. Height: 59 Width: 30 Depth: 19 Inches \$1.672; **Slicing machine**: To cut meat and cheese \$ 500; **Freezer**: Height: 3 Width: 4 Depth: 2.5 Ft \$ 175; **Horror movies** \$1 a piece; **Christ-**

mas Decorations/ Jeans size 32 and 38, Food warmer small.: **Food Cooler:** Food processors: Food mixers: **Letter Board:** PHONE: 717-2249

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: 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](mailto:info@pelicanreefbonaire.com) or [www.pelicanreefbonaire.com](http://www.pelicanreefbonaire.com) -

**Modern house** for sale. Santa Barbara [www.posada-bonaire.com](http://www.posada-bonaire.com)

#### Wanted

Wanted- **Rowing machine**- Buy, barter or borrow. 717-7657

#### PARTNER WANTED

*The Bonaire Reporter* is looking for a partner. Join us to

**"Publish in Paradise."**

**Working partner** with writing/editing skills, business sense, and energy desired. Call The Reporter at 717-8988, 786-6518.



# WASHINGTON PARK NEWS



*Swinda Trinidad serves great Criollo dishes at the Washington Park entrance*

A visit to Washington- Slagbaai National Park on Saturday or Sunday can now include a relaxed meal or snack at the entrance on the breezy terrace with an expansive view of rolling hills. Swinda Trinidad, who has a reputation as one of the best local cooks around, has a kitchen set up where she serves appetizing local Criollo dishes – like Kabrito (goat), Chicken or Banana Stoba (stew) Pisca (fish), and more. The ingredients are all fresh. “I make dishes to order,” Swinda explains. Try her soups and cakes with a coffee or tea. She’s open Saturday and Sunday, 8 am to 5 pm during the Park opening times.

Thanks to a grant from Stichting Doen the Washington-Slagbaai Park staff is building two very attractive, Bonaire style architecturally, guesthouses at the entrance to the Park. At last there will be a place to stay – on the premises - for visiting scientists, internists, colleagues from other islands or visitors from NGOs (non-governmental organizations). Each house will accommodate six persons, has two bedrooms with poured concrete

“beds,” showers and toilets and a large kitchen-office area where research projects can be carried out.

The Stichting Doen funds were adequate for one house, but Park Manager Fernando Simal enlisted the help of the Park staff, the Fundashon Cas Bonaire-ano (which drew the plans) and contractor Angel Arevato, and together they’re building two houses for the cost of one! One of the houses will be finished this week; the second by December. L.D.

Stop by and see how Washington-Slagbaai Park just keeps on getting better and better: new trails, a comprehensive museum, an outdoor dining area, new toilets, a gift shop, even a whale skeleton!



*Dining area with a breeze and a sweeping view at the Park entrance*



*Researchers and others involved with Park activities may stay in the new guest houses.*



*There are beautiful, clean new rest rooms at the Park entrance now too. Men’s room at right*

## Pet of the Week

One look at this beautiful reddish brown mahogany colored “Maxima” and those soulful eyes is enough to make you fall in love with her. Those eyes confirm her intelligence and an alert mind.

Maxima, at two years old, is a very gentle but self assured dog. She was brought into the Shelter when her owner found that his pit bulls wanted to fight with her. But she’s remained mellow through it all and much prefers the company of humans to bad tempered dogs! When she first arrived at the Shelter she was hesitant and shy—actually the best way to be before she found out what was expected of her. But now she’s acclimated and her true nature has emerged – smart and quick to learn. It’s believed she has some golden retriever in her – the gentleness and those deep brown eyes and her stocky build. Her fur is short and easy to care for, but her tail has a little “feathering” – very attractive.

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

So far this year there have been **130 adoptions**. Last year for the whole year there were 150. In 2003 there were 110. In 2002 there were 90. They’re obviously doing something right!

**A big thank you to the Good Samaritans – The Bonaire Lions Club. To commemorate World Animal Day they donated four, 52-pound bags of dog food! Thank you, Lions! L.D.**



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Regatta 2005 Schedule

### Special Regatta Week Movie

#### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

##### Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

##### Transporter 2 (Jason Statham)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

##### Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolow

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

#### REGATTA SPECIAL EVENTS:

**Saturday, October 15th**, from 6-9 pm KonTiki's chef will prepare a *Caribbean style buffet* while you are listening to live jazz music! Listen to Lando Tjin-a-Tjoe on guitar, Guus Gerritsen on saxophone and Pieter Gerritsen on keyboards. This trio has played many, many times together and are great fun to watch and hear. The buffet is a gourmet treat at an affordable price. See the advertisement on page xx.

**Sunday, October 16**, from 6 pm to midnight at the Sentro di Bario in Rincon, Regatta will close with a tremendous Cultural Night featuring *Nos Kosecha, Shekinah, Glen i su Gèng, Tutti Frutti*, The Group *Hisé Buté* i Group Watapana; Plus demonstrations of traditional musical instruments and singing by youngsters. Proyecto 2000 plus is in charge of the Musical Animation. Bar and food will be available. All are invited for a genuine Bonairean Evening of Fun.

#### THIS WEEK

**October 9 - 15- International Bonaire Sailing Regatta**  
**Friday, October 21 - HOLIDAY Antillean Day, Market & Cultural Activities all day, Nikiboko Cento di Bario**  
**Until October 24— Art Exhibit by Sipke Stapert and Dianir Rivas Torres at Cinnamon Art Gallery.**

#### COMING

**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 handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. [www.infobonaire.com/rincon](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon)  
**Saturday—Mountain Bike Ride—** Everyone is welcome, no matter what your 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 - BonaireTalker Dinner/Gathering** at Gibi's, known for great local food. Call Gibi at 567-0655 for details, or visit [www.BonaireTalk.com](http://www.BonaireTalk.com), and search for "Gibi."

**Friday -Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort,** 5:30-6:30 pm

**Friday- 5-7 pm Social Event at JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7.** Meet artist Janice Huckaby and Larry of Larry's Wildside Diving. New original paintings of Bonaire and diver stories of the East Coast every week

**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 'Pirate House', above Restaurant Zeezicht. 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

All events are at Regatta House (On waterfront, between Harbour Village and Karel's) unless noted.

#### Thursday, October 13th

10.00 - 17.00 Sailing Races  
11.00 - 13.00 Kayak Race  
12.30 - 13.00 Press briefing  
14.00 - 17.30 DJ Music / Activities Broadcasting & Games  
16.00 - 18.00 Microboat races  
16.00 - 20.00 After Sail Happy Hour  
17.30 - 19.00 Working boat Parade Kralendijk Harbour  
20.00 - 01.00 Regatta Festival Wilhelmina Park

#### Friday, October 14th

10.00 - 17.00 Sailing Races  
12.00 - 12.30 Press briefing  
14.00 - 19.00 DJ Music / Activities Broadcasting & Games  
16.00 - 17.30 Microboat races  
20.00 - 21.30 Award Ceremony / Closing Regatta  
20:00 - 24:00 'The Best Driver' Wilhelmina Park  
21.30 - 03.00 Regatta Festival Wilhelmina Park

#### Saturday, October 15th

20.00 - 03.00 Closing Regatta Festival Regatta Boulevard

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.

#### 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.** Wilhelminaplein. 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](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

# DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Brasserie Bonaire</b> 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 <b>Kitchen Open 11 am-2:30 pm, Dinner 5:30-9 pm</b> Breezy terrace with airco inside—Also serving big sandwiches at dinner
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> 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 <b>highest standard of cuisine.</b>
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	<b>Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight!</b> 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.
<b>The Great Escape</b> EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open 7 days	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof.</b> Cuban cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 am to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> 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 <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> 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 <b>Caribbean-style bistro</b> owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> 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 <b>Real Thing!</b> 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

### Avy Benhamron

**“I** was born in Morocco in 1960 and lived for 12 years in the capital Rabat. Then we moved to Jerusalem, Israel. I had to learn a new language, and for me it was very, very beautiful to taste the culture of so many different people. We are all Jews, but we all come from different countries, and so we all have different backgrounds and different customs. It makes Jerusalem a very cosmopolitan city.

At 19 I finished school then went in the army. During my last eight months when I thought I was going to relax, the Lebanon war broke out and I had to participate. I learned a lot; I learned that everybody may be spoiled, but once you’ve been in the army you are no longer spoiled. You are more sensitive to life and you value life more.

In 1983 I packed my bags and went to France because in the Israeli army you have to go for reserve duty once a month, every year, until you’re in your 50s! I went for duty one time, and then I decided to move to Paris. I gave them three years of my life and that was enough, I think.

In Israel I’d studied biology because I wanted to be a vet as I love animals and nature, but I changed my mind when I found the course would take seven years. I also loved art, so I went to Corvisart School where I studied art, advertising and calligraphy. In the meantime I studied on my own how to make leaded windows. At the same time I was working with several advertising companies. With the last one I stayed 10 years, managing 15 people, doing advertising for L’Oreal, Marie Claire and Chanel.

After working in advertising 15 hours a day for 17 years, with all that competition to deal with, I felt a lot of stress. And the seemingly endless stream of bad news on TV from all around the world made me very depressed. When I heard about the horrendous war between the Hutus and the Tootsies in Rwanda I suffered to see that one people from one country were killing each other. I became sick inside, then I decided to do something and leave Paris.

I had met Christelle in Paris in 1984, and together we had two children: Laetitia, born in 1992 and Yann, born in 1994. I had been diving for 15 years, having learned it in Israel, and when I told Christelle ‘Let’s go on a dive vacation,’ she agreed. The first magazine I saw, there was Bonaire on the first page! And in French ‘*bon air*’ means good air, so I thought, this is what I need! We came for a week without the kids, then after we’d been here twice

for one month with the children we decided to leave Paris and come to Bonaire for good.

I really fell in love with the island because it was peaceful. Of course we asked ourselves, what are we going to do here? We saw that there was no place renting small sailing boats like a Sunfish. So, we opened a sailing club, but it wasn’t in a good place, and after four years we had to give it up. However, we didn’t want to give up the island! All the time I was here I’d been painting and selling my art, and more and more people were asking me for more of my work, so then from a hobby it developed into a profession. I had the idea of opening my own art gallery, but because the rents were high I looked for another artist to share the rent with me. I found Joey Pawlak, one of my best friends and also an artist, willing to share a gallery with me. But Joey died suddenly, and after some time I called Jake and Linda Richter, and they agreed right away.

**“It seems like you have more time here. In other countries you see life passing by under your nose and suddenly you are 65 years old... I was lucky... I didn’t wait until retirement age to come here.”**

April 2004, Cinnamon Art Gallery opened its doors. The name I always wanted, because cinnamon is a very beautiful spice - sweet and a warm color - and it fits my culture and the way I am. I am really happy that finally my dream came true, and I feel lucky to be making a living doing something I really love.

Unfortunately, we have a very limited market here in Bonaire. The low season lasts a long time, and sometimes it is hard, so I send my art overseas, to a gallery in Noordeinde, the street where the Dutch Queen lives in The Hague, Holland; to an African Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas; and to a gallery on the French side of St. Martin. Sending my art overseas means I can reach more people; that’s my ambition!

The old style of African art is very heavy, but my art is very graphic: it’s clear, very light and very bright with

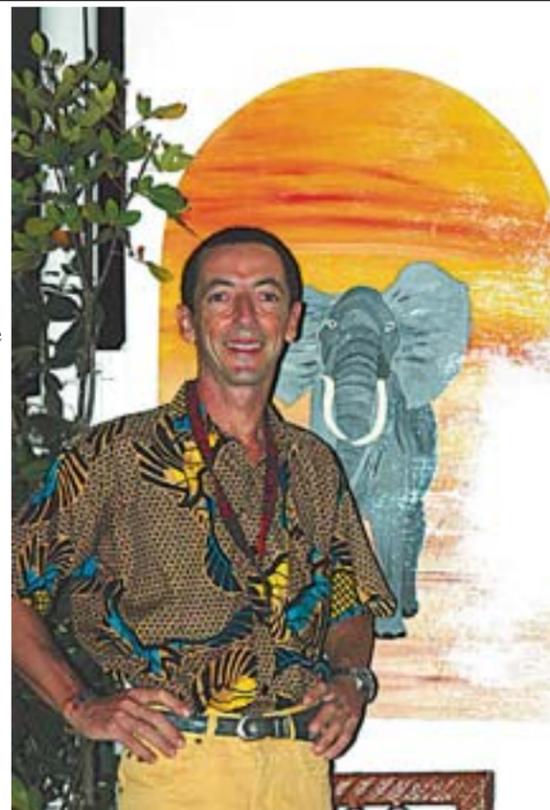
warm colors and it has the African soul. Another thing I am very proud of is my Bonairean stamp, a real stamp. I chose four designs of my paintings and had them printed and legalized in Curaçao with a certificate of authenticity and a serial number. For me it’s recognition. There’s only a limited number printed, so that makes the stamps more valuable and unique. You can only buy them in the Gallery, but you can use them! So, that’s really my baby!”

*Avy Benhamron is a slender, elegant man, a sensitive and colorful person, but at the same time he’s someone who connects instantly with other people.*

“I am a person who’s always looking for new ideas, new people and new cultures. Bonaire taught me a lot about relationships. It is a very beautiful school of life. Many times I met wonderful people whom I got attached to and then they left. So, it’s very difficult to keep deep relationships on the island. But you have to live with it and learn not to get attached or you will get hurt; *c’est la vie!* Two months ago Christelle left with the children for Martinique, and I am very happy that the children are back in the French school system. Of course I miss them a lot, but I have been very lucky that Christelle chose Martinique and not France. It’s not so far and I can go and visit them. Bonaire gives me the quality of life; it cured me from my sadness of all the bad things that are going on in the world; it has no pollution, no stress; and I haven’t had the flu in six years, but... in life we need more...”

It’s difficult for an artist to live on Bonaire, especially when you’re an artist 24 hours a day. My art is my life; when everybody else is sound asleep my paintings are born. Of course I want to stay here, but I have to be rational and think about the future. If the economy doesn’t pick up and if the government and TCB are not bringing more tourists, it will be very difficult to live from my art. I guess a little bit more business would make everybody happier. Bonaire should advertise more in Europe and the States and should also offer more packages, all included, because that’s what people want.

Another thing is Dia di Arte. Why aren’t we doing it in high season? Why



Avy Benhamron

can’t we do it more often? And why do the Bonaireans show so little of their folklore? It would be nice to see people in their traditional costumes in the street and to have local music and folkloristic dances on the boulevard at night, not only the mariachi, which is Mexican anyway. They should reflect the atmosphere that we’re in Bonaire: with the food, the dress, the dance and the music. Bonaireans should be proud of being Bonairean and they should show it. It’s important to know where you’re from; it’s the basics of the basics. It’s the concrete on the floor, and from there the tree will grow. Life is like the branches of the tree; if you’re lucky you take a solid branch and you get good fruit. Sometimes it’s difficult to survive. Everybody knows that. If you stay here not making a lot of money, that means you really like the place!

I’ll be here for the coming years. The Gallery is doing really well during high season, so maybe a change will come and we will also be good for the rest of the year.

It seems like you have more time here. In other countries you see life passing by under your nose and suddenly you are 65 years old... I was lucky... I didn’t wait until retirement age to come here.”

Greta Kooistra



# BONAIRE'S "WINDOWS" INTO THE REEF: THE "NO NAME BEACH" DIVE SITE 1965



*No Name Beach - One of the "Windows" into the Reef*

Divers often ask how the dive sites in Bonaire were named. Since I was the first and only dive operator for 12 years, I named many of them and have written other stories detailing the background of these "Windows" into the reefs. Previous stories can be accessed in the Archives of *The Bonaire Reporter*, so if you like this story about the early days of diving on Bonaire and want to know more, you know where to go.

Back in 1962 after arriving on Bonaire on my schooner the *Valerie Queen* with only my ship's papers and 63 cents in my pocket, I accepted the job of managing a former German internment camp. Originally, it had been named Zee Bad (Sea Bath) by its founder, Mr. L.D.Gerharts, a Dutchman who had great expectations for the island's first hotel. In time I came to admire this gentleman for his exciting undertakings and visions, but to me the property (now the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort) was still all internment camp, excluding the barbed wire. Things had just been rearranged.

The current owner, John Bogart, an American expatriate and Cessna dealer in Venezuela, actually drafted me off the street for the manager's job. He touched a nerve when he promised food since the 63 cents did not go far even in those days, and I was getting very tired of fish. I explained to him that I had never been in a hotel in my entire life nor had I slept in a real bed in the last five years. So what would I possibly know about running a hotel? However, I think he sensed that I ran a tight ship and settled for that. I had been a Depression kid, a salvage mechanic, and some seventh sense must

have convinced him that I could fix anything, like an old camp, and thus was perfect for the job.

Admittedly, there was a lot to fix. Around 1952 Gerharts had come up with the exciting idea of turning the old internment camp into a desperately needed hotel. At that time only a few pension houses were available for visiting guests to the island. Extraordinarily dexterous, this man had used every plank of wood that the termites had spared to erect his dream. Any friend who owned a hammer helped to rip apart some of the original huts and put together this place they proudly called Zee Bad, a cluster of 13 cottages and a main building which had been the internment camp's hospital.

It was some time around 1957 that a Capt'n John Bogart purchased the place for a song, or so I was told. He, being a Yankee and not speaking Dutch, did not view the name of Zee Bad as commercial enough for his intended North American clientele and renamed the place "Flamingo Beach," then made it a "Club."

After I took the job, my life changed. Percy, my mate on the *Valerie Queen*, went on to commercial diving while I chose to stay with the tourists. The original idea to bring in guests was to create the bird watching capital of the world. However, even though I was the president of the Bonaire chapter of the Audubon Society, in truth, there were more birds in any back yard in Tobago. Bird watching, while interesting to some, was not the answer to Bonaire tourism.

The answer now seems obvious, but in those days there weren't very many divers in the world. The Bottom Scratchers, LA County, plus the famous Boston Sea Rov-

ers were training a few hunters and salvage divers. However, in Bonaire, we knew nothing of those people or what they did, but had started producing our own share of rookie reef divers since, as many agree, "the beauty of Bonaire is underwater."

We were still 10 years away from what was called "Scuba Certification." But what the hell, I had logged almost 500 dives and considered myself professional. After all, I and my students had all survived. So as each class started I would say, "Trust your theory, your equipment, and above all, your instructor." After their successful checkout dives, I blessed all my new divers as Captain Don's macho tropical divers (male or female, as I was an equal opportunity instructor) and celebrated the new arrivals' entrance into the wet world of pollywogs with a whooping party. I might not have known how to run a hotel, but being a Hollywood boy I sure did know about parties.

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Between May of 1962, when I first introduced Scuba to Bonaire, and 1972, when we really started to become serious about our venture, many new "Reef windows" were opened.

Typically, I invented ways to name these sites. In no way was it haphazardly done. I insisted on plenty of hoopla. I would talk up one of my favorite unnamed windows, toss my divers into a rented garbage truck or a few leaky rowboats and take off to new adventure. 1000 steps, La Dania's Leap, and Snake Valley are good examples of this. When we returned to the hotel, a party was called for, and we partied the night away to immortalize that particular window.

For example, there was a place on Klein Bonaire that I knew quite well. It was on the long run of the island's north side. It

had plenty of sand, and, in fact, I had been told it was one of the main sand deposits around. A dock had been built for the loading of the sand barges. The barges couldn't have been of any size because it was honestly a very small dock. However, that old battered jetty, as worthless as it was, had become an obsession. I spent countless hours repairing that damn thing just because I thought it needed it. We never did use it, as the water there was only a few feet deep and we just stepped over the side of the boat onto the soft sand floor.

This beach area was Bogart's place in the wild, and he brought wealthy Venezuelans over for weekends. It was then that I started to know the crowd. For example, there was Mike Osborn who was the president of the Caracas Aquanauts, and Linda George, who worked for Bank of America in Venezuela. Mike's people liked to weekend in Bonaire, flying over in an old, beat-up DC 3.

I told Mike's group about my secret place over on Klein Bonaire and offered them the chance to name the dive site. So the next day I rented several leaking fishing boats to ferry us over to the island. The diving was, of course, superb: a great drop off and a fringing reef that was the ninth wonder of the world for snorkelers and divers alike. That night we had a fine christening party for the new site, and everyone got a little drunk. By midnight I was still waiting for Mike's people to name the window. Next morning, I delivered them to the plane, and they still hadn't come up with even a hint. Then, as I watched the plane lift off the macadam, I was pissed. I had really gone all out for Mike, and the least he could have done was to play the game and give me a name. So, like the little red hen, I named that window myself and simply called it "No Name." -79- Captain Don

**Note:** In the year 2000 No Name was temporarily renamed "Neme Beach" in recognition of the man who sold the island to Bonaire for \$5 million. However, the name change didn't stick and the area is known once again as No Name Beach. Ed.



*Captain Don*



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

## Venus Visits Antares, and October's Wonderful Hunter's Moon Visits Mars and the Seven Sisters"

This Sunday, the brightest planet visits a super star, plus beginning on Sunday and lasting for three nights we will experience an exquisite **Hunter's Moon**. And we'll be able to use it to find both the planet which is racing toward us, **Mars**, and the legendary cluster of stars known as the **Seven Sisters**.

**This Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>** about an hour after sunset, face west where you'll be able to see the brightest planet of them all, **Venus**, in a super close meeting with the super red star called **Antares**. In fact only three full **Moons**, placed side by side, will separate these two this Sunday. Don't miss this dramatic meeting of an 8,000-mile-wide planet and a 500-million-mile-wide star!

Then if you turn around and face east you'll see October's magnificent full Moon, which we call the Hunter's Moon, just rising. It should look very colorful - reddish orange pumpkin colored - almost like last month's Harvest Moon and will be visible **Sunday, Monday and Tuesday** night. Now although the Moon doesn't officially become full until 8:14 am Bonaire Sky Park Time, Monday morning, it will look full on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

The reason it is called the Hunter's Moon is because that is the name given to the full Moon one month after the **Harvest Moon**. You see, in September farmers traditionally harvested their fields by the light of that full Moon thus giving it its name the Harvest Moon. One month later the Moon was named for the hunters who would venture out under the light of the full Moon after sunset hunting for the small game that came out to glean the fields by moonlight. So catch its beauty Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

And speaking of **Tuesday**, you'll be able to use this Moon to find brilliant Mars, which is racing towards us and is the third brightest thing in the sky right now after the Moon and Venus. I would suggest looking about three hours after sunset when it has risen high enough to clear most buildings and trees. And please if you haven't been watching Mars yet, start watching it at least once or twice a week from now on because it will be at its closest, biggest and brightest on **October 29<sup>th</sup>**, brighter and closer than it will be until the year 2018.

And if that's not enough, if you've ever had a hard time finding the tiny cluster of stars which looks like a cluster of grapes, you can find the Seven Sisters, also known as **The Pleiades**, parked just above the Moon on **Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup>**. One catch, however: the Moon's light will be quite bright and will wipe out some of the light of The Pleiades. So make a mental note where they are in relation to Mars and then wait for a couple of nights until the Moon is well past them to find them.

So there you have it: Venus and Antares in a super close huddle this Sunday plus three nights of the Hunter's Moon and an easy way to find Mars and the Seven Sisters. *Jack Horkheimer*



*Hunter's Moon*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: **October 10 to 16, 2005**

By Astrologer *Michael Thiessen*

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't let children or elders put demands on your time. Don't bang your head against a wall. Peers may not be on your side. Abrupt action will cause difficulties with relatives. Your lucky day this week is Sunday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You will be able to work in fine detail and present the best possible proposal. Your high energy should be spent pleasing your mate. You could be disillusioned if you let a relative in on your emotional thoughts. False information is likely if you listen to idle chatter or gossip. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Family responsibilities are escalating. You're best not to get involved in joint financial ventures. Try to get others to stand behind your good judgment. This is a great day to beautify your living quarters or to entertain at home. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You will be able to dazzle others with your obvious charm and your outgoing nature. Family members may feel anxious if you make promises you don't deliver. Do not let others exhaust you financially. You would be best to work late in order to avoid such disharmony. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Build on friendship rather than starting out in an intimate encounter. Don't overdo it. Get promises in writing or you will be disappointed. Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try not to let relatives or friends cause any friction with your mate. Your personal life will be disrupted if you have been too busy with business. Don't overspend to impress someone who interests you. Investments that deal with property will be lucrative; however, upsets with family members may be likely. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your self esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the limelight. Do not travel unless absolutely necessary. Be careful. Listen to a good friend who is truly looking out for your best interests. You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your professional attitude will not go unnoticed. Talk to superiors about problems that you feel are getting out of hand. You are likely to be left alone if you aren't willing to bend just a little. You can make major gains professionally by completing projects on time. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Compromise if you wish to have any fun at all. You have so much to offer; open up and let your thoughts be known. You can learn valuable information if you listen and observe what others are doing and saying. Lovers may not be truthful. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Friends may not understand your situation. Be careful what you consume this week. However, you should be concerned about what they want in return. Be careful of the groups you join or the people you associate with. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't let your health suffer because of worry. Talk to someone you trust. You can make money if you pursue your own business. Lack of funds may add stress to your already uncertain situation. This will not be the time to lend money to friends or family. Your lucky day this week is Wednesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will have no trouble getting things to fall into place. Alienation may be the result of a misunderstanding. Travel will be favorable. You will be able to work in fine detail and present the best possible proposal. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.