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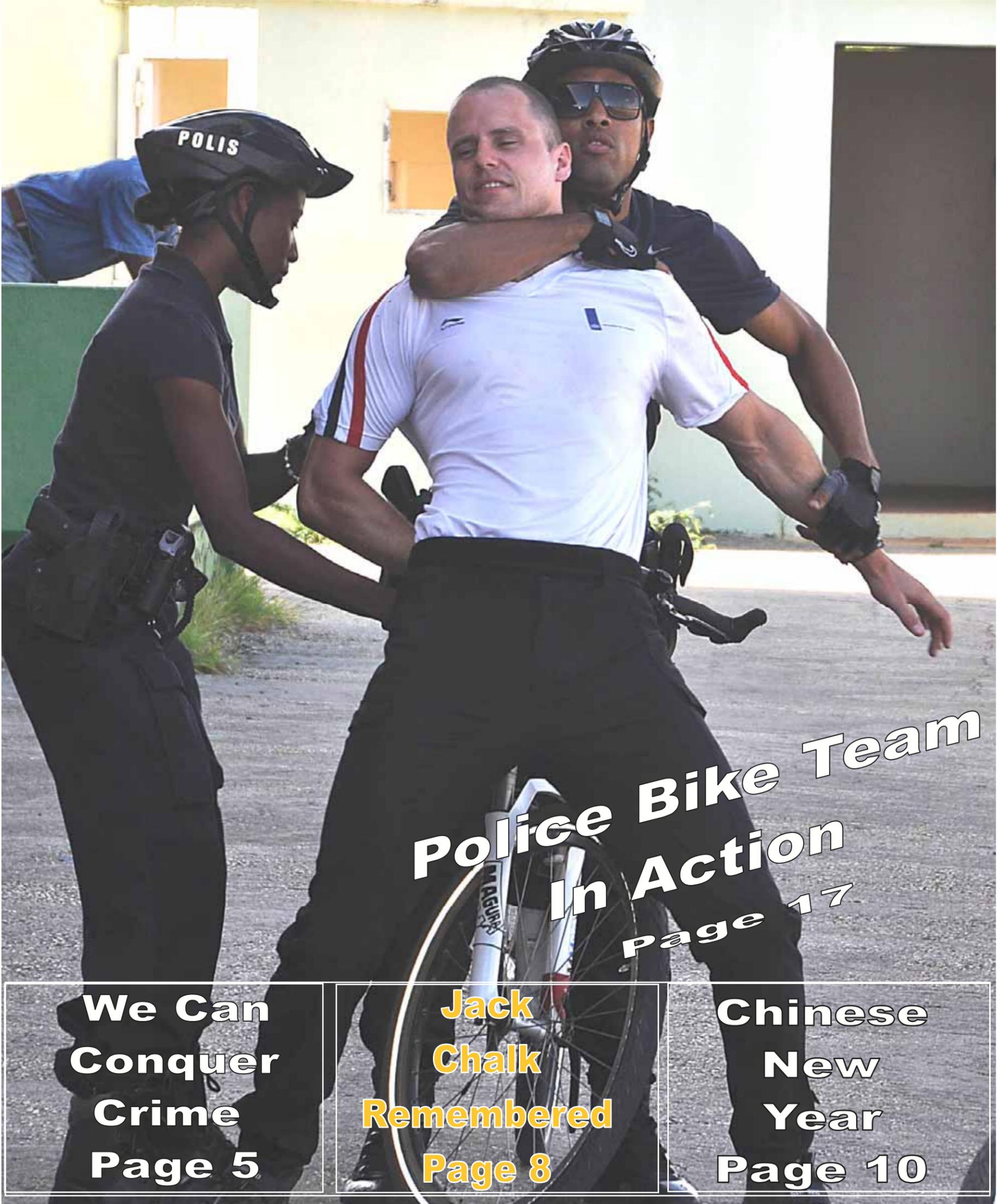
February 10-24, 2014 - Year 21, Issue 4

**REPORTER**

**Be Our  
Valentine**

**BES Island News Too**

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# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Want to know who is in charge of what after the naming of new commissioners to the Executive Council?

**C. (Hans) J. Els** has the Society and Care and Employment and Economic Relationships portfolio

**James Kroon** has the Space Development and Sports Affairs portfolio

**E. (Edsel) S. Winklaar** has the Economic Development and Management and Support Portfolio

**Governor Lydia A. Emerencia** retains Public order and safety and disaster management.

► **Recently members of Customs (Douane Caribisch Nederland) made several drug interceptions.** A total of 2434.80 grams of cannabis and 531.9 grams of cocaine were intercepted on Bonaire, with a total street value of almost \$32,777. Also spoiled meat and fish were destroyed.

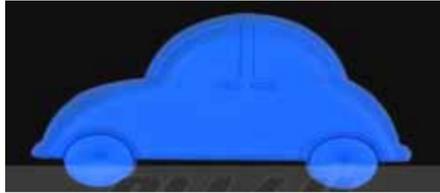
On January 18<sup>th</sup>, members of the Physical Supervision Team (*Team Fysiek Toezicht*) intercepted **1452 grams of cannabis.** They found the cannabis in the lining of the luggage of a 20 year old male passenger on a scheduled flight from Curaçao.

On January 21<sup>st</sup> **48.10 kilograms of meat and 11.5 kilograms of fish** were found on a fruit boat, sailing under the Venezuelan flag. The relevant import licenses were missing and the products were not frozen in accordance with the rules and didn't smell fresh. The meat and fish were transferred to the *Dienst Veterinaire Zaken* (Veterinary Affairs) for further examination and destruction.

On January 24<sup>th</sup> members of the Physical Supervision Team intercepted 982.8 grams of cannabis. The cannabis was found in two boxes of merchandise in a warehouse on Kaya Industria.

Lastly, members of the Physical Supervision Team intercepted **531.9 grams of cocaine** on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The cocaine was found on a 24 year old male passenger. He had planned to leave on a scheduled flight to The Netherlands. Further investigation showed that the man had swallowed small sacks ("bolitas") of drugs.

Customs always remains alert for attempts of smuggling illegal products in or out of the Caribbean Netherlands.



► According to an RCN press release the police will soon start with **enforcing lights on cars.** According to the Roads Traffic Regulation (*Wegenverkeersverordening*), it is required to have two headlights on a vehicle that shine white or bright yellow lights and two rear lights that shine **only** bright red lights. A number of vehicles are driving around the BES Islands with lighting other than that allowed by law. For instance, blue headlights, additional LED lighting, light boxes on the roof, blue LED bars at the bottom of the car, etc. Many cars on Bonaire also have only one operating headlight.

**Why is additional lighting not allowed?** According to the release other lighting can lead to confusion in traffic and may also be dangerous.

Drivers of vehicles with improper lighting will first get a warning. Then the police will start giving tickets. In the interest of road safety make sure that the lights on your vehicle conform to the rules.

► **Edison E. Rijna** was appointed **deputy Island Governor** for Bonaire as of March 1, 2014. Rijna, born in Bonaire on July 7, 1967, has a wide experience in banking and currently is managing director of Bon Recycling B.V. Before March 1, he will resign from this position. Because of the resignation of present Island Governor Lydia Emerencia, that position will be vacant as of March 1. The procedure for the appointment of a successor has already started.



► The **Mexican airplane** that first landed in Bonaire and discharged passengers and then took off and was forced to land and be destroyed in Venezuela on November 4 **was being used by the Sinaloa drug cartel, one of Mexico's leading newspapers, the Reforma daily,** said

**last Monday** citing official sources and judicial documents.

The plane, a twin-engine Hawker 25, was forced to land in a part of Venezuela near the border with Colombia for not having received authorization to fly into Venezuelan airspace. Once on the ground, the occupants of the plane fled and the aircraft was set on fire. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro confirmed that the plane was carrying a shipment of cocaine.

The Sinaloa criminal group is headed by fugitive Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the most-wanted drug trafficker in Mexico and the US.

**Four of the five passengers disembarked at Bonaire,** while the fifth was still aboard when the plane took off again four hours later, headed for La Ceiba, Honduras.

The four passengers who got off at Bonaire returned to Mexico and were questioned by prosecutors, but no charges were filed against them.

► **A Chinese embassy has just opened up in Curaçao.** It is a temporary office that serves the Caribbean. Several Bonaire residents were invited to the opening party last month. Bonaire's Chinese community had a festive celebration of Chinese New Year on January 31 at the Sport Hall (see story on page 10) and is planning to build a clubhouse in the near future. (*Cynthia Tseng*)



► **The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Lora (Bonaire Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot) count was held on Saturday, January 25.** About the same number of Loras were counted as last year, which was highest number ever. This year, the count was **847** while last year 865 Lora were counted.

**The count only gives an idea of the mini-**

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**Flotsam and Jetsam** (Continued from page 2) **mum number of birds on the island;** by no means are all the Loras counted. Several participants in the census have reported that they heard more than they could count.

The distribution of Loras on the island was different from past years. In Washington Slagbaai Park this year more Loras were counted than last year, 290. The erratic behavior of Loras makes the count every year a challenge for the participating volunteers.

As in previous years, there were STINAPA staff at 12 different locations in Washington Slagbaai Park. Outside the Park more than 30 volunteers were active in 23 different places. All Lora are counted in a simultaneous census. This means that in the early Saturday morning before dawn, dozens of volunteers set off at the same time all over the island. Every Lora is counted once. By having the count take place simultaneously in all the different places the organizers try to get the minimum number of Loras on the island. This census is invaluable for nature conservation in Bonaire.

► **WEB erroneously billed people for**

► **Recently the US General Consul James Moore visited Bonaire** for an orientation and interchange visit with businessmen and government officials. The visit was noteworthy since the US Consul seems to have less involvement with Bonaire since the restructuring the Dutch Caribbean on 10/10/10.



It apologized and said it would absorb the loss with no consequences to its clients. There was no mention if this expense would come from the missing \$10 million.

**electricity in January 2014 at too low a rate.** In the coming weeks WEB, in collaboration with the Executive Council will try to come up with a consistent tariff policy for rates. For more information or any questions, contact: Water and Energy Company of Bonaire N.V. Tel: +599 715 8244 or E - mail : [web@webbonaire.com](mailto:web@webbonaire.com)

Several of the airlines with service to Bonaire International Airport are now distributing the BNRC cards to their passengers on board each aircraft. All non-residents arriving at Bonaire International Airport are requested (not required) to fill in the BNRC card before landing. The completed cards are then deposited in the specially marked boxes in front of the immigration booths or in the arrival hall



► **Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is pleased to announce that it has upgraded its system of collecting visitor information data.** The new system is already in place. The Bonaire Non-Resident Card (BNRC) is similar to the arrival data cards used by other Caribbean destinations.

"We are certain that this new system will produce accurate new statistics which will allow us to better understand our visitors' needs, thus enhancing the quality of our destination and improving our marketing efforts," explained Ethsel Pieternella, Tourism Corporation Bonaire Director. "We at TCB are looking forward to having this improved data available to us as well as to the island's tourism stakeholders."

Bonaire will be using a unique card specifically geared toward the island's needs for information and data. It will provide invaluable information about the age group, exact area of origin, the port of embarkation, and the life style preferences of those visiting Bonaire.

next to the baggage claim area. Cards are then collected by TCB for processing.

► **You'll remember the Dutch member of parliament recently asking where are the cows on Bonaire?** In addition to the lack of grazing land you might consider the following:

Methane gas from 90 flatulent cows exploded in a German farm last month, damaging the roof and injuring the animals, police said. High levels of the gas had built up in the structure in the central German town of Rasdorf, then "a static electric charge caused the gas to explode with flashes of flames," the force said in a statement. One cow was treated for burns, a police spokesman added.

Of course, with Bonaire's cooking gas shortage, cows might help.



► **Correction:** In the last edition of *The Reporter* we wrote that the management of Bonaire's solar energy project was being handled by Caribbean Energies Group, of Seattle, Washington, USA. That is incorrect. Management is being pro-

vided by a local company, **Caribbean Energies, with a network of partners extending to Europe, the USA and Asia.** Their website is [www.caribbeanenergies.com](http://www.caribbeanenergies.com). The names are similar but the companies are different.

Caribbean Energies offers project management and procurement and says it is a sustainable service-provider for solar energy solutions in the Caribbean. Spokesperson Marlou L. Smit, in an email to *The Reporter* said, "Based on their knowledge about living circumstances and respect for all community members on the islands, they aim to make affordable and carefree energy available to all."

► **Like to take fitness classes but have no taste for weight lifting or exercise machines? Then think of Bonaire's upscale Bon Bida Spa.** Classes only are just \$69.99 per month. Enjoy a 30% discount if you sign up this month.

► **Happy Valentine's Day to all.** Remember, dear readers, to tell the stores you shop and the restaurants you frequent to advertise in *The Bonaire Reporter*. The ads keep the newspaper "Still Free." ■

G.D./L.D.

► **Funeral services for environmentalist/SCUBA diver Albert Bianculli** will be conducted on Monday, February 10th 2014 with viewing possible between 11am and 12 noon at Consuelo Memorial. Consuelo Memorial is the new building next to the Catholic cemetery on Kaya Maria Hellmund-Boom 11.

After the viewing, Albert will be taken to his final resting place at the nearby *Cemetery Nos Sosiegu*.

C. Salisbury photo



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# On The Island Since... January 7, 2011 - Eric and Liek

“We met at the art academy in Tilburg, in the south of Holland. We’ve known each other for 38 years and we’re still close pals. Both of us studied manual dexterity, a teacher training. But art came first and in addition we had pedagogical courses. After the art academy Liek attended the Bouman Academy and the Rietveld Academy, both in Amsterdam. We became teachers at a high school, Havo/VWO, and we lived in a small town close to Amsterdam called Uithoorn. For 31 years we lived with strong reluctance in the western part of the Netherlands. We were from the south where life is different. Then we got health problems. Eric had a severe burn-out, and I suffered from all kinds of physical problems. Our situation grew from bad to worse until we reached a point when we said, ‘It’s time to do something about it!’

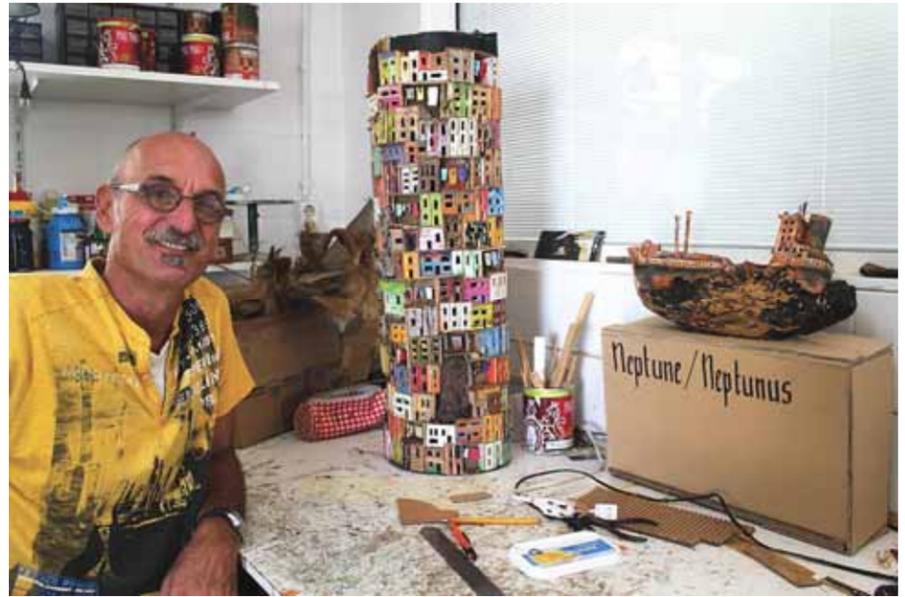
Two to three times a year we would go on vacation and we always looked to see whether it would be possible for us to work and live in that place or country. Of course we realized that being on vacation was a completely different thing from living there.

In 2008 we went on vacation to Aruba. We immediately fell in love with the climate and felt like we belonged on the island. It was like we had found our final destination. During the last three days of that vacation we bought a building lot. Our idea was to build a house and rent it out until we would come to live there after our retirement. Aruba was like it was meant to be. Then we found pieces of a wooden elephant on our empty lot, and after we’d put them together we went to see this guy from India who owned a store nearby. He told us that ‘If we Indians want to usher in a new and prosperous beginning we put a statue of an elephant on a pole.’ And indeed, our elephant had two holes in the bottom where the pole had been, but... it was broken. Well,” Eric laughs, “there were so many

it was what we wanted and it was Bonaire.

Bonaire is quiet and there’s so much space. We started out in Antriol where we lived for a year in a rental house, something we can recommend to everybody: rent first and experience the life. It was fun and we learned a lot. For instance I’d made a design for a house we were planning on building here, and after having lived for sometime in the house in Antriol I discovered that on Bonaire we would never need a large living room because we would never sit in it. It was a good experience any way. Then we started to search for a suitable home to buy, but it wasn’t easy as both of us needed a studio to work and the average house has one master bedroom and two small children’s bedrooms – too small to use as a workshop. Finally we managed to find something in Nikiboko North that we were able to remodel to our own wishes. It’s totally our house now and... we feel we’re living on the gold coast of Nikiboko.

In terms of work Bonaire has proved to be difficult, mainly because it’s such a small market - not many people living on the island. When we first came here we had big plans on how we would put our art on the market. In Holland I had – with great success – an exposition at Galery Kunst & Co in Amstelveen (close to Amsterdam) which would come to people’s homes with several pieces of art to let the client choose the work of art that fitted right into their environment. And as Bonaire didn’t really have an art gallery – except for Kas di Arte for (alas) a short while – it seemed for us the perfect way to do the same thing here as it was new for Bonaire. Thanks to Ben Kooman of Harbortown Realty we were able to print 800 flyers which we dispersed on Bonaire, and also we’ve advertised in For Sale for a number of months and the outcome of all that was that we got one single client.



Eric (above) Liek (below) at work



“...When we drive around the island we feel such joy and happiness by seeing its beauty and feeling the serenity.”

‘indications’ that our future was going to be in Aruba, and so we went for it. We found a supervisor for the construction of the house and we went home where we followed the whole building process through the internet and it went extremely well.

That same year I got a burn-out, and after 28 years of teaching I couldn’t go back to school anymore, and the financial consequences were that we couldn’t meet the requirements that Aruba sets for a residency permit anymore. We were devastated for one day and then we started looking for other possibilities.

In September 2011 we booked a two-week ‘journey of discovery’ to Bonaire. We rented an apartment where we cooked and did grocery shopping as if we really lived on Bonaire. Then we found out what

Luckily, soon after our arrival on Bonaire, we’d been invited to participate as co-exhibitors in what was to become a shop and exhibition space for art related articles in the Royal Palm Galleries, a little shopping mall behind Digicel on Kaya Grandi. Later on this shop was named ‘Elements.’ So, from the very beginning we’ve been involved in this project and we still are.

Both Liek and I are artists and it means we are always renewing and developing ourselves. We don’t make the same thing twice and we’re not,” he grins, “very commercially oriented.”

Liek continues, “As an artist you want to give shape to your ideas that come from an inspiration inside of you and you’re not thinking about how big the work will become or how much time it will take or if

someone would want to buy it, or what it’s going to cost. You just have to create it; that’s your driving force. That’s why you can never make the same thing twice.

But, at a certain moment it occurs to you that you have to eat and pay your bills and so we made a change.”

Eric adds, “Now I only make ship wrecks for Elements and my other work – the work that’s really my thing – I’m sending back to Holland to the gallery in Amstelveen where I used to have my exhibition and where they are happy to have me back. Both of us also found out that people are not apt to give up space by putting something there. On the wall, yes, but not free standing. So, since I started making art to hang on the wall, I’m selling well!”

More from Liek, “When I found out that people were not willing to give up space to put my paper scales, then I started to consider what I should do. Should I make objects to hang on the wall or should I do something entirely different? At the Rietveld Academy I did textile engineering. What I missed here in respect to clothing were stylish, 100% cotton articles: clothing, belts, bags and jewelry. I am an artist and not a follower of fashion. Things I wouldn’t want to wear I would never make and for the same reason I don’t make a lot of copies of one product. So, at Elements I started a clothing line called Liekstyles Fashion—multi-wearable clothing you can wear in different ways. I

also make custom clothing and corporate clothing, but always in my own style. As an extra addition to my clothing and accessories, I try – if possible – to add a piece of history by putting symbols of the Taino Indians who were closely related to the Arawaks of the island. I make jewelry as well - from 100% cotton - and they are displayed in a lovely display at Pasa Bon Pizza, thanks to Joe and Lisa.”

“In addition to our art,” Eric says, “we’re also giving workshops. If people are interested they can contact us through [www.theartdelivery.com](http://www.theartdelivery.com). We’re always open to suggestions. We’ve found what we were looking for. We work seven days a week but never eight hours per day. When we drive around the island we feel such joy and happiness by seeing its beauty and feeling the serenity and quietness. The island in itself relaxes me. We don’t go out very often, but we do love to dance. For 15 years we’ve been dancing the Salsa and now we’re learning Bachata at Juni’s in Kaya Grandi. It’s good for our social life because all day long we’re sitting at home, the three of us (with our dog Joek) and then you don’t see a lot of people. To stay here and continue as we are now, that’s our plan!” ■ Story & photos by

Greta Kooistra



# We CAN Conquer Crime

Every weekday the Bonaire police department's press office emails the media a summary of recent crimes. And in every one there is a report of a theft, be it from a tourist, a local or a business. This new openness is giving the island a bad reputation and making residents ask the question, "What are the police doing about it?"

In this issue and in the last edition you can read about the current initiatives underway to apprehend the criminals.

Dutch Minister of Security and Justice **Ivo Opstelten** is also committed to continue investing in the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force. During a recent meeting with the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament he defended the increase in the budget of the Police Force for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Opstelten said that investments have been and are still needed to upgrade and strengthen the force. The KPCN (police) budget was increased by some 4.8 million euros to 12.7 million euros in 2013 since the islands became Dutch public entities on October 10, 2010.

Recently, visitors to Bonaire had their apartment broken into while they were out during the day. The bad guys got four computers, four phones, an iPad, wallet, electronic readers, etc.

The victims wrote an email, to a friend, a law enforcement officer in the US: "They got in through an open bathroom window. Cut/broke one of the cactus in the far back corner and climbed over the fence. Lots of people around at the time. Most villas occupied. None other broken into. We had one safe which contained cash, wallet and passports. It was in our room which is why our wallets/passports/cash made it and our friend's wallet was stolen. It wasn't in the safe."

Obviously if we had put our computers, phone, reading devices, money, wallets, etc. in the safe they would not have gotten them. So a safe in each bedroom, large enough to hold computers, etc would be the ideal solution."

\*\*\*\*\*

Their friend, who has a home on Bonaire is also a county sheriff. His comments on the situation on Bonaire:

"I know from my 27 years in law enforcement that the amount of crime on Bonaire can be significantly reduced if the authorities would simply take a proactive approach to these issues. Instead, they have a passive, "oh well" attitude. This was evident when our friends had two tires stolen off of their truck while at a dive site and the interest and concern displayed by the police was minimal, to say the least.

Another example of this passive approach is their plan to have an officer visible downtown during the time the cruise ships are visiting since the cruise lines are warning their passengers of dangers on Bonaire. So, instead of taking proactive actions to reduce the "dangers" across the island, they buy into the "Bonaire is dangerous" problem and create this facade of safety. There is nothing wrong with law enforcement visibility. That's a good thing and shows that crime won't be tolerated, but this program is a band aid on a fatal wound.

To dismiss this victimization as minor, or make excuses about the underprivileged is a pathetic approach and quite frankly, lazy. If my organization took this approach with our community, I would not have a job. It's no wonder the cruise lines warn their passengers of the dangers of Bonaire. How sad.

This concern is not isolated, locally. We recently visited some dive shops in Denver, Colorado, and one employee we told about our home on Bonaire responded that she had no plans to visit because she heard that Bonaire is not safe! Pathetic.

Instead of warning passengers of the danger, or warning our guests to lock up everything and leave nothing on the patio, or the rental car companies warning their customers to take nothing to dive sites with signs



Garfield County (Colorado) Sheriff Lou Vallario

mounted on the dashboards, we should be able to tell our visitors that Bonaire is a safe paradise and there is no need to worry. These places do exist in other parts of the world. I have been to places where the villas don't even have locks on the doors and you were free to leave items out to dry with no worry of their being stolen.

I realize I'm venting, but I am also interested in doing what I can to solve the problem. That's what I do for a living. My jurisdiction has **56,000 residents with a deputy ratio of one officer per thousand residents** and we do not have the level of theft that this small island has. (Ed: Bonaire has 116 police officers for its 17,000 residents.

Be safe (and lock your doors)."

#### SOME CRIME FIGHTING IDEAS FROM SHERIFF VALLARIO:

"We use GPS and radio frequency trackers to catch these guys. We put them on bait cars and other items that look enticing to a thief. You would love the look on their faces when we walk into their homes or reach under the seat of their cars and find exactly what we're looking for! They are clueless. Its not entrapment because nobody is forcing them to steal the items.

It won't take long on that small island for the word to get around that the police are using magic to catch them! Of course, intense prosecution and harsh punishment are necessary. I guarantee that it won't take long to significantly reduce this issue. And, when you defeat the small issues (broken windows- Ed: see Letter to the Editor on page 9) the bigger ones seem to shrink in frequency.

On the civil side, the other tool is to require auto shops, parts dealers, etc. to maintain and produce accurate records. They should be able to account for that bumper sitting on their garage floor or those used tires by way of a shipping invoice, a receipt, etc. Also, require a positive ID from anyone selling used stuff to these businesses. I know everyone carries a government ID card. We have software systems that we require pawn shops to use and enter their data. Helps a lot.

Of course, hefty fines, seizures and suspending business licenses are necessary to get the point across. If the government hammered a couple of these shops, the word would spread on the coconut telegraph and that would virtually end their desire to buy stolen goods.

The last step is to publicly identify the crooks and those business owners so everyone knows who they are. A column in *The Reporter* with names and photos would do the trick.

Finally, once you reduce the levels it frees up more time to expand your proactive programs to other areas of concern.

Wouldn't it be nice to live in a place where you don't need alarms, gated communities, security guards or other reactive measures?" ■ Lou Vallario/G.D.

## In Memory of Serena Black

A lot of us on Bonaire have learned that the woman behind the 'dear sweet granny' look was a very sharp lady not hesitating to say what was on her mind, somebody eager to learn and take part in



Wuppy, Serena and Grace

underwater surveys, monitoring and conservation work. When visiting Bonaire in the past she used to snorkel, but when she came to live on Bonaire 10 years ago she learned to SCUBA dive and took on underwater photography. When she was not traipsing all over the world to remote dive resorts she went diving as often as possible with Carib Inn or as volunteer for STCB or STINAPA. Serena was a generous supporter.

She had numerous hobbies next to diving, liking cooking and baking and sharing the cookies with everybody, painting and pottery. From friends and family in the United States we learned that she had taken tap, ballet and toe dancing lessons when young. She was an expert seamstress, cook and baker. She earned a pilot's license at 17 years old, enjoyed parachute jumping and was one of only a few women who studied Aeronautical Engineering at Boston University during the early 1960s.

During the 3-year Conch Restoration Project she proved to be a reliable help in the field with a good eye for spotting tiny and hidden creatures, and a good companion on the boat. In the end she was not allowed to dive anymore because of her long disease. She hated that, but that did not stop her from snorkeling, exploring the fjords in Norway, the geysers on Iceland, the polar bears in Canada and the penguins in Antarctica. She passed away on January 25 at age 69. Serena, we all miss you and thank you for being with us. ■ Sabine Engel

**INTRUSION PREVENTION, WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland gives some tips to prevent intrusions:

- Lock your windows and doors when you leave the house.
- Provide good lightning around the house, even if you are not at home leave some lights on.
- Store laptops, I-pods and cell phones and put jewelry and valuable papers in a safe.
- Do you see something suspicious in your neighborhood, a strange car, or people you do not trust? Write down as much information as possible and call the police via the emergency number 911.

# FD Championship Regatta



Spectacular downwind run under spinnakers impressed onlookers

One of the Caribbean Netherlands' best kept secrets is that the sailing on the west side of Bonaire is the best in the world. But not any more.

At the end of last year (December 29- January 2) two enthusiastic sailors organized Caribbean Championship Races for the Flying Dutchman (FD) Class sailing boats. Henry Koning and Rob Taal have been successfully competing in the top levels of the Flying Dutchman Class, the most high tech and fast dinghy sailboat. They finally convinced the sailing federation that it was a good idea.

Ten top FD sailors from five countries, accompanied by 55 family and supporters, arrived to enjoy Bonaire's breezes and weather. The racing was a huge success. Not only that but also Bonaire showed its best side with great social parties from the opening ceremony on Spice Beach to the closing ceremony at El Mundo. James Kroon, the Sports Commissioner, opened the event.

The first racing day was a heavy day with stiff winds from force 6 to 7 Beaufort. This

brought a lot of spectacular scenes right in front of Kas di Regatta. The Hungarian team won both races, with the Bonairean team taking a 2nd and 7th place.

The second day the same wind conditions brought different winners. In the first race the Dutch team of Klaas Tilstra/Paul v.d. Pol won. In the second race the Germans, Ernst Greten/Detlev Krüger. In both races the Bonairean boat sailed by Henry Koning/Rob Taal was second. On the third day the wind eased but still blew at force 5 Beaufort. The first race was, as the others in the bay, between Eden Beach and Plaza, but during the second race a cruise ship was set to leave so the race was planned to go around Klein Bonaire. Both races were won by the Dutch team.

The last day the wind was even stronger so three shorter races were sailed in the triangle between Eden Beach, Klein Bonaire and Kas di Regatta. Hundreds of people watched the spectacular buoy roundings in front of the waterfront promenade and saw a hectic competition among the



The prize winners (left to right): 3rd Prize AHO 3 Henry Koning+Rob Taal; 1st Prize NED 4 Paul v.d. Pol+Klaas Tilstra; 2nd Prize HUN 13 András Süli+Dávid Papp



Beating to windward



Why FD racing is so exciting. Sailors hiking out to stabilize the boat.

four leading boats, the Dutch, the German, the Hungarian approaching the buoy simultaneously which resulted in capsizing of the German and Hungarian boats.

At the end of the day The Dutch boat, sail number NED 4 crewed by Tilstra/v.d. Pol, were the overall winners. The Hungari-

ans, HUN 13, crewed by Andás Süli/Dávid Papp, second and the Bonaireans, aboard AHO 3, crewed by Koning/Taal in third place.

All sailors promised to come

back to Bonaire as soon possible to sail again (World Championship?) or at least for another holiday. More info and photos at <http://www.fdbonaire.eu/#>

Sponsors who helped with the event included Don Andres, Obersi Group, Budget Marine, Best Brands Bonaire, Gibi's catering, Spice beach club and El Mundo restaurant. ■ Rob Taal  
Photos from FD Championship website



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# Word on the Street



Governor Lydia Emerenciana was off to Holland within the last two weeks to discuss the reopening of Paradise Inn (Pachi's Place) brothel with the Dutch authorities. As a result, the establishment has reopened. Local government urged the reopening due to the increase in illegal prostitution and the resulting public health consequences while Pachi's was closed. The proprietor of Pachi's still faces criminal case (alleged human trafficking). He is fighting the charges.

• Last month no propane, this month no gasoline. Last Friday both Curoil Gas Station and Gas Express were closed because they had no gasoline. The only station with any left was Bonaco at the traffic circle. Early Friday evening four lines of cars at Bonaco had traffic stopped up all around the traffic circle and backed up into the four roads leading into it. So is the plan to have 25,000 people on this island a reality?

• The former T.I.S. (The Island Supplier) building next to Warehouse Bonaire has been undergoing extensive renovation. Rumor has it that a Chinese entrepreneur from Venezuela is behind the project. What will it be...grocery store, department store?

• Gossip says a wealthy Venezuelan is building an appliance store. Allegedly the space is well over 10,000 square feet and is in the vicinity of Bonaire Food Group.

• "Movie Night" will soon be more than just a night of Netflix at home on Bonaire. Local newspaper *extra* reports that a European businessman will soon begin building a cinema near the MCB Bank Hato branch. Movies will be first run movies, unlike the former cinemas on island, due to the new digital download technology offered by the movie distributors.

• Louella, mother of popular island dentist Mimi van Egmond, celebrated her 90th birthday on February 7 with a trip to Chile. *Pabien, Louella! Hopi ana mas di bida!*

• Look for Le Garage, located at Antillean Wine Company, to soon expand their offerings. New items will include sofas, beds, bedding from the US and Holland and lots more. Stay tuned.

• Numerous WEB customers received "cut-off" notices the end of last week due to non-payment. Turns out that most if not all these bills were already paid. Rumor has it that there was an "administration" problem and the payments were not processed to the accounts. The problem in the accounting department took its toll on the customer service department as they had to deal with continuous calls from irate customers complaining that they had paid their bills and should not be cut off.

• As Bula goes to press she received this cryptic message from police press office, "Police and the Public Prosecutor are grateful to receive tips in search for finding the double corpses on Bonaire. Your information remains of great importance!"

• Look for more traffic circle construction to begin in the next few months. According to reports in local newspaper *extra*, a new traffic circle will be located in front of San Bernardo Church in Playa where Kaya Korona, Kaya Nikiboko North, Kaya L.D. Geharts and other streets converge. The small island in front of the church, Plasa Juliana, will disappear. In addition to the circle, a new street will also be constructed that will connect the traffic circle to Kaya International. A portion of the east side of the house that was formerly restaurant Mi Poron will be sacrificed to accommodate the new connection.

• Dragon City, the restaurant located next to Zhung Kong supermarket in Hato, has reopened. In addition to the usual Chinese food fare, they will also be serving some local "krioyo" dishes like kabritu stoba and sopi (goat stew and soup) and karni stoba (beef stew). ■

Bula Bonchi



# Landhouse Karpata

On January 16, in a presentation at Captain Don's Habitat, the government agency Ruimte & Ontwikkeling (DROB) unveiled their plan to start the process of selling Karpata, the land as well as the landhouse of the former plantation. DROB officials Jonathan Jukema and Miguel Martis explained that the sale will have very strict conditions attached to it, as the landhouse is of great historical value.

"Let me begin by saying that those who buy it will have difficult tasks to comply with," said Martis. He acknowledged that the condition of the landhouse is deplorable and that the government is aware that if it does not act now, within a few years it will not be able to be restored. The government has decided that after restoration, the structure will be designated for tourism. The purchaser will also get a permit to construct tourist accommodations in the vicinity of the landhouse. The land use plan will be changed to accommodate this development. The terrain of Karpata is more or less 4 hectares divided into two parcels. The landhouse sits on both parcels which insures that whoever buys the two parcels will automatically be obligated to restore it.

Among the conditions: a zone of 10 meters around the landhouse which cannot be built on; a limit on the maximum number of accommodation units that can be built on the property; the units can be only one story and no higher than 5 meters; the design of the units must be in the same architectural style as the landhouse; the wayaka trees on the property cannot be cut down. Martis further explained: "The important point is that you have to take into account the land, the water and the landscape. It is obvious that the one



OLB photo

who buys this property and wants to develop it will also have to conduct a MER (*ed.: environmental impact study*). There is a pier on the coast of Karpata and also a beach, but you must realize that any development of this coast can only happen with the approval and under strict supervision of the Bonaire Marine Park."

Dutch real estate development company Heren2 assisted in the presentation by DROB. They further amplified the conditions, the procedure and the time line of the plans for the development of Karpata. In September 2014, they intend to give the concession to the company that qualifies. A commission headed by a government deputy will also include three functionaries of DROB and a representative of Heren2 will serve as the selection commission. In December 2016, after a long preparation process, they will need to begin the execution of the Karpata project. There was a discussion as to whether the government will give the new owner the terrain as *erfpacht* (long lease land) or if they will sell it outright. The government has decided to sell it. ■

Jane Madden Disko



# DID YOU KNOW?

That seahorse tails are abnormally strong? Seahorse tails are strong and springy and allow seahorses to escape from predators and to catch prey. The unique shape of the bones in seahorses' tails compress against surfaces and eject seahorses at a rate fast enough to escape from something that is trying to eat them or catch their lunch. Seahorse tails are so powerful because they are made of overlapping circular bone plates. When the bone plates compress against a surface, they slide against each other, allowing the tail to shrink to about 50% of its normal size without harm to the seahorse! This strength is due to the fact that the boney plates are hard on the outside and soft on the inside, allowing them to be strong but flexible.



Seahorse tails have a bone structure that is so strong that it is currently being studied by scientists and engineers. The physical structure of the seahorse tail is so sturdy that it could potentially make a new strong armor for soldiers. Proof that nature has the best designs. ■

Mackenzie Mason

Mason is a Biology major with a Marine Biology option from Oregon State University in Oregon. She studied on Bonaire for the fall semester with CIEE research station.



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# Jack Chalk Remembered

Antriol's Our Lady of Comoroto Church was filled with family, friends and officials for a memorial service to mark the passing of Bonaire dive icon Jack Chalk. On Saturday afternoon, February 8, coincidentally Jack's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, religious and secular services, each in their own way, remembered him.



Jack

Father Gonedá led the church services which included prayers, hymns, readings from the bible, reflections on Jack's life, communion and blessings. Alan Jardin, a past dive manager, and Elvis Martinus, wind-surfing pioneer, offered especially moving commentaries on Jack's life and accomplishments.

Following the church service a caravan of motorcycles led the way to the downtown Kralendijk Biker's Bar. Jack Chalk was the founder and first president of the Bonaire Chapter of the Iron Order Club.

The MCB parking lot across from the bikers' clubhouse was the spot where Jack's friends gathered to reflect on his passing and life. There was a broad assortment of food, donated by area restaurants that was continually passed around. A cash bar provided liquid refreshments. Moogie played.

An organized program with speakers from the government and island organizations Jack had led and participated in provided further insight into the man who meant so much to the island. Newly named Island Commissioner Hans Els gave a talk that expressed the gratitude of the island and announced the future placing of a plaque to honor Jack.

There was a green flash sunset, and the party continued on, remembering Jack. ■ G.D./ Photos by Fittipaldi Pietersz

Photos continued on page 9



Above: Antriol church

Left: Cap'n Don and Janet

Right: Tutti Frutti and Bikers



Daughter-in-law Ashley, son Chris and fiancée Jenny at church



Orlando Francisca with Jenny. Orlando attended Jack's burial in Tennessee

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Jack Chalk Remembered, continued from page 8



Motorcycle caravan leaving church



At the Reception: Mrs. and Hans Els, Orphaline Saleh, Evert Piar and George Buckley. Commissioner Els announced a plaque honoring Jack

## Picture Yourself On The Highline Trail Montana, USA



Bonaire residents Ginny Knight and Barbara Mason in Montana at Glacier National Park displaying their *Bonaire Reporter* after hiking The Highline Trail along the Continental Divide. ■

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## Visit Bonaire's Cruise Market Place

### CRUISE SHIP \$\$\$... B.S.?

Dear Editor:

When I first read that cruise ships brought in US \$1.15 million in one week, I thought that is impressive. Then after thinking about it more, that thought turned into improbable. How could someone come up with that figure without first visiting every single business even remotely related to cruise ships and collect all the needed income data? As a business owner, I was never visited and it is safe to say that most if not all other businesses were never visited for that purpose.

Is this all just a number the cruise ship industry throws around to impress the general public into thinking the industry is more valuable than it actually is? I openly challenge the TCB to show, in very fine detail, exactly how the figure of \$1.15 was reached? Until then I will stay with the assumption that this is just one more of many cruise ship lies.

A Non Believer

### CRIME: FIX THE BROKEN WINDOW

Dear Editor:

As regular travelers to Bonaire, it appears the island has given in to the law breakers. For a few years the rental companies have told us to keep windows open and no valuables in the trucks at the dive sites. Now it is written on the dash. We see painted tires on some of the trucks to hopefully deter the criminal mind. It actually worked at the dive site Tolo. The criminals stole 2 of our tires rather than the truck beside us. Our tires weren't painted, the other truck tires were painted. We flagged a security truck that was passing by. He really didn't know what to do. We suggested maybe phoning the police. He didn't think so. We asked to borrow his phone, he had 2. We made a call and arranged for tires to be delivered but they had to phone us back. They phoned us back in a few minutes, but the security officer didn't know how to answer that phone, so we used the other to call them back. We were told that's the first time it's ever happened.

Tourists walking the streets, sitting in the restaurants, spending their money, all have a common theme, how sick we are of hearing the racing bikes and cars down the streets in mid-day, nobody does anything. Lots of us have made friends with shop and restaurant owners, and they too say they are tired of nothing being done. In the airport, on the plane, similar con-

versations. What a beautiful place to go, had a good time, wonderful diving and an electrifying sun. The ending of each conversation tells a tale of how Bonaire seems to have given up and letting the law breakers increase their activity. We all come from small towns, big cities, and our police force generally know who is involved and arrests are made, yet in a small island 10 miles wide x 22 miles long, and 15,000 people, nobody knows nothing. So the resolve is to hide your valuables, hide your flip flops, leave nothing in sight and hope for what's yours will still be there upon your return.

In talking with locals, they are even concerned with vehicles being stolen from their yards at night, behind locked gates. Our friend had theirs stolen, parts removed and left as trash.

I will still come back, every year someone in our group will lose something no matter how smart you try to be, but many won't be coming back. As the Bonaireans and the Dutch continue to fight for control, be careful that the winner actually wins.

I can understand the feeling of loss by the Bonaireans, but you had already lost the ability to maintain and improve the infrastructure. The news about WEB is a good example, although something like that can happen anywhere, I agree. But it would never had been discovered had the Dutch not become involved.

I like the example of an old mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani. Yes, let's forget he is American or it's the Dutch takeover of your island, work together in harmony and "fix the broken window".

For an explanation of the use of the term "broken window" go to: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broken\\_windows\\_theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broken_windows_theory)

Douglas Hite



### BONAIRE NOISE POLLUTION

Dear Editor:

Word on the Street should be changed to "Heard on the Street". Literally! Late afternoons until well into the early morning hours the sounds of motorcycles can be heard all along Playa, but especially when approaching Karel's Beach Bar. Motorcycles with altered or no mufflers at all can be heard roaring down the street. And then there are the ones that just rev and rev and rev while coasting down the street. And let us not forget the wheelie's being done, the excessive speed, and the motorcycles that just lock up the front tires and sit there and burn rubber off the back tire. This minority adversely effects the quality of life for residents, property owners and visitors alike.

Maybe that is one of the reasons there are fewer and fewer cruisers electing to stay in the mooring field. The next time you drive down Playa, count the boats and think of the lost revenue. Where are the police when it comes to problems like this? They should station an officer near the approach to Karel's and take some enforcement action instead of looking the other way.

Rick in the mooring field.

Editor's note: That's the truth. One thing about visiting Bonaire by yacht is that you can easily leave and move on to somewhere else.

# Chinese New Year Chinese New Year And a Brand New Chinese Association

On Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> the Chinese New Year – The Year of the Wood Horse 4712 (Thanks, Cynthia Tseng!) - was ushered in by the Bonairean Chinese Community in the Sports Hall on Kaya Amsterdam.

Although the festivities were organized in less than two weeks by David Cen (Wing Cheung and Top Supermarket) with the help of Michi Zhen (Breezy Delight Bar in Rincon) and Eliza from Tung Fong Store, the attendance was major and everyone was obviously excited. There were lots of families with little kids who were happily running around. The ones a bit older were playing soccer or badminton and all the youngsters – the handsome boys and the pretty girls - were gathered outside in the dark with shining faces - laughing, flirting and giggling. The adults were chatting and eating and drinking a beer and playing Mahjong and everybody was taking photos of the out-of-this-world Karaoke singers.

“There hasn’t been a party for years,” said David Cen. “Our people just worked and worked and worked. But tonight we’re all together to celebrate the New Year. There is roasted duck and pork, spare ribs and Chinese pastechis and typical Chinese New



**President of the Chinese Association Bonaire: Yan Lo Kai of Tung Fong Store**



**Handsome boys with beautiful strong voices sang karaoke**

Year dishes and everyone brought some drinks along.

We are also here to establish the Chinese Association of Bonaire and tonight Yan Lo Kai of Tung Fong Store was elected president.

We are planning to get together more often to celebrate special events but also to be there for one another when someone needs help or to solve problems if there are any. It’s a non-profit organization and we have the intention to apply for a plot of land where we will build our club house in the future.

Together with the Consul General of the

Chinese Consulate on Curacao the Association will be able to take care of all the necessary paperwork needed for a visa for China, and a new Chinese passport can also be obtained through these channels.

Furthermore, if we can get together a minimum of 45 people who are interested in taking Chinese language courses, the Consul General of Curacao will get us a teacher from China who will teach us for free!

We want to get the club working as soon as possible. Aruba, Curacao and St. Martin



**Some of the prettiest girls from Bonaire at the party (L to R): Alexis Kay Lee, model; Itishmira Croes from Benetton; Mayerlin de Lima, student; and Michi Zhen from the Breezy Delight Bar in Rincon.**



**The votes for the first president of the new Chinese Association of Bonaire were counted: In the photo: Chiki from Excellent Supermarket; Yan Lo Kai from Tung Fong Store; Chang from Hang Mei; Wijman from China Nobo; Hong from Peking Restaurant**



**Mahjong competition**

already have such an association and together with them we are planning to promote the ABC and the SSS islands in China so that many more people will come to discover and get to know our beautiful islands.” ■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



**Part-time Bonaire residents Bob and Cynthia Tseng from New York; Amy from Tung Fong Store; George from Tung Fong Store and son-in-law of Amy; David from Wing Cheung and Top Supermarkets**

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## Dare to Care Park Open Again



Parke Publiko, the “We Dare to Care Park,” reopens on 14th February, Valentine’s Day, at 5:30pm. After briefly trying to survive operating as a charge-per-use park it was closed some months ago for financial reasons. For seven years the park was a free playground supported by private donations and foundation grants. It has not been assisted by government funding although that was a promise when the park was built and numerous requests were made. The playground is equipped with commercial park equipment certified by the US Olympic Association specially to stimulate academic and athletic ability in children. It is unique among the parks on the island with facilities for both the young and old.

In the end, the founders said, “We had no choice but to close the park and were forced to modify the facility where it can operate on a small scale and offer free entry with a sustainable financial means with less dependency on groups and government.”

After months of hard work and struggles the founders of the park are proud to announce the reopening of the We Dare To Park. Daily opening hours will be 8am to 7pm, Monday through Saturday, with free entry to the public. You may rent a table to sell used items at the well attended Flea Market on Saturdays for \$5. The canteen will be open Monday-Saturday 7:30am-7pm (with Wi-Fi), selling ice cream, homemade lemonade, burgers, wraps, frapuccino, coffee, more.

Special thanks to Mr. Pieternella, Tung Fong Store, Balentina Blokkenfabriek, Digicel and Tulsie Bissessar. ■ Press Release/Vicky Bissessar

## Helmets On Wheels

This is the 26<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter short articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

On Thursday, February 6th, around 12 noon I parked my vehicle in front of Grace Place to check out the Surinam food they prepare. Just recently I joined a Surinam buffet, organized by Djambo’s Apartments.



Gaby, the smart Bonairean diesel engineer

Ambiance and food were excellent and the owners of Djambo told me the food was prepared by the Surinam restaurant in downtown Kralendijk.

So after a morning of hard work I decided I earned a little hot lunch and I ordered three sticks with sate of chicken with spicy Surinam peanut sauce. As Grace Place, located next to the Chinese bar, leeward of Jong Bonaire, only serves non-alcoholic drinks, I decided to enjoy my hot and spicy lunch in front of the Chinese bar. I ordered a Guinness Stout to raise the iron level in my blood.

Then a guy with a helmet on his head arrived with a four-stroke scooter. He parked the two-wheeler in front of Grace Place and ordered some food. When he came out of the little restaurant I approached him and informed him about my intentions: paying attention to the importance of wearing a helmet. The scooter driver pulled my leg by telling me he spoke only Spanish, so I started to speak Spanish. Then he laughed. He was from Bonaire and he spoke Papiamentu and English and Dutch too! He was more than well willing to cooperate. His name was Gaby Nicolaas and “his house lived” in Nort Salina. He is a professional diver and a mechanic, specializing in heavy equipment as a diesel engineer. He looked tough with his impressive system helmet made by Jiekay. A jet helmet, easy to convert into a full-face helmet with an built-in sun visor. As a diver and a technician Gaby is aware of safety and safety rules. He wears a helmet, even when entering the restaurant, and safety boots. Smart and responsible guy! Next week I will bring some new Bonaire Reporters to Grace Place as Gaby does not have internet yet. ■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



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# BONAIRE ON WHEELS

This is the 132<sup>nd</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n –wear a helmet- Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire’s interesting vehicles and persons that are “on wheels.”

Up to at least 200 articles!



## WIMPY AND HIS BONAIRE MOBILE CARWASH



(Left to right): Boy, (22), an enthusiastic and always smiling employee; Pamela, from Hato; and Egbert (Wimpy) Saragoza, 29, Managing Director of the company.

Bonaire/Antriol –  
A couple of years ago Egbert Saragoza, better known as “Wimpy,” started his own enterprise. For years Wimpy was thinking about starting his own mobile carwash. Finally he decided to convert his fantasies into reality. He bought a used Japanese panel van equipped with a reliable diesel engine. In the rear he mounted a reservoir to contain water. A four-stroke single cylinder-powered water pump presses the water through the hoses of a pressure cleaner. A vacuum cleaner is also part of the equipment and a huge converter, located behind the driver’s seat, changes 12 volts to 127 volts to supply energy for the vacuum cleaner. On both sides of the rear part of the van are a power outlet and a tappet. Wimpy is completely independent. His vehicle contains water for washing and power washing, electricity for the vacuum cleaner. So in fact he has a little rolling WEB (Water- en Energiebedrijf Bonaire/jb) on wheels. Wimpy’s business card reads: “Bonaire Mobile Carwash & All Around Cleaner. Parking area pressure cleaning. Car wash, interior and exterior. Exterior house cleaning. Carpet cleaning. Boat cleaning: Car polish and much more!”

Wimpy lives in the neighborhood of Antriol. He has an email address and a mobile telephone: [bonairemobilecarwash@hotmail.com](mailto:bonairemobilecarwash@hotmail.com) and 796-8515. Wimpy is an honest person and a proud Bonairean. He loves his job, he loves quality and he likes to contribute to the Bonairean society. In his neighborhood a lot of youngsters are unemployed, desperately looking for a job. Well, Wimpy offers them that job. This way they learn to deal with machines and the combination of water and electricity. This way they learn to deal with customers. This way, by doing an honest job they learn to be proud of their job and the shiny result of their work.



A very good initiative of a young and independent guy with a vision. Thumbs up for Wimpy! ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

## Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter Celebrating 20+ years of publishing

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# Shot Dog

A Tera Cora woman’s dog was shot while walking in its neighborhood near the softball field. Luckily the dog was still alive when the woman returned home and it received medical attention. The animal will survive but lost an eye and its front paw was shattered by the impact of the bullet. Dog and owner are very stressed by the incident. The police have been notified. ■

Renee D.



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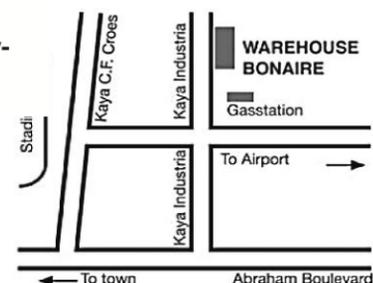
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Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
<b>Mon 10</b>		02:55	09:45	18:20	22:46	6:58	18:41
		-0.00 ft	0.87 ft	-0.09 ft	0.13 ft		
		03:20	10:24	19:12	23:49		
<b>Tue 11</b>	0.04 ft	0.82 ft	-0.08 ft	0.12 ft	6:58	18:41	
		03:42	11:02	20:02			
<b>Wed 12</b>	0.07 ft	0.77 ft	-0.06 ft		6:58	18:41	
	01:07	04:03	11:42	20:46			
<b>Thu 13</b>	0.13 ft	0.11 ft	0.70 ft	-0.05 ft	6:58	18:41	
	02:37	04:35	12:24	21:22			
<b>Fri 14</b>	0.16 ft	0.16 ft	0.64 ft	-0.03 ft	6:57	18:42	
	03:28	06:07	13:11	21:50			
<b>Sat 15</b>	0.21 ft	0.20 ft	0.56 ft	-0.01 ft	6:57	18:42	
	03:49	08:11	14:02	22:11			
<b>Sun 16</b>	0.28 ft	0.23 ft	0.49 ft	0.01 ft	6:57	18:42	
	04:09	09:57	14:58	22:28			
<b>Mon 17</b>	0.36 ft	0.21 ft	0.42 ft	0.02 ft	6:56	18:42	
	04:30	11:19	15:53	22:45			
<b>Tue 18</b>	0.45 ft	0.15 ft	0.35 ft	0.02 ft	6:56	18:43	
	04:56	12:22	16:45	23:06			
<b>Wed 19</b>	0.55 ft	0.08 ft	0.30 ft	0.00 ft	6:55	18:43	
	05:27	13:14	17:34	23:33			
<b>Thu 20</b>	0.66 ft	0.01 ft	0.25 ft	-0.02 ft	6:55	18:43	
	06:02	14:02	18:20				
<b>Fri 21</b>	0.77 ft	-0.05 ft	0.22 ft		6:54	18:43	
	L	00:06	06:41	14:47	19:05		
<b>Sat 22</b>	Quarter	-0.06 ft	0.86 ft	-0.11 ft	0.19 ft	6:54	18:43
		00:46	07:23	15:31	19:53		
<b>Sun 23</b>		-0.09 ft	0.93 ft	-0.15 ft	0.19 ft	6:54	18:44
		01:30	08:07	16:16	20:43		
<b>Mon 24</b>		-0.11 ft	0.97 ft	-0.17 ft	0.19 ft	6:53	18:44

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**Bistro de Paris**— Waterfront location at the Harbour Village Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance. Airco if you want it. Its Zazu Bar is a very popular hangout for divers too.

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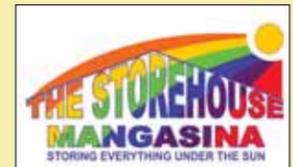
**Bona Dea** is Bonaire's newest Caribbean lifestyle shop featuring good taste gifts, apparel, shoes, accessories and home décor

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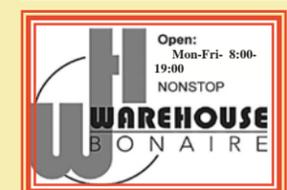
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# New York, Here We Come!



Dharmin, Arkana, Skye and Dylan —photo by Janita Monna

This coming March and April, the students of HAVO 4 and VWO 5 of the Liseo Boneriano will swarm off all over the world: one group goes to The Netherlands. Another will be going to New York. Skye, Dharmin and Arkana (Havo 4), Dylan (VWO 5), explain why these trips are more than just ordinary school trips.

Arkana doesn't know yet what she wants to study after she has finished school next year. Therefore she has chosen to join the Holland trip. She says, "We will visit quite a few universities in different cities and get a lot of information. I hope that afterwards I can make the right choice." Dylan adds: "This trip is necessary for us. We can't just take a train and go the regular 'Open Houses.'"

The study orientation trip to The Netherlands has been organized for quite a few

years now. New York, however, is new on the program. Skye is very excited. "This trip to New York shows us that there is more in the world than Bonaire." Dharmin adds, "We will visit museums, and see culture that we can't find here on the island." Teacher Karine de Wit explains, "We will be going to the MOMA (Museum of Modern Art), the Natural History Museum, ride a bike in Central Park, climb the Empire State Building. New York is totally the opposite of Bonaire and therefore – we hope – it will be an unforgettable experience for our students. And apart from the cultural experience, we will also be visiting a university, to see what student life in America is like."

The students pay for the trips themselves. A lot of fundraising has been done already, but the best is yet to come: a big Liseo Lottery, with 'cool prizes,' as Skye puts it: "A weekend in the honeymoon suite of

LacBai, surf lessons at Jibe City, diving lessons, massages, boat trips and many, many more. Even a tablet."

"You can buy your tickets from one of us. They are only \$5 each," Arkana, Dharmin, Dylan, Skye say, "And on February 14th we will have a huge party here at school. Then we will also announce the winning numbers. So, buy a ticket now and support our future!" ■ Janita Monna

Lottery tickets are also available at the Liseo Boneriano administration office, Kaya Amsterdam, behind the Sporthal, next to the Akkerman garage

For more information See Liseo Boneriano on Facebook or email [peijs@sgbonaire.com](mailto:peijs@sgbonaire.com)

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16. Belfante kortje, overnachting
17. Adda's boekstore, kadobon \$ 25,-
18. Spice Beach Club, Dinner!
19. Verklade, Pedicure
20. Superstore Youthstoren Internet Tablet!

## February Jubilee Concert



On Sunday, February 2, The Classical Music Board Bonaire (CMBB) organized another sold-out concert with the Dutch baritone, **Marco Bakker**, the Aruban soprano, **Tica Giel**, and the Curacaoan pianist, **Johnny Kleinmoedig** in the newly refurbished auditorium of the high school.

Marco Bakker will celebrate his 76th birthday next week on Aruba and his still rich, powerful, mellow and rounded operatic voice would have you believe he was much younger.

The duets with Tica Giel blended well with a little volume adjustment from the technicians. Johnny Kleinmoedig is a gracious, most accurate and modest pianist who excelled as an accompanist.

The program was beautifully put together and varied starting with five German lieder by Franz Schubert. German lieder allow both performers to shine in their own way and Marco and Johnny did the composer proud, displaying a splendid blend of Marco's extremely melodic voice and Johnny's elegant playing.

Opera lovers were delighted with arias from Mozart's "La Nozza di Figaro," "Don Giovanni" and "Die Zauberflöte," which were met with Italian exuberance and enthusiasm.

After the interval Marco's change of costume from tuxedo to Indonesian shirt resulted in unexpected applause. He continued with the traditional and well known musical theatre songs, "O What A Beautiful Morning" and "The Impossible Dream."

Tica Giel then treated the audience with her beautiful and sensitive voice to five Antillean songs which appealed to the audience with their complicated and engaging rhythms.

The encore was surprising and hilarious. Marco announced that they were going to sing something in Papiamentu but he first had to go and get his glasses. They sang the traditional Bonairean song, "Boneiru," which was rewarded with a standing ovation.

The stage had been beautifully set with palm trees and bougainvillea and was expertly illuminated.

On Monday, February 3, the artists gave the traditional concert for the school children of Bonaire. 220 children enjoyed the performance which Tica explained to them. School concerts are an important part of the work of the CMBB allowing children to be exposed to other styles of music.

The CMBB is on tour trying out various venues and their next concert will be April 12 to celebrate their fifth anniversary and will be held in yet another venue. The internationally famous Venezuelan cellist, German Mercano, and the Antillean harpsichordist, Lyvio Hermans, will perform religious works around the Easter theme. Lyvio performed at the first concert the CMBB organized. The combination of cello and harpsichord has never been heard on Bonaire before. Since its inaugural concert the CMBB has organized 40 concerts on Bonaire and long may it continue. ■ Carla Hay

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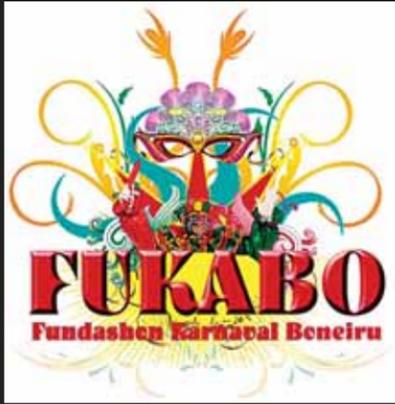
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS



### Karnaval Schedule

- 10 20.00or-00.00or  
Djump – Up Rei di  
Tumba of Reina
- 14 18.00or -00.00or Parada  
di baisel i Lus (Rincon)
- 15 18.00or-22.00or  
Elekshon Reina, Prens i  
Pancho Hubenil
- 15 20.00or-24.00or  
Kaminta ku Luna yen  
Rincon (Uni den Pura)
- 16 20.00or-02.00or  
Mega Djump-In (JC  
Herrera)
- 21 20.00or-01.00or  
Elekshon Grandi Reina,  
Prens i Pancho
- 22 15.00or Marcha  
Hubenil na Rincon
- 23 15.00or Marcha  
Hubenil na Playa
- 25 20.00or Djump-up  
Rincon
- 27 19.00or Teener's  
Parade
- 28 09.00or-12.00or  
Parada di skolnan

### March

- 01 14.00or Marcha Grandi  
Rincon - Karnaval  
Parade
- 02 13.00or Marcha Grandi  
Playa—Karnaval parade
- 03 18.00or Despedida Momito  
20.00or Fiesta di disfras  
(Grupo Uní den Purá)  
(Sentro di Bario Rincon)
- 04 19.00or Kimamentu di Rei  
Momo -Burning of King  
Momo

**March– Special Olympic fund raising walkathon from the White Slave Huts to Rincon. Start training now**

## REGULAR EVENTS

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

**We Dare to Care Park-playground & canteen.** Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entrance.

### Saturdays

•**Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 10 am-4 pm, in front of Van den Tweel Supermarket

•**We Dare to Care Park Bazaar.** Flea market tables to rent \$5. Used items for sale, 9am-2pm.

•**Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) 1st Saturday of the month**, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 1 pm.

•**Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale" Pakus di Pruga—every Saturday**, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoon Road weekdays. 717-4989

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month**, 7-9 pm. (Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539. ) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

•**Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, Saturdays 2:30pm Tera Cora Ranch. Info: 786-0150

### Sundays

•**Kunuku Arawak** - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am—6 pm. Live music starts at 4 pm. Tel.786-7210

### Mondays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9 am.** Meet the goats, see milking, cheese making and more. \$10 includes cheese tasting and tea, Kids \$5. 786-6950

• **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**– Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain will autograph your copy of his newest book *Reef Windows*.

### Wednesdays

•**Divemaster's Night at Bistro de Paris Restaurant at Harbour Village Marina.** Free house rum when you buy a coke.

•**Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information

• **30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire**, 12 noon, Bonaire Basics. Donation. Call 786-6416 , email: [info@bonaireyoga.coim](mailto:info@bonaireyoga.coim)

### Fridays

•**Happy Hour party at Bistro Di Paris.** Ricky Thomas performs Reggae, Soul, Latin and more 6- 9pm.

•**Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9 am.** See Monday for more information

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Monday - Touch the Sea** -- Dee Scarr, honored as a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame, conducts Bonaire's Touch the Sea programs of personalized dive guiding. She presents a unique perspective on critters and corals,

plus an updated Bonaire lionfish report, **every Monday when she's on-island** at 8:30 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Habitat, Call 717-8290.

**Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday** in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

### BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

**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

**Museo Sentro Chichi'Tan**, historical home, behind Rose Inn, Rincon, open 10am-4pm daily. Tel. 786-6420

**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

**Bridge Club** - Every Wednesday, Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-4200 or 788-2819 or [jeroen@telbonet.an](mailto:jeroen@telbonet.an)

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

**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 Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

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

### CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:** ( VPGB ), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact; [Marytjin@gmail.com](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)

**International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. De-brot.** Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride [bonaireibc@yahoo.com](mailto:bonaireibc@yahoo.com)

**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. Wed. 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 Sunday mornings 10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 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) 10:20am- Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors welcome: Information: Call 701-9522 .

**Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente,** Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 pm, in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161.

**Iglesia di Cristo (Church of Christ)** Sunday: 10:30am & 7pm; Wednesday: 7pm. Services in Papiamentu (English also if needed) Address: Kaya Msgr. ndt 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721. email: [iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com](mailto:iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com)

## Cruise Ship Tentative Schedule

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	PAX	Cruise Line
Tuesday	11---Feb.-	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800--- 1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	12---Feb.-	<i>Noordam</i>	0700--- 1700	1920	HAL
Thursday	13---Feb.-	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	1200--- 1900	3200	Princess Cruises
Friday	14---Feb.-	<i>Maasdam</i>	0800--- 1700	1258	HAL
Saturday	15---Feb.-	<i>Seabourn Pride</i>	0800--- 1800	208	Seabourn/HAL
Tuesday	18---Feb.-	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800--- 1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	18---Feb.-	<i>Azura</i>	0800--- 1800	3080	P&O Cruises
Wednesday	19---Feb.-	<i>Aida Luna</i>	0800--- 1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Thursday	20---Feb.-	<i>Thompson Dream</i>	0800--- 1500	1132	Thompson Dream CL
Sunday	23---Feb.-	<i>DELPHIN</i>	0800--- 1300	470	Passat Kreuzahrten

# Bonaire's Police Bike Team

On Friday, January 31, the newly established Bonaire (KPCN) bicycle police team gave an impressive demonstration of their capability at a press conference at the Playa Stadium.

The 12-person, men and women, Bike Team has been intensively training for months to build their fitness and competence. Beginning January 27 more specialized training was provided Professional Skills Trainers (IBT), **Mark Temmink and Marcel Bos** from the Netherlands Police and the Royal Marechaussee (KMar) and leader of the Bonaire Bike Team, **Brigadier Fernando Perigault Monte**.



*Brigadier Fernando Perigault Monte, Team Leader*

The idea of using bicycle-mounted police is not new. In the 1860s, the use of police on bicycles was introduced, and by the 1890s, bicycle officers were found in several large American cities. In fact, in 1895, then New York City Police Commissioner Teddy Roosevelt approved a 29-man unit that in its first year was responsible for 1,366 arrests. Later in the early 1900s, as motorized vehicles came into play and the police motorcycle became more prevalent, the police bicycle started its first downward turn.

From the 1930s till the early 1960s, technology swept through law enforcement, changing how agencies did business. Cars, radios, dispatch centers, and crime fighting overshadowed the need to remain in contact with the community. However, by the late 80s and early 90s, the police bicycle, based on the mountain bike design, had made its second comeback.

Bicycle police have been used in The Netherlands for years, (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSiWvt4zqIQ> on YouTube for an actual apprehension by bicycle police in the center of The Hague.)

Bike cops are a proactive method of policing. Police are out in the streets and making contact with the public. It makes the officer more approachable to the public without the car doors and windows forming a barrier between the officer and citizen, allowing for more informal interactions. In a US study officers involved with vehicle patrol averaged 3.3 contacts in an hour. On the other hand, those patrolling on bicycles averaged 7.3 contacts per hour. At first glance you might think vehicle patrol handled the more serious calls, while bicycle patrols handled little more than public relations. But you'd be wrong. The study showed that both forms of patrol did about the same amount of grunt work.

The main advantage of using a police bicycle is stealth. Everyone is looking out for sirens in the distance and preparing for police cruisers to roll up. However, unless the bad guys are covering all access points with lookouts, the police bicycle can sneak in through what would ordinarily be considered inaccessible vehicle entry points. Former bike team members often share how when they were on bikes they could just ride right up to a suspect before he or she even realized it.

Bicycle patrol officers are able to place themselves in the mix sooner than officers in squad cars, who had to find a place to park, shut down, get out of the car and walk to the scene. Since time to contact was decreased, it made it harder for suspects to get rid of evidence, plan an escape, or create a bedtime story when asked what was going on.

While dedicated foot patrols are a viable option under the right circumstances, upgrading to a bicycle patrol can be more effective.

At minimum, the use of a police bicycle will increase officer response times and extend their range over officers on a foot beat.

Open spaces are (generally) inaccessible to motorized traffic. You can't drive a car through an open market or playground for example. Why run across an open area when you can ride faster and cover a dangerous area more safely? On a bicycle, common obstacles are easily cleared. It's faster to stop, heave the bike over a fence, and then ride on than it is drive around the block looking for a safe place to park.

Having police officers on bicycles is not a magic bullet for crime fighting. But at minimum, bicycle patrol increases citizen contacts, which leads to more productivity, saves on gas, and helps keep officers healthier. In the US the typical cost to fully equip one bike is about \$1,200, with an annual maintenance fee of about \$200. The average patrol car costs about \$25,000 to purchase and has an annual maintenance fee of about \$3,500. That means bike patrols are cost effective - 10 to 15 bike officers can be fully outfitted for the cost of one patrol car.

Of course, nothing is free, and the disadvantages of bicycle patrol are that a limited geographic area can be covered, only a fraction of the equipment that a cruiser



*Dealing with aggressive behavior*



*Pursuit and...*



*Apprehension*

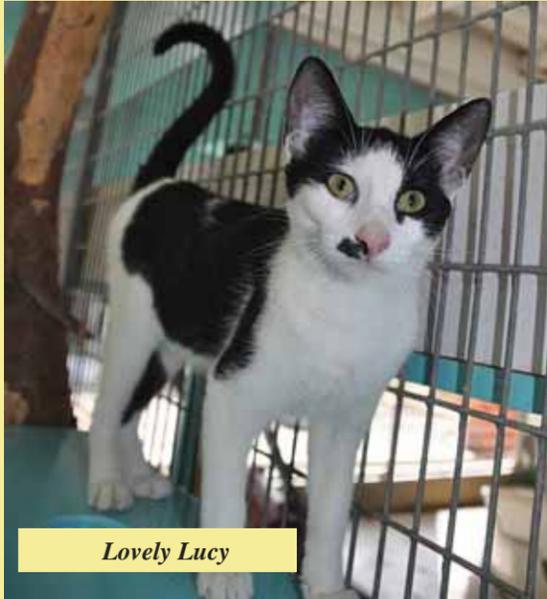
has can be carried, prisoners cannot be transported. However, the bicycle patrol compliments traditional patrols, it does not replace it.

Other disadvantages of bicycle patrol are the lack of physical protection provided by the patrol car, since the policeman has to pretty much have his hands on the handlebars, so no radio communication. The Bonaire climate is not uncomfortable when moderated by trade winds. But in the sun 100°F (38°C) is not uncommon and temperature is a physical challenge for a bike cop and may also lead to dangers such as heat stroke or dehydration, especially for a long shift.

The increased exposure to the public for bike patrols also makes them by nature more vulnerable. Police need to be extra careful when dealing with potentially volatile situations. Most police forces use the bikes for non-emergency or crowd control duties only, although there are some examples of bike police being used for almost everything a patrol car could be used for. It remains to be seen how effective the bicycle patrols will be on our island. ■ G.D.

# Pet of the Week

Meet Lovely Lucy....a pretty, green-eyed young lady with a distinctive beauty mark on her sweet face. Lucy is about six months old and will be a lithe, willowy adult. She and her siblings, Lars and Linda, were young kittens when they arrived at the Bonaire Animal Shelter in last October. Linda was adopted quickly, and Lucy and Lars have grown into beautiful teenagers who are as comfortable with people as they are with their cat compound roommates.



Lovely Lucy

Lucy is equally playful and affectionate. She is bright and inquisitive...no new toy gets past her attention or inspection. Lucy would be a perfect companion for children as she enjoys being held and stroked, and never misses the opportunity for a belly-rub. Lucy is healthy, vaccinated, sterilized and ready to add fun and feline love to your home.

Adopting a cat or kitten like Lucy from a shelter does require a little patience. Sometimes people will return a cat within a day or a week because "it won't come out" or "it just hides under the bed" or "it isn't as nice as it was at the shelter". Many people assume that you can bring the cat home and it will instantly adjust to its new environment. That is a rare event.

Adoptive families have to realize that most of these cats have never been inside a house. The only thing they have known is the small shelter compound with its open walls and concrete floors. A new environment can be terrifying. Something like a ceiling fan is very scary at first. A cat may view it as a giant bird of prey. Furniture is totally foreign terrain as is a house that is vastly larger than the space they were used to. Most cats when first introduced to a new home will immediately seek shelter under something or in a small space. This is perfectly normal. They will seek a safe place to assess the new sights, smells and surroundings. Once they are comfortable and feel secure they will venture out. The adoptive family should allow the cat the time it needs, frequently visiting the cat in its "safe spot" and assuring them with a gentle voice and strokes. It is recommended that the

new family actually provide a "safe space" for the new arrival and gradually introduce it to the rest of its new environment.

Additionally, you should keep the cat contained within the house for at least one week, preferably two. This allows the cat to become familiar with the scents and surroundings of its new "territory" and know where it now belongs so that once it does go outside it will know how to find its way home. You should accompany the cat for a few days on its first forays in the outside world. Not following these recommendations may result in a very frightened, confused cat that will leave its new home and try to make its way back to familiar ground. That is something that rarely has a happy ending.

Although it requires some time and patience, the rewards of adopting a shelter cat far outweigh the slight "inconvenience". Most cats and dogs have a far greater intuitive sense than they are given credit for and will repay the generosity of giving them a good home with as much love as they have to give.

Please consider adopting a shelter animal. You can visit these loving creatures at the the Bonaire Animal Shelter Monday through Saturday, 8am-1pm and 3-5pm, Kaminda Lagun, 26a. Tel. 717-4989. WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com ■ Story by Jane Madden Disko, photo by Laura DeSalvo

# Shelter News

## STERILIZATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Thanks to donations the Shelter has been offering free cat and dog sterilizations since the year 2000. Last year 475 animals were sterilized, free of charge to their owners. But unwanted cats and dogs keep pouring into the Shelter. So, to remind people, a sterilization awareness campaign is under way—with 50 posters in Papiamentu all over the island: "No tin suficiente doño pa tur. Lago sterilisá bo kacho of pushi grátis awor." ("There are not enough owners for all. Sterilize your dog or cat free now.")



Look who's back on the island—Monique Deenaar—who's on vacation and spending her time working at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Monique was on the staff of the Shelter before she and her husband moved back to Holland. Everyone has missed you, Monique!

## WHERE IS THE DOG CATCHER?

The government has instituted a massive campaign for eliminating stray dogs and holding the owners responsible. However, there is no dog catcher on the island and the dogs still run free. Some have owners, others don't. The Shelter receives calls every day (10 last Friday morning) about stray dogs, but the Shelter doesn't have the manpower to respond. They have plenty of work already dealing with the animals in the

Shelter, receiving up to 100 cats and dogs a month. At one time the LVV (government agricultural department) had a dog catcher on their staff.

We really need one now. ■  
Laura DeSalvo



Open for Lunch 12 noon– 2 pm  
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Sonia Home is in The District Shopping Center north of the traffic circle, next to the MCB Main Office. Call for reservations 717-1758

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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## FEBRUARY MOON, STARS AND PLANETS



On February 14th, a **Full Moon** will rise, making for a romantic Valentine's holiday. Interestingly enough, full Moons have traditionally been given specific names by various cultures around the globe to keep track of seasons. Because the heaviest snowfall usually occurs in the month of February, Celtic druids designated the year's second full moon as the **Moon of Ice**. Native Americans have similarly dubbed it as the **Full Snow Moon** or the **Full Hunger Moon**, depending on the tribe. Indeed, The Farmers' Almanac has even documented the Cherokees naming it the **Full Bony Moon**, in reference to when the tribe is "forced to gnaw on bones and sip bone marrow soup for sustenance." The ancient Chinese were more optimistic by comparison, for they recognized it as the **Budding Moon**, ushering spring's arrival in the next month.

### February Astronomical Summary

#### The Planets

**Mercury** is near solar conjunction so not possible to view. **Venus** will rise about three hours before the **Sun** so will look splendid in the morning twilight sky. **Mars** is a morning object high in the sky before dawn. **Jupiter** is still well placed for observing for most of the night. **Saturn** is a morning object. **Uranus** is an evening object.

#### The Stars:

North – **Draco** is nicely placed for viewing – splitting the two bears  
 East – **Gemini** and **Cancer** are nicely placed with **Leo** visible later in the evening  
 South – **Monoceros** and **Canis Major** are low down with **Orion**, **Gemini** and **Taurus** all well placed for viewing.

(**Jupiter** sits just above the **Hyades star cluster**.)

West – **Perseus** is almost overhead with **Andromeda** nicely placed for viewing. **Pegasus** and **Cygnus** are low down.

#### Meteors

There are no major meteor showers in February

There are no bright **Comets** in the sky – **Comet C/2102 S1 ISON** has now faded to below 10th magnitude and is now more than 200 million kilometres away from the Sun.

February night-sky events visible without optical aid:

February 11 — The **Moon** passes 5° south of **Jupiter**.

February 15 — **Venus** shines at magnitude -4.9, the brightest it gets.

February 25 — The **Moon** passes 0.4° north of **Venus**.

Note that to the unaided eye all planets look like stars. This explains how they were given their name. The word planet originally derives from an ancient Greek word ἀστὴρ πλανήτης (astēr planētēs) which means 'wandering star'. Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter are easily visible to the unaided eye at differing times of the year. ■ *Dean Regas / G.D.*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
 Second Half of February 2014

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Be careful disclosing information. Strength will come from your ability to overtake just about any one. Get friends to help you with the preparations. You have to know what your boss wants if you expect to do your job correctly. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Finish off old projects before starting something new. Don't let emotional upset force you into the poorhouse. Children may be demanding, and entertainment could cost a lot more than you can really afford. There could be disappointment regarding investments. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 1) Reevaluate your position and make decisions about your future goals. Your suggestions for fund raising events will be well received. When the work is done, they may serve you for a change. Seminars will provide you with knowledge and amusement. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You may have a problem keeping secrets. Your dynamic, determined approach will win favors as well as a helping hand. Include the whole family or those you love. Some of the best opportunities will crop up if you keep an open mind. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Problems with colleagues are likely. Relatives may play an important role in your personal life. Family trips or projects should be on your mind. Spend some time with the one you love. Pleasure trips will be satisfying. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Channel your energy into projects that will enhance your home. Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable and should lead to new and lasting friendships. Social evenings at your place will be highly successful. Curb the impulse to make lavish purchases and maybe spend some time with good friends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You must not let others talk you into doing things that will probably limit you financially at a later date. You can come into money; however, perhaps not under the best circumstances. Don't get depressed, get busy. You can accomplish a lot if you're willing to put in a little extra time. Don't let your partner start any arguments. Passion should be redirected positively. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Put your efforts into job advancement. Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Look after financial transactions this month. Stay away from social unpleasantness. Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. Don't let your partner start any arguments. Passion should be directed positively. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try not to be overly generous. You'd be wise to control your spending so your debts don't get out of hand. Tone down and put some of that hard earned cash into a safe, long-term investment. Seminars will provide you with knowledge and amusement. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment. You must not allow them to force you to rush. Your lover may disappoint you in such a way that estrangement will follow. Go out shopping this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your diplomatic approach and rather outgoing nature will enhance your reputation and bring you the support you need. Try to spend time with those having similar interests. Find out more, if you want to start your own business. Emotional relationships will be plentiful if you attend group activities. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■

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## Sudoku Puzzle

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

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