



News Splash

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WINTER, 2008

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Underwater Cleanups
- Trade Show Duikvaker 2008
- Dive Friends renovates boat fleet
- New additions to staff and we bid good-bye to others

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Underwater Cleanups

On Saturday, July 14, 2007, an enthusiastic group of 46 persons consisting of divers, snorkelers, and shore support met at the Dive Friends Bonaire Yellow Submarine location to clean the house-reef. An unusual component of this group is that nearly half was made up of visiting tourists, which is a much higher percentage than normal. The visitors melded with the “locals” into one great group, which then split into two groups to scour the underwater terrain and shoreline going either north or south of the Yellow Submarine facility.



On Saturday, September 15, 2007, a group of over 30 divers, snorkelers, and shore support gathered together to assist with

an underwater/shoreline cleanup of a portion of Bonaire’s waterfront promenade. This cleanup was held in conjunction with World Cleanup Day, and also was the kick-off event for the island’s Love Our Planet week.

And then, the 2008 series of cleanups began this past Saturday, January 12, 2008, as a group of over 25 divers, snorkelers, and shore support gathered together to assist with underwater/shoreline cleanup of a portion of Bonaire’s waterfront promenade. This particular cleanup focused upon the shoreline and shallow waters in Bonaire’s anchorage in front of Kas di Regatta (Regatta House). This area has not been cleaned in 1-1/2 years, and so it was quite ready to be beautified once again.

After the cleanup dives, all participants and their families were welcomed back for a Pot Luck BBQ—Dive Friends Bonaire and NetTech, the sponsors of the

quarterly Bonaire cleanups, provided drinks and main courses, while participants supplied side dishes.



Upcoming Cleanups for 2008:

Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Dive Friends Hamlet

Saturday, July 12, 2008 at Town Pier (permission pending)

Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Dive Friends Yellow Submarine

Additional information about the Cleanup Dives can be found by visiting: http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com/clean_up_dives.html

Trade Show Duikvaker 2008

On the 9th and 10th of February, Dive Friends Bonaire will visit ‘Duikvaker’ 2008. ‘Duikvaker’ is an annual consumer dive show, held in Utrecht, The Netherlands. This year Dive Friends Bonaire will participate in the Bonaire Fun Travel booth (Caribbean Plein) and the Diving

Adventure booth. The stands will be manned by Angela Eylander, Gerrie Fokke, Tom den Ouden, and Christine Broer. Of course, we will have some amazing show specials, so we hope to see you at Duikvaker (for those who are in The Netherlands!).

Register now at www.duikvaker.nl and receive FREE entrance.

See you there!

Dive Friends Renovates Boat Fleet

We are very pleased to tell you about the renovation of our dive boat fleet. Over the past several months, two of our three boats have been out of the water for complete reconstruction and renovation. We now have three boats named 'Grote Sub', 'Kleine Sub' and 'Dive Frenzy.'

'Grote sub' a 32-foot (10 meter) Venezuelan-made vessel, received all new fiber-glassing and structural re-supports. In order to make additional space and comfort for our divers, the tank racks were moved to a location in the center of the boat. This boat is powered by two, new 150-horsepower Yamaha four-stroke engines, to conserve fuel con-

On your next visit, enjoy Grote Sub and Kleine Sub, our two, newly renovated vessels

sumption as much as possible. 'Grote sub' carries a maximum of 16 divers, plus a crew of two. 'Kleine Sub' is a 27-foot (9 meter) transport boat, powered by a 165-horsepower Perkins diesel engine. This boat, too, has recently undergone a transformation with new fiber-glassing and structural improvements. The tank racks have also been moved to a center location to provide divers with more room in which to move. A large step-off swim platform with a slant ladder for easy

boarding extends from the stern another three feet, making getting in and out of the water exceptionally easy on this boat. 'Kleine Sub' carries up to 30 snorkelers or a maximum of ten divers, with either one or two crew.

Both of these boats are now back in the water joining *Dive Frenzy*, an 18-foot (6 meter) dive boat. *Dive Frenzy* is powered by two 100-horsepower, Yamaha four-stroke engines, and carries tank racks behind the seating. This boat carries a maximum of ten divers with one or two crew.



Happy Birthday to Us!

As a lot of you probably know, Yellow Submarine and Photo Tours are both divisions of Dive Friends Bonaire. November 5th, 2007, we celebrated the fact that exactly 5 years ago, Jan and Margreth Kloos, along with other shareholders, started Yellow Submarine. They had only one instructor at that time—Gerrie Fokke.

Gerrie was teaching all the courses and was in the water about 5 times a day. From that moment, Yellow Submarine started growing and as you may know things have changed now.


Yellow Submarine became a division of Dive Friends Bonaire, Gerrie became the operational manager and at this moment we have many instructors who are now working for the company.


To celebrate this fact we organized a big party for all our staff, management, and shareholders of Dive Friends Bonaire.

Of course we wish to thank you for your support, because without your help and support, Yellow Submarine would never have become the way it is now. Thanks and we say "cheers" to another five years!




What's New at Dive Friends?

 We have bought a 2nd Nitrox installation so this means we now offer a FREE upgrade to Nitrox at all our locations. Before this people had to go to Port Bonaire to pick up their Nitrox tanks, but this is not necessary anymore, as now you can pick up Nitrox at all our locations!

 We have just added a new section to our website about our crew. If you haven't already taken a look, we invite you to view it at

http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com/meet_the_crew.html. Also, our guest comments page (http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com/guest_comments.html) is constantly updated—if you have a comment, then please feel free to email comment to info@dive-friends-bonaire.com. Of course, a website is never complete, so we are still working on it. If you have any suggestions for us, please feel free to email.

 Everybody who knows Dive Friends Bonaire also knows our lovely dogs, Follow and Gismo. In October, 2007 Follow and Gismo died. We still are upset over their loss, and we miss them everyday. They both were such good dogs. They were so nice and cute! Follow and Gismo were great dogs... they were, and still are, a part of our dive school.



Saying Hello and Goodbye

Meet our new employees Inka, Asko, Dick, and Sylvester! In this "News Splash" we want to introduce Inka, Asko, Dick and Sylvester, since they began working at Dive Friends in the summer of 2007. Inka is a German woman who is an instructor. She can teach you all PADI courses in German and English. Dick came to Dive Friends in summer, 2007 and is a divemaster in training. He is working 3 days at Dive Friends location Hamlet and two days on Dive Friends location Yellow Submarine. Asko is a Dutch instructor, but has lived all over the world. He took his instructor exam (IDC) in Koh Tao, Thailand about 4 years ago, and now he is teaching at Dive Friends Yellow Submarine.

Last but not least, Sylvester is also a Dutch instructor. In 2007, he became a IAHD instructor (International Association of Handicapped Divers). Sylvester

had his own dive school in The Netherlands, but decided to sell the company when he moved to Bonaire in October, 2007.

We have asked Sylvester to tell us something about IAHD instructor: "Hello! As a lot of people know already my name is Sylvester I am working at Dive Friends as an instructor. I am also instructor of a organization called IAHD (the International Association for Handicapped Divers). I very much enjoy teaching everybody to dive and showing them the underwater world. For some people, it is difficult to start learning to dive, but many don't realize that disabled people who are blind, deal with spasms, or have mental handicaps can also dive and enjoy it very much. That is why I have the drive to teach them diving. I like to see the big smile on the faces and see that they have so much fun.

"So if you or a handicapped friend think it is not possible to dive, ask me and perhaps I can teach you." For more information go to <http://www.iahd.org>.

We all hope that our new crew will stay for a long time on the island and that they keep loving diving.

Unfortunately, we also have had to say goodbye to one of our loved employees. Many of you will know her: Frouke Roemeling. Frouke worked for Dive Friends for 2.5 years. She became a divemaster and was a loved colleague. Frouke has studied to become a nurse, so that's why she decided to moved back to The Netherlands to pursue her career as a nurse. She moved back in the summer of 2007, after enjoying a big surprise farewell party for us to say goodbye. We still miss Frouke and hope one day she will return....Frouke, thanks for all your effort and help. You were a great colleague!



Rum Punch Parties

Also in 2008, we plan to continue our weekly Rum Punch Party on Monday evenings. We have noticed that our Rum Punch Party is popular and frequently visited. It's the best place to meet other people, the staff, and just have fun together.

The Rum Punch Party is held every Monday between 5:30 pm –

6:30 pm. It takes place at the pier in front of Dive Friends Yellow Submarine. We offer FREE Rum Punch and snacks are delivered by Restaurant Le Flamboyant. We would like to thank Govert, the



owner of Restaurant Le Flamboyant, for his support throughout 2007, and we hope he will continue his fine services in 2008.

For more information about Restaurant Le Flamboyant <http://www.flamboyantbonaire.com/>, or to attend the parties vicariously via our Pier Cam, go to: <http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com>.

Bonaire is #1! Again!

We have some great news that we want to share with you. We would like to inform you of Bonaire's latest recognition: Continuing its reign as one of the world's top dive destinations,

Bonaire has been voted, for the sixth year in a row, the **number one Top Dive Destination Overall** (Caribbean/Atlantic) in the Scuba Diving Magazine's Readers Choice Awards 2008.

Bonaire also received the #1 rating in five other categories:

- Top Destination for Beginners
- Top Shore Diving Destination
- Top Destination for Advanced Divers
- Top Destination for Underwater Photography
- Top Marine Life



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Feel the fear! Do it anyway!

Bon Dia, Dive Friends,

First of all a Happy New Year! We wish you all love, peace and happiness and hope to see you on Bonaire. Also in 2008 our team will do their utmost best to satisfy our new and repeat customers, just like we have always done!

This is already our 2nd News Splash. The first New Splash was read by our customers who gave us many positive reactions, and so we hope you also will like the 2nd one.

At this time, we're planning semi-annual editions of News Splash, but, of course, if there's extra special news, we may just feel motivated to crow about it before our next Splash!

For further information, questions or comments please feel free to email us: info@dive-friends-bonaire.com

We hope to see you on Bonaire and at Dive Friends.

Gerrie Fokke
Manager, Dive Friends Bonaire

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For more information, questions, comments, or anything else, please feel free to contact us. We will do our utmost to answer your mails as quickly as possible.

