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**BONAIRE** April 18-May 2; Volume 15, Issue 8  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

Kunuku Shimaruku, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-8988, 790-6518, email: reporter@bonairenews.com

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**20th Annual Contest di Fli**

**I**t's official. The start date for the revision of the political structure for the Netherlands Antilles of December 15, 2008, is not feasible. Kingdom Relations State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten traveled to the Antilles earlier this month to try to set a new date, expected to be sometime in 2010.

However, for the three islands of Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, the Dutch will replace many of the functions of the Curaçao-based Central Government before the official transition date. The primary bottleneck is that Curaçao and St. Maarten did not adequately implement the legislation and plans required for the transition. But for the three "BES islands" (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba), the multitude of legislation in combination with the limited "absorption capacity" is a risk for a fast transition to the new political situation.

► Last Tuesday the Dutch Second Chamber accepted a motion again opening the possibility of sending troublesome Antillean and Aruban youngsters back to the islands. The Dutch parliamentarians voted on a total of seven motions, all related to dealing with at-risk Antillean youths in the Netherlands.

► **Bonaire just got its own airline again.** Ever since BonairExel morphed into DAE no plane has flown with the Bonaire flag on its tail. Now EZ Air, under the direction of long time Bonaire pilot and Air Ambulance operator Rene Winkel, will take to the skies between the ABC islands with a nine-passenger plane. Oftentimes the demand exceeds the supply for seats between the islands and the new service complements that offered by Divi-Divi, DAE, Tiara and Insel Air. Flights begin in two weeks. You can reach them at 515-3939 or 780-3939.

► **At least four flights were diverted from Aruba** as its airport fire fighters went on strike. Last Tuesday one Continental flight went to Curaçao and one to Bonaire.

► **Air France-KLM walked away from its planned takeover of Alitalia** after talks with the near-bankrupt Italian carrier's unions broke down last Wednesday. Air France-KLM said it regretted the breakdown in talks but conditions did not exist for further negotiations. "This company is cursed: only an exorcist can save it," outgoing Alitalia President Prato was quoted as saying.

► **As we go to press Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines announced an agreement in which the two carriers will combine** in an all-stock transaction with a combined enterprise value of \$17.7 billion, creating the world's largest airline. The new airline, which will be called Delta. Delta flies to Bonaire and Northwest is a KLM partner.

► With the winding down of the busy season, according to many merchants the busiest in Bonaire's history, **Delta Airlines cancelled its second weekly 757 flight on Thursdays.** There is a good possibility it will resume when demand warrants. The Saturday flight continues.

► Lt. Governor Herbert Domacassé swore in **Eugene Robert Abdul as Deputy Lt. Governor** this week. Abdul will replace Ubaldo Anthony who has been in this position for more than four years. Abdul was Lt. Governor of St. Eustatius from 1997 till 2003, and with his experience he wants to contribute to this island.

► **There will be a recital by Dutch pianist Hannes Minnaar on Thursday, April 24, at the Plaza Resort.** On the program are works of Bach, Beethoven and Schubert. Minnaar is a well known artist in Europe and is on tour to Bonaire, Aruba and Curaçao, supported by the "Consocium Martina," KLM and Sun Alliance Insurance. Presale tickets for the concert are NAf 30 at Flamingo Bookstore and NAf 40 at the door on the evening of

► Bonaireans were surprised by an approximate **2.5% jump in fuel prices** because the governments press release didn't arrive until the gas pump prices were already changed. The new prices are:

**Gasoline 92 octane- NAf 2,02 per liter**

**Gasoline 95 octane- NAf 2,05 per liter**

**Kerosine- NAf .8037 per liter**

**Diesel (Gasoil)- NAf 127,04 per liter**

**LPG cylinder 100 pounds, domestic use- NAf 76,77**

**LPG cylinder 20 pounds, domestic use- NAf 14,69**

The price of regular gas is on Bonaire is equivalent to \$4.32 per gallon. The current average price for regular in the US is about \$3.60 according to Reuters. The gap between Bonaire and US gas prices is narrowing.

The power company, WEB, also announced an increase in the fuel surcharge (*brandstofclausule*) to NAf 0.41288 per kWh. Look for ever higher electric bills as the price of oil hovers over \$110 a barrel.



Hannes Minnaar

the performance. The price of the ticket includes food and drinks after the concert and the opportunity to meet the artist and other visitors. Coordinating the concert on Bonaire is Hans Faassen, telephone: 717-5767.

► **There is a scarcity of coins on Bonaire.** The Central Bank (BNA- Bank of the Netherlands Antilles) publicized this and requests the public to turn in quantities of coins for paper money at commercial banks. The BNA said there is an international scarcity of raw material to make coins. Nev-

ertheless, BNA expects to receive enough coins in a few weeks.

► **Rincon Day/Queen's Birthday (April 30), Labor Day and Ascension Day (May 1 and 2) will be public holidays** offering an extended vacation for many Bonairean workers. Employers are reminded that according to the labor laws employees cannot be forced to work those days and those that do must be paid the holiday wage.

Minister Elvis Tjin A Sjoie said that May 2 will be an official holiday this year, based on two holidays coinciding, and has been approved recently by the Council of Ministers.

► **A free trade agreement between Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles is nearing completion,** announced the Antillean Economic and Labor Affairs Minister Elvis Tjin Asjoe after his meeting with Aruban Finance Minister Nilo Swaen last week in Aruba. Both Ministers have finalized the protocol regulating agreements on free trade of products of the islands. The Ministers also discussed lowering the unbalance in airport departure taxes. **The Aruban departure tax to Bon-**

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# New Bonaire Film **The Value Of Coral**

I was inspired to make this short film as I stood on the shore one day here on Bonaire and witnessed two divers coming out of the water with gloves on. When I asked them why they needed to wear gloves they simply replied, "We need to protect our hands because we use them in our daily work!"

Being a free-lance videographer I do meet lots of divers whom I film during their diving experience, but each time, over and over, divers show a lack of respect for that very thing that Bonaire stands for. Bonaire has always been the forerunner of nature conservation, 46 years to be exact, and well before any other island in the Caribbean had any clue of the importance of nature conservation. This human action 46 years ago is why Bonaire is today the last haven for many people to still see a natural paradise.

Bonaire used to be on the travel map only for those who could endure the long flights, knowing that their destination had only a small airport with little or no modern conveniences like plush hotels, smart white-lined roads or discos. So for many years Bonaire remained off the tourist radar. Those people who did come here respected and loved both the island's nature and its warm hearted inhabitants.

The tourism frenzy of the last decade has put both of these things in danger, a danger that Bonaire has

not seen since the last Dutch occupation in 1663!

With the new BES Island agreement that has allowed Bonaire to be seen as a safe financial investment, has brought with it all the trimmings of the modern world, accompanying this modern day occupation. It would be both unrealistic and unfair to expect the island and its people to stay in the past.

As the price of real estate goes up on a daily basis and the import of cars challenges the durability of the roads, the new hotels exceed the ability of the island to absorb their waste. It is time for all of us to reassess the value of coral, the very thing that inspired all this interest.

If you believe that the coral has a value, think again. Watch this Youtube film and see how our diving freedom ideology has been degraded by a lack of respect for life: <http://www.youtube.com/scubavisionfilms> and select: "The Value of Coral."

As an independent film maker one



of the things I can do to help is to bring the whole situation to the attention of the public. Youtube is a powerful media form and can bring about change. I made films about waste water and the landfill. It is not understandable to see how they can get away with their waste water and landfill pollution, knowing that all these actions are described as unacceptable and totally illegal.

Films that brought about awareness of these situations have been felt as far away as the Dutch Government. If you have an issue you would like to bring up, contact me, Hendrik, at [info@scubavision.info](mailto:info@scubavision.info) or call me at 717-2844. I will make your voice heard. Show you care! Speak out! Help Bonaire keep its heart. ■

Story and photo by Hendrik Wuyts

# IBC Moves



If you thought that big sign said "International Bible Church" on the white pickup truck parked in front of SGB High School (*Scholengemeenschap Bonaire*) last weekend, you are right. As of April 6th, the International Bible Church of Bonaire has moved its Sunday morning worship services to the auditorium (aula) of the SGB High School. For the past nine years they held their activities at Trans World Radio. The IBC is planning to build its own church building in the Hotel Row / southern Hato area. The church has a building fund goal of NAf 200.000 for a user friendly, but not elaborate, facility. The building fund stands at about NAf30.000 right now.

The picture shows the church's new home at the auditorium of the high school, relative to other Bonaire landmarks, like Cultimara and the big satellite dishes of Flamingo TV. The Sunday morning service is at 9 am and visitors are always welcome. The church lives up to its international billing with a friendly congregation from all over the Antilles, the Caribbean and the rest of the world.

On Fridays, the IBC Light and Life Club provides two hours of fun and games, with songs, story time and Bible verses in English and Papiamentu for children five to 12 years old. It's just a part of IBC's community presence. The International Bible Church at SGB will be a positive factor in the school's life, too, beginning with plans already in the works for group clean-up. ■

Ditta Morrison / Brad Swanson

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*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)*  
**aire is NAf 70 the Bonaire departure tax is NAf 10.**

► **Last week the LVV (Agriculture Dept) and the SSV (non-criminal police) started to tackle the problems of stray dogs.** The actions began following several attacks on local people and a meeting between Commissioner Boy Clarendia and officials of LVV, SSV, Selibon, the Animal Shelter and the island attorney.

The Bonairean government's security service, SSV is patrolling the countryside where the kunukus with goats are. The LVV dog catcher will patrol the streets more often, especially in the evening. In those neighborhoods with a lot of stray dogs, the SSV will inform dog owners to keep their dogs inside their yards. There will be actions against those owners who ignore the warning.

► **The Netherlands Antilles has been accused of being a vacation destination with a large amount of animal suffering.** By the Venezuelan-based *Stichting Dierenhulp* (Animal Aid Foundation).

At the top of the list is Greece, which took over the first spot from Spain. The Netherlands Antilles now occupies the third place. Reasons include the recent purchase of six wild dolphins from Cuba for the dolphinarium on Curaçao, reports of animal abuse on the streets, and the transport of wild donkeys from Bonaire to Curaçao to be served as food for the zoo animals.

Stichting Dierenhulp has been active since 1996 in Venezuela.

► The Catholic Church's leader in the ABC islands, **Bishop Luis Secco, recently met with Pope Benedict XVI during the quinquennial (every five years) meeting of regional bishops and archbishops with the**



*Pope Benedict XVI with Bishop Luis Secco in Rome*

Pope. Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century bishops have been required to make a pilgrimage to Rome every five years.

► The last two cruise ships of the season are due this Sunday, April 20 and finally on Wednesday, April 30. **The off-season replacement for the Cruise Ship Open Market in Wilhelmina Plaza is currently awaiting approval by the Bonaire Government.** According to some of the market's vendors, even on cruise ship days, local people are the best customers for their crafts.

► **There are several events leading up to the 30th annual Rincon Day celebration on April 30.** A Children's Festival will take place at the Rincon Community Center (Centro di Bario) this Saturday, April 19 and the Chichi and Bubi Festival on the next Saturday, April 26. Both will run from 7 to 11 at night.

Persons interested in having a stand during Rincon Day are invited to pass by the old Hulp Bestuurskantoor behind the Sentro di Bario in Rincon between 5 and 7 pm. Contact Francisco Janga for more information.

► **Youth for Christ of Rincon and Playa (Hubentut pa Christu di Rincon i Playa) will again have their second-hand book stand beside the Protestant church on**



► **During Dia di Rincon the Bonaire Bikers will have their third "Kareda Pa Rincon."** It's a trip with motorcycles to show affection and solidarity for the village of Rincon and to bring more visitors to celebrate the day. To participate is NAf15 per person which includes a T-shirt sponsored by Digicel for the first 150 people to sign up. The Bikers appreciate the welcome they have been given by Rincon for the last nine years as every Sunday the club has a parade and visit to Rincon. Photo: Bikers at Walkathon

Kaya Crestian during Rincon Day, May 30. You can buy new and second-hand books in many kinds of languages and a lot of children books too.

► **The 5th Annual Antique Bicycle Parade** will take place on May 2 in Rincon. This year it's dedicated to Galen Cilia of Rincon. Bikes have traditionally been used as transport in the Rincon area and to this day many senior still ride regularly.

► The **Punt Vierkant** neighborhood residents, Allerd Stikker and Lenor Linder among others, who fought to block the construction of high rise buildings in their

residential neighborhood were successful in their first round. However, it is anticipated that the developer, E.G.Vastgoed will appeal.

► On Tuesday, April 1st, **Dive Friends Bonaire officially opened their fourth and newest location on Bonaire, at Dive Inn.** They are offering special prices as part of their grand opening celebration. Go to [www.dive-friends-bonaire.com](http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com) for more information.

► Remember please, dear readers, to tell merchants and advertisers that **you heard about them in The Bonaire Reporter!** They keep us "still free." ■ G.D.

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# Profiles **Alan Gross and Jane Townsend- Using Their Skills To Help Bonaire**

I met with Jane Townsend and Alan Gross in their wonderful house in the kunuku where they live with their three Dalmatians and two cats. The couple came to Bonaire from New York where they had a very busy life running their own business in advertising and public relations. In the mid 80s they came to Bonaire as divers and did their first open water dive here. They tried visiting other dive destinations but came back to Bonaire to dive five more times.

When in December 1992 Alan was told he had a serious illness, it gave them the impetus to leave New York and move to Bonaire. They sold their business and found their first house in Re-publik. When they lived in New York there was never any free time to do volunteer work, so on Bonaire they wanted to become involved in their new community.

Shortly after arriving, during a visit to Alan's doctor, Giovanni Frans, they were asked by him to volunteer to help the Red Cross. Using their advertising experience they produced a brochure warning of the danger of burns from fireworks. This led from one volunteering activity to another, and they became involved

in Tene Boneiru Limpri (TBL) in 1993. They joined Diana Gevers and others in organizing a general clean up of the island, from popular barbeque places to the roadsides. In a short time TBL managed to get the cooperation of churches and *centro di barrios* (neighborhood centers). It was estimated that some 25% of the population contributed to the clean up. It became a real awareness call. SELIBON (waste management company) became very active and placed trash cans in numerous public places (like Sorobon) and identified many unofficial dumpsites. Carib Inn's Bruce Bowker and his team of volunteers were an instrumental force in cleaning up those dumpsites.

After about four years of community activities, Jane and Alan could withdraw from the TBL project because SELIBON and members of the community had taken over. Even the schools became involved in keeping the island clean. The hard work of TBL, SELIBON and the Bonairean people was so apparent that it became hard to find areas that needed extensive cleaning so TBL went to sleep until about three years ago when it was revived by a new board of local people.

"So in the mid-90s," Jane says, "it was time to find a new project," which they did in the rebuilding of Jong Bonaire. At that time the crime rate was up so they and two other *pensionados*, Rene Hakkenberg and Wim Nagtegaal, decided to try to do something to prevent crime on Bonaire. They realized that after-school activities for teenagers were almost nonexistent, so getting into trouble was the obvious alternative to boredom. The Foundation and buildings of Jong Bonaire date from 1959, but by 1995 they were hardly used for activities or for any other purpose. The four retirees developed a questionnaire for high school students, distributed about 1,000 copies of a four-page-long survey, inviting the students and their parents to write down their needs and suggestions. More than 300 questionnaires came back filled with needs and suggestions! They wrote a proposal to Sede Antila, the group then channeling Dutch government money to the Antilles, and received a grant to repair the existing facilities of the building, to build sports fields and classrooms and funding to get operations started as well. Extra grants came from the Maduro and Cruiel's Bank

(Continued on page 9)



Alan, Jane and Sunshi

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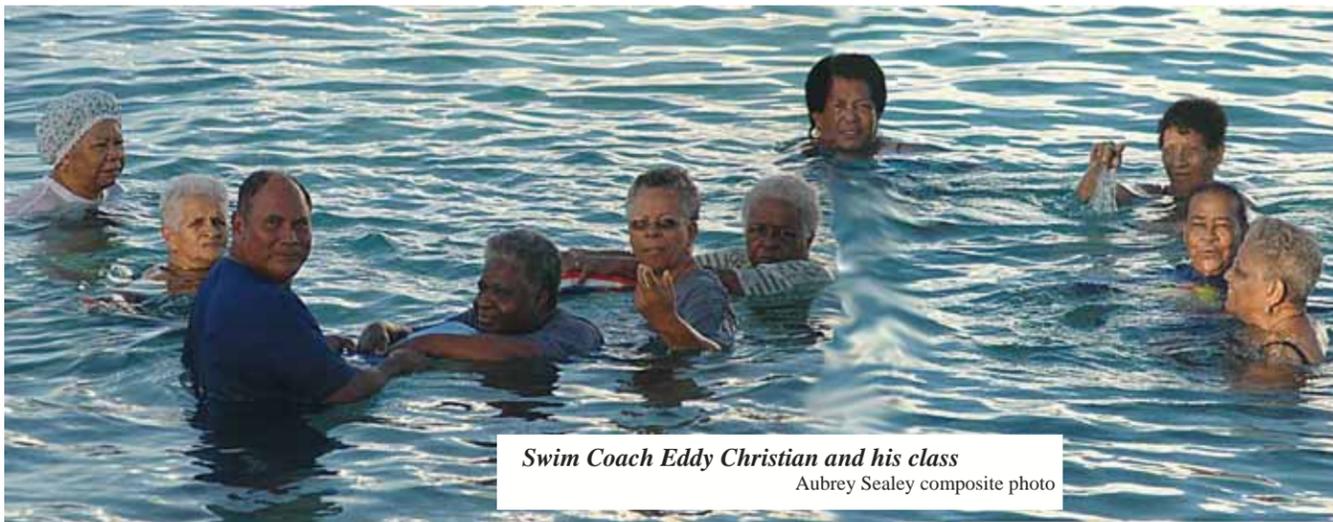


# BONAIREAN VOICES

## ENTERTAINMENT (Part 1)

**E**ntertainment: the definitions can be very broad. According to different dictionaries, entertainment means some kind of mental occupation and physical movement. We can name all kinds of entertainment: parties, sports, going on vacation, dining out, visiting friends, watching television and so on. Some people might think that Bonaire is boring and there nothing to do. But according to me and those whom I interviewed, you have to make your own entertainment sometimes. There is plenty to do, but you have to motivate yourself. I interviewed some people who are experienced in entertaining themselves, and maybe you can learn from them.

For instance there's this lady, 70 years old, a member of the UPA (*Union di Penshonadonan di Antias Hulandes*) and COMAK (*Commishon di Aktividad*) who said, "All my life I've liked to be active even though I had a full time job. I like to be in different social groups and to motivate people to get out of their houses and do something for themselves and the community. And now since I've retired I don't want to stop being in these groups because I realize that I've learned a lot from them and I see some positive results. We started a swimming group for the 60 pluses (ages 60 and above) every Wednesday at 7:15 a.m. and Eddy Christiaan is our swimming coach. We got money from Holland to continue these lessons every Wednesday and more people are joining the group. I have a routine of walking 7 km in the morning for at least an hour and 15 minutes. The group also has a painting project



*Swim Coach Eddy Christian and his class*  
Aubrey Sealey composite photo

with painting lessons from Addy Figaroa on Mondays. We take *kwarta* (a small kriooyo guitar) lessons in the Centro di Bario Niki-boko. I also belong to some ladies' clubs. In "Goldfinch" we have different outside activities, for instance together with the ladies' club, Rinfa, we are planning a Mother's Day celebration. I think here in Bonaire the ladies' clubs should join together, break the barriers, share their experience and thoughts so together we can motivated the 60 pluses to do more. So if we let go of what we are holding so tightly we can get other people to do what is good in entertaining themselves."

But what about you as a parent? Do you ever hear your kids saying, "In Bonaire there's nothing to do?" What do you do about it? The next interview is with a housewife. You might think that housewives get up in the morning, prepare the kids for school, clean the house, do the laundry and the cooking, and wait for the children to get

home from school, help them with homework, then watch a soap opera. What a boring, routine way of living! I interviewed this wonderful woman of 42, a mother of two.

"I'm a housewife and I love the kitchen," she said. "Instead of using it only to prepare meals for my family I took some lessons in making cakes and snacks 23 years ago. It started as a hobby and for fun, but then it turned into in a business when people started asking me to make cakes and snacks for their parties. Then I learned how to do the decorations for the parties. I'm always learning more techniques about making cakes, snacks and decorating. I've learned how to sew too. Now I have my aunt, who is very talented in this area, as my associate. I involve my children in all my activities, and they've learned to do it well. They know we're earning money to go on vacation, buy new clothes, and enjoy recreational times. Besides all this, my husband and I started a

karaoke business, so the whole family is busy entertaining themselves and others. My goal is to pass on my knowledge to the youngsters and the grown ups. Sometimes we invest money and time in giving 'information days or nights' and just a few show up. But I learn not to give up and keep on trying. I hope people get motivated to do whatever it is and to enjoy their environment like having some fun time in the kunuku (the countryside), going to the beach etc., etc...."

Count the blessings you have on your island and don't waste it. Get off your couch and entertain yourself and others in a positive way. ■ *Siomara E. Albertus*

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com).



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# CLEAR BLUE WATER NEWS

## Lighthouse Renewal

### Algae Growth Is A Concern

Recent reports by well known marine biologists suggest that there are "serious areas of concern" for the continued well-being of the shallow water, fringing coral reef system surrounding Bonaire and Klein Bonaire.

When humans feel sick or abnormal the first thing their doctor asks is to get a blood test to determine their chemistry. In humans, well balanced blood chemistry is vital to their good health.

The good health of a coral reef is totally dependent on well-balanced sea water chemistry. Every living organism in the sea - fish, lobsters, crabs, sea urchins, coral, sponges, every living thing - is dependent on good water quality. When the sea is contaminated by the continuous release of unprocessed waste water containing excessive nutrients from human and land based activities, the waste water promotes massive growths of algae and seaweed that smothers the coral reef system. These conditions, left unchecked, will poison the seawater, and all life underwater will cease to exist.

The Light and Motion Sensor Program (LMSP) is the first step in the process needed on Bonaire to prevent the scenario that has happened on other Caribbean Islands. We need your help to continue. Your donations and support as volunteers will make a difference. This 10- year-long project is entirely funded by private donations from concerned and interested individuals and carried out by dedicated research volunteers on the island. Additional full- time, on-island volunteers are needed now to help with the continuation of the Program. If you are interested in diving and collecting the electronic data from our shore-based sites please contact Albert Bianculli at 791-2214 for more details. The task takes about 20 minutes, and then you can continue your dive. All your air is supplied by Yellow

Submarine/ Dive Friends Bonaire at no charge.

With the acceptance by Support Bonaire, Inc., a US-based 501(c) (3) tax free organization, of the LMSP, funded and administered by the Sea Monitor Foundation (SMF), Bonaire takes its science, administration and fundraising to new levels for 2008. Click on [www.Supportbonaire.org](http://www.Supportbonaire.org)

to make a donation to SMF and join in the effort to insure that the sea water environment around Bonaire remains healthy and safe.

### Volunteer Reports

Here are more observations concerning the algae growth from several volunteers who visit their assigned Rainbow Sensor Site each week to clean and retrieve the data:

*Sunday, March 2 - Site #1 - The 5-meter sensors had almost 1" of algae growing on them, along with the float. Incredible that that much growth can occur in one week. The 12-meter sensors had less, and the 20-meters very light growth. Todd chipped away all the pink scale from one sensor at 12 meters that was becoming encrusted. There was a school of ballyhoo above the sensors, and the school of southern sennet remained below the array.*

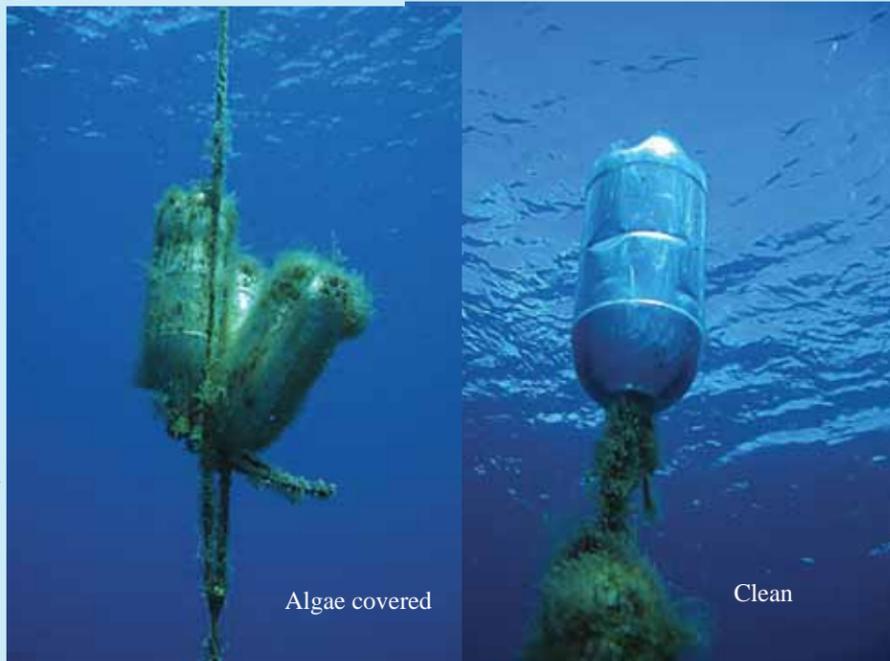
Lynn & Todd Fulks

*Thursday, March 6- Site #12- After cleaning the sensors I took a look around and saw a large rainbow parrotfish. A large school of boga swam by quickly. We saw many harlequin bass, brown and*

*blue chromis and Creole wrasse. A doctor fish was being cleaned by five juvenile blue head wrasse. I disturbed an octopus that was sitting out in the open. It changed its color to black and sped into a hole. Then it turned back to speckled brown. In the shallows there was another octopus spread out on star coral. It didn't seem bothered by me at all. Two chubs were swimming in three feet of water as we were finishing our dive.*

*Algae Growth: The growth of algae is amazing at this site. This week it was at least 2 to 3 cm. long on the line and the bottles. The sensors were clean, but the Marine Park tags had some crusty pink circles on them. I also had to pick off a white, hard growth on the rope. It was about 1 cm. long. I had a problem with the deepest sensors. The top one at 20 meters signaled failed. I did it twice. The others were fine. I then tried again and it read the sensor!*

Cassandra and Franklin Neal  
Press Release



Work is underway to repair the major lighthouses of Bonaire to return them to use as aids to navigation. The lighthouses are at Spelònk, Willemstoren and Wecua. The lighthouse towers will house modern automated solar-powered lights that report their status via satellite. In the photo a Royal Marine helicopter assists in the installation.

Most of the lighthouse in the Antilles have been out of service for over 10 years partially because of a dispute over whether their maintenance is the responsibility of local or island government. ■ G.D.

Money is needed to continue this project. Donations accepted by Support Bonaire (US tax deductible) or you are invited to directly deposit your donation to SEA MONITOR Foundation accounts: Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) USD Account # **116.735.09** NA Account # **116.736.07** SWIFT TRANSFER: **MCBKANCUBON**

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Profiles (Continued from page 5)

Bonaire, Radio Netherlands, Rocargo, City Café and Sabadeco. These groups and others continue to provide support for the center.

Jong Bonaire youth center began operation in 1999 and now gets one third of its funding from the Dutch government, one third from the island government and has to find the last one third via fundraising and local sponsors. Parts of the facility are rented out to other organizations for private programs. The staff and the teens organize the Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire, a 20-kilometer walk to Sorobon and back, mini triathlons and much more. The teenagers contribute financially with car washings and barbecues. The students have to be members of Jong Bonaire, and their parents have to sign as well, with the membership fee according to income. Currently there are about 170 members and a professional staff of eight leaders.

Every day the activities begin with homework time when volunteers and staff help with the lessons. After the homework is done it's time for sports, music, computers and other programs. "Creative activities are really encouraged," says Jane, "as a means of individual expression. It's especially rewarding for the boys as they aren't normally encouraged to do so." The various activities help teens identify their interests which could lead them toward future employment.

Currently Jane and Alan are working hard on the next project. Together with Michael Gaynor of Chat 'n Browse and Trans World Radio, Jong Bonaire will be publishing a new edition of the Papiamentu/English dictionary. Betty Ratzlaff-Henriquez, the editor of the dictionary, is adding missing words which will be incorporated along with a new cover design. Michael Gaynor will take care of the distribution and sales. The new dictionary will be on the market in a couple of months with much of the income going to Jong Bonaire.

Yet another fundraising project is coming up, thanks to photographer Bart Landheer. He and his wife, Jacqueline Bremmers, had the idea of making a special calendar featuring the teens of Jong Bonaire. Thirty teens participated in writing a composition about their plans for the future. Twelve of them were selected to feature their stories, including a picture of themselves, on each of the 12 monthly pages. Four girls and eight boys were selected to showcase their

dreams and ambitions and why they want to achieve them. Alan gives some touching examples: a boy who wants to become an athlete, a girl who wants to become a lawyer for kids, another girl's dream of becoming a midwife - all of them are full of ambition and dreams.

A very important aim of Jong Bonaire for the teens is to develop their social skills and opportunities for the future. In the program, *Club Sosial*, they learn to do volunteer work at the local hospital and old people's home. They also learn to take care of animals at the riding stables and the animal shelter. There are numerous activities aimed at future jobs, like scuba diving in cooperation with a number of dive shops on the island, learning about nutrition, food preparation and even manicuring, not only as useful skills but also how to take care of themselves. Computer and Internet training, photography and website building are also offered. There's a song festival and a Papiamentu language competition where teens present their own poetry, songs and stories. The Jong Bonaire drum band was introduced last year under the instruction of Leroy Sedney. Sports competitions help teens focus and teach them the importance of teamwork. Ping pong, foosball, dominoes, volley ball, football and roller hockey are all very popular.

The accomplishments of Jong Bonaire are amazing, impressive and hopefully inspiring. Most of the staff is local, one is Dutch. Jane, Alan and Rene serve as the daily board, responsible for guidance and finances. Other board members include Glenda Bernabela, Selly Grotmoka-Pourier, Alex Senchi and Kerenza Rannou-Franz.

The life philosophy of this lovely couple, by which they live their lives, is: "If you can dream it, you can do it. Look beyond your self imposed limitations and you'll discover an unlimited source of potential."

By using the skills they developed in business - planning, organizing and communication - Jane and Alan have been able to contribute to the future of the island they love so much. They encourage other retired people to consider what skills they bring to the island and to seek out ways to put them to use for the benefit of Bonaire. ■ Story & Photo by Louise Rood

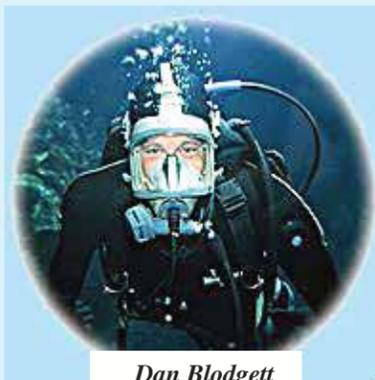
For more information: Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire. Tel: 717-4303  
Email: [manager@JongBonaire.org](mailto:manager@JongBonaire.org)  
Website: <http://www.JongBonaire.org>

## Underwater Camera Repair

Dan Blodgett is the owner and operator of Sub-Aquatic Camera Repair Company located near Monterey, California. Sub-Aquatic is the largest underwater camera repair facility in North America. They are the authorized service center for Nikonos and Sea and Sea cameras. Dan is also the co-owner of Capture Photo here in Bonaire with 2 locations, one at the Divi Flamingo Resort and the second at Captain Don's Habitat.

Dan received his first camera at age 8 and has been tinkering with camera's ever since. Dan has been a certified diver since 1986. While visiting in 1988 Dan had an idea to start a photo business here in Bonaire. With Kathy Lapsys that dream was realized in February, 2007, when Capture Photo opened on Bonaire. Their goal is to provide excellent service for novice to professional photographer.

Dan Blodgett will be on Bonaire from the 28<sup>th</sup> of April thru to the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. During his stay he will be available for camera repairs at either location. His skills are not limited to the Nikon and Sea and Sea line. If you have any camera concerns please call Capture Photo at 717-6151 to book an appointment with Dan. ■ Press release



Dan Blodgett

## DO YOU SUDOKU?

Here's the first medium difficulty Sudoku puzzle we've published. And there's a story behind this one that Molly Bartikoski-Kearney who does this feature for us related and thought you might enjoy:

"My 91 year old father, RJ, introduced me

to Sudoku, and got me hooked on them. The last time I visited him, he actually printed out two copies of the same puzzle to have a "race." My seven older brothers and sisters and I bought him a computer about 10 years ago - he pretty much just used it to read/respond to email (a pretty big feat some might say) and to print out two Sudoku puzzles each day (his self imposed limit).

He led a happy life, but sadly passed away in his sleep just two weeks before his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. This puzzle is one that we found next his favorite chair, all set to be solved the next day... so tell your reader's to sharpen their pencils, and give the next difficulty level a try and clink a beer to RJ, after they solve it!" ■

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.SudokuShack.com](http://www.SudokuShack.com). Answer on page 18. Supplied by Molly Bartikoski-Kearney (who solves all the puzzles first.)

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

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# Scenes From The Kite Contest

# JePoBo Benefit Bike Ride



You could fly sitting down.



Family activities were held on the past two Sundays: The 20th Annual Contest di Fli, Kite Contest, and a leisurely bike tour in the southern part of the island.

Conditions were ideal for kite flying and the entries were colorful, original and most flew very well. It was an all day affair with lots of winners.

The bike tour was headed by Governor Domacasse and included kids, parents and grandparents. There were numerous water and fruit stops along the way and the finishers were treated to watermelon, juice and hot pumpkin pancakes.

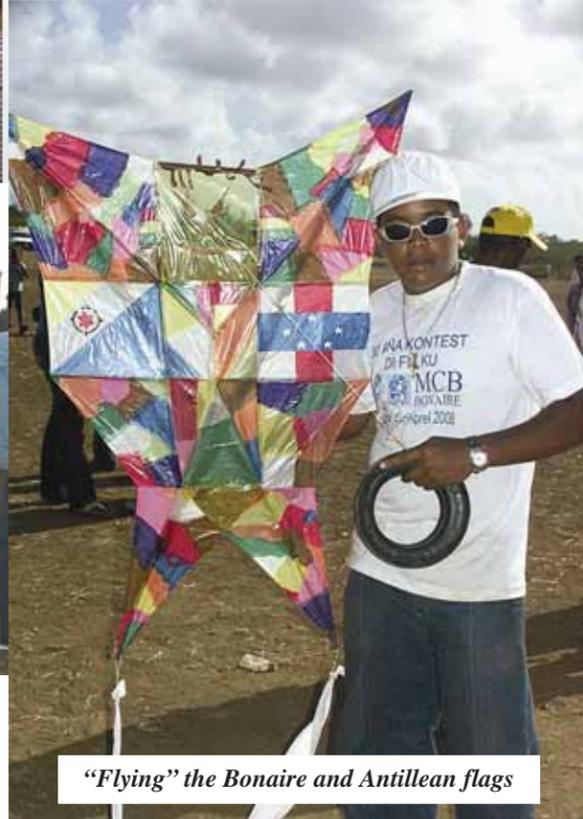
Bonaire is more than a diver's paradise, it's a family paradise. ■



Governor Domacassé leads



Minnie Mouse was there



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# Kuifje Kraze Continues

**K**uifje fans never grow up and retired businessman Co deKoning, journalist Boi Antoin, and several others on Bonaire are no exception.



Working together they arranged for one of the most popular Kuifje (Tintin in the original French) stories to be translated and published in Papiamentu. Last month they and their sponsors presented 10,000 copies of one of this most-loved characters adventure, named *The Sunflower Affair* to the schoolchildren of Bonaire and Curaçao.

Last week deKoning hosted a party at the Vespucci Restaurant for the island's young Kuifje fans. The admission ticket was that they dress as one of the characters in the Kuifje comic strip. A look-alike contest and Kuifje Quiz were highlights. There were a few Kuifjes, Captain Haddock, Janssen & Janssen (Yanchi & Yanshi for the Papiamentu version), Bobbi the dog and even an appearance by Bianca Castafiore, all wildly enthusiastic.

Let's hope we can look forward to a new Kuifje story in Papiamentu soon. ■ G.D.



The deserving winner of the Kuifje look-a-like contest

Marsha deKoning and Larry Gerharts conducted the quiz



Party host Co deKoning, ever a Kuifje fan.



The participants



Kuifje stories didn't feature many girls, so these two dressed as the characters Yanchi & Yanshi in the album.

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<b>Bella Vista Restaurant, Buddy's Pool Bar</b> Sea Side at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm	<b>Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Sat. - Steak Night; Mon. - "Dive and Dine;" Wed. - "Live Cooking by the Chefs;" Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30-6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$19.50 (7-10 pm)
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> 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 to 10 pm	<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>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	<b>Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday</b> from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28,50 or \$16.
<b>Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant</b> One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	<b>Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian</b> Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm Great value anytime.
<b>Hilltop Restaurant</b> At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country</b> Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
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## Letters to the Editor

### Dog Control No Respect For The Environment



Dog Control

Dear Editor,

In recent weeks innocent people have been attacked by vicious dogs on Bonaire. I feel empathy for the victim of the vicious dog attack recently on Seru Largu. The information I have read reveals the dogs were NOT street dogs but dogs owned by residents of Bonaire. Recently I have learned (in the *Amigo newspaper*) that there may be a roundup of stray street dogs by LVV (government agriculture and fisheries department). I am vehemently opposed to such a move. Whilst it is a sad situation that there are dogs living on the streets, in my experience most are kind, docile creatures harming no one. Some are actually owned by people and roam the barrios near their homes. The owners do not put collars on these dogs. Some are nursing litters of puppies. Removing their mother will kill innocent puppies. How does the LVV discern which dog is vicious and dangerous?

Vicious dogs that attack humans must be euthanized. Owners whose dogs attack should be responsible and liable for any medical care for

the innocent victims. I also feel that all dogs should be tagged and licensed. It is strongly recommended that pets be spayed and neutered as well. This is responsible pet ownership. Dogs cannot live a life on chains either. They are pack animals and need to be with their owners. Walks daily or being allowed to run in their enclosed yard is humane and correct animal care. Dogs that are chained for life become vicious and unpredictable. Once off their chain their behavior may be aggressive.

There are many solutions, including education about animal welfare for the young and old of Bonaire. Sterilization is crucial. Breeding of pit bulls, fighting dogs and aggressive breeds should be banned. All residents of Bonaire should license and collar their dogs. These are my opinions. I hope the government of Bonaire takes time to think out a plan that will benefit all.

*A Concerned and Responsible  
Pet Owner and Animal Lover*

### No Respect For The Environment

Dear Editor:

I guide tourists from the cruise ships. From the top of 1000 Steps (dive site) I always look down at the Parrot Fish in the water and point them out to the tourists who really enjoy that. I was noticing that often there aren't any Parrot Fish there at all. Nothing to point out all of a sudden. And I noticed a green line in the water that was not there before.

I talked to the taxi drivers about the Parrot Fish not being there and



I was told that Parrot Fish are very good to eat and that they are also being exported to Aruba as iced fillets, flown over there. I immediately said: "Tell me who is doing that and I will denounce them." They stopped talking after that.

But what else they said before I made my stupidly honest remark was that the Dominicans have eaten all the groupers, the Chinese are taking out all the lobsters and the Bonaireans are eating all the Conch and Parrot Fish. Also one bus driver said that he eats turtle and he was angry that it was not allowed to eat turtle because he said it is a good medicine against asthma.

Last night I watched TV Channel 24 -Arthur Sealy's program- and heard Uz Evertz say on TV that he eats turtle. The taxi and bus drivers tell me: "If you do not take the conch home to eat, someone else will take it." This is the mentality some people have here.

Of course I read *The Bonaire Reporter* every week and I have read that you mentioned groupers are almost not here anymore. I thought I should pass on what I was told.

I am very shocked about people not caring at all about animals becoming extinct and the destruction of the Bonaire reefs because people are eating all the algae eating fish.

I am sorry to say that I think the population of Bonaire is a bigger threat to the reefs than the cruise ships.

*Therese Rosier*

# Envirowatch



Outdoor Bonaire and the Mangrove Information Center, two tourism-based enterprises known for their efforts in helping to preserve Bonaire's nature, have put up a sign reminding motorists to do the same.

Both companies have watched the explosive growth of numbers of people taking normal vehicles as well as off-road vehicles (quads, etc.), into the delicate mangrove area of Lac Bay, even driving to the shoreline.

This area has many flamingos and other water birds and their normal behaviors are disturbed by those trying to get a closer look. Other ground dwelling plants and animals are also damaged. Last week, vehicle tire tracks were found directly over new re-growth of black mangrove trees.

To further educate and encourage those who are causing damage and disturbance to Bonaire's flora and fauna, the companies have joined together in posting a notice asking drivers to stay on the road. Not only is the damage done to the island's flora and fauna, but many vehicles get stranded in the mud of the tidal zone and then need to be towed. Towing is expensive and causes further damage to the environment.

Those touring in the Lac Bay area especially are asked to please help by staying on the road. ■ *E lly Albers*



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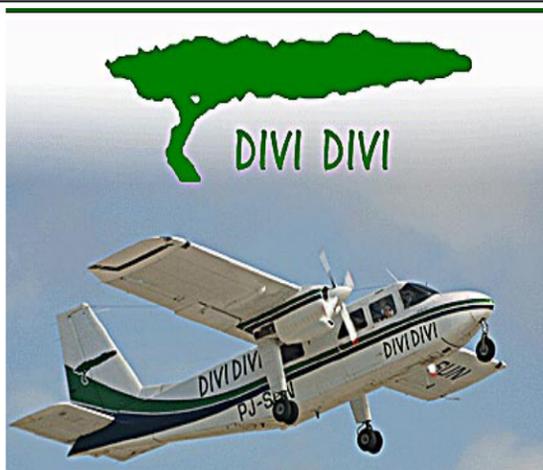
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info@NetTech.an  
www.NetTech.an  
Tel: 717-6773  
Fax: 717-7854

## KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
4-18	7:31	1.1FT.	12:09	1.3FT.	16:04	1.2FT.	23:45	1.7FT.	75
4-19	0:09	1.8FT.	8:54	1.0FT.					79
4-20	0:45	1.8FT.	10:21	0.9FT.					81
4-21	1:20	1.9FT.	11:40	0.9FT.					80
4-22	1:58	1.9FT.	12:30	0.8FT.					78
4-23	2:38	1.9FT.	13:15	0.8FT.					74
4-24	3:23	1.9FT.	13:52	0.7FT.					68
4-25	4:05	1.8FT.	14:21	0.7FT.					62
4-26	4:58	1.8FT.	14:48	0.8FT.					55
4-27	5:47	1.8FT.	15:13	0.8FT.					48
4-28	6:39	1.7FT.	15:28	0.9FT.					42
4-29	0:24	1.4FT.	7:36	1.6FT.	15:32	0.9FT.	22:54	1.4FT.	40
4-30	2:56	1.3FT.	8:25	1.5FT.	15:26	1.0FT.	22:09	1.5FT.	44
5-01	4:27	1.2FT.	9:29	1.4FT.	15:17	1.0FT.	22:13	1.6FT.	54
5-02	5:48	1.1FT.	10:23	1.3FT.	15:10	1.1FT.	22:33	1.7FT.	66

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## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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**The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at:

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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>

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### Bonaire Images

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

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Are you interested in Dutch conversation lessons? For information please call: 786-2499



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# News From STINAPA



Just about everyone who visits Washington Park knows him. Nestor Janga, one of the Washington Park Rangers you meet at the gate, just celebrated his 10th year with STINAPA, the Park Authority. Congratulations.

## A Walk In The Wild

On Sunday, April 27, in connection with Earth Day (which is the 22<sup>nd</sup> but more people can participate on the Sunday) STINAPA is promoting a nature walking tour. The focus is on feeling, smelling, seeing and experiencing the beauty of the environment around Rincon, under the professional guidance of Maria Koeke and her "crew." It will start at 7 am. For more information and/or to join call STINAPA at 717 - 8444, or 717-4163. Attendance is free, but you must register in advance. ■ STINAPA Release

## Earth Day Cleanup at Klein

One of Bonaire's key Earth Day activities is to clean up the beaches at Klein Bonaire in advance of the upcoming turtle nesting season. The volunteer effort will be coordinated by Sea Turtle

Conservation Bonaire (STCB) and STINAPA. Klein Bonaire is the area's most popular destination for nesting turtles. Of the 80 turtle nests monitored by the STCB last year, 50 were on Klein. Cleaning plastic and other sea borne debris from the beaches will make it easier for the turtles to build nests and for the baby turtles to get into the sea.

Need a large sized wetsuit? Carib Inn has a 5X in 3mm full suit. New for only \$129. Call 717-8819

FOR SALE: 2/3 bedroom 2 bath house Hato area, \$270,000 Looking for a quick cash sale only. Interested parties only. No agents. Call 717-5736

The Animal Shelter can use more items to sell on the monthly flea market in Parke Publico Bonairiano? Call 787-0466

Two teachers with their two daughters, are looking for a 3-bedroom house to rent for NAf 1200,-. Please call 717-2912.

The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a Managing Editor. Must be able to deal with deadlines, staff issues, have strong computer skills and possess strong English language ability. Experience Required. This is a part-time position. Call George at 790-8988 if interested and qualified.

Have a story idea? The Reporter pays the going rate for stories and photos. Call 790-8988 if interested in joining our team.

Want to sell something? Need something? Find something or someone? Use the Bonaire Reporter Classified Ads. Non-commercial ads are free. Commercial ads are inexpensive. Call :786-6125 or 790-6518.

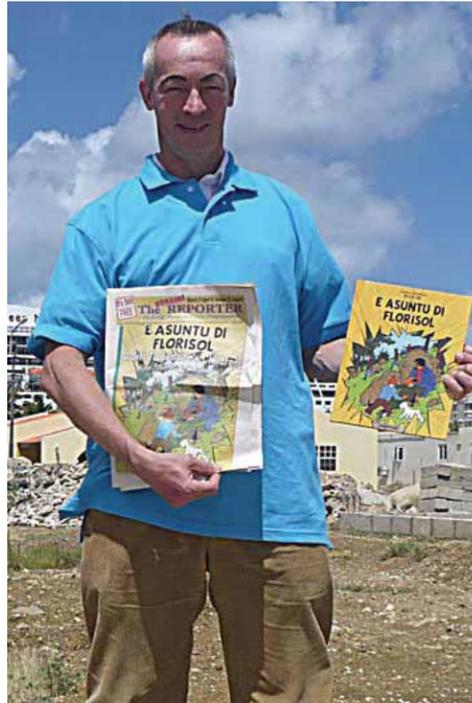


Help from as many volunteers as possible will ensure the best possible conditions for the start of the nesting season in May. Klein Bonaire is a protected and patrolled site. There are no lights, camping is permitted only by permit and access is solely by boat giving the turtles the best possible conditions. Information about the clean up is available in newspapers, posters in the markets and on the radio. There will be 60 T-shirts available for the volunteers. If more than 60 show up there will be a drawing. Make sure you bring or wear sun protection, sturdy footwear, gloves and a drinking cup. Water will be available but you might want to bring your own. Transportation to Klein provided. Be there to help. You can make a difference. Locals and visitors welcome. Sunday 20 April Time: 7:30 am to 12:00 noon Meet at: Harbor Village Marina Contact numbers: 780-1225, 780-0433, 717-2225 ■ Mabel Nava

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter Belfast, N. Ireland | KuifjeLand, Bonaire



Here are Susan Hutchison and JP Richau recently visiting Belfast, Northern Ireland. Couldn't resist the colorful fish, nearby where the Titanic was constructed. They write, "It wasn't just the cold that made us return to Bonaire – but the anxiety to pick up the next issue of *The Bonaire Reporter!*"



Jan-Aarnout-Boer, the man who took on the task of negotiating the first Papiamentu language version of Kuifje (Tin Tin if you're not Dutch/Belgian) with the copyright owners, dressed up in his Kuifje outfit, the album and *The Reporter*. For more on Kuifje mania turn to page 11.

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com).

## Salba Nos Lora Art Competition



Celebrate the wild Loras of Bonaire in art and you could win one of these great prizes:

MP3 players, USB Memory sticks, Lessons in: Kite-surfing, Windsurfing, Diving, Rock climbing, Kayaking, Land-sailing, A Bird tour, A Motorcycle tour, Pizzas and much more!!!

Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category + Bonus prizes

### Categories:

**Art Adult and Art Youth** (16 years or younger)

- Any technique or medium, 2 dimensional "poster", maximum size A3

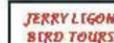
**Photograph Adult and Photograph Youth** (16 years or younger)

- Digital or printed images of wild loras, on CD, or email to: [salbanoslora@gmail.com](mailto:salbanoslora@gmail.com)

Bring your artwork to: **Mangazina di Rei** (Rincon), **The Bonaire Museum** (SKAL), or **Chat n' Browse** (Sand Dollar) **Deadline: 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

Exhibition and award ceremony at the **Salba Nos Lora stand on Rincon Day**

Sponsors:



## Want to look hot on the beach?



**Outlet Mol is Bonaire's Retail Swimwear shop offering hundreds of bikinis and boardshorts for men and women. Mix and match swim tops and bottoms, colors and sizes.**  
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## CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD FESTIVAL 2008 BONAIRE



The Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds will celebrate the 7<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Here on Bonaire a range of exciting activities will be hosted by Salba Nos Lora and STINAPA. The objective of these events is to raise public awareness of our island's rich bird life. The main events are the art competition and the accompanying exhibition and prize giving on Rincon Day, May 30. Following will be an art auction at Captain Don's Habitat on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm. This event will

start with an entertaining movie of parrot love (and sex) and then progress to the auction. It's really not to be missed as there will be free wine and beer. The organizers are also planning some evening presentations on the birds of Bonaire including, of course, a presentation on the loras. The Oriole and Troupial count that was a success last year will be repeated on May 11th. Check the next issue of *The Reporter*, posters and Forum on Mega FM for further details. ■ Sam Williams

## WANNADIVE

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[info@wannadiveHUTbonaire.com](mailto:info@wannadiveHUTbonaire.com)

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, April 20 – Rotorally** sponsored by the Rotary Club. Pre-sale tickets from all Rotary members or at [info@rotarybonaire.org](mailto:info@rotarybonaire.org)

**April 22-May 22 – 7th Caribbean endemic Bird Festival.** Activities sponsored by Salba Nos Lora and STINAPA. See page XXXX

**Thursday, April 24 - Classical piano concert** by Hannes Minnaar, Plaza Resort. NAf 30 pre-sale at Flamingo Bookstore; NAf 40 at the door. Includes foods, drinks after concert. Call Hans Faassen, 717-5767. See page 2

**Sunday, April 27 – Nature Walking Tour** sponsored by STINAPA, 7 am. Free. Call 717-8444 or 717-4163 to register. See page 14

**Sunday, April 30 – Rincon Day Biggest party in Bonaire, Don't Miss It.** More information in Flotsam and jetsam, page 4

**May 22 to 25 - Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2008.** Numerous headliners. More information in upcoming issues

**Sunday, June 1 - Anniversary Celebration** Washington Park, 8 am-5 pm. Free entrance and participation in activities. Call STINAPA 717-8444, 717-4163

## REGULAR EVENTS

- The popular **SGB High School restaurant, Chez Nous**, is now open to the public. Four-course dinners with welcome cocktail on Tuesdays. Seating begins at 6 pm. Lunches on Wednesday & Thursdays. Call 717-8120, ask for Chez Nous or email: [keesleeman@telbonet.an](mailto:keesleeman@telbonet.an)

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**

- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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

- By appointment – **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

- Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the evening hours.

### Saturdays

**Steak Night On the Beach** (a la carte) with live mariachi- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6–10pm

- 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](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon).

- All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

- Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

- Mountain Bike Training for riders of all levels (also Tuesday)** at 5pm. Bonaire Wellness Connexions, Eden Beach, 785-0767, email [info@bonairewellness.com](mailto:info@bonairewellness.com)

### Sundays

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

### Mondays

- “Dive & Dine” Buddy Dive Resort**, 6:30 –9:30 pm

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

### Tuesdays

- Margarita & Taco Tuesdays!** With \$2.50 Margaritas and a Taco bar! Plus Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 6-8pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**

### Wednesdays

- “Live Cooking by the Chefs”** with live music by the Flamingo Rockers Unplugged - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10 pm

### Thursdays

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

- Bonaireaan Restaurant**, open 9 –10:30 am, run by teens in training. Only on Thursdays and Fridays. Coffee, tea, homemade baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27

### Fridays

- Bonaireaan Restaurant**, open 9 –10:30 am, run by teens in training. Only on Thursdays and Fridays. Coffee, tea, homemade baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27

- Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 - 10 pm. \$10 per per-

son. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

- Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sunrise Poolbar and Sportsclub, for children 0 – 18.

- Manager’s Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, Live music by Flamingo Rockers, **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 6-7 pm

- Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30-6:30 pm) with Moogie Nation, followed by all-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Sunday– Creature Feature**– John and Suzie Wall of Buddy’s Digital photo center present a multimedia slide Presentation about Buddy’s House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

**Monday-Dee Scarr’s Touch the Sea Slide Presentation**, Capt. Don’s Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8529

**Monday- Land & Ocean Bonaire** by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of Bonaire Dive & Adventure.

**Tuesday —Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Buddy Dive Resort, 7 pm—717-3802.

**Tuesday—Diving Facts And Fiction - An Evening with DIR** slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure, 786-5073

**Wednesday– Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker’s Carib Inn (717-8819) at 7pm.

### 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

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

**AA meetings** - every Wednesday at 7:00 PM-every Sunday at 5:00 PM. Phone: 786-7699 .

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

**Weekly Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi’s - Tuesday - 6:30 pm** - call 567-0655 for directions.

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays**, 7.30 pm at Old Inn (across the street from Plaza) All levels, NAf2,50. Call Joop

717-5903 or be there by 7:15.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

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

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

### CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: Kralendijk**, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am.

**Rincon**, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children’s club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

**New Apostolic Church: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña**, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

**International Bible Church of Bonaire**, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor’s home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

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

**Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk** – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

*Our Lady of Coromoto in Antrioi*, Saturday at 6 pm 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

**Ministerio di Kristu Hesus** Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

Send event info to:

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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

Fun with the Big Dipper (Ursa Major)



Every April I like to remind you of how you can have fun with the **Big Dipper** in early evening because it is positioned in such a way that it gives credence to a very old folk saying. Plus it is so high above the horizon it can be used to easily find two wonderful stars of spring.

On any night in April between the hours of 8 and 10 pm, look due north in the Sky Park where you'll see the Big Dipper almost directly above and just to the right of the **North Star**, its cup pointed down in such a way that if it were filled full of water the water would be pouring out directly onto the ground below. This gives a celestial significance to that old saying, "April showers bring May flowers," because every April in early evening the biggest water dipper of the heavens is indeed positioned so that it is pouring its imaginary water onto the **Earth** below. Plus because it's so high above the horizon it makes it very easy to use the three stars of the Dipper's handle as a finder to locate two wonderful stars of spring which are also very high above the horizon.

Simply draw an imaginary line through the handle of the Big Dipper and extend it in the same curve or arc as the handle and you'll "arc to **Arcturus**," the brightest star of **Bootes, the Herdsman**. Then if you extend that curve, that "arc," on from Arcturus you can speed on to **Spica**, the brightest star of **Virgo, the Virgin**. Once again using the handle and its curve, arc to Arcturus, then speed on to Spica. What could be easier? Now brighter Arcturus is relatively close, only 37 light years away. That means we see the light that left it 37 years ago in 1971. Spica, however, is seven times farther away than Arcturus - 260 light years. That means we see the light that left it 260 years ago in 1748.

But to make finding Arcturus and Spica even more special just remind yourself that when we look at them now we are really looking back in time, because when I say that Arcturus is 37 light years away I really mean that when you look at Arcturus this month you are not seeing Arcturus as it actually exists now in the present but as it actually existed 37 years ago. And when you speed on to Spica and look at it this month you are really seeing Spica not as it exists now but as it actually existed 260 years ago. Wow! Which inevitably leads one to the question, "Is it possible that some of the stars we now see are no longer in existence?" The answer is, yes. Although we are quite sure Arcturus and Spica are still there.

So some time this April between 8 and 10pm find the Big Dipper as it rains down April showers for May flowers, then arc to Arcturus 37 light years away and speed on to Spica 260 light years beyond! ■ *Jack Horkheimer*

# StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

April 2008

**ARIES:** March 20th - April 20th If your feelings could talk, they would probably tell you to stop focusing on your outer life and spend more time getting in touch with the little ram within you. Your emotional sensors are so finely tuned now that you will also be more sensitive to the emotions and feelings of others as well. Most of all, you may find you have a great need to belong to someone. If you don't already have someone you feel a heartfelt connection with, you should do everything in your power to find them!

**TAURUS:** April 20th - May 21st If you are feeling psychologically weak right now, don't beat yourself up. Take some time to relax and renew. You also need to remember that your mind is your garden. Your thoughts are the seeds you plant, and the more positive they are, the more successful you will become in the near future. You can't afford the luxury of self doubt another minute.

**GEMINI:** May 21st - June 21st You have a natural brilliant ability to bungee jump your ideas and freely associate things with others, yet you may feel more inclined to keep your thoughts to yourself right now. While you're out at a party, a complete stranger may inspire romantic fantasies. You will be popular now, yet one of your friends may want to confide in you and make you swear to their secret. They may also want you to share full disclosure on your new secret crush. Don't be tempted by them, once they learn your secrets they won't hesitate to share them.

**CANCER:** June 21st - July 22nd You may find it difficult to hide certain facts about yourself. Still it's best if you have nothing to hide because everyone has got their eye on you at the moment. You could be tempted to make a public display of your emotions; even having a spat with a loved one could cause unfortunate publicity now. Since you are so in tuned with others on an emotional level, it's better if you work as a liaison to help them meet their goals and needs.

**LEO:** July 22nd - August 23rd Forget about your personal concerns for the moment and get together with your friends. If you find that your friends are too busy, you might need to circulate to make new ones that share your hobbies or passions. This is a marvelous time to network your talents with others so be sure to bring your calling cards with you once you leave the house.

**VIRGO:** August 23rd - September 22nd You're in the mood to think big and there's no reason not to. This is one of those times when you can really impress others with your well thought out plans. Even though they may think you're a bit of an optimist, there's a good chance that they will rally around you now. If you keep banging your drum, you'll soon find others dance to your beat. Don't argue you points, allow others to step in tune and you will find great harmony now.

**LIBRA:** September 23rd - October 23rd It will be easy to find balance in your relationships now. If you don't already have a partner this is one of the best times to meet someone new. Any problem you've been having with others may miraculously seem to clear. Still, you may have to take on the role of a social director in your circle of friends to get them moving.

**SCORPIO:** October 23rd - November 22nd - Being in 'the zone' is something peak performers train for. Whether they are master musicians or sports competitors; the main goal is to get into a space where they can mentally marry their talent with timing. You now also have that same winning ability to perfectly perform in your daily life. You may not be looking for a medal or to break a record; still you do have a rare opportunity to combine ambition with integrity and make your mark.

**SAGITTARIUS:** November 22nd - December 21st - It's time to get rid of the old and worn pages of your life; they've become too brittle and you need to update everything now including your wardrobe! Once you rid yourself of clutter you will instantaneously find new opportunities arise. This is one of those times when you shouldn't stop to ponder carefully before acting on impulse. Something fortunate can come on suddenly. You just need to be ready for change

**CAPRICORN:** December 21st - January 20th - You might want to duck out of social plans right now. Partners may be on edge about financial matters and if you have a mate, you'll find they are not in the best of moods because they are worrying too much about the future now. It's probably best you throw energies towards developing your artistic talents or just spend more time pursuing your hobbies.

**AQUARIUS:** January 20th - February 19th - You may feel torn between your home and family commitments verses your desire to be out with your friends. If you have been working hard on a project the good news is that you are about to see results. However, this is a time when you will feel compromised because keeping true to yourself means that you may have to let others down. In your heart of hearts you wish you could manage to do both, yet you will eventually have to make a choice to either let them down, or much worse; let yourself down.

**PISCES:** February 19th - March 20th - If you could see what I see you would see your amazing unreleased potential falling to the wayside instead of catapulting you ahead. You don't have to be a seer to tap into your vast resources; still you do have to listen to your dreams and that little voice inside. I don't have to tell you that you have a strong voice inside, but I may have to remind you of just how potent it is. If you can manage to take the time to amplify it by meditating, you will be able to work wonders through the power of prayer now. ■ *Jenny Lynch*

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# FORMA

Making Tomorrow Better

FORMA is Bonaire's institute for adult education. Since March 2006 Inge Berben has been the director of FORMA and has reorganized and revitalized the organization.



ing methods at school. The majority are young parents. Every one has a coach from FORMA who follows the participant on a weekly basis to see how he or she develops and checks to see that all continues accordingly. FORMA also has a social worker who guides those who have difficult living circumstances. All participants receive a small allowance and child care to make it possible for them to attend classes and appointments.

**Vocational Training Level 1 (SBO)** organizes a one-year education program. If participants follow this education he or she will earn a valid diploma at the end of the year. In 2007 FORMA opened the Restaurant and Bakery Assistant program. With this diploma participants can qualify for a job as assistant waiter assistant cook or assistant baker.

In June 2008 FORMA will begin the Construction Assistant program. With this diploma participants can get a job as an assistant carpenter, assistant bricklayer or assistant painter.

**Department of Upgrading courses** focuses on the working population who likes or needs to be upgraded. The courses are on a higher level (MBO and HBO) and at the moment are:

- Language classes (Papiamentu, English, Dutch, Spanish)
- Electro technician
- Bookkeeping
- Hobby courses
- Naturalization course

Upgrading courses are given on request from companies and organizations. For further questions or information: Contact Fundashon FORMA, Kaya Korona 13, Inge Berben, Director. Tel: 717-6949 / fax: 717-6940. ■ Soraida Mensché Website: [www.fundashonforma.com](http://www.fundashonforma.com); E-mail: [ingeberben@fundashonforma.com](mailto:ingeberben@fundashonforma.com)



Forma has four departments: Literacy, Social Cultural Duty (SVP), Vocational Training Level 1 (SBO) and Upgrading Courses.

**Department of Literacy** is for illiterate or nearly illiterate adults. Although Bonaire has a 97% literacy rate, 20.8% can read but can't understand what they read and are at a 4<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school level. That's the reason FORMA started this department. Last year a coordinator trained 20 teachers in FORMA's methods of working, developed curricula for three levels, put together 20 packages of class material based on themes, and created CDs and DVDs as teaching materials.

**Department of Social Cultural Duty (SVP)** is a project initiated by the Central Government and financed by USONA. The focus of SVP is on young adults between 16 and 24 years old who do not have an educational qualification and/or a diploma. These young people dropped out after elementary school or high school for various reasons: pregnancy, responsibilities at home, behavioral problems, learn-



FORMA photos



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# Fishing Tournament Results

Fine weather greeted the fishermen of Bonaire's 20th International Fishing Tournament last Sunday. While the catch of billfish and the turnout of boats was disappointing to the organizers, the ambiance was great with a big BBQ and live music. During Regatta time, October 3-5, there will be another fishing tournament organized by It Rains Fishes Restaurant at Club Nautico.

For more information about this event and the next one call Robur de Vries at 786-1070. ■ .

## RESULTS

PRIZE	NAME	YACHT
BLUE MARLIN	A Boekhoudt (AUA)	K-Pritcho
BLUE MARLIN	B Peretchentill (CUR)	Y- Knot
BLUE MARLIN	A Boekhoudt (AUA)	K-Pricho
BLUE MARLIN	B Peretchentill (CUR)	Y- Knot
Largest Tuna	B Peretchentill (CUR)	Y- Knot
Largest Dorado	A Mansur (AUA)	Lady Sarah
Largest Wahoo	F Heyden (AUA)	K-Pritcho
Most Tuna	B Peretchentill (CUR)	Y- Knot
Most Dorado	A Mansur (AUA)	Lady Sarah
Most Wahoo	F Heyden (AUA)	K-Pritcho
YACHTS	11	
PARTICIPANTS	44	
COUNTRIES	3	



Mojito from Curaçao Organizer photo

## SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 9

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

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**Anke's The Deep Purple motorcar experience  
The FIAT 500D "Cinquecento"**

*The 28<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."*



*Anke's FIAT 500D. The car is spray-painted metallic purple. The two-door coupe was manufactured in Italy in 1962 and is known as the nuova FIAT cinquecento. (Pronounced as: "chin-kwe-chen-to" by those inventive little Italian laborers from Torino) Photograph: J@n Brouwer*

Bonaire/Playa Pariba –

Anke, born in Indonesia, spent a couple of years on the island of Aruba before she decided to live on our lovely Diver's Paradise. Since June 2007 she and her son, Kalani (born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 in Aruba) live on Bonaire.

Anke's little purple painted treasure on wheels can regularly be seen on and along the roads of Playa. Anke has two part time jobs down town. She works at the Indonesian restaurant, Warung Louise, on Kaya Grandi and at the barbershop, De Kapper, both in Kralendijk.

Anke is the proud owner of a very well restored economy car or city car, made in 1962 in Torino, Italy. In those days the car was exported from Italy to the Netherlands. Small family cars were very popular in Europe after World War II.

Anke bought her Italian beauty in The Netherlands. The car was in more or less running condition but needed a lot of work. She started the restoration in Europe and continued the job in Aruba. Finally the car got its metal flaked color in Bonaire. It was Garage Emanuel, along the unpaved road behind Warehouse Bonaire that did the job. Now the little backpack (as this FIAT is nicknamed in Holland) is in running condition. The purple jewel is a quick starter and a good runner. It is very difficult to get to know the location of the gasoline station by heart because of the very low fuel consumption of this classic vehicle. Anke and her Cinquecento: two new little gems on our island.

The FIAT Nuovo 500 was designed by Dante Giacosa. The model was produced from 1957 until 1975. The first models were equipped with a small 479 cc two-cylinder four stroke engine with overhead valves, producing 13 British horse power. This model had a soft top from head to hips and two so called suicide doors. It's length was only 2,97 meters (9 feet, 9 inches). The later models were fitted with an air cooled twin of 499 cc/17 bhp.

Even a real 594 cc/23 bhp road burner was produced. A very cute model was the so called FIAT, Jolly, an open two seater. FIAT also created the so called Cinquecento Giardiniera, a three-door station wagon with a soft top. Very cute! Thank you, you Italians for using your creative minds! ■ J@n Brouwer



# What's Coming Our Way ?

This time for a change there won't be a visit to a construction site. Instead, let's have a look at something else coming our way right now on Bonaire: the Tourism Awareness Project (TAP). What is it?

Some may know it from the Mama Smile figure (see photo) and the slogan "Boneiru ta dushi," simply meaning Bonaire is dushi. Dushi is that magical Papiamentu word that's impossible to translate, but for those who might not know it, if it's dushi, it's positive! Mama Smile, with her natural laughter, is the mascot of the program. In daily life many know her as Poppy Rodriguez.

The TAP project was initiated by Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) and aims to increase awareness among the local community, emphasizing the importance of tourism by increasing knowledge and understanding of tourism. Financial support comes from USONA, and it's all carried out by a consortium between Bonairean based Match Consultancy and The Hague Performance Management hotel school. The project, relying as much as possible on local talent and products, started in 2006 and is planned to continue until 2009. Obviously it will be impossible to reach each and every one, but the ambitious aim is to have 2,800 people of various backgrounds and ages go through a total of six workshops of half a day each on the subject. This is the theory. But what does this mean in practice?

A fair reflection of the population will attend, or have already attended, these workshops. It's not only for people working in businesses directly related to tourism like the hospitality industry, but also for police officers, custom officers, civil servants, airport employees, students from SGB (secondary school) and many, many more groups.

The program follows the trip of a tourist visiting Bonaire, beginning with making his plans while still at home, arriving at the airport and getting a first impression, doing the things he wants, visiting attractions, meeting local people, visiting shops and supermarkets, etc., etc. At the end of his trip he asks himself whether or not he had a good time, looks at how much he spent and decides whether he might return and recommend Bonaire to his friends and family. Workshop attendees will learn different things each time:

The first workshop is about what Bonaire has to offer tourists, while another deals with keeping the balance between people, planet and profit in our touristic developments. Another is about hospitality, showing that tourism is not limited to people working in the hospitality industry, but that all others have a very important role as well. Then it's about quality of service, while the following is about flexibility, the dynamic nature of tourism and that one thing is certain in life: the world will continue to change. The final one then draws the conclusion that tourism is



*Governor Domacasse and the real Mama Smile, Poppy Rodriguez*

vital to the island and to our community.

To make things attractive to the participants there are no endless theoretical presentations in these workshops. Obviously some theory is presented, but the program focuses on bringing up many topics in playful ways to make things fun. Films, quizzes, role playing, creating artwork, lotteries and much more are all part of the game. The creative things like poems, drawings, paintings, stories etc. we have seen the attendants come up with are very impressive and a first exposition was at the Kas di Arte some months ago.

Last week 300 SGB students attended the program in a special five-day project at the school. The last day was dedicated to presentations from the students on various topics related to tourism on Bonaire. Creativity ruled! Who knows? Maybe some of the rap songs about how dushi Bonaire is that we heard there might make it into big hits on our local radio stations. ■ Story & photo by Marcel Leurs



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