

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

September 22 to 29, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 37

The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



What's Micky looking at?
Answer below



A 4m. (13ft.) long Nurse Shark
Find out more on page 8

Flotsam and Jetsam



The first daily 156-seat JetBlue flight from New York landed in Aruba last Friday afternoon. The Airbus of the low cost carrier-high service was welcomed by the airport fire department with spray from their crash trucks. Flying JetBlue to Aruba with a Divi-Divi or DAE connection to Bonaire is an alternative for American travelers to our island. A non-stop connection would be preferable.

► Last week's debate on aviation in the Antillean Parliament lasted nine hours, but it didn't cause a crisis despite the fact that Bonaire's Senator Ramonsito Booi announced that he was ready to play hardball. He didn't fold but "agreed to disagree" with his coalition partner, Transport Minister Kenneth Gijsbertha.

Senator Booi believes that the Minister's position to allow Surinam's SLM Airline to fly as a wet lease for the newly founded Curaçao airline, Insel Air is wrong. Bonaire-based airline Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) and Booi's supporters in Parliament called it "unfair competition" and "allowing foreign companies to fly on domestic routes."

Booi stated that "It is now up to DAE to decide whether to take legal action."

Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) subsequently filed a court request for an administrative procedure ruling based on the existing transportation laws. The intention is to block Insel Air from flying the Curaçao-St. Maarten route using a leased Surinam Airways MD-82 airplane. Insel Air announced it would change its inaugural flight from September 19 to September 21 as a court ruling is to be made after we go to press. Transport Minister Gijsbertha said DAE had been given a permit to lease the same SLM plane but had not made use of the permit.

During a qualification of the aircraft early this week a defective part was discovered and the aircraft was grounded until it could be replaced.

► Last Thursday, in an introductory ad, Insel Air announced a special fare from Curaçao to St. Maarten for the next six weeks. The cost is NAf199 for a one-way ticket (plus tax) and NAf398 for a round-trip ticket from September 21, the day of the first flight, to October 31. This is considerably lower than the DAE fare.

► We noted that in the 2007 Central Government budget "Justice Admini-



stration" consumes 40% of the total, up from 36.2 % in 2006. This is an increase of more than NAf15.4 million - from NAf157.1 million this year to NAf172.5 million next year. The higher law enforcement cost is to a large extent necessitated by the rise in crime.

Almost the same proportion of the budget is spent on "Debt Service," about NAf171.2 million for next year. This figure is based on anticipated revenues of NAf881 million and expenses of NAf848.6 million in 2007.

That means the Central Government has only 20% of its budget remaining to spend on ALL other government services, including support to islands other than Curaçao.

► Bonaire and Saba along with the Central Government are going to approach the Netherlands for extra financial aid for the "smaller islands" of the Antilles. Bonaire Senator Ramonsito Booi said the necessity for a short-term solution should be provided until Bonaire is given new political status.

The Senator pointed out that the smaller islands of the Antilles could no longer cope with the current situation where the Central Government is broke. "The Central Government has to take care of the smaller islands, but when we appeal to Willemstad for

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) help, they tell us that we need to stick to our budgets and that they do not have sufficient financial means," Booi said. "As an island, we are coping with another reality. We cannot even think in terms of a budget, but in terms of liquidity. The money that comes in is immediately spent."

► **The General Pension Fund of the Netherlands Antilles (APNA) announced a few months ago that the WEB and Telbo shares will be sold on October 30th** as compensation for the government debts. Now APNA has said it will delay the sale provided the Island Government makes regular payments so the Island Council can negotiate the debt satisfaction as part of the restructuring of the Netherlands Antilles.

► **The Dutch Government announced it has increased Acute Poverty Reduction Funds to the Antilles** by about NAf4.7 million. In May, the Dutch government made NAf8 million available, but the large number of funding requests prompted the increase. The funds are administered by the Implementation Organization Netherlands Antilles Development Foundation (USONA- *Uitvoeringsorganisatie Stichting Ontwikkeling Nederlandse Antillen*).

Last week Curaçao received 39 project grants worth more than NAf3.2 million; Bonaire got 28, worth more than NAf2 million; St. Maarten, 17 projects for NAf3,5 million; and Saba and St. Eustatius each got seven projects valued at NAf1 million.

There will be a meeting, Thursday, September 21, in the Habitat Conference Room to present the Bonaire project awards.

► **The Social Insurance Bank (SVB) will change the month for SVB-insured persons who want to change their family doctors.** This year requests to change one's family doctor will be accepted **during September** and will go into effect in October 1. Previously, June and December were the change months. The decision to alter the date was taken after SVB received several requests from insured members and family doctors. The associations of family doctors in Curaçao, St. Maarten and Bonaire were also consulted on the issue.

► **Wages in the Netherlands are increasing more than anticipated** with average increases running at 3.8%, rather than the 2% forecast. The increase is up to 3.6% for operational staff and up to 4.1% for people at the managerial level, according to the *Beloningsindex 2006*, the wages index published annually by ADP Nederland and Mercer Human Resource Consulting. A random sample indicated a director gets the highest wage (110,200 euros), while a cleaner gets the lowest (23,200 euros).

► **Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad shored up opposition to a US drive to curb Iran's nuclear program on a visit to neighboring Venezuela** on Sunday that cemented an anti-American front with President Hugo Chavez. On the same day Israel's Foreign

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

There are tricks that help divers get close to the coral without damaging it?

There are divers who effortlessly glide around the reef without ever contacting it; there are divers who stay well off the reef but never see the small details; and there are divers who bump, bump, bump. If you are in this last category, take a buoyancy control course or find a new pastime. If you're in the second category, perhaps I can give you a tip that may help you to get close enough to see the small treasures of the reef without worrying about crashing into it.

It's all about going head first. Let's say you're hovering above an anemone and want to see if there's a cleaner shrimp in residence. Assuming you're neutrally buoyant, inflate your BCD until you're a bit positively buoyant and tilt your head down until your feet are above your head. Slowly kick your fins until you're just above the anemone (we're talking inches). After you've had your fill, rise up above the reef, release some air from your BCD until you're neutral again and continue your dive. The beauty of this 'head down' technique is that if you stop kicking, you'll rise up slowly. Try this skill a few times above a sandy bottom until you have it down and then try it out on the coral reef. □ C.E.



Biologist Caren Eckrich founded and runs Sea & Discover, Bonaire's marine education center specializing in guided dives and snorkels for adults and adventure programs for kids. You may call her at 717-5322.



Minister Tzipi Livni said that the world may have as little as "a few months" to avoid a nuclear Iran and called for sanctions. Livni's country is the only Middle East power that has nuclear weapons,

► **FORMA, Bonaire adult education**

inst, next month will start several interesting language courses. On October 2 they will start with different groups of Papiamentu classes: Papiamentu for beginners for English speakers, Papiamentu for beginners for Spanish speakers as

(Continued on page 5)

TCB Brand Development Meeting - 2006

The Brand Development Meeting organized by the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) last week, September 13-15, was meant to turn Bonaire's marketing in a new direction. The format of the three-day meeting itself was a departure from the past annual marketing meetings where TCB representatives from the different geographic areas reported their past activities and plans for the next year against a background of annualized figures. Beginning on Day 1, that activity became a miniscule part of this year's total event. This time the results from over 3,000 individual surveys of island visitors and on-island "focus groups" were the backdrop. Bonaireans from different walks of life were included in the meeting and contributed significantly to the outcome. The surveys were meant to answer questions like: Who are our customers? How do they find us? Why do they come? What do they think about Bonaire? Who is Bonaire's competition? And finally, what actions can we take? The surveys indicated that Bonaire's "typical" visi-

tor was a prosperous "baby boomer." He/she spent an average of \$135/day (excluding airfare) and their top three activities were diving, relaxing and snorkeling.

The thrust of Day 2 was to generate ideas and concepts to serve that market. Hundreds of ideas were brought forward in a brainstorming exercise conducted by former marketers Jane Townsend and Alan Gross, longtime Bonaire residents.

Words cannot capture the enthusiasm and positivism of that day. The ideas generated were recorded and will be ranked and specific important concepts developed, including an exciting World-wide Web program.

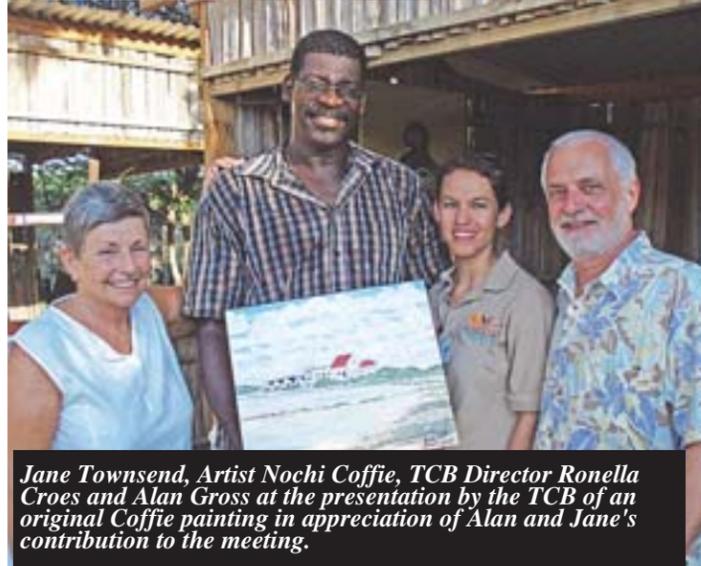
On Day 3 the TCB groups met in a closed session. If successful, the impact of the Brand Development Meeting will be to present Bonaire to the world as a destination that many people, hopefully more than do today, will choose to visit and take a break from their daily routine and return home with memories to last a lifetime... and maybe even make them want to return again. □ G.D.



The International TCB Team



Exciting concepts for a new official website were presented



Jane Townsend, Artist Nochi Coffie, TCB Director Ronella Croes and Alan Gross at the presentation by the TCB of an original Coffie painting in appreciation of Alan and Jane's contribution to the meeting.

Mass Tourism? No Way!

An interesting closing to the three-day tourism partners meeting last week was a unanimous vote against mass tourism for the island. All the participants, even some hotels who dearly need an increase in occupancy, voted 'no' when asked if mass tourism was right for Bonaire.

In her presentation on the first day, Tourism Director Ronella Croes mentioned a goal of 80,000 tourists to support necessary airlift. There seemed to be universal agreement that a critical mass of **70,000 to 75,000 annually** will be necessary to fill existing airlift and give the existing and planned hotels a satisfactory occupancy rate. During the voting on the final day, the group all agreed that a maximum of 100,000 visitors should be the five-year goal, and some said perhaps a 'lifetime' maximum.

Another universal theme of the group was the need for more Bonaireans to be active in the tourism sector, both as employees and as business owners. To this point many said a serious training program and even a professional hospitality school will be necessary to make it a reality. According to one participant: "Bonaire does not need more hotels so Bonaireans can share in the tourism. What we need is a training program to prepare young people for the business and a training program so they can advance in the industry. If we just keep adding hotels we will just keep adding foreign workers." □ J.T.

(Continued from page 3)

well as Papiamentu conversation classes.

In that same week FORMA will also begin English classes for beginners and English conversation classes. All classes will be from 6:30 pm to 8 pm in comfortable classrooms with air conditioning. You can sign up for classes at FORMA, Kaya Korona 13 (between RBTT and Kooijman) during office hours. When you sign up you will be asked to take a short test so FORMA can determine in which course or group you will benefit most. For more information you can pass by during office hours or call 717-6949 and ask for Monique Karsowidjojo.



Internet Photo

► **A Florida diver shot a large grouper with a spear gun then apparently drowned** when the fish sped into a hole, entangling the man in the line attached to the spear, investigators said on Monday. The 42-year-old man, whose name was withheld, was free-diving in about 25 feet (7.5 meters) of water off the lower Florida Keys and speared a Goliath Grouper.

► **Aruba recently lowered the price of fuel.** One liter of regular gasoline now costs Aƒ181.9 fl cents, which is 12.3 cents cheaper than before. One liter of diesel fuel now costs 161.5 cents at Valero gas stations and 153.5 cents at Texaco stations. Kerosene also dropped by 0.7 cent, to 148.8 cents. The price decrease is attributed to the changed prices for oil on the world market. The price of fuel in St. Maarten also dropped; **Bonaire is still waiting.**



► **Jody's (Fashion, Music, Trends) Bonaire is pleased to announce the launching of their new website, www.jodysbonaire.com,** highlighting the variety of fashion, music and trends available at their shop on Lagoen Hill #18. It's unique on Bonaire.

► This coming Monday, 25 September, at 6:30 pm at the **Top Health**



Fitness center (Kaya Nikiboko North 44, next to Mi Banana Restaurant road to More 4 Less) there will be an information night about an upcoming **three-month weight loss program** starting in October under the guidance of a certified dietitian. for more information call 717-5662 or 786-8909.

Letters to the Editor

ALL INCLUSIVES?

Dear Editor:

It is very sad that probably the only opportunity for Bonaire



to have a centrally located public beach that everyone could enjoy, especially the Bonaire people themselves, will be given away to an "All Inclusive Resort" - a euphemism for "we will do everything possible to keep every penny spent within our walled, gated and sealed up hotel."

Will this All Inclusive Resort use the local taxi services? Doubtful - most likely their own airport transport. Will they allow Bonaireans, as in the past, the use the beach? Highly doubtful. Will they be given a huge tax break? Most likely. Will Bonaire see any income from this All Inclusive Resort? Doubtful. Will a few politicians make a lot or personal money? Highly likely.

J.B.

Bonaire Disappoints

Dear Editor:

For the past 25 years I have been vacationing on Bonaire and was first captivated by the Bonairean people and then the island. I have watched as hard working young people have grown and started their own families. The friendships I have developed on Bonaire are closer than any I know. Last year I made the decision to buy a home on Bonaire. It is the first and only home I have ever owned, as I live in a small apartment. Lately I have been hearing from local Bonaireans and divers alike that crime and drug use are on the rise. Cars and homes are being broken into at an alarming rate, and the police force is under-staffed and overwhelmed. There is crime all over the world no matter where you go, but to hear that it's getting so bad in a place I hold so close to my heart saddens me to the core.

I would hope that these things are being looked at closely and that steps are being taken to address these issues before it's too late and Bonaire's reputation as one of the safest and most beautiful places in the Caribbean is lost to a small criminal element. Stinapa does a great job of protecting the reefs and shore line, which are the life blood of the island for dive tourism. Hopefully the government will see how serious the 'above water crime pollution' is, give the police more support and be more aggressive on crime before it's too

late and the hard working, decent people of Bonaire are left with the pollution of crime to deal with as the powers that be do nothing. The time of leaving your window open, day or night, while you try to relax or sleep and feel safe after a hard day is coming to an end. Bars must now be put on every door and window (if you can afford it) and the local, hard working Bonairean population may now feel like they are living in a jail cell while criminals, delinquent youths, and petty thieves roam free to prey upon the honest citizens.

Recently I heard that Stinapa's building was broken into . These are the people who have the endless job of trying to protect the island's richest natural resource for the future of the Bonairean people. It makes me wonder who will be next, the police station, Governor's home, or worst of all our church? What do we need to do to increase the resources and capacity of the law enforcement on the island to protect its citizens, their homes and Bonaire's reputation within the tourist industry?

Patrick Ryan

Not everyone agrees with Mr. Ryan's sentiments. The vast majority of Bonairean homes have no bars and statistically crime is down—Ed.



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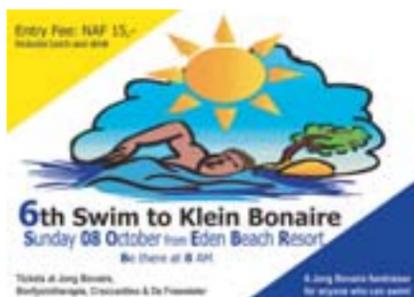
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► MIO, the smallest cell phone service provider of the three on Bonaire, is offering a low cost plan especially attractive to its clients. Simply put, **MIO clients can place an unlimited number of calls and speak at any time, for an unlimited time, with other MIO clients on Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Maarten for NAƒ40/month.** Visit MIO in the Royal Palm Mall off Kaya Grandi for more information.

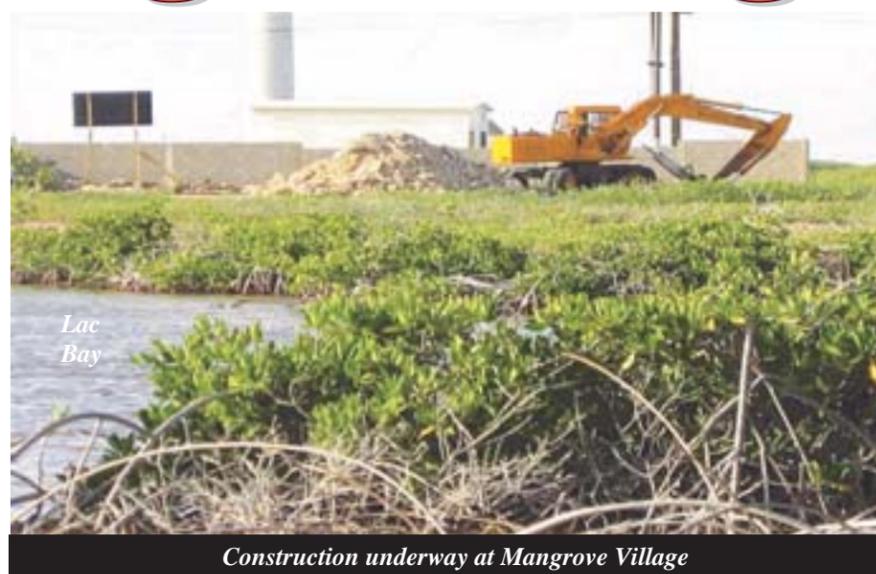
► The current ruling party, the Green, UPB, Bonaire Patriotic Union Party, is planning a series of **meetings, presentations and a website to clarify what the implications of a new status - Boneiru Nobo** - would mean to the people of the island. Next year, if the schedule holds, Bonaire will separate from the rest of the Netherlands Antilles and look to Holland rather than Curaçao for support and services it can't provide for itself. The first of those meetings were held last week. Aimed primarily at UPB members the sessions are informative for all.



► If you haven't done it before, do it this year. **Swim to Klein Bonaire** (and back if you wish) on Sunday, October 8. All proceeds go to Jong Bonaire. □ G./L. D.

Mangrove Village Outrage

Many people who are concerned about the protection of the environment and nature on the island are disturbed by the fact that the island government has given a developer a construction permit to build 44 villas and a 50-room hotel on the mangrove shores of Lac Bai. This area has been decreed a "Ramsar site," whereby the area is protected from rampant development. The concern is that the land was granted to the developer without any environmental impact study being done, as is required by law. The following excerpts are a translation from a message from Elsmarie Beukenboom of Aliansa, Bonaire's nature alliance.



Construction underway at Mangrove Village

In 1971 in the city of Ramsar in Iraq there was a unique world convention to protect the world's environment and ecology. There were 153 countries that attended, Holland being one of them. The Ramsar treaty was concerned particularly about the salt water areas which are so important to the world-wetlands

Aliansa Naturalesa Boneiru (Bonaire Nature Alliance) sent a petition to the Governor of the Netherlands Antilles, asking that he revoke the construction permit and the *erfpagt* (long lease) for the Mangrove Village on the shores of Lac Bai, since the area is a Ramsar Site to be protected from development.

During the 1980s the government of Bonaire petitioned the Dutch Government to apply for **five areas of the island to be protected as Ramsar sites: Saliña Slagbaai, Pekelmeer, Klein Bonaire, Gotomeer and Lac.** All of these five areas are where sea birds live and nest. Protec-

tion of these seabirds is a high priority of the Ramsar convention.

It is the obligation and responsibility of those governments in which the Ramsar sites lie to monitor any projects in the area for "wise use." The plan must take into account the seabirds and other animals that live and feed in the area.

The Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles passed a law, 'Landsverordening grondslagen natuurbeheer' (PB 1998 no. 49), in 1999 which assigned the responsibilities for the Ramsar regulations to the Antilles islands. The Bonaire government, the 'Eilandsraad' (island council), assuming its responsibility to make a plan for nature, approved the law unanimously on June 29, 1999. In the plan the government named Lac, including Cai and Sorobon, as a natural park from the high water mark to more than 500 meters on to the land, from the coast around the bay. Also the plan

said that there was to be no use other than traditional use and recreation during the day. Lac is part of the Bonaire National Marine Park.

In April this year the government of the Antilles and Bonaire invited Dr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, to visit Bonaire.

He was invited to investigate the possibility of problems arising from tourist development around the Ramsar areas on the island, particularly around Lac.

Dr. Bridgewater's conclusion after visiting the sites: 'Up until now development around Lac is at a low level, but you must keep an eye on that development to make sure there is no long term effect in using the area. I don't recommend any more development around the area of Lac.'

But in case a developer does request a site **there should be a complete investigation beforehand to determine what the impact would be on the environment.** (I have attached the method of this procedure to this report.)

Allowing development in a Ramsar

site without doing an environmental impact assessment is a violation of the principles of the Ramsar Conference.

One of the important points about the investigation on the impact to the environment is that it should be open to the public, so that everyone can make comments about it.

If the government of Bonaire faults and gives land (*erfpacht*) and permits a project to be constructed at Sorobon without those environmental impact studies being done, means that this government is breaking the international law, the law of the Central Government and also its own." □

Elsmarie Beukenboom /L.D.

As we go to press, Beukenboom reports that Aliansa petitioned Governor of the Antilles, Frits Goedgedrag (appointed by the Queen), to rescind the approval of the project. Goedgedrag turned it over to Antilles Prime Minister Emily de Jong El Hage (elected position) who has asked her

(Continued on page 12)

Underwater Cleanup



Last Saturday, 32 divers managed to collect over 200 kilos of garbage from the Kralendijk waterfront. The quarterly clean-up dive was organised by Yellow Submarine-Photo Tours (a division of Dive Friends Bonaire), NetTech N.V. and PSI/Sherwood Scuba. Yellow Submarine supplied full air tanks free.

Equipped with bags, scissors and lifting gear the di-

vers managed to collect bottles and cans, cups and plates, pieces of fibreglass, lost parts of an outboard engine, a brand new towel and nine car tires. An upside-down wheelbarrow remained in the sea; the ocean life had already partly taken possession of it.

A pot luck barbecue followed with drinks and chicken legs supplied by the organizers, and soups, salads

and tuna from the volunteers. A special treat was an Akona gear bag, donated by PSI/Sherwood, awarded to Marjolein van Schaik Martinet for having found the most unusual piece of garbage during the cleanup dive--a working bicycle bell. □ (Story by Jan Brower, photo by Susan Davis and Jake Richter)

The Snack Bar Detectives

Their Mission: *To seek out the mysteries that lie behind the doors of Bonaire's snacks*

This week: Sisy's Bar
Rincon



Sisy with her daughter and father

This week we decided to go where no Snack Bar Detective has gone before, Rincon. In order to keep our identities covert, we have some trusted acquaintances on the island who travel with us occasionally to keep people off the scent. This week we were a group of four: myself, Tricky Dicky, Big D and JJ. We set off to Rincon with some enthusiasm after a minor disagreement on which route to take. Big D and I don't like to travel too far to eat; in fact, I have been known to get a nose bleed if I go further north than the traffic circle!

We reached our destination, the Polar Bar. Known locally as Sisy's Bar after the owner. A few locals were sitting on the front watching the world go by. We were greeted with the usual Bonairean hospitality as we walked inside. Four Polars, ice cold, were set in front of us. Big D had downed his before I had blown the froth off mine; it was going to be one of those nights.

We had originally intended to stop at Sisy's for a drink (or five) and then to move onto our eatery for the evening. However, Sisy told us that they served

food on the premises, excellent news as we were just getting comfortable. The choice was "from the grill" Chicken, Pork and Beef etc. Steak for JJ and me, Chicken for Tricky Dicky. Big D? Well, he had everything!

As we chatted, four guys from four different countries, we became comfortable with our surroundings. Sisy and her father told us a little about themselves and we felt as though we were amongst friends. Big D was the first to get his meal. A full plate of mixed meats with salad and another full plate of fries covered in sate sauce. Even D was speechless. After we had eaten, we retired outside to join some of the locals. We are used to Bonaire's hospitality, but Rincon is different. The people whom we met were even more relaxed and willing to please; it had a real small town feel.

Next time you are driving around head out to Rincon, or maybe call in on the way back from the Park. You will be more than welcome. The cost? Four guys, four meals and more drinks than we would recommend for just NAf25 each. One of our best nights yet. □ *SBD*

Pet of the Week

Looking for a big dog who's smart? Rebecca, our featured "Pet," fits the bill although she's only about two and a half months old right now. But she will grow and be a fine large dog. After wandering into someone's yard Rebecca's mom had 11 pups. They were all beautiful and so precious that six were adopted right away. That left five which were brought into the Shelter. Two of them have already been adopted. All these pups are social and just great dogs, according to the Shelter staff. Rebecca especially is a darling. She looks like she's wearing a girl's version of a tuxedo with what looks like a white "shirt" on her chest. You may meet Rebecca and her siblings at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989. □



"Rebecca"

Attention All Dog Owners



Don't miss the Shelter Dog Wash, Saturday, September 30, at Warehouse Bonaire's parking lot, from 9 am to 2 pm. Come one, come all. The dogs get a luxurious wash and the pet and the owner get a special surprise at the end. It's only NAf7,50. Warehouse Bonaire is the sponsor. Don't miss it! Last year it was a hoot! Even if you don't have a dog, just come and see the fun and throw in a donation. All the proceeds go towards helping to keep Bonaire's exceptional Animal Shelter open. Pre-sale tickets from Dierenarts Jan Laarakker; Dierenasiel, Kaminda Lagoen; Lydia, 717-8721; Hans, 717-3207; Paul, 787-0466 □ L.D.

VISITING NURSES RETURN TO BONAIRE

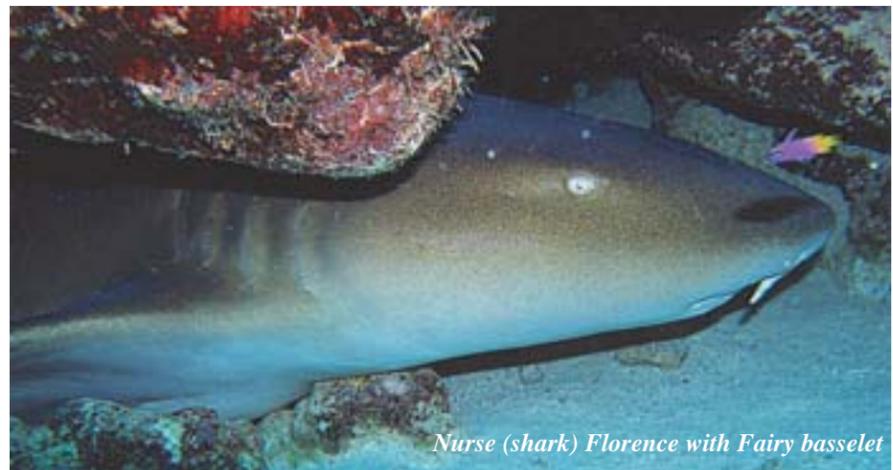
Today I have a very important appointment. Every year about this time I complete all the routine annual health tests to reassure myself that I am in good shape. We all go through this process regardless of how we feel. Since moving to Bonaire, five years ago, my overall health and conditioning has greatly improved by my own analysis and evaluation. Of course, there is always a chance that something may turn up as a result of these tests that will make me feel awful. It's time to face the jury, always an uncomfortable position.

On this day, the results are evaluated against the previous year, discussed by the medical experts and appropriate actions are recommended to correct any abnormal conditions for a man "of my age." Perhaps, my doctor will announce that I am now eligible to be enrolled in a new program to test a fantastic new drug therapy to stop, or even reverse, the natural ageing process I seem to be struggling against every day! The good news is I seem alert and healthy; the bad news is there is no new anti-ageing wonder drug program. I shake my doctor's hand, say goodbye to his smiling staff and leave his office, ready for my next encounter.

MY PERSONAL LIFE EXTENDING TONIC

As my dive partner prepares her equipment, I briefly review my previous ordeal and quickly change the subject to a more pleasant topic. We are about to enter a very different clinical environment. I inform her that we will be checking in on two very different "visiting nurses," Florence and her mother, Theresa, who maintain a quiet and relaxing office 12 meters (40 feet) below the surface of the warm, azure sea surrounding Bonaire. They have welcomed me into their cozy, carefully created, stress-free environment for daily treatments over the past several weeks. I further explain that the pleasure of their company and the calm attitude they maintain during my intrusion at their "siesta" time has added immeasurably to my understanding of nature and the value of gentle interaction between all living beings, including other humans!

Micky, unusually silent, glances at me in disbelief. She regains her composure, looks me in the eye and says, "You have finally lost your marbles!" She wants to check my pulse and temperature. She further states that she has no intention of joining me in "snuggling up close" to any swimming sharks or **worse**, any so-called



Nurse (shark) Florence with Fairy basselet

"sleeping" Nurse Sharks, nestled under an overhanging cliff! My attempts to confirm the gentle nature of my newfound therapists by explaining that I have been allowed to repeatedly photograph Florence and Theresa from every camera angle and take vital measurements on my past visits nearly gets her to start taking off her wetsuit. In response to her question about size, I proudly state that Florence is 4 meters (13 feet) long with two attached Remoras and Theresa is 3 meters (10 feet) long.

I ignore her wide-eyed expression and present some recent photos. She seems to be gaining some interest but is mildly

shocked by their position and their rather large proportions around their mid-sections. I think she is starting to reconsider the dive and I hand her an extra high powered lamp to add to her dive equipment. When she asks why, I simply say that her job will be to illuminate the interior of the space where the reclining "nurses" reside, I know she is hooked. We complete our "buddy-check" and enter the sea.

THE NATURE OF OUR SUBJECTS

Contrary to what the name might lead you to believe, nurse sharks do not suckle their young. They do not heal ailing sea creatures, nor do they accompany doctor



Nurse (shark) Theresa

fish on reef rounds. The origin of the nurse shark's name may come from the sounds it makes when it feeds. The shark's gill and mouth cavities create a powerful suction that siphons shellfish prey from the sand and between rock crevices. The noise made from this vacuum-like noshing is likened to that of a nursing baby. The best and most accurate description of the shark comes from the translation of its scientific name, "the shark with the hinged, curly mouth."

Nurse sharks have elongated bodies, grow to approximately 14 feet in length, have 2 nearly equally sized dorsal fins, and a pair of barbels below the nostrils on the short snout. Body color ranges from shades of rusty-red through tan and yellowish with an especially rough texture to the skin. The tail fin is low in profile and appears to have only an upper lobe, a feature distinct from other sharks. These sharks are not considered harmful unless provoked. Nurse sharks can be found in a variety of shallow habitats including sand flats, near the mouths of bays and on coral reefs. Because this shark can pump water over its gills, it does not need to swim in order to breathe.

Unlike other sharks, nurse sharks are non-migratory and females produce a litter of about 20-25 pups every other year. They feed mostly at night on spiny lobsters and other crustaceans, small stingrays, sea urchins, squid, and bony fishes. Female nurse sharks are slightly larger than their male counterparts and the estimated age at maturity is 18 years for males and 20 to 22 years for females. Nurse sharks show a strong preference for certain resting sites, repeatedly returning to the same spot after their nocturnal forages. They often rest during the day on sandy bottoms or in caves and crevices.

OUR ENCOUNTER

After a brief swim on the surface we reach the reef drop-off zone and descend into the soothing embrace of the sea. I signal OK to Micky and she responds with the sign. I point toward our target area. She shrugs, still convinced that we are on an impossible mission. We swim into a gentle current and are rocked, like babies in a cradle, by the swell from the waves passing above us. I turn on my lamp and head to the bottom of a short, cliff-like wall to an area with a sharp undercut in the rock face.

Waiting end to end, in peaceful sleep, are the two beautiful well rounded forms of our "visiting Nurse sharks". I extend my arm and lamp following the full length of their bodies to allow Micky to grasp the scene. I back away and invite

her to approach with her own lamp, at her own pace. At this shallow depth we plan to stay for approximately 45 minutes before returning to shore. As I watch the careful movements of my partner and the illumination of the shark's features, I am planning my camera angles, lighting and possible body positions for my dive partner.

Within several minutes Micky has become attuned to the calm presence of the resting sharks. She has been drawn into their chamber, and as she turns toward me, I see the wonder in her eyes and a huge smile on her face. Now is the moment to put her to work. As we discussed before, her job is to illuminate the sharks while I position the camera for various photos. From our past diving experiences she can sense where to pan the light from my position, with little instruction from me. After a little fine tuning we are at each end of Florence. Micky is facing her head and looking into her silver-blue eye and I am near her tail looking along the right side of her body toward both of them. The soft glow of the lamp reveals the rough texture of the tan skin, the round shape of her ample body and the distinctive triangular shape and height of her two dorsal fins. To my delight, with a little encouragement, Micky creeps forward to a better position in the photo.

Now we focus our attention on Theresa for detail shots of all her features. Starting at her mouth we move toward her gills, pectoral fin, front dorsal fin and finally the pelvic, anal and tail fins. We take time to survey as much of the full spectacle before us as we can. I am in awe of these two wild creatures communing with each other to return together each day to this chosen resting place. I am also grateful that we can share this rare encounter day after day. Our time together is over for today and we make an appointment for another treatment tomorrow at an agreeable time to suit all our busy schedules.

We wave goodbye and start our ascent and swim to shore thinking about the next visit. As we rinse our gear and debrief each other about the encounter we cannot contain the excitement in our voices. Always there are the inevitable questions that surface with us after a magical experience. We will return again to this site tomorrow seeking the answers. □ *Story and photos © Albert Bianculli 2006*

Albert Bianculli has been visiting Bonaire since 1970 and now lives here full-time. See his multimedia show photo every Sunday night at Captain Don's Habitat at 8:30 pm



Ask the Dietitian Keep The Balance

Keeping your weight balanced depends on the amount of calories you take in and the amount of calories that your body uses. By breaking the balance through eating too much or not being physically active you will gain weight. You can cheat one day and maintain the balance by eating light meals the following day and exercising more so your body uses/burns more calories. Remember, this is not a reason to take cheating for granted!

The basis for a healthy weight will always remain -healthy eating and exercising. Is your weight balanced? Check it out for yourself by measuring your waist and calculating your Body Mass Index (BMI).

$$\text{BMI} = \frac{\text{actual weight (kg)}}{\text{Height(m)} \times \text{height(m)}}$$

Is your BMI between 20-25? Then you have a balanced weight.

You are overweight when your BMI is higher than 25.

You can also measure your waist. Men with a waist more than 95cm are overweight. Women with a waist more than

80cm are overweight.

If you scored a balanced weight, congratulations!

You scored overweight? Let's start working on getting your weight in balance and consequently your health. Your health is one thing that certainly is important for you!

Two main things to start working on to lose weight are:

1. Your diet
2. Your physical activities.

The combination of these two will give you balanced results.

Your diet should be low in calories. You can reduce calories simply by reducing your sugar and fat intake. Start consuming fewer high-sugar items such as soft drinks, instant drinks and nectar/drink juices on a regular basis. Also candies, ice cream, cookies, etc. And avoid adding sugar to beverages.

Eat less fat by reducing the consumption of fatty snacks, fried and deep fried products, full cream milk products, cakes ice cream, etc.

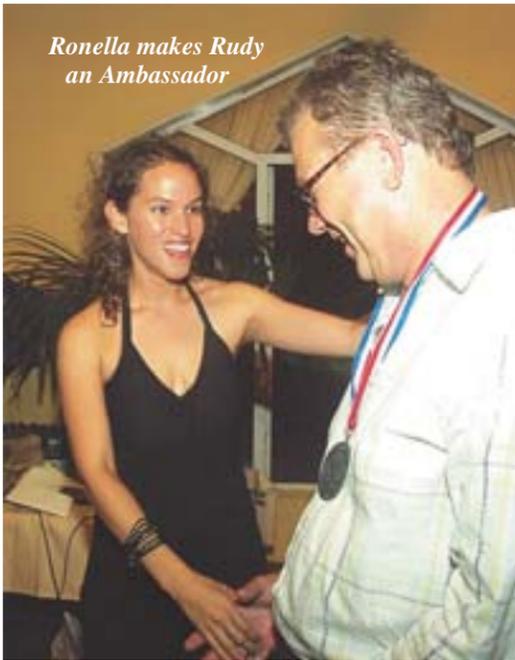
Besides your diet, exercise at least four times a week for one half to one hour. So keep the balance between your calorie intake and your calorie expenditure for a balanced weight. □

Angèlique Salsbach

Angèlique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Her patients have successfully won the "Battle of the Bulge" and become healthier. Write her at dietitan@bonairenews.com or call her at the Dept. of Health Care 717-3737 Angèlique is an owner of Top Health Fitness and Health Center, Kaya Nikiboko Noord 44, Tel. 717-5662; email tophealthbonaire@yahoo.com



Island Chef Team Fundraiser



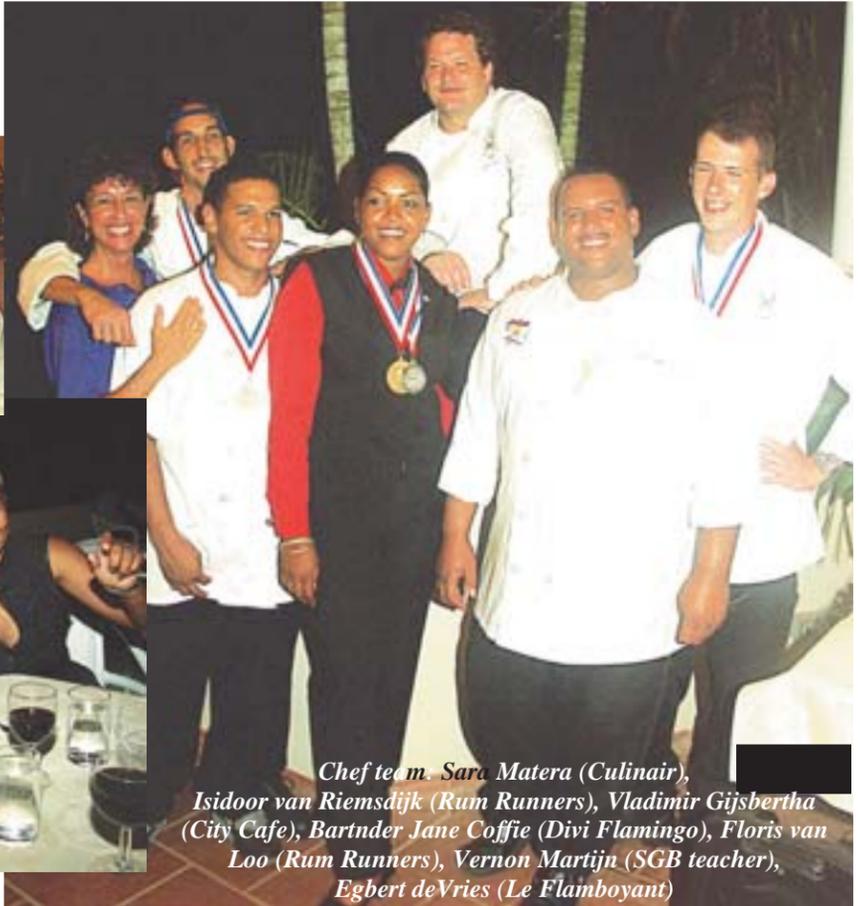
Ronella makes Rudy an Ambassador



Mimi and Robbie flash smiles



Bonhata (Diana) and Habitat (Jack and Claire) socialize



Chef team: Sara Matera (Culinair), Isidoor van Riemsdijk (Rum Runners), Vladimir Gijsbertha (City Cafe), Bartender Jane Coffie (Divi Flamingo), Floris van Loo (Rum Runners), Vernon Martijn (SGB teacher), Egbert deVries (Le Flamboyant)

Last week we advertised the Bonaire Culinary Team's Fundraising Dinner as "Dine Like a King and Support Bonaire's Culinary Team." It did turn out that way. To a sold out audience of appreciative diners the team outdid itself. In our opinion the three-course award winning dinner served last Friday night at the Plaza was even better than supposedly the same one at the "Taste of the Caribbean" competition. Maybe it's because the team was performing on its home ground and for people they love. Generous sponsors had bought tickets

(many a whole table's worth) and shared them with their staffs. Enjoying themselves immensely were staffs from Divi Flamingo, the Bonaire Gift Shop, BONHATA, Capt. Don's, Flamingo Communications, Warehouse Bonaire, Antillean Wine Company, Alcon Liquors, to name just a few.

Gold medal bartender winner Jane Coffie (Divi Flamingo) wowed the attendees with her rum and vodka winning cock-

tails. Later, wine flowed like water throughout the evening – reds from AWC, whites from Alcon.

Emcees Jan Kloos and George DeSalvo entertained us between courses and introduced the speakers who further regaled us. Everyone was into it. One of the biggest surprises of the evening came when Commissioner of Tourism, Onnie Emerenciana, had the audience spellbound with

his hilarious story of his uncle who went to New York City, claiming to speak English perfectly. As Senator Ramoncito Booi said in his speech later, "It was a hard act to follow!"

"Sparkplug" and "Godmother to Chefs," Sara Matera was everywhere, overseeing the event she masterminded with the team.

(Continued on page 5)

Island Chef's Team Fundraiser



The gorgeous City Café team.



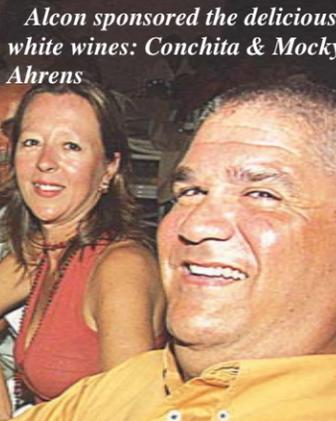
New Plaza GM -Is Frank bragging or complaining? Sara Matera at left.



Action in the kitchen



The squad from Divi Flamingo



Alcon sponsored the delicious white wines: Conchita & Mocky Ahrens



The affable Commissioner of Tourism, Onnie Emerenciana

*Chef Fund-raiser
(Continued from page 10)*

Thanks to the Plaza Resort for offering their facilities for the event. With the revenues from the dinner, it looks like our 2007 team is on its way. □ *L.D.*

VV (very valuable) Sponsors who helped make it happen:

- Alcon Liquors
- Antillean Wine Company
- Balashi Beer
- Bonaire Culinary Foundation (Culinair)
- Bonaire Gift shop
- BONHATA
- Consales
- Divi Flamingo Resort
- Flamingo Communications
- Jan & Margreth Kloos

- Juni Wijman
- Phil & Laraine Katzev
- Ronald & Saskia Gravensteijn
- Rum Runners Restaurant
- SGB
- Tesoro
- The Island Supplier (TIS)
- Warehouse Bonaire
- Gus & Joanne

Mangrove Village (Continued from page 6) advisors to provide her with their findings.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

Sudoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site www.Sudoku.shack.com.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 6 | 8 | | | | | 7 |
| 2 | | | | 5 | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | 4 | 9 | | |
| | 3 | | 7 | | 9 | | 4 | |
| | | 8 | | 2 | | 6 | | |
| | 5 | | | 1 | | | 3 | |
| | | 7 | 6 | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | 3 | | | | 4 |
| 4 | | | | | 5 | 1 | | |

□ Supplied by Molly Kearney (who has to solve all the puzzles first)

Complete solution on page 14.

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Functions: Heading, Tactical (wind shift detector) scale, auto heading, auto down race timer with synchronization feature. **Display Type:** Twin LCD display. **Dimensions:** 1.8" x 2.68" H x 2.24" D (100 x 68 x 57mm) **Battery Life:** Solar-powered, 200 hours auto on. **Included Equipment:** Mast bracket, fasteners, mounting cradle, soft pack case, user manual. **Weight:** 6oz. **Waterproof:** Submersible to 10m. Floats with mast bracket attached. **Warranty:** Two years.

| Description | Model | TACKTICK# | SHWT | West Marine Price | Only |
|---------------|---------|-----------|------|-------------------|--------|
| Micro Compass | 2667459 | T061 | 1.5 | | 449.99 |

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LUNCH TO GO

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

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

| DATE | Time | Ht. | Time | Ht. | Time | Ht. | Time | Ht. | COEF |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|------|
| 9-22 | 0:34 | 1.4FT. | 6:22 | 1.2FT. | 13:02 | 1.5FT. | 19:13 | 1.2FT. | 75 |
| 9-23 | 1:23 | 1.3FT. | 5:28 | 1.2FT. | 13:33 | 1.5FT. | 21:44 | 1.2FT. | 77 |
| 9-24 | 14:02 | 1.6FT. | 23:46 | 1.1FT. | | | | | 77 |
| 9-25 | 1:18 | 1.0FT. | 14:40 | 1.7FT. | | | | | 77 |
| 9-26 | 2:05 | 0.9FT. | 15:28 | 1.7FT. | | | | | 74 |
| 9-27 | 2:42 | 0.8FT. | 16:14 | 1.8FT. | | | | | 70 |
| 9-28 | 3:17 | 0.8FT. | 17:11 | 1.8FT. | | | | | 64 |
| 9-29 | 3:49 | 0.8FT. | 18:01 | 1.9FT. | | | | | 57 |
| 9-30 | 4:14 | 0.8FT. | 18:55 | 1.9FT. | | | | | 51 |
| 10-01 | 4:37 | 0.8FT. | 19:48 | 1.9FT. | | | | | 48 |
| 10-02 | 4:59 | 0.9FT. | 20:37 | 1.9FT. | | | | | 51 |

JODY'S FASHION

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Cars For Sale

BMW 520i - 4-door sedan, 1991, white,



excellent condition. Fast, beautiful. A CLASSIC! Call 785-9041

For Sale

Misc For Sale: Roper Refrigerator Naf 300, Side-by-side, incl. ice maker, runs good; Safes: In-Wall (2) Naf 75 each/In-Floor (2) Naf 100 each; Scuba Tanks (5) Naf 160 Size 80 Aluminum; Wakeboard Naf 50, Slalom Water Ski Naf 50, 2 Water skis Naf 50

Call 717-8876

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NV (Environmental Research and Consulting business) for sale or trade Email: Bonnv4sale@aol.com or call 786-2397 or 791-4262.

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Ruben Wows the Turks



Ruben does a switch stance flaka

Windsurf Championship- Alacati, Turkey The Second Annual House Cup

I visited Turkey for the first time during the European Freestyle event in July this year. During that event I found out that the conditions there were almost similar to Bonaire - with a slightly gusty thermal offshore wind that blows over the mountains, flat to choppy waters, shallow on the inside and deeper on the outside, a bit colder than Bonaire at times. Temperatures around 25° and 40° C. The summers are from April to November and afterwards it starts to get a bit colder, but strong winds can come from

the reverse direction with waves up to two meters.

But let's get to this recent episode, one of the big events here in Turkey organized by Sportworks. It was an open event that I had never run across before; meaning that anybody, from anywhere, at any level, can take part. It sounds kind of funny that even the local people encouraged me to join this event. All I knew was that I had to put on a nice show for all the fans.

There were many different disciplines and categories in slalom. A lot of the local people asked me to join the Freestyle part of the event.

There are seven windsurf centers in this area called Alacati Surf Paradise. More and more people from all over Europe are learning about this spot. There are groups coming from all over Europe - mostly Russia, Bulgaria, Germany and Poland. The funny part is the biggest customers are the Turkish people themselves. Coming on holiday or getting away from the busy big cities such as Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya or Ankara are people of all ages enjoying the sport of windsurfing which is relatively new here in Turkey.

Everywhere I went I got these big eyes or big smiles. Kids I never met know my name. I don't understand too much of the language, but the word windsurfing sounds pretty clear to my ear. I was signing autographs after almost every session; pictures were being taken every day. Even after the event there was still a paparazzi thing going on. My pictures appeared in the rumor and tourist magazines all over the country and in local newspapers as well as in some amazing action shots on the biggest news channel CNN Turk. So my being part of this event

was really cool for the people.

The Freestyle part of the event was nothing like any of the other Freestyle events I know:

- They were no judges and no elimination ladder.
- All the riders had to sail together, a 20-minute expression session.
- Then the organizers and the sponsors selected the best riders to have a three-minute, one-man show: a Best Trick event.

My new friend, Federico La Croice from Italy, was on vacation with his girlfriend. He joined the event after hearing about the prizes: 12,500 Turkish liras in prize money, two Yamaha scooters, telephones from Benq-Siemens, watches by Swatch and some goodies from Oakley. The day was nice with winds from 20 to 27 knots.

I took it easy in the super session by showing simple and uncomplicated moves, remembering that the level here is not as high as in other events.

The crowd was very impressed by the shows of all the riders. After the expression session the best riders were selected. They advanced to the best trick event. The riders did a great job, showing moves such as spocks, willy-skippers, loops, flakas and more. When they told me I had three minutes, I managed some amazing switch-stance combinations.

While I was sailing, I thought, why not impress the crowd...so I turned back straight to the beach at full speed, having already located my landing target next to the rocks where all the people were standing, trying to get as close as possible to the action on the water. I managed some perfect timing, making a huge forward loop, com-



ASPC Center

pletely rotating in the air, and landing a few centimeters from the rocks. A landing at such speed and high rotation causes the board to create a huge spray that blows off with the wind which got all the people a little bit closer to the action- they got completely soaked. All I did was smile at them while they were screaming and cheering extremely loudly- instead of being angry because of the dousing. I knew that it was a winning maneuver.

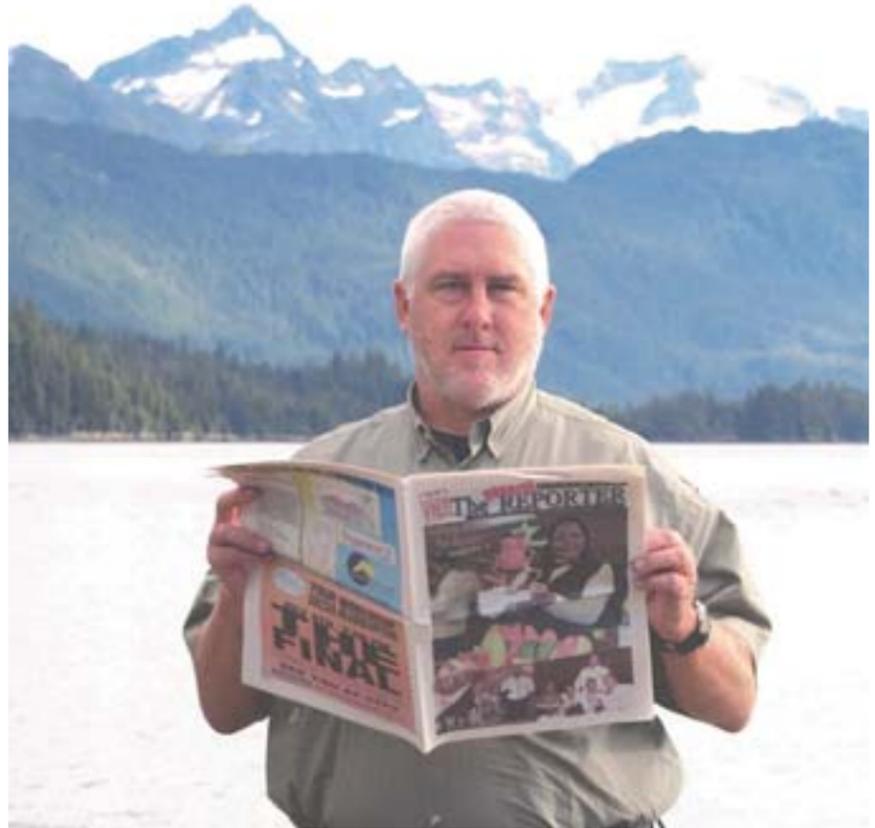
After all the riders got their 3-minute time to show their best trick, some of us were just free sailing, enjoying the wind and the atmosphere. In between the events the host was speaking in Turkish. I did not pay much attention until I heard the people cheering after he pronounced my name. I thought I'd go to the beach and find out what it was. I found out that I was the winner of the Freestyle part of the event. It felt really cool to win. Even the other riders were happy for me and the organization was thrilled that I took part in their event.

Freestyle Results:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. | Ruben Petrisie | Bon |
| 2. | Yilmazer Ikinici | Tur |
| 3. | Federico la Croice | It |

□ Story and photos from Ruben Petrisie

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Cordova, Alaska - US



Bonaire Resident Bob Bartikoski, who is also the owner of RE/MAX Paradise Homes is shown reading *The Bonaire Reporter* during a recent vacation on Simpson Bay on the Gulf of Alaska, which is close to the fishing Village of Cordova Alaska. In the background are the Chugach Mountains.

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Photos.
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today**

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 2006 photos are eligible.) ☐

DO YOU SUDOKU?

**And the
solution is:**
(puzzle and
directions on page
12)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 |

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Reporters: Bòi Antoin, Elsmarie Beukenboom, Caren Eckrich, Sue Felix, Jack Horkheimer, Molly Kearney, Greta Kooistra, Ruben Petrisie, Snack Bar Detectives, Michael Thiessen, Jane Townsend

Features Editor: Greta Kooistra **Translations:** Peggy Bakker **Production:** Barbara Lockwood **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

John Tucker Must Die (Ashanti)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Miami Vice

Kaya Prinses Marie Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400
Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
THURS THRU SUN
2 MOVIES 7 & 9PM
MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8PM

SATURDAY 4 PM September:
The Ant Bully

THIS WEEK

Saturday, September 23—Autumnal Equinox, 12:03 am.

Monday, September 25—Information night about 3-month weight loss programs, Top Health Fitness Center, 6:30 pm. See page 5

Friday, September 29 – Famous Sugaro Band, Rum Runners at Capt. Don's Habitat, 10 pm – 1 am. 717-8290.

September 4 – 29 – Activities with Ned & Anna DeLoach at Buddy Dive. Call 717-5080 for schedule and more information.

September 7—October 15—Coral Spawning in Bonaire. See September 1st issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* for complete timetable.

COMING

Saturday, September 30 - Bonaire Animal Shelter Dog Wash, at Warehouse Bonaire's parking lot, 9 am to 2 pm. Only NAf7,50. See page 7.

Wednesday, October 4—Animal Day sponsored by the Bonaire Lions Club. Everyone welcome. Bring your animals. Vet will be there. Prizes for best cared for pets. Wilhelmina Park, 4:30—7 pm.

Saturday, October 7—Big Rincon Marshé—a real Bonairean experience. Stands selling gifts, plants, produce, music, drinks, local foods, BBQ, community discussions “bou di ramada” Not to be missed! www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

Sunday, October 8 - Jong Bonaire Klein Bonaire Swim. See page 5

October 8-16—Bonaire Regatta. For stands call/fax 717-8408

Sunday, October 15 - Rotary Club Bonaire Fundraising concert on the Freewinds

October 20-23—Mountain Bike events sponsored by “Offroad Valley

Bikers” from Curacao. Locals invited to participate. **October 20—race in Washington Park; October 21—Island bike tour.** Call DeFreewieler, 717-8545, or 510-3790, 560-4055. WWW.orvb.org.

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

- HH 2 for 1 (on all beverages) 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—**Buddy Dive**, 5:30-6:30
- HH **Cactus Blue** (except Sunday) 5-7
- 2 for 1 appetizer with entrée, **Cactus Blue**
- **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm– 4 am; Sun. 7 pm– 3 am.
- By appointment -**Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$12 (NAf12 for residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **Parke Publico** children's playground has reopened

Saturdays

- **Grill Night on the Beach, Buddy Dive**
- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon. **Extra big Marshé 1st Saturday of the month, 6 am-2 pm.**
- **All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.
- **Wine Tasting** at AWC's warehouse, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines - NAf2,50 a glass.

Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambience at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm

Mondays

- **Caribbean Night** - live local music—**Buddy Dive**.
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers**, 5-7 **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine**, 5-7, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Buy a Bucket of Beer & get free chicken wings**, 5-7, **Cactus Blue**
- **Caribbean Gas Training free** “Beyond Gravity – An Evening with DIR,” 6 pm, **Bonaire Dive & Adventure** 786-5073.

Wednesdays

- **Open Mike Night** with Moogie, 7-9, **Cactus Blue**.
- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **Movie Night at Buddy Dive**

Thursdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rock-**

ers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar, 5-7

- “**Admiral's Hour**” for yachtsmen and others, **Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina**. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225
- **Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers”** **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7
- **Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sorobon from 13.00, for children 0 – 18.
- **Manager's Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, **Divi Flamingo**, 5-7 pm
- **Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 pm, followed by **All You Can Eat BBQ**
- **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

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- “Discover Our Diversity” slide show-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. 717-8290 .

Wednesday (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation (STCB) Slide Show by Bruce Brabec. **Carib Inn** seaside veranda, 7 pm, 717-8819.

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

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Kriyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445. **Mangasina di Rei, Rincon**. Enjoy the view from “The King's Storehouse.” Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018 **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.

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

Cancer Survivor Support Group Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.

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 FORMA 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, 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 welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Zeezicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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— Call Roosje 786-7984

Volunteers to train children in sports. Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

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 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

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 event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cell. 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. 538 | 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 Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday -Saturday 6-10pm | 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 |
| Cactus Blue Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564 | Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday | Trend Setting Menu Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service |
| 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. |
| Crocantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025 | Moderate Dinner Closed Monday | Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight! Tuscan Chef David 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 Breakfasts Only | Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Breakfast Buffet 7:30-10 am every day Happy hours 5 to 7 daily. |
| Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111 | 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 |
| The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all. | Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily, | A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service |

SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



AIRLINES

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

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.

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.

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 monthly 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

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

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

The Plantation Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.

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. Incredible selection of pots.

GENERATORS

Island Generators has diesel powered generators for all your electrical needs. Order now and feel secure.

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

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

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, rappelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

PHOTO FINISHING

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

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's most experienced real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.

Re/Max Paradise Homes: Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them to sell fast.

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.

Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.

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.

TOURIST SERVICES / INTERNET

Make **Chat 'n' Browse** your headquarters for phone service, Internet connection, gifts, Brunotti and Reef featured... In the Sand Dollar Mall.

WATER TAXI

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

WINDSURFING

The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.

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. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Tuesday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.

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

Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE

Reverend Father Ranulfo Gonida

“I am from Cebu City, in the middle of the Philippines. The Philippines have 7,100 islands. Cebu City is a city of seven million people on a business oriented island. The island is also a tourist destination with a lot of white sandy beaches and a natural reef. It’s mountainous, covered with forests, but there is also agriculture land. I was born July 11th, 1960, in Pondoohan, a barrio in Upper Beceril, Boljoon Town, on the island of Cebu.

Including my parents we are seven in my family. My eldest sister died in 1984. We are farmers. We used to grow just enough for our own consumption because at the time there was no access, no road and no market to sell the products. I worked the land with my father and brothers and some days there wasn’t even enough to feed us.

After elementary school I stopped my studies for seven years because I wanted to experience life in the city – I like adventure. I was 12 and I went to work as a house boy. Two years later I became a sales person at a pharmacy. When I was 19, I started high school as a working student because I didn’t have the money. I stayed in high school for four years, but then I had to stop for a year as there was no money to buy school books. After a year I started college as a working student. I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in mathematics. Then I went to law school, again, working my way through. I went for two years to the College of Law in Manila, but then my sister became ill and she was hoping that I would help her. She had cancer and she needed money for the operation. That’s why I stopped law school.

I came to Statia (St. Eustatius) to live with my uncle who was a priest there at the time. I came to help him; I was the handyman, I did the cleaning and cooking, but I also assisted him in church. My uncle allowed me to work extra hours as well so I went to work for an American couple. The money I made there I sent to my sister so she used it for her operation. After a year my sister died and that was hard, because I loved her – she was like a mother to me. After she died I decided to go back to the Philippines to study for the priesthood.”

Father Ranulfo Gonida is a vivid and frank person, someone who has both feet on the ground. He is gentle, very clear and open and easy to talk to and flexible by nature.

“When I was 14,” he proceeds, “I was attracted to the priesthood because I loved the way the old priest was dressed in his long gown, the alb, going on horseback or walking through the fields. I

know it sounds silly now, but then, as a young adolescent boy, I loved to see him. I asked my mother if I could go to the seminary, but she said: ‘No, it’s only for the rich people; we don’t have money.’

When I was 19, I approached a priest in my town and I asked him how I could enter the seminary. The priest explained to me about the life of the priesthood and again I asked my mother if I could go to the seminary, but she said we were too poor. I didn’t have a sponsor and I didn’t know how to go about it. When I was in the second year of law school I told my uncle the priest, who was in the Philippines at the time, that I would like to become a priest, but he told me to finish law school. Well, for the reason I mentioned, my sister, I dropped the idea.

However, when I was in Statia I met Monsignor Willem Michel Ellis, D.D. the Bishop of Willemstad, in 1993 for the first time. He looked at me and said: ‘Ah! you will become a priest!’ I said ‘Why?’ and he answered: ‘I can see it in your forehead!’ He said it jokingly, but I already had a plan.

“....I worked the land with my father and brothers and some days it wasn’t even enough to feed us.”

The following year Monsignor Ellis came to Statia for a confirmation and I met him again. I had told my uncle for the second time that I wanted to become a priest, so my uncle told the bishop: ‘Monsignor, he has something to tell you.’ The bishop and I talked personally and I told him that I wanted to go back to the Philippines to study to become a priest. The bishop said: ‘Why are you going back to the Philippines? Don’t you want to study under my diocese?’ I said: ‘Monsignor, I have to think it over, because this is a strange place for me...’

After a year we met again and I told him that I would like to study under his diocese, but only if he could take care of my expenses. He said: ‘No problem; you can study under my diocese and you can choose your school in the US or in Europe, but not in the Philippines, other-



wise you won’t come back here!’ He liked to joke you know!

So, I applied to a seminary in Washington DC and one in Rome, Italy. I was accepted in the States and they offered me a one-year scholarship. In Rome they also accepted me. I was confused as to where to go because in Rome there was no scholarship. My bishop told me that I had to decide, and I said: ‘I’ll go to Rome!’ Let me tell you this: I was a boy from a very poor family and I had an inferiority complex. When I was in high school I used to read this newspaper that had a column for counseling. Once I read about a very rich businessman who also suffered from an inferiority complex and I thought: ‘How come? This man is rich. Why would he feel so low?’

I took the phrase, ‘No guts, no glory,’ and from that time on I’ve used that phrase. It guides me, it gives me encouragement and sometimes it is a consolation. So, I went to Rome and I stayed there from 1995 till 2001. I received a full scholarship grant for six years by foundations from Germany, Austria and Italy. I studied three years for a Bachelor’s in Philosophy and three years for a Bachelor in Theology. It was very nice because all my life I’d had to struggle so hard because of our poverty and because I wanted to escape from the hardships of life, but it gives you guts to struggle...

Saint Peter says: ‘If you don’t work, you don’t eat,’ and I think that’s very good preaching. For me it’s not pride the way you reach your goal. For me, the fact that I got a scholarship grant was a blessing, a gift from God that I had not expected. In 2001 I came back to my diocese in Curaçao and in April 2002 I was ordained as a deacon in Rincon. December 6th 2002 I was ordained as a priest in Manila in the Philippines, just for my

parents and relatives to attend the celebration because it was too expensive for them to come here. In June 2003 I was assigned as a parish priest at the Parokia La Birgen Maria di Coromoto in Antriol. So, my first assignment was on Bonaire. I like it here; I’ve adapted to the customs, the traditions and the culture, and the people treat me like their son or a member of their family.

I feel being a priest is a great responsibility; you are handling the sacraments and you have to be prudent in dealing with people. Also you have to be honest in everything because as a priest they see you as an ideal person to follow and you have to set a good example.

I like to interact with people, especially the old people because I feel they are my mother and my father, but of course you have to be there for everybody. If you love the work you are open to all the spiritual needs of a person. For me personally, there is no attachment at all anymore. My family is in my heart, but in reality I cannot be with them. Being a priest you have to be self-disciplined and you have to sacrifice yourself for the people because we’re doing it for the love of God, but also for others. For me as a priest, the important thing is to save the spiritual and moral life of a person. That’s my goal and to reach that goal we need to evangelize and give spiritual formation for every individual.

If you love God you have to love others also, because they are the image of God.” □

Story and photo by Greta Kooistra



Let's Go Back Into Bonaire's History

The second of a series about Bonaire's past that has been appearing in Bonaire's Papiamentu daily, extra.

The Dutch did not come to the Caribbean before 1580 because they had no need to do so. Besides that, they were involved in the 80-Year War with Spain (1560-1640), trying to obtain their independence. Due to this struggle which required a large amount of money, ships, and soldiers, they could not participate in the discovery of the islands.

This changed in 1580 when Spain conquered Portugal and this union (1580-1640) became a reality. With this union the Spanish Crown prohibited the Portuguese from doing business

with the Dutch, whom they considered to be rebellious and infidels.

The Dutch, up until that time, had gotten their salt from Portugal. They needed it for their herring industry and also for business with the Baltic States. They were now forced to get their salt from other places.

They began their quest for salt in the Caribbean in 1585. At first they got their salt from the coast of Venezuela in the salt ponds of Punta de Araya, but, on a regular basis, they were chased away from that place.

Not too much was heard about the islands of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire between 1585 and 1633. It wasn't until the Dutch were chased from St. Maarten, after being there a short time,



Dutch West India Company map

that the Heren XIX, the 19 governing men of the Dutch West Indies Company, began looking for a good defendable base in the Caribbean.

Curaçao was chosen after a certain Jan Janszoon Otzen gave a description of the island, hav-

ing been a prisoner there. Curaçao was chosen because it had a defendable harbor, was geographically in front of the coast of Venezuela and because it was near the commercial routes of that time. □ *Bòt Antoin,*

Translated by Sue Ellen Felix



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

How To Find The Only Planet Visible In Evening Skies Using The Crescent Moon

Like that old cliché, feast or famine, right now instead of having a feast of planets in evening skies as we did a few months ago, it's now a famine because there is only one planet left for you to see in early evening. But it's a good one because it's the biggest and very bright. And next Monday and Tuesday an exquisite **Moon** will appear underneath, it providing us with two evenings of a lovely celestial duo.



Jupiter and four of its moons

Next Monday, September 25th, about 45 minutes after sunset, face west and if you have a really clear flat horizon you will see an exquisite 3-day-old waxing, which means growing, crescent Moon complete with **Earthshine**, which looks like a black full Moon nestled within the crescent. And just up and a little to the left of this slender sliver of a Moon will be the brilliant king of the planets itself, **Jupiter**. But in case it's cloudy on Monday or you don't have a clear flat horizon, then go out 24 hours later on Tuesday, the 26th, and a slightly fatter crescent will be on the other side of Jupiter, down to its left, and will make an even more beautiful duo in my estimation. Once again Monday, the 25th, and Tuesday, the 26th. Now even though all you need to see this beautiful sight is just your naked eye you'll be amazed at what a pair of binoculars will show you. Even the Moon through the cheapest pair of binoculars is very dramatic, especially when it's just a crescent. And Jupiter will take your breath away because you'll see some tiny pinpoints of light on either side of it which in reality are the four largest of Jupiter's 63 known moons. Plus if you go out night after night you will notice that these four moons constantly change their position relative to Jupiter and each other. And that's because they're in orbit about the king. These four largest moons, in order out from Jupiter, are **Io**, **Europa**, **Ganymede** and **Callisto**. And Io, Ganymede and Callisto are each larger than our own Moon and Ganymede is actually larger than the planet **Mercury**.

Now through even the cheapest small telescope you'll be able to see a lot of features on Jupiter, many of which will look like bands which encircle it. These bands are different zones of storms in Jupiter's atmosphere, and with a really good telescope you'll be able to see the giant **Red Spot**, which is a humongous hurricane-like storm which we've seen on Jupiter for over 300 years and which is much larger than our planet Earth. In fact Earth is a mere 8,000 miles wide compared to Jupiter's 88,000-mile-wide diameter. Which means we could line 11 Earths up, side by side across its middle, and we could fit over 1,300 Earths inside of it. So get out next Monday and Tuesday for two exquisite views of a waxing Moon and the king of the planets. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, September 17 to
Saturday, September 23, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You are best to work at home, clearing up overdue projects. Relationships have not been the best for you lately and it's left you somewhat gun shy. You will be extremely receptive to new and progressive methods at work. You have a tendency to think that no one else will do things properly. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Insincere gestures of friendliness may be misleading. Be careful not to consume too many spicy foods or minor health problems could put you out of commission for the day. Don't evade issues or twist the truth around. Be careful of the groups you join or the people you associate with. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Things aren't as they appear. You may want to get a little extra rest. Don't overspend or give too freely to others. Don't let your friends talk you into taking time off. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Things are looking good for you, so open your eyes and get to it. Try to ease any disappointment by making amends. Organize all the responsibilities that have to be attended to and make sure everyone knows what to do. Look closely at motives and honesty in your personal encounters. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You must take care of health problems that have been lingering. There'll be difficulties if you spend too much. Avoid being intimately involved with clients or colleagues. You might find that coworkers will support your endeavors. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Take time to listen to children and help them with projects that seem impossible to them. Your involvement in organizational events could open doors to new and exciting opportunities. You will be able to make financial gains. Minor accidents are likely if you take risks. Your lucky day is Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can make progress professionally. You can sell your ideas to those who have the money to back them. Make sure that you have all the pertinent information before any reprisals or making any moves. Get help setting up a reasonable budget. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Try not to discuss important matters with colleagues. Plan your time thoughtfully, but try not to rely on others. You should get involved with activities that can be enjoyed by both young and old alike. Personal alterations will be in your best interest. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Some relatives will be extremely perplexing. Your self esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the lime light. Keep calm. Someone around you is bouncing off the walls. You need a day to rest and relax with the ones you love. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Delve into your work if you can't make amends at home. Your input into their activities will help bring you closer together. Unreliable people will be negative about your ideas. Update and review your personal investments. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Partnerships could prove to be lucrative. Hidden assets can be doubled if you play your cards correctly. You can enhance your reputation by making contributions to worthwhile causes. Networking will be a necessity. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. You can get a great deal accomplished if you bring work home. Don't hold back. You will feel tired and rundown if you have allowed yourself to get into a financial mess. Your lucky day this week will be Friday. □