

It's Still  
FREE

**BONAIRE** Aug. 21-Sept. 4, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 17  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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# Future Power

Wilna Gronenboom photo

**B**onaire is under siege from the multiple activities that, by the end of this year, will mean more reliable and less expensive electricity for all who live here. The foundations for the 12 wind turbines along Bonaire's northeast coast at Morotin are being poured. Each 60 cm. to 1.6 m high foundation has 190m<sup>3</sup> of steel reinforcement and high-strength concrete. Water is sprayed after the pour to help in curing the concrete. The bases are 150m. apart. When the concrete is cured the tower will be placed into position. Each wind turbine will produce around 1 million watts; 12 will be enough to satisfy about 50% of Bonaire's power needs.

The main road to Rincon and even the "tourist road" have countless heavy trucks moving the material to that site and to the new power plant near BOPEC. Road crews try to fix the holes in the road caused by the heavy loads but don't seem to ever be able to catch up.

The power station skeleton is complete and the huge dual fuel MAN generators are on site. The five generators can supply 14 million watts. The site will also have 3 million watts of backup generators and a colossal 3 million watt battery bank to smooth the power and stabilize the power grid.

Deep ditches are currently opening and closing all over Bonaire, even in small neighborhoods, to hold the new cables that will carry the power. It takes about one week to dig a kilometer of ditch. Installing the wires takes an additional week. Typically, six to 12 cables are buried depending on power needs. To protect the wires from overheating special Barmac sand is put under and on top of the wires. The electric substations connecting the cables will be about 3 km. from one another.

When complete, especially if burning bio-diesel, Bonaire's electric grid will be an example of environmentally friendly electric power. ■ Wilna Gronenboom

# Flotsam and Jetsam

## THE REPORTER

The Queen's Commissioner for the BES islands, Henk Kamp (right), was accused of arrogance and "neocolonialism" by Statia's opposition PLP Party leader Clyde van Putten. He said Commissioner Kamp is behaving like a "slave driver." "He is authoritarian and tells us what to do in our own homes."



Kamp told Radio Netherlands Worldwide that it was just an "incident." He is still hopeful for a "fruitful cooperation." "Comparisons with the past are being made all too quickly. We are living in the present and we are having our responsibilities now. There needs to be much improvement on the islands. The Netherlands has to play a role in this, and we want to do that in the right way. Van Putten is a fierce critic, but that does not prevent us from keeping in close contact with him. We are prepared to talk to him, and I hope things will go better next time."

► **The new tax system for the BES islands is still being worked on in the Netherlands.** Hans Visser, the *kwartiermaker* for taxes, promised Bonaire Commissioner Pancho Cicilia that once it's defined an information campaign will be initiated to inform the public

► **The Dutch economy shrank for the fifth consecutive quarter, the longest period of negative growth ever registered** by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), announced Economist Michiel Vergeer.

However, the quarter-to-quarter contraction was considerably less than the 2.7% measured in the first quarter of this year. Some confidential figures, leaked by the press, said there will be zero growth in 2010 rather than the further contraction of 0.5% forecast in June.

► It has been 10 years since Klein Bonaire was purchased from a private owner who wanted to totally develop it and exclude the island for recreational use by the people of Bonaire. This development would have also ruined the reefs surrounding this unique island.

**Now it is being threatened again by overcrowding, especially during cruise ship season.** There is a call to put in portable toilets, allow some people to be selling things on the island, even set up a massage business.

When Klein Bonaire was purchased for the people of Bonaire using money from the Dutch Government, a grant from the World Wildlife Fund and individual personal donations made through the Foundation for the Preservation of Klein Bonaire (FPKB), very strict conditions were placed on what could and could not be done on Klein Bonaire.

► **Karol Meyer, the Brazilian free diving champion,** has been on Bonaire since the end of July, training for a new free-diving record. She recently became a Guinness World Record holder for an apnea (holding her breath) dive of 18 minutes and 32 seconds on July 10, 2009. Karol also broke two continental records and three world records when she descended to 91m.



**Karol's objective is to set new South American records (and at the same time break the second best performance in the world), by diving to 100 meters on the variable weight discipline at Klein Bonaire.** She will make several attempts between August 15 and August 21. Buddy Dive is hosting her and offering freediving clinics. Go to <http://www.buddydive.com/index.php/specials-and-events/free-diving-bonaire-2009> for more information.

► **The price of fuel again rose on August 10:**  
Gasoline 92 NAf. 1,99/liter

During the past 10 years many new faces have arrived on Bonaire with new ideas and perhaps they are not aware of the requirements for Klein. It is to be kept in a pristine and uninhabited with no buildings allowed. No businesses conducted. No docks or piers, plus many other restrictions all designed to keep this unique island natural so everyone can enjoy it for decades to come. If this isn't done legal action to force a return of the money granted is a possibility.

**Most do not realize it but Klein Bonaire is the largest uninhabited and undeveloped island in the Caribbean.** Those are really big bragging rights that no other place can claim. As more and more areas get over developed, more and more problems are created. Let's keep Klein Bonaire natural the way so many of us have known it for so many years. You won't find another place like it! That in itself is priceless.

Gasoline 95 NAf. 2,02  
Kerosene NAf. 1,22  
Gasoil (Diesel) NAf. 1,16  
Tank propane 100# NAf. 42,90  
Tank propane 20# NAf. 11,12  
Additionally it appears that soon only "super," 95 octane, gasoline will be for sale on the island.

► **Remember to make sure you've paid the second half of your vehicle license fee.** Enforcement will begin this week, said the police.

► **The Bonaire Marine Park received information that four boaters disappeared from Margarita Island, Venezuela, on July 24.** Venezuelan search and rescue groups launched two drift buoys to establish current patterns. One of these buoys was found last week near Willemstoren Lighthouse very close to the southern tip of Bonaire. If you see a second buoy or any indication of a wreck please contact the Marine Park or write directly to Eugenio Duran at [ed@bioimplantes.com](mailto:ed@bioimplantes.com).

► The Colorado State University storm research team **downgraded its 2009 Atlantic hurricane season forecast last on**

Save Klein Bonaire painting by Winfred Dania



**Tuesday, August 5, predicting that 10 tropical storms will form and four of those will strengthen into hurricanes.** The forecasting had predicted on June 2 that the season would see 11 tropical storms, including five hurricanes.

Tuesday's forecast said two of the hurricanes would reach major status of Category 3 or higher, with sustained winds of more than 110 miles per hour. **As we go to press the first hurricane, "Bill," is set to pass just north of the windward Antilles.**

► **The F.A.W.B. (The Foundation for Animal Welfare on Bonaire-Stichting Dierenbescherming) is in need of sponsors for the horse that was seized from its owner about two years ago.** The horse had not been treated well and has serious problems with his jaw. He needs special care and attention, which has been realized by means of a loving caretaker and a beautiful piece of fenced in land on a local kunuku. The horse, named Scott, is still the responsibility of the Foundation, but the food is costly and they need some extra sponsors who are willing to make a

monthly donation. Credit the account of Bonaire Animal Welfare MCB# 113.06.706 i.n.o. Dierenbescherming Bonaire Horse Scott

► **The next group of Wounded Warriors will be on Bonaire from September 26 to October 3.** There will be seven Wounded Warriors, four spouses

### Table of Contents

This Week's Stories	
New Power Coming	1
Klein Bonaire Anniversary	2
Best DVD-Bonaire Ta Dushi	3
First Tracked Turtle	6
Document Bonaire Debut	8
Desiree Haircuts	8
Parrot (Lora) Watch (Into the Wild)	9
Letters to the Editor—Music, Don't Blame the Victim, Unfriendly Airport, Bikes	10
Mangroves Slipping Away?	16
Weekly Features	
Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since (Phil & Stephanie Bennett)	4
Bubbles-Did You Know (Turtles)	6
Bonairean Voices (Businesses)	7
Sudoku Puzzle	7
Where to Find the Reporter	7
Bon Quiz #13 - Brazier	8
Body Talk- Good Sugars	10
Picture Yourself (Chicago)	11
Classifieds	11
Tide Table	11
BonQuiz Answer	12
Reporter Masthead	12
What's Happening	12
Shopping & Service Guides	13
Bonaire On Wheels (Red Ruska Buggy)	14
Pet of the Week (Zack)	14
Sky Park (False Comets)	15
Star Power (Astrology)	15

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► **The next group of Wounded Warriors will be on Bonaire from September 26 to October 3.** There will be seven Wounded Warriors, four spouses

(Continued on page 6)

Ex-members of Jong Bonaire can win a free laptop

Win me!

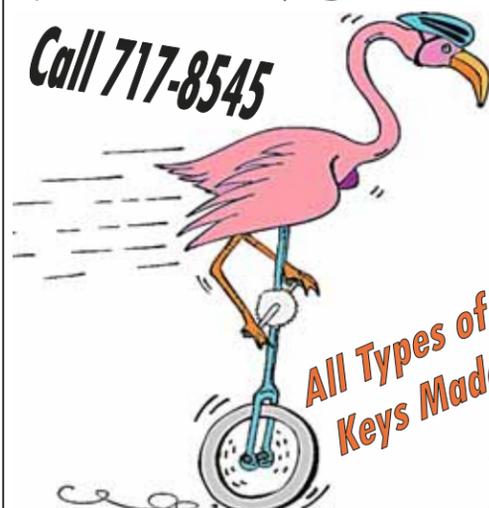
Jong Bonaire is celebrating its 10th anniversary and we are seeking all ex-members for the period 1998 through July 2009. Youth Conference and party 2 & 3 October. Spread the word!



Fill out the form at [www.jongbonaire.org/reunion.html](http://www.jongbonaire.org/reunion.html) or at the office of Jong Bonaire

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# Bonaire's Best On DVD Don't Leave Bonaire Without It

Done by a person with a sensitive eye for environmental conservation a new DVD of Bonaire's natural attractions has just been released. Its cinematography far exceeds any Bonaire film to date. The viewer learns about Bonaire's countryside, birds, animals, caves, culture and more with spectacular footage. Perhaps because of its outright honesty and sensitivity for the environment it is not endorsed by the Bonaire Tourism Corporation or STINAPA. That should make it even more important to get yourself a copy.

The visionary mind behind the new DVD is Hendrik Wuyts, a Belgian who came to Bonaire in 1993. His latest work is the result of decades of training in film and video techniques including lessons at the world renowned Antwerp School of the Arts. Hendrik continued his education through projects all over the world, including Cairns, Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Egypt, Malaysia and Sipadan.

His favorites, by far, included working with Max Hammer filming the Wrecks in Papua, New Guinea, promotional production for the Wakatobi resort in Sulawesi, living with the Masi in Kenya, diving in Lake Titicaca, Peru, and working with the Smithsonian Institution filming "Carrie Cow Bay" in Belize.

His most exiting upcoming work will be based on his past work with the Minority People of Vietnam and Laos.

Hendrik feels privileged to have seen and filmed an incredible amount of wildlife, whether it be top-side or underwater.

Some of his credits include:

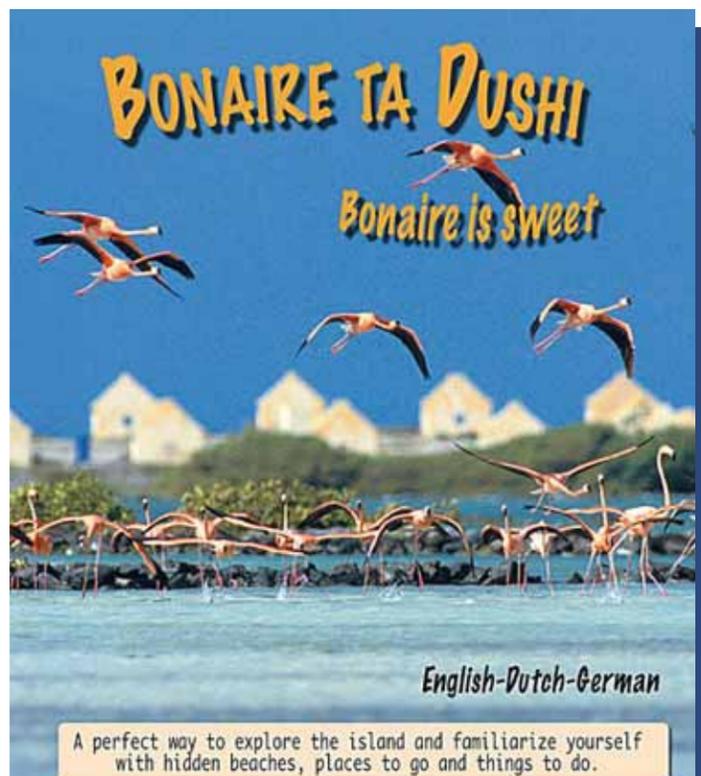
- VPRO: 'Noorderlicht - Dat willen wij ook'; Smithsonian Institution, Belize
- EMS Films, European Media Support. Peru, Kenya, Sabah, Bonaire

- AVRO: Zipzoo 'Expedition Bonaire' Basis Communicatie
- SPERI Social Policy Ecology Research Institute - Location: Vietnam and Laos
- 'Island Adrift' a Captain Don adventure documentary
- World of Oceans a Bonaire DVD production
- Forum Antilles- Waste Management'; 'Eco Rape' and 'The Value of Coral'
- Promotional Films for Bonaire Resorts
- Wowo Riba Bonairu : Local broadcast TV series on Education, Sport, Nature and Culture
- BBC 'Wild Caribbean' wildlife stock footage
- WWF World Wildlife Fund-Coral Campaign 'Geef het coraal mee kleur'
- AVRO: Wilde wereldreizen Stock Footage
- EMS Films 'Dream Wrecks of the Caribbean'

His latest documentary, *Bonaire Ta Dushi* (Bonaire is Sweet), in English, Dutch and German, shows Bonaire in all its glory and beauty and is strengthened with interviews with prominent Bonairean conservationists:

Kalli De Meyer (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance), George Cultura (National Park Head Ranger), Maria Koeks (Soldachi Tours, Rincon), Gilmond "Funchie" Echbrechts (Field Manager, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire), Jerry Ligon (Avid Birder and Naturalist), Caren Eckrich (Assistant Director CIEE Research Station Bonaire), Fernando Simal (Washington-Slagbaai National Park Manager) and Hans Voerman (Adventure Guide, Outdoor Bonaire).

While this film will surely be enjoyed by visitors to Bonaire and will help them to better understand the Bonairean way of life, it also appeals to those who live on the island and want to better appreciate its delights. ■ G.D./ Press release



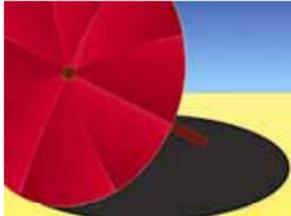
**BONAIRE TA DUSHI**  
*Bonaire is sweet*

English-Dutch-German

A perfect way to explore the island and familiarize yourself with hidden beaches, places to go and things to do.



Available at dive and souvenir shops on Bonaire  
**'Bonaire ta Dushi'** is produced in three languages, English, Dutch and German.  
Premiere: 7 pm, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> at Addos's Book Store at the head of Kaya Grandi. English version  
If you would like to enjoy a teaser or order online please visit: [www.bonairefilmproductions.com](http://www.bonairefilmproductions.com)  
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# On the Island Since... January 25, 2007 - Phil and Stephanie Bennett

“I was born in Capetown, South Africa. My dad was the chef for four prime ministers, so we grew up knowing that one day we would have a black government, and when it all started happening it was no big surprise to us. Mr. Mandela did everything with the right intentions, but the problem was that Africa – the continent – thought that there would be plenty of jobs and houses available.

When our government opened the borders to the rest of Africa, you had hundreds of thousands of people streaming into South Africa, and of course there were no jobs and no houses. It wasn't the 'Promised Land.' Millions of desperate people went out stealing because they had a family to take care of and the end result was total lawlessness. You could get killed for just having a watch. Still, we do have so many amazing people of all colors, but everybody is suffering from the high crime and corruption.

I go there once a year to visit my family and to smell Africa – as every country has a different smell. Phil was born in England and had been traveling back and forth to South Africa for his job for years. Then he lived there for

four years and it was there where we met.

We left South Africa in 1997 and went to live in England. I was ready for a change. I started with studios- a ceramic studio and a glass studio- for adults and children. Phil was working for Panasonic in the TV equipment field. Then, as the studios went so well, I needed a partner and Phil needed a change, so we started working together, seven days a week, very, very hard work - non stop. It got to the stage that we thought, 'There's got to be more to life than working like this!' We tried managers, but it's very difficult to motivate people for your own business regardless of what you pay them.

Then my daughter and her partner persuaded us to take a vacation. They work on cruise ships and at the time they worked on the Princess cruise line. They had been here to Bonaire a couple of times on different ships. We had never heard of Bonaire,' she laughs. "Sorry! The reason they

wanted us to come here was because they eventually wanted to settle here, but they didn't have the time to come to the island and look at property, so they sent us to scout! When we started driving around on this island in the middle of nowhere, we fell in love with it after three days! Crazy! The calmness... it just really appealed to us. The diving, the color of the sea... amazing, still.

So, we stayed for a week. We found a house for my daughter and her partner. Then we went on a cruise for a week and reported everything to my daughter and her partner. After that we went back to England. We made the decision on the ship. We were going to retire, sell the business, sell the house – that's it – get out and go and live on Bonaire!

It took us seven months to get it done. We started in Kaya India and then we moved to Antriol, to Kaya Papa Cornes, and we named our house 'Harmony House.' It's very central and we

“The diet of the Bonairean people has changed drastically since the introduction of processed food and many diseases came from that. ...”



Stephanie Bennett

like it here.

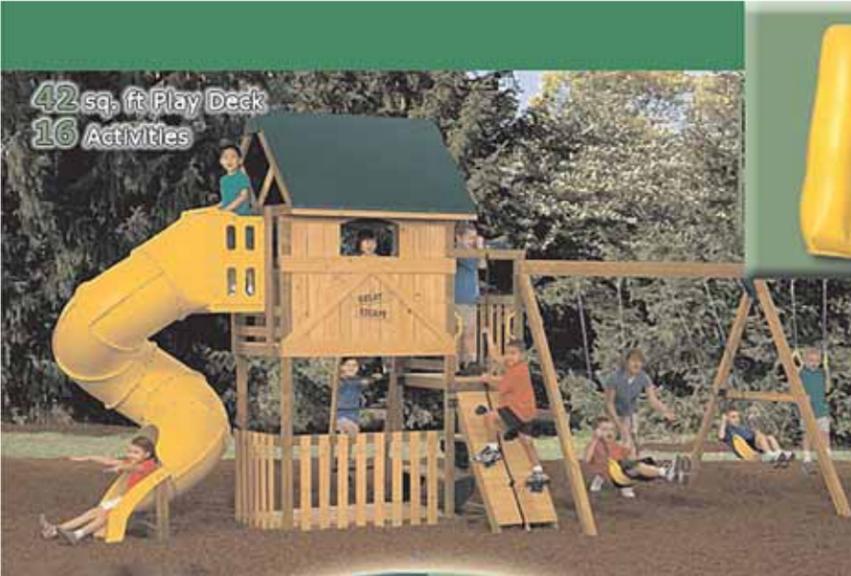
Coming from England, working the way we did and to adjust to the island's pace... it took us some time. I think if you need outside stimulation, you're pretty lost on this island. You have to keep yourself amused. We knew it was going to be a totally different way of life, but we needed the change to get back to the basics: What it is you want to do in life!"

Stephanie Bennett is petite with

curious brown eyes. She's a very happy, vivacious and energetic person with a tremendous lust for life.

'I certainly wanted to get back into gardening and to get back into holistic therapy. I've always been fascinated with people and disease. The fascination how we all are - in a sense - ruled by our desires. We have this problem between personality and the soul. I don't want to sound like a new-

(Continued on page 5)



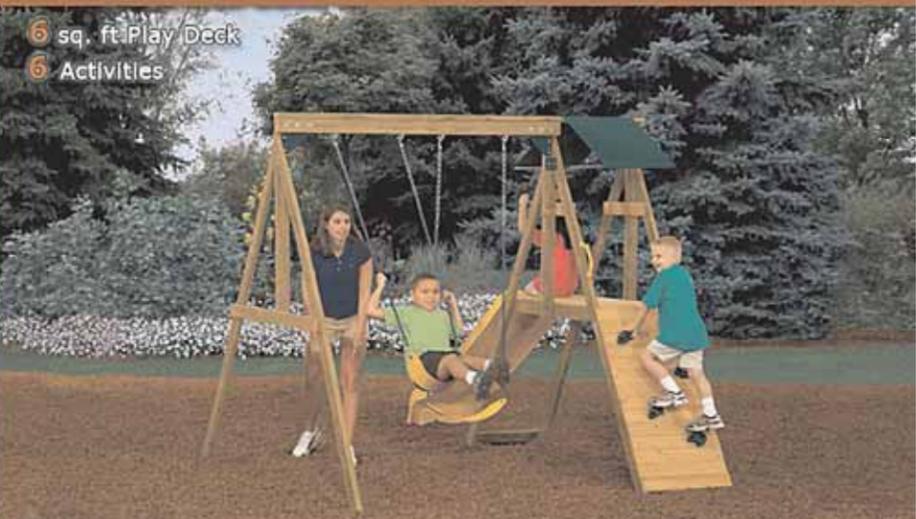
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On the Island Since  
(Continued from page 4)

age hippy- I am too old for that - but there's a constant conflict in us. We know what's good for us - yet, we don't do it. I think as human beings we've moved so far from nature and... that's where the problem starts. Stress: We have 12 hours of daylight from 7am until 7 pm, but we extend that to 18 to 20 hours and we don't get enough sleep ever! You've got all these diseases and health problems. It's totally out of control all over the world and nobody understands why. You have everything to make your life very easy. It's all there, yet people are suffering a lot more, health wise.

I think we eat way too much as a species. We're also the most confused species. We are not wild animals. We live in a zoo and the food industry is the zoo keeper. A lot of processed food comes with additives which interfere with the signal between stomach and brain which says, 'I'm full!' So, we don't know it anymore. Anything that is not raw or fresh is basically processed. Almost everything we eat is processed. The answer? Break out of the zoo! Some people do; some never do, which is sad. Many people don't link their diet to disease. The diet of the Bonairean people has changed drastically since the introduction of processed food and many diseases came from that.

One of the things I'm meant to do here is tell people how to eat and what to eat. The whole thing is born out of concern for this island and its people who have always been pretty self-supporting and who are now involved in this so-called progress.

I see a lot of positive things also. More and more people are growing their own

fruits and vegetables again. If we could stop being reliant on the supermarkets - that would be real progress! When you are a gardener," and *Stephanie and Phil definitely are because their garden has an abundance of fruits, herbs and vegetables*, "you love to meet other gardeners who are growing their own food - to share the knowledge because that's what we need. Local people have their knowledge - we need it too - we can share all we know.

I've also researched dengue fever on Bonaire, to see if we can do something about the suffering of people. We rely on tourism and unfortunately nobody wants to say anything about it. But you cannot say it's not happening. It's happening all over the world and Bonaire is no exception. The mosquito is here all year round, but at the moment they're not infected. When a person who's infected comes here and is bitten by our dengue mosquito - voila, it spreads! The dengue mosquito breeds only in clean water, rain or tap water, so they come from our own backyard and not from nature, not from standing water out in the *mondi*. Fumigating is not the answer; if you spray the standing waters on the island, you kill all the tadpoles and dragon flies which eat the larvae and the result is millions of mosquitoes, not the dengue mosquito, but all the other types. With dengue, the thing is, the more times you get infected, the worse you get it and in a few years from now you can have a major problem with hemorrhagic fever.

If everybody keeps their yard, especially



Phil and Stephanie Bennett in their beautiful town garden

during rainy season, free of clean standing water that's in the shade (mosquitoes can breed in even less than a centimeter of water) we could control outbreaks. We cannot stop it from coming to the island as people are coming and going all the time, but we should be able to stop it from spreading once it gets here.

We just launched a website, all about dengue, based on our findings here, but also we brought in lots of links from around the world [www.dengueinfo.net](http://www.dengueinfo.net).

Two years ago, I also developed a treatment for dengue. I used it for myself when I got dengue and I never got very sick. It's all about minerals, and last season 97 people took my treatment with absolutely good results. Now we want to

do a formal clinical study and are trying to get the government involved. That's about all we can say at the moment. The rainy season is starting in October roughly, so there's plenty of work to do before that!

We've been here for only two years, but it feels a lot longer. We've traveled frequently, but since we've gotten here we don't travel much anymore. We could have gone anywhere, but we are here because we want to be here - absolutely! It is home - without a doubt." ■

Story & photos by  
Greta Kooistra



							
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# Turtle Tracking Begins



Female Hawksbill "Doris" is the first sea turtle to be tracked during Bonaire's 2009 nesting season (STCB Photo)

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) deployed the first transmitter of 2009 on a female hawksbill on Klein Bonaire on Friday, July 31, when she came ashore to lay her eggs. This is the first of two turtles to be tracked in 2009 as part of a project funded by UNESCO.

These two turtles will bring the total number of sea turtles that STCB has tracked since 2003 to 17 and will help provide a comprehensive view of the migration patterns and Range States of Bonaire's breeding sea turtles. A Range State is a nation that shares management responsibility for "Bonaire's" sea turtles.

At the conclusion of the turtles' migrations and as part of the same project, STCB will publish a "Tracking Manuscript." The paper will not only provide a compilation and analysis of all of the

tracking data collected by STCB since 2003, but will also include important conservation recommendations on how to improve sea turtle conservation activities between STCB and our Range State counterparts. This document will be shared with researchers and other projects via the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network (WIDECAST) and results will be presented at the next international Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation and Biology.

"Doris" has a shell length of 81.8 cm and is estimated to weigh about 78 kg. Adult hawksbill turtles come to Bonaire to breed from May through November. Based on our monitoring data we know this was her third nest of this season. It's expected that Doris will remain in the area and lay at least one more nest before departing to her home feeding grounds. ■ Mabel Nava, Manager STCB

# Bubbles from the Biologist



**Did You Know...** How turtles find their way back the beach and sometimes the very site where they hatched? The answer is due to a compound in the turtle's brain called **magnetite**, a type of iron compound. The molecules in the brain of a turtle act like a compass and the turtle literally feels a "pull" in the direction of the North Pole. This pull helps the turtle find the ocean when they hatch, as well as leading them back to the same beach where they were born when they are laying eggs. The beach where she was born might have changed significantly in the 20 to 35 years it takes for females to become able to bear eggs. Once the female finds a suitable beach, she will wait until there are no people or disturbances (usually nighttime) to start building her nest. Once this is accomplished, the cycle



Hawksbill turtle begins anew. ■ Story & photo by Patrick Steele

Steele is a senior at Clemson University and attended summer courses at CIEE Research Station Bonaire. Patrick is majoring in Biological Sciences with a minor in German Language and hopes to attend medical school in the fall of 2010.



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) and three staff. Sponsors are welcome to participate. Contact the TCB if you want to help. Bonaire has hosted these young heroes in superior style over the past years.

► **Want to fulfill a life's dream of learning to play the guitar?** Or maybe you want to perfect your techniques that have gotten rusty? Or maybe you haven't touched a guitar in years but are starting to miss it? Benji Schaub, a professional musician and experienced teacher, is now offering private lessons to students. Benji is a familiar face in the Bonaire Jazz Festival and appears with many of the best musical groups on the island. Some lucky kids at Jong Bonaire are

getting lessons from him now too. Benji is multi-lingual so language is no problem! See ad in the Classified section on page 11 for more information. Telephone 786-5073.

► **A local person stopped to ask why, now that we have sidewalks on the J.A. Abraham Boulevard (the street in front of Divi Flamingo, Carib Inn, Richard's Restaurant, etc), people are still walking in the middle of the street?** Any answer out there?

► **Welcome the new Bonaire Reporter advertiser, Equinox Bonaire**, a US licensed contractor for installations, repairs or remodels. See ad on page 8. ■ G./L.D.



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**BONAIREAN VOICES**

**More Bonairean Owned Businesses**

No matter what your motivation you can start a business by beginning at home or taking over a former business. The experiences of these next two Bonaireans will help you understand. Two weeks ago we stopped at some of our local businesses. An interesting thing is how you can make a business in your own home.

Siomara . Albertus photo



Auto Supplies his wife was taking care of the business. In 1999 he got an offer to take over Takivi so they moved their business to their present location. He retired from his former job at Akkermans so he could spend full time in his business together with his wife. Edsel says, "In the beginning it was a bit hard. You have to deal with competition and unreliable workers. In the meantime more garages were opening and the Bonairean population stays the same.

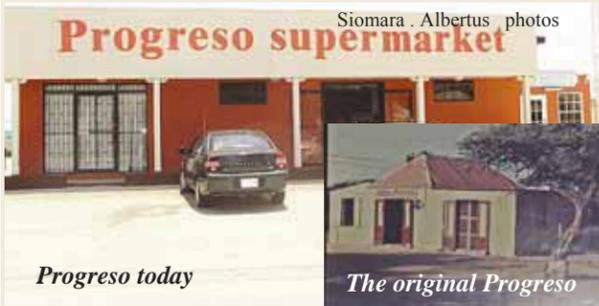
When I started my business there were only like three garages and today there are more than 10, without counting those that are doing this kind of business at home. But perseverance, faith and a lot of goodwill make me come to work every day and do my job for others. Goodwill makes you grow and continue with the positive work for the sake of your client. I'm the only Bonairean with his own auto parts and garage business. All the others are foreigners. That's why I have the will to continue with this work."

So we can keep on going and meet a lot of independent Bonairean businesses all over Bonaire. To mention some: **Tusnara in Rincon, Amboina Minimarket, Panaderia Selektia in Nikiboko and even Edson Pikerie's "Son Doggy Dog,"** as most of us know him with his hotdog stand at Cultimara and at the soccer and softball games. There are a lot of Bonaireans who've proven that they can, in their own way or another, run a business. Let's give them our support and approval for what they are doing. In this way we all are helping Bonaire grow. ■

Siomara E. Albertus



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



Siomara . Albertus photos

**Progreso supermarket**

Progreso today

The original Progreso

When you are driving on the road of Kaya Korona you find **Progreso Supermarket**, managed by Rigoberto "Boeisy" Martines and his wife Ruth. They have been in business together for 26 years. They had an amazing start to the business that continues to progress today. Boeisy himself was raised in the old Bonairean house, which you can see in the photo, which today is a supermarket.

Boeisy tells his story about how everything started. He was working at the immigration office, but he always had an ambition to have his own business. Together with a colleague he decided to start with a fruit shop because in Antriol there wasn't any fruit shop and people had to go to town to buy it from the Venezuelan boats. They named the shop **Fruteria el Progreso**. Why the name "Progreso?" "Because it means progress," Boeisy explained. "I want to progress, to move forward. On July 29<sup>th</sup> in 1983, 26 years ago, we started. After working together for two years my associates decided to go into politics. I continued with my business ideas with my wife Ruth as support. In 1989 we made the building much bigger at the same place and changed the name on August 11<sup>th</sup> the same year to **Progreso MiniMarket**.

In the beginning it was a fruit shop, then a grocery and in 1989 a minimarket. In 1990 Progreso Minimarket became an agent for the POLAR brand here in Bonaire. First it was for Maltin Polar Malt and in 1991 for Polar Beer.

Business was doing very well and in December 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1992 we opened **Progreso Supermarket**. In 1995 as a wholesale company we added Martines Import to the supermarket for Polar beer and Maltin Polar Malt. Both Progreso Supermarket and Martines Import are still existing in 2009. In recent years you can find a lot of grocery stores, minimarkets and supermarkets opening. But we worked hard to move forward, to survive in the midst of all this competition, and I can say that we have succeeded in making progress."

As we take the road to Zuid (South) Nikiboko we come to Kaya Industria at **Takivi Auto Parts and Garage**, with managing director Edsel Piar. Together with his wife they've been in business for 12 years. As a young man, Edsel start working in a garage. After he went to Holland and came back in 1997 he started a business of selling auto parts at his wife parents' house in Kaya Barakuda, Antriol because his wife's parents were business people already. While Edsel was working for Akkermans

**DO YOU SUDOKU?**

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. **Answer on page 14.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

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

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**A.** Just about everywhere!

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Office  
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9/18/09

# Document Bonaire Debuts



Wilna Groenenboom presents Governor Thodé a book

**D**ocument Bonaire is not just another coffee table book of pretty pictures of the island - although there are some very beautiful ones—it's a book of Bonaire - in flux; Bonaire in change. No other book manages to capture the real Bonaire as this does.

The book had its debut in Bonaire at the Buddy Dive Resort last week. The poolside venue was jammed with well-wishers including the Queen's Commissioner for the BES Islands, Henk Kamp, and the Island Governor.

It may be because author Wilna Groenenboom is a Bon-

aire-loving talented photo journalist who's usually where the action is. She's been everywhere, recording events as they happened. She was Art Editor and a photo journalist for *The Bonaire Reporter* for four years.

Hundreds of her photographs appeared in *The Reporter's* pages. Some of those memorable photos appear in the book. One in particular is the giant cruise ship overshadowing the town of Playa (Kralendijk). Strange as it may seem, this photo appealed to both sides of the cruise ship controversy. The cruise ship haters loved it

— it looked as though the ship was going to gobble Bonaire. The lovers, however, adored the photo. How beautiful, they said, and asked if they could use it in their brochures.

Wilna had her own column, "Antique Living Houses of Bonaire," - photos of architectural gems where people still lived.

As a news photographer Groenenboom sees lots of things out there in her own way - people at events, at snacks, kids at a *kresh*, the Queen's visit, the salt works in operation, political statements, election results, construction workers on the job, incomplete hotel projects and much more.

She's afraid of nothing. She hitched a ride on a tugboat to get close up shots of it guiding in an oil tanker. Spotting a society wedding under way she asked permission, and got it, to take photos. She was there at a funeral procession. She was on the scene when the kids went off to school. Those photos are all in the book.

Her nature photos are never static. They show something happening - turtles getting tagged, or Loras being examined by the Parrot Watch Team.

Sports are always news in Bonaire and Wilna was there - the swim to Klein Bonaire, the softball team, basketball, biking, kiting, windsurfing - even golf and tennis.

And what's in the future? That's included too: wind turbines, and solar powered houses with Internet antennas.

There are even some scary photos like the one of our picturesque waterfront being turned into a line of high rises under construction, or the photo of the goats grazing on the landfill.

This book truly documents the island we love so well. Changes are already happening and some images featured in the book are already gone. **If you want to buy a book that may have an influence on the future of Bonaire, this is it.** Document Bonaire sells for \$40 and is available at book and gift stores around the island. ■ L./G. D.



## BonQuiz #13

Christie Dovale photos



**W**henever you have the opportunity to eat in a Bonairean home, I suggest you grab it with both hands. There is nothing better than savoring local dishes, prepared by local 'hands' at home.

A signature Bonairean dish is *funchi*. Best described, it is like a firm Italian polenta made from corn meal. It accompanies local meals as do potatoes for a European or rice for an Asian. When prepared over a mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*) charcoal wood fire it can't be beat for taste, either fresh or fried the next day.

**Q) What is the Papiamentu word for the brazier that holds the funchi pot in the above photo?**

Answer on page 12

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by **Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours**. Contact her to arrange a tour, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 or email: [christidovale@hotmail.com](mailto:christidovale@hotmail.com).



Photo from Document Bonaire



## Desiree Cuts at Windsurf Bonaire

**P**opular and talented hair stylist Desiree can now be found out on the beach at Windsurf Bonaire, doing what she loves so much - cutting and styling hair. Could this be the only hair cutting "salon" on the planet where your view is out to sea and the trade winds blow through? Who even needs a hair dryer? Desiree has always been an inspired stylist but out here it seems she's become even more creative. Everyone is invited to come for a haircut - men,

women and children - in the most natural and tranquil environment next to the sea. Even her regular customers enjoy "going to the beach for a haircut." And when you're through take some time to dip in the warm shallow water of Lac Bay. It's a unique experience and something to talk about later!

In her artistic little beach salon you'll find handmade jewelry and the skin softening salt products too. Desiree is there from Thursday through Sundays, from 10 am to 4 pm. Drop in or call for an appointment at 786-6416. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

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# 2009 Parrot Watch

## Into the Wild



**A**t last, the first chicks have fledged and made it into the wild population. And the best thing about it is that we were fortunate enough to witness one chick's first taste of the outside world. Unfortunately, it was quite an un-elegant and clumsy thing to see, and it was clearly quite traumatic for the poor little one. The chick was very small and was having a really hard time with this new "flying" thing.

While approaching the nest, we saw some movement in the undergrowth amongst the "tuna" or prickly pear cacti—that vicious plant that sticks to you with barbed spines and doesn't come out without a lot of pain. With the movement we saw a flash of the rich emerald green of Lora feathers. It looked like it was struggling to stay afloat in an ocean. It was on the ground, wings spread trying to flap desperately to get off the ground but with no luck. Fortunately, it appears that the barbed spines of the tuna can't penetrate feathers, otherwise this chick would have been weighed down with all of them.

I got my binoculars out to take a close look at the chick and to confirm that it was one of the chicks from the nest nearby. We had put rings on every one of the chicks we had been monitoring in order to be able to recognize them in the future if we saw them in the wild. Sure enough, this chick was one of them. We heard a pair of adult parrots screaming in a tree nearby and assumed that they were the chick's parents urging it to get off the ground and into the safety of the trees to be fed. We hid for a while to see what would happen, but the chick was getting tired and flapping pathetically on the ground. I decided that the wise thing to do would be to approach the chick and put it into the tree to get it away from the potential threat of cats and other predators on the ground. As I approached, the

chick didn't move. It was clearly exhausted from its efforts. When I lifted it out of the tuna, it didn't struggle or make a sound and it felt like it was made of paper. The parents had stopped feeding the chick a long time ago in an attempt to get it to leave the nest but because it was still on the ground, its efforts to leave the nest had not yet been rewarded with a good meal from mum and dad. I put the chick on a branch and it stared at me as if to say, "Why are you helping me? Shouldn't I be afraid of you?" It was a surreal experience to put a wild bird back in a tree and see it sitting calmly and looking you in the eye. I walked away slowly and the chick just stared. We left quickly so that the parents would be able to feed the chick and hoped that it would be strong enough to survive.

Soon we can expect to see family groups of Loras flying together. It is common to see groups of three, four or five, and you can tell which ones are the chicks! They look quite unsteady and are not quite as well practiced at flying as their parents. Some may start to venture into the gardens of Rincon and Kralendijk soon and crash land into trees. They still need to perfect the art of landing as well!

So beware of low flying parrots and look out for our rings on their legs. ■

*Story & photos by Rhian Evans*

*Ms Evans is a Biologist from University of Birmingham UK. She is in her second year of studying the Loras on Bonaire.*



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**DON'T STOP THE MUSIC, BUT...**

Dear Editor:  
My husband and I have just returned from my third visit to Bonaire in three years. We love it and as always it was wonderful to dive around the island. As well as diving we enjoyed the windsurfing and the relaxed atmosphere. We are both passionate about music and we love a good night out. We managed to make it for the Jazz Festival last year but this time we visited Little Havana for some music. OK, so I am passionate about music and maybe others don't notice these things, but the music was the same this year as it was two years ago. We thought it was funny last year, but this is crazy, and I imagine it must drive the people crazy who are living on Bonaire and who like a good night of dancing. But really we visited on two Fridays and the music was the same: Robbie Williams, Tom Jones, U2, Shakeria. I talked to the man at the bar and tried to explain to him but he just "rolled his eyes." I think they are very tired about this. I think this is a shame for the people living on Bonaire who do not have so many opportunities. Music and good socializing are an important part of life! Please when we come next year can we have some different music?

Sali M. Griffiths  
Dolavon, Argentina

**WORLD'S MOST UNFRIENDLY AIRPORT?**

Dear Editor:  
(Copy of a letter sent to Bonaire Airport Authority)

The Flamingo Airport has made a strategic error in no longer allowing customers to be dropped off with all their luggage



without paying for parking. Even in the busiest airports in the US (Miami, Chicago, Atlanta, etc.) people can drive up, deposit their passengers and luggage, and PAY NOTHING! They are required to leave within 5-10 minutes and there are plenty of officers enforcing that, but at least they recognize the need for folks to be dropped off quickly without requiring payment.

So why has Flamingo Airport become so unfriendly and inconsiderate to passengers by now requiring that everyone pay 1 guilders just to enter the airport and drop off passengers? Plus the driver must then get out of the car, walk to pay for the ticket, and walk back to the car to exit. What about older people? What about disabled people?

Meanwhile the cars lining the fence outside the airport are increasing daily because they don't want to pay for parking. With the cars so close to the road, it is an accident ready to happen.

Rescind your new parking policy. It definitely does not advance Bonaire's image as a "friendly island." Instead it makes Bonaire seem like a "money-grubbing" island inventing every possible trick to make a guilder or two.

Pauline Kayes, Belnem

**BICYCLE THOUGHTS**

Dear Editor:  
I do have to agree on at least one point Paul I. (Letter to the Editor, "Bicycling on Bonaire," The Reporter Aug. 7-21) makes - many cars certainly do have bad headlights. About bicycling though, I wonder if Paul, and for that matter a lot of other bicyclists, know that they have to abide by the same rules of the road that other vehicles do?

Meeting a bicycle going down a one way road the wrong way is not enjoyable, especially on a blind corner. Being passed on the right side at an intersection when turning at that intersection results in some bad looks by the bicyclists even though they are 100% wrong. Or just passing anywhere on the right side for that matter.

We agree that cars have bad lights at night. What about bicycles with no lights at all at night? Sorry, but even if a footpath is empty, it is not for bicycles. Use the road and some common sense. Have you ever had a bicycle come flying out of a side road without it's even looking for cars? If not, I don't believe you. I won't waste space here with numerous other violations and, more importantly, safety issues of bicyclists.

While we are on the topic of driving, I wonder if scooter riders know they have to abide by the same rules of the road that other vehicles do? I could repeat all of paragraph 2 again.

I have nothing against bikes or scooters as long as they follow the rules. Yes, cars should also, but if the two should meet who gets the worse of the deal?

ABB

**DON'T BLAME THE VICTIM**

Dear Editor:  
What is wrong with this picture? Obviously all four wheels have been stolen from this pickup. But a lot more is wrong than any picture could possibly show.

When the rental agent was called and showed up at the scene he was angry and said in very harsh words, "They will pay for this!" But he did not mean the criminals. He meant the renter. He continued his anger at the owner of the property where the truck was parked. He wanted to know why there were no security cameras or guards. There are security cameras but they cannot cover every single square inch of a huge area. Also thieves know the cameras on Bonaire and now take action to avoid them by covering their heads with masks, moving the cameras etc. Not once did he mention a single word about the actual criminals who committed the theft.

It seems crime is still being treated here on Bonaire the same way. Blame the victim. Many meetings over the past 15 years or so have been held and almost exclusively the topic was the victim. Not how to help the victim but to basically lay blame on the victim and what the victim must do to prevent the crime from happening. At one meeting a person did mention that a sting should be set up to catch the criminals. Without exaggeration, the head of that



meeting lost his temper, slammed his hand down on the table and basically told the person that will not happen and don't ask questions like that again.

Unless the emphasis is put on the criminals, how can it change? Think about this - in the above case, the owner of the rental truck will not pay anything. The criminals will not pay anything but also got a set of four tires and wheels for free. And the person caught in the middle, the innocent victim, will pay.

The vehicle was parked in a lot next to a main road. The parking area is well lit with limited access. There are people around in other houses. What more can a person do?

Let's stop taking the easy way out by blaming the victim and let's go after the criminals.

AB

**Body Talk**

**THE GOOD SUGARS**

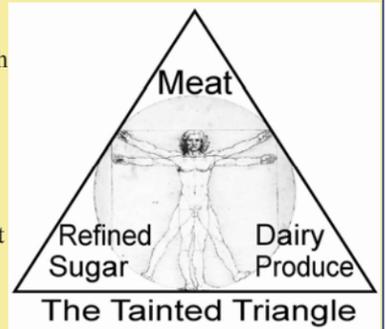
It is said that man is born with a sweet tooth, a view that perhaps comes from ingesting mother's milk, naturally sweet, at the first stage of our lives. As children, sweets were given to us as a reward or purely as a bribe. It almost always worked! "Sweet" was the currency then and is still the currency now. Do you not reward yourself with a chocolate when you are feeling down? I certainly do. Yes, I know it is "bad" and contrary to everything I believe about sugar, NOTHING gives me a "lift" like a bar of chocolate. Now, chocolate may not be good for my body, but it sure is good for the soul!

Eating healthily does not mean no dairy products, or not to have sugar, it is all about balance. When you consume more of the "bad" than the "good", your health will suffer. It can be compared with rust on a car. At first you hardly notice those small rust marks, but eventually, if not checked, you could have more rust than car! Most health problems go unchecked, but when you hit a health crisis, which we all do eventually, that is certainly a good time to re-evaluate your diet.

If you are unable (or unwilling!) to eliminate your intake of refined sugars, perhaps you need to look at a few natural sugars. The most natural sugar is that which we get from raw, ripe fruit, the highest energy sugar in nature, provided you eat it correctly. Fruit should ONLY be eaten, on its own, on an empty stomach. Once fruit is consumed with or after ANY OTHER FOOD it will ferment everything in your stomach, leaving you with gas, flatulence, or even diarrhea.

Another very safe sugar alternative is Stevia, the sweetest herb on this planet. Stevia has been used for centuries and was known by the ancient civilizations of South America as "honey leaf." Two leaves of Stevia is equal to 1 cup of sugar as far as sweetness goes!

Another sugar alternative is Xylitol, a natural sugar made from birch bark, but also found in certain fruits. The body makes Xylitol daily, as well as the enzymes to break it down. It has 40% fewer calories and 75% fewer carbohydrates than sugar, and is slowly absorbed and metabolized, resulting in very negligible changes in insulin. Much healthier than the artificial sugars for people with diabetes!



Sugars like Stevia and Xylitol (compared to table sugar) are reasonably expensive. It is far cheaper for the food industry to produce artificially-synthesized sugars in a laboratory. Do not become seduced by the colorful descriptions of those products that are supposedly "good," "nutritious" or "healthy." Remember, the food industry sells "TASTE" not "NUTRITION."

If you only ever make one dietary change, let it be your sugar consumption. You will see the difference immediately. Please phone 788-0030 and collect your FREE sample of Xylitol. Stevia is already available at the botica.

Next issue: MEAT versus SOY

Stephanie Bennett

Stephanie@harmonyhousebonaire.com  
Interesting websites <http://www.dorway.com>

Author Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in UK, and now researches health issues that particularly affect people on Bonaire and other Caribbean Islands. See story on page 4.



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Kaya Papa Cornes #2, Antriol  
[www.harmonyhousebonaire.com](http://www.harmonyhousebonaire.com)

**Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— Are still free  
Got something to buy or sell?**

Non-Business Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words): FREE  
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**ONE DAY ONLY SEPT 5**  
**GATES OPEN AT 9 AM**  
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**Porch sale Kaya Mandolin 2** (just off the road to Sorobon, Nikiboko, south) , from 8:30- 4pm on the following Saturday, **August 29** -books, clothes, blinds, plants, nik naks, kitchen ware, car speakers and more.

**TOYOTA RAV-4 2000**, good condition and clean, used as going to church car by old lady, 117,000km  
NAf 9,000 **786-9872**

**NOT an ex-rental Jeep Wrangler 4.0**. Private-owner. New: soft top, tires, gas-tank, driving-shaft, fenders, and total check-up (>NAF 4K). No electronic issues (i.e. model '94). NAf 12,500.  
**Mark: +599 701-0150.**

**WESTPOINT WASHING MACHINE** Multi-cycle, front load, white, 1 yr. old, like new, 220V. NAf 725 Phone: **786-9872**

**Low miles/km Toyota Pickup wanted.** Will give a better price than a dealer trade in. **George 790-8988**

**All Stainless Steel dock ladder.** Only NAf 300 Call **717-8819** 8 am to 5 pm

**For Sale 1979 Chevy Dump Truck.** 350 V8 gas engine. Dual rear wheels. Everything works.

Extra tires and extra differential included. NAf 5600 or best offer. Call **717-8819 8 am to 5 pm**

**For Sale Craftsman Air Compressor** - electric - new condition. 25 gallon 5.5 HP. On wheels .Only NAf 375. Call **717-8819 8 am to 5 pm**

**For Sale - Alkin 5000 psi compressor** plus two spares for parts and two Ingersol Rand which are the same style and interchangeable parts. A 2nd or possibly 3rd could be put together with all the spare parts that are all part of the sale. All have 20 HP 230 volt 50 hz electric motors. **Everything for NAf 5000 call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm.**

**For rent small studio or apartment** 1 person NAf 550,-- or NAf 750,-- 2 persons -4 months or longer, no pets, no airco, Furnished Located at Hato, own terrace, parking space, garden etc... Possibility internet, bike, linen, TV, etc. Visiting Wednesday or Saturday from 1 -5 pm. Call **717-2529 Monique**

For sale: **7 Black Belly sheep** (mini kudde Black Belly schapen: 2 grote rammen, 4 ooiën, 1 lammetjes ) tel : 717-8717.

**Property Services Bonaire B.V.**  
Taking care of your properties (while you are off island). Email for information and prices:  
propertyservicesbonaire@hotmail.com

**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

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www.chinanobobonaire.com

Private yoga classes call Louise 717- 7021 or 700-9422. also  
CLASSES in silver- smithing, stone setting and the art of beading. Call Louise at 717-7021 or 700-9422.

A Unique Haircut experience at The Windsurf Place, Sorobon, with Desiree. Thursdays thru Sundays from 10am till 4pm. Phone: 786-6416  
info@aplaceforyoubonaire.com

Private guitar lessons available! To improve your technique, improvisation, repertoire, music theory and sight reading, call Benji at 786-5073.

**Reporters Wanted**  
-To report on Bonaire's transition to a Dutch community  
-To report and photograph local events.  
Contact *The Reporter*, **George-786-6125, Laura- 790-6518** or email **George@bonairenews.com** or **Laura@bonairenews.com**

**Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Chicago**

**Kirk Gosden**, owner of the Sunset and Lion's Den restaurants writes; "I was at the restaurant show in Chicago (USA). It was amazing. I was accompanied by Hagen from the Cactus Blue restaurant. And of course we remembered to bring along *The Bonaire Reporter*.



The show takes two days to walk around so we met hundreds of people and acted like Bonaire ambassadors. Sadly, out of everybody we met only five had ever heard of Bonaire." ■

**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.

**KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)**

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

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
8-21	1:39	1.7FT.	9:00	1.1FT.	14:05	1.3FT.	18:30	1.1FT.	102
8-22	2:38	1.5FT.	9:16	1.1FT.	14:53	1.4FT.	20:32	1.2FT.	100
8-23	3:55	1.4FT.	9:13	1.2FT.	15:53	1.5FT.	22:56	1.2FT.	95
8-24	0:56	1.1FT.	5:58	1.2FT.	8:20	1.2FT.	16:46	1.6FT.	86
8-25	2:27	1.0FT.	17:46	1.7FT.					74
8-26	3:34	0.9FT.	18:34	1.8FT.					61
8-27	4:21	0.8FT.	19:26	1.9FT.					49
8-28	5:04	0.8FT.	20:08	1.9FT.					40
8-29	5:45	0.8FT.	20:47	1.9FT.					36
8-30	6:15	0.8FT.	21:30	1.9FT.					38
8-31	6:41	0.9FT.	22:05	1.9FT.					44
9-01	7:09	0.9FT.	22:37	1.8FT.					52
9-02	7:30	1.0FT.	12:53	1.2FT.	14:19	1.2FT.	23:12	1.8FT.	60
9-03	7:41	1.1FT.	12:55	1.3FT.	15:55	1.2FT.	23:55	1.7FT.	68

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

**Now—Art Exhibit and Sale of Paintings by Renata Van Der Byl, Plaza Lobby**

**Until September 30—Bonaire Dive into Summer.** See TCB or your hotel for details.

**August 14 – 22 – Free Diving Bonaire 2009 – Free Diving Clinics and more** with famous free diver Karol Meyer. Host hotel is Buddy Dive Beach Resort. More information at [WWW.TourismBonaire.com](http://WWW.TourismBonaire.com) Bonaire Dive into Summer 2009.

**Thursday, August 20- "Lesu ku mi prome mi drumi"/"Read to me before I go to sleep".** Program at the Public Library; time: 15.30-16.00, special guest: Extra Editor Boi Antoin. The Library is working together with Jepobon to invite a prominent Bonairean to read on Thursday afternoons. Future schedule:  
Thursday September 17th,  
Thursday October 22nd,  
Thursday November 19th and  
Thursday December 17th.

**Saturday, September 5—Big Monthly Rincon Marche—** friendliest people on Bonaire selling gifts, crafts, local foods and drink, candles, more. Music and fun atmosphere. **6 am to 2 pm.**

**Saturday, September 5—Flea Market at Parke Publico, 3 to 7 pm.** Everyone welcome to buy and sell. NAf 10 per selling table. (NAf 5 goes for Park upkeep). NGOs have a free table. More information call Vicky Bissessar 786-1592

**Sunday, September 6- Bonaire Day** (legal holiday), main celebration in Antriol

**Sunday, September 6- 2-4-5 km Estafette Run Bonaire Day Run**



**October 4-10 42nd Bonaire International Sailing Regatta**

**Sunday, October 4, Ninth Annual Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire**

**November 1- Bonaire Mountain Bike Race**

### REGULAR EVENTS

- 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 cooler evening hours.

#### Saturdays

- **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. **Big Marché first Saturday of the month—** [www.infobonaire.com/rincon](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon).

- **Flea Market at Parke Publico every first Saturday of the month, 3 to 7 pm.** Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf10 per selling table. (NAf 5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissessar - 786 1592.**

- **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm.** Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539.

- **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.

#### Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon,** the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

#### Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin 7-10 pm.** \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

### 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**

**Tuesday— Bonaire Land and Ocean** presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff, 7pm on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condominiums.

**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 Krioyo 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 December 25th. and January 1st. Call **788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

**AA meetings -** every Wednesday at 7pm. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971

**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, 7:15 pm—** All levels, NAf2,50, call Joop at 786-6003 to find out the evening's location.

**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. For more information call **510-0710.**

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - 'Pirate House',** above ZeeZicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

**Toastmasters Club** meets every two weeks. For more information call Crisita 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. 700-0379.

**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.

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

*Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol,* 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.

**Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church** located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:** Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:

**The Bonaire Reporter**

Email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)

Tel:790-6518, 786-6125

or 790-8988

### Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

**Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription:** By mail to US \$70; By mail to Europe \$150. By Internet \$25 donation. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles; phone (599) 790-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com)

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## BonQuiz Answer



**Question (from page 8):**

**What is the Papiamentu word for the brazier that**

**holds the funchi pot in the photo?**

**Answer: A) Konfó**  
See the photo above.

# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

**City Shop,** the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. 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 and facial waxing.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

## CONTRACTOR

**Equinox Bonaire**—A USA licensed contractor for hotels, restaurants, residential. **On Time—Done Right.**

## DINING

**Pasa Bon Pizza** is Bonaire's best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too.

**On Kaya Gob. Debrot**

½ mile north of town center. 780-1111

Call ahead to eat-in or take out

## 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.

**ScubaVision** - Document your Bonaire vacation above and below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts

**WannaDive** - They make diving fun. In town at City Café, at Eden Beach and Windsock Apartments .

## 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.

## Top Health Bonaire Fitness and Health Center

Modern workout rooms and machines, professional trainers and low prices make it easy to lose weight and get fit.

## 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. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

## HOME CARE

**Bonaire Second Home Care** can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning.

## INTERNET AND CELLULAR SERVICE

**Digicel** has the most subscribers, widest choice of calling plans and interesting phones. Visit their office on downtown Kaya Grandi and see for yourself.

**Mio** offers by far the clearest, most reliable phone signal on the island PLUS WIRELESS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET almost everywhere on Bonaire.

## PEST CONTROL

**Professional Pest Control.** Call Peter to get rid of all those nasty pets like termites, fleas, ticks and ants that want to invade your home. Call now and save your investment in your home.

## PHOTO FINISHING

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

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

**Bonaire Sunshine Homes** is the realtor with a local touch. Ask them to show you the good value homes they list. Call them if you are thinking of selling your home.

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

**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.

## 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. Wonderful service, free gift wrap.

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## SUPERMARKETS

**The Island Supplier (TIS)**—Enjoy shopping the "Caribbean Way" – fresh, open air feeling with reasonably priced produce, frozen meats, canned goods, wide selection of beverages and juices. Good rum selection.

**Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria**—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein Bonaire with built-in ramp

## 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. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-noon.

**To learn more about these businesses check their ad in this issue of The Reporter**

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**BONAIRE ON WHEELS**

## Brad and Sandra's Red Ruska Buggy

*The 53<sup>rd</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."*

Bonaire/ Hato – So it was on a brutally cold winter day way back in the 70s of the last century that Brad decided to drive his metallic flake gold sprayed original Bruce Meyers Manx buggy all the way from his house in New Jersey to the city of Washington DC, to put her on a special car train to Miami, Florida. His beloved vehicle was loaded onto a DC6 to be shipped from Florida to the little tropical island of Bonaire. Brad had decided to work with Trans World Radio, which has one of her 14 sites located on this Caribbean gem.

Brad's buggy was designed, developed and built by Bruce Meyer from Southern California. At Pismo Beach Bruce saw the first so-called dune buggies but they were heavy and prone to rust so Bruce started with the conversion of a Volkswagen Kombi bus, making it lighter and fitting it with wide rims and fat rubbers. Then Bruce developed his first all-fiberglass buggy, the "Old Red." The vehicle had a steel frame within the fiberglass and the driving gear and other components of a Volkswagen Beetle were used. The first 12 models were heavy and expensive so Bruce redesigned the body to mount it on a shortened VW floor pan. The price went down, the maneuverability increased and the Manx model became very popular.

So Brad started working with Trans World Radio. It is believed that he brought the first Bruce Meyer Manx buggy to the island. The car appeared to be made for the island of Bonaire: open air fun, a fiberglass body, a solid chassis, hardly any electronic parts, an air cooled engine and very easy to maintain. Brad drove his buggy for years around the island and the car never suffered from severe problems.



Then he met Sandra. They got married and Sandra gave birth to their son. The Manx buggy was only a two-seater with a lot of open air and finally the decision had to be made to buy another, more closed vehicle providing more protection for the members of the family.

So around 1986 the metallic flake gold sprayed original Bruce Meyers Manx buggy had to be sold. At the present moment Brad and Sandra have lost track of their beloved buggy, but it is believed that the car is still on the island and in running condition! The car was resprayed in red and later popped up in a black dress. Brad is still anxious to know where the Meyers Manx lives now.

Then time passed by, the kid flew out and it was the two of them again. So Brad and Sandra decided to start looking for a buggy. And they found one! Some two years ago they became the proud owners of an original Ruska buggy. This buggy is manufactured in the Netherlands by Arie Ruska. It was the famous Dutch photographer Paul Huf who asked Ruska to construct a fun car like the buggies Huf had seen in the States. In fact all bug-

gies are more or less copies from the original idea and design of Bruce Meyer. Bruce Meyer was successful in the States; Ruska became successful in Europe, both selling thousands of complete buggies and kit cars.

This particular Ruska buggy was manufactured in 1977. A metal plate shows the details: April 12, 1977. The car ran its first kilometers in Holland and was shipped to Curaçao. Now the Ruska buggy lives on Bonaire. This buggy, colored red with a yellow roll bar, is fitted with a 1600 cc Volkswagen engine, composed of magnesium, cast iron and aluminum parts. The cylinder heads have dual ports for a better aspiration and two nice Dell'orto state-of-the-art carburetors are fitted. The Ruska buggy is fitted with wide rims and an impressive amount of rubber. The hub caps are chrome and shiny. They are inspired by the hub caps of the early Volkswagen Beetle models. The dashboard shows a lot of gages: a speedometer, a rev counter, an oil temperature gauge, oil pressure, a voltmeter, an ammeter and even a meter that informs you about the time! And that on Bonaire! In a fun car. Apart from the dashboard the car

## Pet of the Week

Here's a dog that could be an answer to someone's dream. He's a fantastic guard dog with a deep bark but his short legs keep him from jumping over a fence or wall! What a combination. You don't have to build up your wall or fence to contain him! He's Zacharius, "Zack" for short (pardon the pun).

This handsome fellow is about five months old and is in perfect form. He has a well balanced assertive manner that shows he has self confidence. His cropped caramel colored fur is easy to care for and he has inquisitive deep brown eyes. Of course he, as are all the other pets for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, is in top health and is social with people and other pets (but not with burglars!). You may see him at the Shelter on the Lagoon Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: [WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com](http://WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com).



*Zacharius*

Few people can miss seeing the pregnant or nursing dogs wandering loose on the island. But you can help the Shelter in doing something about it to prevent further unwanted puppies (and kittens too). The **Bonny Superdog Free Sterilization Program** has been set up for those pet owners who cannot afford to pay for their pets' sterilization. It's been such a big success (200 dogs, 20 cats) so far that the funds are running out. You may contribute with cash (in the dog house donation boxes in many shops and businesses or at the Shelter), by bank transfer **Animal Shelter Bonaire Maduro & Curiel's Bank account # 102.378.00 or RBTT Bank account # 23.10.139**. Say "Bonny Suuperdog." Your donation will go only for this program. Americans may donate and receive a tax deduction via the Support Bonaire website. Any amount can help. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

is very Spartan: No power brakes, no side windows, no doors, no power steering. The front wheels are equipped with very effective disc brakes, but you really have to press the pedal. And, ah, there is some luxury: a full aluminum gear shift knob and a custom made light weight throttle pedal!

Brad and Sandra are lucky and happy people. They've lived on our island for years now and they are pleased to be able to work with Trans World Radio. Trans World Radio is broadcasting Bible based programs around the world and has one of her sites located on Bonaire. The office is near the only "roundabout" between Kral-

endijk and Hato and the transmitters are located near the salt company down south. Trans World Radio spreads the word of God around the world in numerous languages. It is a so called non profit organization. They also have their radio programs in Papiamentu, 24 hours a day, seven days a week: *E bos di speransa*, FM 89.5.

Thank you Brad and Sandra! Enjoy! And let's try to find your first Meyers Manx buggy! ■

*Story & photo by J@n Brouwer*



### Sudoku Solution

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**316 854 279**  
**572 193 864**  
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Puzzle on page 7



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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

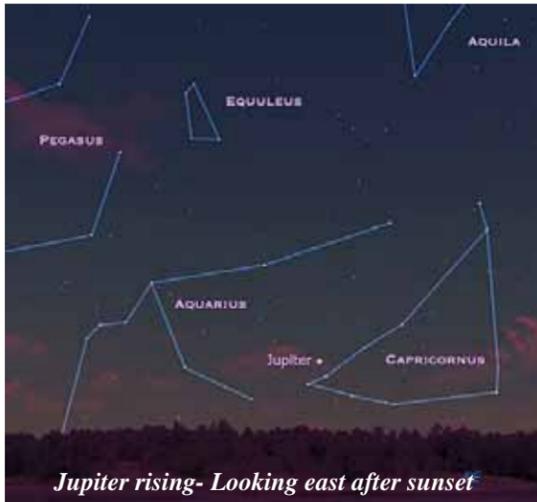
## The Two False Comets of Scorpius and How to Find Them

Everyone loves it when news of an approaching comet hits the press. And although I'd love to announce that there's a big comet coming, such is not the case. I can, however, show you how to find two objects which are comet imposters and who have fooled many people into thinking they were real. I call them the **two false comets of Scorpius**.

Look for them on any night this week and next in early evening when there'll be no moonlight to hide these two phonies from view- you have to have dark skies to see them. Simply look up just after dark and you will see a fish-hook-shaped group of stars which is called Scorpius the Scorpion, which is one of the few star patterns which actually looks like its name. Then if you follow the scorpion's body down around its tail and up to its stinger you'll be able to see two tiny fuzzy clouds, which look exactly like the heads of comets when they're far away and on their approach to Earth. In fact most comets, as they make their journey toward our Earth and Sun, always look like tiny q-tips nestled among the stars. But q-tips move from night to night and get bigger and bigger as they get closer and closer and eventually develop incredibly beautiful gas and dust tails. But not these two tiny fuzzy clouds because, unlike comets, these two will never develop tails and they will never move in relation to the stars and they'll never get any bigger or brighter. They'll always be in the same place and look the same.

Although they have been seen for thousands of years they weren't officially named until the 18th century when an astronomer named **Charles Messier** who made it part of his life's work to make a list of fuzzy cloud-like objects in the heavens so that he and other astronomers would not get confused when they went comet hunting. They're objects number 6 and 7 on his "fuzzy cosmic clouds, not-to-be-confused with comets, list." And today we use the first letter of Messier's last name when we refer to them. So they are now called **M-6 and M-7**.

Each tiny cloud is a great cluster of stars, other suns far, far away. The one closest to the stinger, M-7, is a cluster of about 80 stars and is 800 light years away which means that the light we see now is the light that left these stars 800 years ago around 1200 AD, 300 years before Columbus set sail. The higher cluster, M-6, also has about 80 stars in it, but you'll notice that it is quite a bit dimmer. That's because it is exactly twice as far as M-7, 1,600 light years away.



Jupiter rising- Looking east after sunset

**Special Alert:** This week the largest planet in our solar system, **Jupiter**, will be directly opposite the **Sun** as seen from the **Earth** and will be at its closest and thus biggest and brightest not only for the entire year but also since the beginning of the 21st century. And because it is directly opposite the Sun as seen from Earth it will be seen all night long from sunset to sunrise. In fact as the Sun sets in the west Jupiter will rise in the east and will slowly travel up the sky until it reaches its highest point around 1 am, after which it will slowly descend westward and will set in the west as the Sun rises in the east. ■

# StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

August-2009

**ARIES: March 20th - April 20th** Ruler Mars keeps you busy running errands; catching up on emails and phone calls.

You benefit from gathering new information and sharing it. This is a good time to take a class, write your thoughts or take a more active role in your community. The new Moon in gregarious Leo helps you feel more connected to others!

**TAURUS: April 20th - May 21st** This month's full and new Moons accentuate your need for comfort. Making changes in your home brings much pleasure. Since you want your immediate surroundings to be beautiful it's also a good time to make a quick getaway to a place you love!

**GEMINI: May 21st - June 21st** A new Moon in your 3rd house of thinking clears your mind and helps you make positive choices. Like a zen master - you are capable of taming your thoughts and finding miracles in mindfulness. While it's easier to let you of negative thoughts now; you may also be required to make some quick decisions!

**CANCER: June 21st - July 22nd** Venus in your sign makes you feel bright and shiny. This is a fun time to eat, drink and be merry! The new Moon in Leo brings extra confidence while the Full Moon in Aquarius inspires you to do something for others. Why not throw a party or benefit now?

**LEO: July 22nd - August 23rd** A new Moon in your sign, well aspected to powerful Pluto in your work and health sector, inspires you to be your best and show others what you're made of. While your own character is in check, you needed be so trusting of others. Neptune at odds with the Moon means someone could be trying to take advantage of you, so best to guard yourself!

**VIRGO: August 23rd - September 22nd** This month you'll find plenty of time to reflect and collect yourself. Yet with ruler Mercury in your sign, it's doubtful you'll be in retreat mood for long. Mercury peaks your curiosity and brings out the critic in you. While suddenly there's lots of talk about, one of the best investments you can make now is to accent the positive.

**LIBRA: September 23rd - October 23rd** A New Moon in your most social sector helps to expand your contacts. With

Venus at the top of your chart you'll enjoy professional perks and may even receive compliments! This is a good time to impress others - if single, you'll find someone with a great reputation most attractive!

**SCORPIO: October 23rd - November 22nd** A new Moon in your professional sector reminds you that you are capable of so much more than just surviving. Finally you have an opportunity to thrive and show the world what you can do! Love planet Venus in your house of positive thinking, puts you in the mood for someone that shares your optimistic mindset!

**SAGITTARIUS: November 22nd - December 21st** Mars and Neptune in good aspect to ruler Jupiter provide a window of opportunity, however you need to be smart and fast to catch it! Your luck lies in being prepared ahead of time. While Venus tours your 8<sup>th</sup> house, expect relationships to become intense. Even a casual friendship may evolve into deeper levels of intimacy.

**CAPRICORN: December 21st - January 20th** Your willingness to cooperate with others is heighten by the new and full Moons - therefore you may find yourself in a compromising mode. This can be a good thing, because once you realize that your dreams depend on the efforts of others, you'll be ready to put a dream team together! Venus in your house of partners helps you to find someone who can enhance your life in real ways!

**AQUARIUS: January 20th - February 19th** Following the rules, meeting your commitments, is the admirable thing to do. You will go to great strides to meet your obligations this month. Others admire your efforts. If taken, you'll want more interaction from your mate. If single, let others know you are available - you need to be loved and appreciated now!

**PISCES: February 19th - March 20th** The combination of Jupiter with Neptune marks an especially karmic time for you. You may become privy to hidden knowledge, find meaning from your dreams or tap into deeper levels of wellness or healing. But you could also be interested in pleasure and fun! While Venus tours your romance sector you could even fall in love - if so, enjoy!

New DVD Available  
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See page 3

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# Are Bonaire's Mangroves Slipping Away? Can They Be Restored?

Roy "Robin" Lewis, wetland ecologist, offered a frank assessment of the condition of the mangrove forest at Lac Bay recently "It is in big trouble. Many mangroves have died because of the impact of animals (mostly goats) and humans. Left alone it will die. It needs recovery yesterday!" This grim verdict follows marine biologist Brian La Pointe's statement two years ago that Bonaire's reefs were at the "point of no return."

Lewis spent a week facilitating a workshop on mangrove restoration for environmental and governmental leaders from Bonaire, Aruba, and Curaçao. Sponsored by CIEE, STINAPA, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, and Progressive Environmental Solutions, Lewis' workshop not only examined the myths and realities about mangroves and mangrove restoration but also toured Bonaire's healthy and unhealthy mangroves. At the end of the workshop, participants created a list of actions that can save Bonaire's mangroves because, as Lewis describes, they are similar to a critically ill and wounded person being rushed to the emergency room to be saved.



Robin Lewis, Ecologist

President of Lewis Environmental Services, located in Florida, Lewis has constructed and designed over 300 wetland restoration projects around the world and teaches wetland restoration courses at Ohio State University. Citing numerous examples of wetland restoration projects that have failed, Lewis emphasized that the key to healthy mangroves is hydrology (the study of water) because a common mistake of mangrove restoration projects is to concentrate too much on the trees and not enough on water. In fact, mangrove forests, along with estuarine and coastal marshes, are "technologically more feasible to restore because of predictable hydrology (tides)." One myth about mangroves is that they prefer lots of water when, in reality, one main cause of their death is too much water, especially flooding, which can drown them.

Lewis' statistics about mangrove forest loss are sobering: in 1950, there were over 35 million hectares; today there are 15 million hectares worldwide. In order for no "net loss" of mangroves, 150,000 hectares a year would need to be restored. The key to successful mangrove restoration, according to Lewis, is to "make sure conditions are right and mangroves will plant themselves, with the secret being that mangroves usually want to be drier and not wetter." Since mangroves have a very efficient, natural process of restoration, Lewis warns, "We must not fight Mother Nature." Many mangrove restoration projects costing millions of dollars have failed because people assume that they can just plant nursery-grown seedlings in any mud flat and ignore Mother Nature.

During a tour of Bonaire's mangroves adjoining Lac Bay, Lewis pointed out the "grazing line" of the goats eating the leaves and seeds of the trees. As a result there are few seedlings to propagate more mangroves. In addition, the goats trample tender roots, which, in turn, causes the trees to

lose stability and be vulnerable to toppling over in a storm. Add cars being stuck in the mud and being dragged out by other cars, all running over mangrove roots, and the pressure on the mangroves of Lac Bay to survive is immense. If Bonaire's mangroves slowly slip away, the ramifications will affect everyone: with no mangroves, rising sea levels will erode the land mass of the island itself; with no mangroves, there will be a diminished "nursery" of the sea harboring juvenile fish and fewer fish to catch; with no mangroves, there will be less protection from storms, causing more severe damage.

Lewis declares that this area could "easily be restored" just by keeping animals and vehicles out to allow Mother Nature to do her own restoration work. Another challenge for keeping these mangroves healthy is to make sure there are three functional channels to provide sufficient water and to reduce salinity. Because of rising sea levels, mangrove forests could be a defense against the slow erosion of Bonaire itself, with the salt pans of today becoming future habitat for mangroves, which can grow a meter a year if conditions are optimal. Even though Lewis pointed out that the conditions on Bonaire—dry and high salinity—are not the best for growing mangroves, he still contends that these forests can flourish if action is taken soon.

At the end of the workshop, participants listed essential action items:

- install fencing to keep goats and cars out of the mangroves;
- open all blocked channels;
- find funds to make these actions possible; and
- negotiate with stakeholders to restore the mangroves.

One solution offered by Pieter Lange-



Mangrove tree and roots

baerd, *Kwartiermaker*, from the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, was that this area be made into a national park like Washington-Slagbaai, complete with fencing, designated walkways for visitors, admittance center, and informational signage. In the next two months, participants will draft their plan of action, seek input and involvement, and "shop" for funding. Lewis is convinced that the program for mangrove restoration developed for Bonaire can serve

as a model for other islands. To become involved or for further information, contact Carina Kalke at 786-6213 (cell) or e-mail her at [c.kalke@proes.org](mailto:c.kalke@proes.org).

Story & photos by Pauline Kayes

Pauline Kayes is a Professor Emeritus from Champaign, IL and a part-time Bonaire resident.





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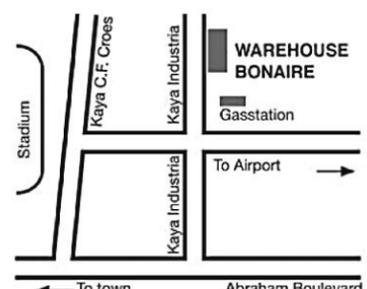
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