

N°91 - June 8, 2006



St-Barth WEEKLY

Local News
in English

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Published by "Le Journal de Saint-Barth"
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Medical Evacuation at Night:

The Problems Increase

In theory, nothing has changed: medical evacuations at night were never totally “legal,” and the final decision to take off was made by the pilots of Saint Barth Commuter, the local airline whose planes have made almost all of the recent medical evacuations (151 out of 178 transfers recorded in 2005). Yet in reality, for the past few months, the situation has become so critical that the emergency room doctors at the hospital (who since January 2005 have been responsible for organizing these evacuations) are seriously looking at using boats instead of planes. There are two principal reasons for this: first, the hesitation of the pilots, who can be held legally responsible in case of an accident, and are refusing more frequently to take off at night for these evacuations. Secondly, since last year there have been changes in the late night operations at Juliana airport in Saint Martin, which closes its runways after 10:00pm, making things more difficult than in the past.

Under these new constraints, what happens when there is a nocturnal emergency? “Whenever possible, we delay the time of the evacuation,” says Dr. Valade, an emergency room doctor at the Hospital de Bruyn, who does not mince words: “If the pilots are legally responsible in case of an accident during a medical evacuation, we also have a legal responsibility, to provide assistance, at the risk of being called before the courts if we don’t provide help for patients in danger

178 Cases in 2005

In 2005, the Hospital de Bruyn processed 178 transfers of which 143 were urgent medical evacuations, “or 20% more than in 2004,” Dr. Valade. Nine took place at night, compared to an average of 15. This confirms the trend to try and avoid nighttime evacuations. In 2005, five of the 143 evacuations were made by boat, with Master Ski Pilou. A situation that does not please Nicole Gréaux, third deputy mayor,

operation. “We have tried everything so that the Civil Aviation Agency make it legal for nighttime evacuations. For now, we have not succeeded,” explained Bruno Magras, director of Saint-Barth Commuter. When the runway was recently repaved, night-lights were added to help facilitate take offs after sun down. But that didn’t help. “It’s a shame,” adds Bruno Magras. “This should have helped us put in place a system where every night there was a plane and a pilot on



and president of the board of directors of the Hospital de Bruyn, who considers the use of a boat as “an unacceptable solution,” and has asked the government “for a resolution to facilitate medical evacuations.”

A Possible Solution: An Aircraft Dedicated to Medical Service

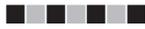
At the base of the problem is the illegality of having an aircraft, such as a bi-turbine helicopter, on call to take off at night from Saint Barth, where the airport is restricted at night. And the impossibility to land at night at the Grand Case airport in Saint Martin, which is not authorized by the VFR (Visual Flight Rules) for nighttime

call and ready to take off if the hospital called.” For Dr. Valade, even if the rules changes, the problem of medical evacuation remains the same: “Less crucial perhaps during the day, but it is still difficult to find a commercial flight to take a patient toward the hospital in Saint Martin,” which was the destination for 138 of the 178 transfers in 2005. What can be done? Dr Valade estimates that the system worked best at the end of the 1990s when a helicopter was based in Saint-Martin. “This would be ideal. Or there must be a plane and a pilot dedicated to this type of evacuation. This is not the case today.”



WELCOME!

The Saint Barth Weekly is happy to be back for its third season. The Weekly is designed for you, to help you put your finger on the pulse of the local community. Featuring an English résumé of the top stories of our French newspaper “Le Journal de Saint Barth”, as well as original articles in English, the Saint-Barth Weekly is the only completely English-language newspaper on the island. It comes out every Friday from November through the end of July. Our most exciting news is that each Friday, The Weekly is also available on line at Saint-Barth Online (www.st-barths.com), the wonderful web site that our friends Laurence and Peter O’Keefe created in 1996. Thanks to them, you can now download every edition of the Saint-Barth Weekly, so that no matter where you are in the world, you can stay in contact with the island.



Laurent de Fabrique, New President of the Saint Barth Rotary Club

Patrick Bordjel, outgoing president of the local Rotary Club, made a final report on his year in office at an annual dinner held last Saturday at K'fé Massai, with 24 Rotarians in attendance. The year was a busy one, with activities including a dance at Bacardi Café, with the profits going to buy an oximeter for the fire station. In response to the damage caused by hurricane Katrina in September 2005, the Saint Barth Rotary Club, in collaboration with an American Rotary Club, financed five "shelter boxes," or survival kits containing a tent for 20 people and daily necessities. Thanks to the Club's donations, 100 people found temporary shelter. During the 2005-2006 season, the Rotary Club also held a large garage sale on the parking lot at Match, with the profits used to purchase 20 fans for five classrooms at the junior high school. At Christmas time, small groups of Rotarians paid visits to senior citizens in the various neighborhoods of the island, singing carols and distributing gifts. At College Mireille Choisy, in collaboration with the teachers, the Club hosted a career forum that was very successful, and financed a trip to Italy for one student, as part of a cultural travel program. In conjunction with the Red Cross, three cubic meters of toys were collected by the Rotary, and sent to Saint Martin. The monies raised at the fifth annual automobile rally, held in late April, were earmarked



New Officers for the Rotary Club : Pascal Alfare, treasurer, Laurent de Fabrique, president, Odile Duquenoy, protocol officer, Rodrigue Aubin, secretary, Patrick Bordjel, honorary vice-president, and François Pecard, vice-president.

for emergency medical training organized by the local branch of the Red Cross. The Club also purchased a Dinamap (blood pressure monitor) for the Hospital de Bruyn, for approximately 6000 euros. The Rotary also donated the sum of 1700 euros to buy equipment for a playground currently under construction in Anse des Cayes.

At the end of his speech, Patrick Bordjel presented the new president for 2006-2007, Laurent de Fabrique, who in turn introduced his fellow officers: François Pecard, vice-president, Pascal Alfare, treasurer, Rodrigue Aubin, secretary, and Odile Duquenoy, protocol officer. He noted that two of the main actions for the Rotary this year are cultural exchange and safety on the roads of the island.

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MODE IN ST BARTH

With the emergence of Nikki Style Magazine in 2003 the destined link between Nikki Beach and the fashion industry was solidified. This publication paved the way for runway events at our US locations with the top designers including Diesel, Celine, Custo Barcelona, Dior, Valentino, La Perla, Emilio Pucci, and Etro. These shows were so well

received by our audience that in partnership with the tourism board of St. Barths we are bringing the first fashion week ever to the island.

This four-day celebration June 8-11th offers fashion brands unique events under the umbrella of St. Barths fashion week. Nikki Style will host eight shows during the long weekend featuring the industry's top designers.

Thursday June 8th, 2006

2:30pm : Nikki clothing at Nikki Beach, St Jean
6:30pm : Rosa Cha at Quai de la République, Gustavia
8:00pm : Models at Sunset at Nikki Beach, St Jean
After Party at Casa Nikki, Pink Party

Friday June 9th, 2006

2:30pm : Abaete at Nikki Beach, St Jean
6:30pm : Valentino R.E.D. at the Eden Rock, St Jean
8:00pm : Models at Sunset at Nikki Beach, St Jean
After Party at Casa Nikki, Red Moon Party

Saturday June 10th, 2006

2:30pm : Bogosse at Nikki Beach, St Jean
6:30pm : Human Step at Isle de France, Flamands
8:00pm : Models at Sunset at Nikki Beach, St Jean
Tansa Night After Party at Casa Nikk

Sunday June 10th, 2006

2:30pm : Heatherette at Nikki Beach, St Jean
6:30pm : Jennifer Nicholson at Guanahani, Cul de Sac
8:00pm : Models at Sunset at Nikki Beach, St Jean
Fire and Ice After Party at Casa Nikk

Hurricane Season Now Open

The National Hurricane Center, the official watchdog for the Atlantic basin, "opened" the 2006 hurricane season on Thursday, June 1. In an online announcement made Wednesday, May 31, forecasters at the University of Colorado confirmed that 2006 will be an active year, but not expected to be worse than the previous forecast made in December 2005. The team of Dr. William Gray and Philip J. Klotzbach has predicted up to 17 tropical storms, with nine of them reaching hurricane strength, with five reaching major proportions. While indicating considerable activity, these predic-

tions are fortunately well below the 2005 season which saw 28 storms, of which 14 were major hurricanes, in the most intense season ever recorded in the Northern Atlantic. In the United States, hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, while Météo France doesn't officially open the season until July 1.

The 2006 Hurricane Names

Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sandy, Tony, Valerie, William

Conch Shells Cause Trouble In Flamands

For the past few weeks, the tranquility in the neighborhood of Flamands has been disturbed by the sound of conch shells being blown. The outraged residents have signed a petition addressed to the mayor of Saint Barth, asking that he put a stop to what they consider to be a public nuisance. The trouble began at the time of the arrival of the Ag2r transatlantic boat race, to be exact, when two neighborhood residents got out their conch shells, traditionally used as fog horns by local fishermen in order to communicate amongst themselves at any hour of the day or night. Six incidents have been reported to the police, but according to some local residents, who are the victims of this noisy intrusion, it is a daily occurrence. One of the horn blowers appears regularly at the neighborhood court where the boules players gather every day. A conch shell has also been heard in the neighborhood of Colombier.

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St Barth WEEKLY

Published by "Le Journal de Saint-Barth"

Ph. : 05.90.27.65.19 Fax : 05.90.27.91.60

ISSN-1766-9278 - email: stbarthweekly@wanadoo.fr

Director & layout : Avigaël Haddad

Chief Editor: Pierrette Guiraute,

Translation and English texts: Ellen Lampert Greaux,

Photographe : Rosemond Greaux - Advertising sales : Chloé Armeur

Impression : Daily Herald

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