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Sex on the Reef, at Dive Friends Bonaire

Imagine a moonlit night in Bonaire. The sound of the waves and the beauty of the water are making your thoughts to turn to romance...and millions of our little friends are feeling romantic, too! We're ALL feeling pretty excited here now that STINAPA has announced that September and October are the predicted months for this year's CORAL SPAWNING event!

you will have the best chance to experience the spawning of many of the different reef fish and invertebrates as well as the corals. You have to be pretty lucky to witness this event, but there is a schedule with forecasted dates for the 2009 coral spawning event ([click here to view in PDF format](#)).

Coral spawning is a unique diving event and only happens once a year. Coral polyps take a lot of coaxing to get into the right mood. In order to be successful, all of the polyps of a species need to simultaneously release their gametes (sperm and eggs). Therefore, environmental conditions such as water temperature and the exact position of the moon need to be perfect. This is not as predictable or reliable a mass event as is generally thought – however, in September and October



Image Courtesy of Caren Eckrich

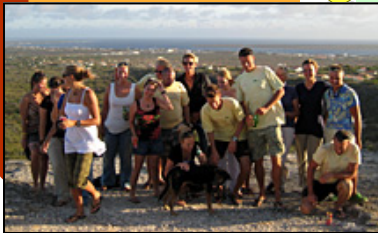
For any dates when coral spawning is predicted, Dive Friends Bonaire is organizing special night dives for their guests to see the phenomenon. This night dive is \$49.00 per person (excluding equipment and air), plus

5% sales tax, with a minimum of four persons. Advance reservations are recommended to avoid disappointment. For more information or to make a reservation please contact info@dive-friends-bonaire.com. Please note that dive lights will be available to rent, in the range of \$10.00 to \$20.00 per light, plus 5% sales tax.



★ End of the Season Party ★

During our busy winter season, we work really, really hard to keep all of our guests happy and smiling. So hard that we even have to call in a little bit of extra help from volunteer dive professionals living on the island. To thank our crew and volunteers for all their efforts during the season we organized a big BBQ on the top of Seru Largu. Slow season is a great time for our crew to get home to visit friends and family, so unfortunately not everybody was able to attend the BBQ. However we also want to thank them for all their efforts and we had a beer for them! A special thanks for our volunteers who are doing a great job for us. At the party, Gerrie donated 20 mask and snorkel sets to the local church, which appreciates the equipment for their visitors. In the coming months we will be preparing for the upcoming season. So let's rock!



What's New at Dive Friends Bonaire

- For the upcoming season, Dive Friends Bonaire has purchased brand new 2009/2010 Scuba-Pro equipment to keep our rental gear looking great. This means great bargains for you because we have some second-hand equipment to sell. We have 10 complete sets (BCD/Regulator/Wetsuit) available for only \$350.00. For those who are interested, please visit Dive Friends Bonaire.
- In June, Dive Friends Bonaire upgraded with our SECOND new leased pickup truck. And yes again in a bright, shiny blue! The DFB colors of yellow, blue, and red look wonderful against the blue paint.
- Have you already noticed that our website is now in Dutch too? We have chosen select pages of the website and translated them into Dutch. And guess what? We're now busy with the German translation! For those speaking Spanish and Portuguese please be aware that you guys are on the list, too.
- Dive Friends retail is on its way to being an official Nike dealer and this means that Dive Friends will be the first Nike dealer on Bonaire. Great news to all of the shoppers on the island! Dive Friends retail is also extending her stock of Reef and Speedo. Please stop by to check out our two shops located on Kaya Grandi.
- Last year the tropical system Omar did a bit of damage to our pier in front of Dive Friends @ Yellow Submarine when the storm passed north of us. Luckily for us, it was only cosmetic damage and we were able to repair it in one day. However, now that the season is over and we have time on our hands, we've given the pier a total renovation. It's looking great!
- Meet Dive Friends Bonaire at Facebook. Join us now on facebook and stay in contact with our crew and other divers: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/edit.php?gid=22458636435#/group.php?>

Help us keep Bonaire clean and beautiful at the upcoming Clean Up Dive on the 11th of July!

On July 11th, 2009 we'll host our next clean up dive. Everyone, divers and non-divers alike, are welcome to join us for a good time AND to make a difference. The clean-up starts at 1:00 PM and we will meet at Dive Friends @ Yellow Submarine, located on Kaya Playa Lechi #24. After the work is done, then we party! That's the Dive Friends way!!! At 5:00 PM, the pot-luck dinner will begin. We'll supply some drinks and meat and invite everyone to bring a side dish to contribute. It's always a really good time!

Dive Friends Bonaire, together with NetTech, N.V., organizes and sponsors the Bonaire Underwater Clean Up Dive. On each Clean Up Dive, a different area of Bonaire's coastal reefs or beaches is selected and any trash which has not become part of the reef is collected. We'd love to have your help to keep the Yellow Submarine House Reef healthy.

We invite and welcome any participants who want to combine vacation with doing the right thing for their reefs! Please sign up now and send an email to Angela at info@dive-friends-bonaire.com or call +599-717-2929. For more information regarding our clean up, please visit: http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com/clean_up_dives.html





What else can you do to help the reefs around Bonaire???

Don't worry if you're not on island for the Clean Up Dive. There's still more that you can do to help! Dive Friends Bonaire is proud to be the only Project AWARE CoralWatch Dive Operator on the island of Bonaire. If you're a diver with good buoyancy skills and are looking to do something a little bit different, we would love to have you assist us in monitoring our house reef at Yellow Submarine. It only takes a five minute briefing and you can make your dive count!

Project AWARE CoralWatch involves divers and snorkelers in monitoring coral bleaching. CoralWatch makes monitoring coral reefs



easy. The CoralWatch chart uses a series of colors representing different stages of bleaching and recovery. Just match the color of the coral with the corresponding color on the chart and record the color code along with the type of coral on the data sheet. Data collected from monitoring activities is then entered online and analyzed by scientists to answer questions on coral bleaching and recovery patterns, as well as the severity and duration of bleaching events.



So, You Want to be a Divemaster?

As many of you may know, Dive Friends offers a special internship program for those who want to become a divemaster. It only takes six weeks of hard work (and maybe a little bit of fun!) to be trained as a professional and high quality PADI Divemaster. This June, two of our divemasters-in-training were certified: Marylou and Kevin, congratulations! Both of them did a really great job and we hope they will continue with their dive careers by achieving their PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor qualification.



The fact that so many of our divemasters easily pass their Instructor Examinations is proof that our divemaster training program is top quality. And we're really proud of them! For those interested in becoming a divemaster in six weeks, please check <http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com/pdfs/divemaster.pdf> or contact Angela at info@dive-friends-bonaire.com



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Feel the fear! Do it anyway!

Bon Dia Dive Friends,

Yes, here we are again! As promised, we've started publishing quarterly issues of the Splash. We hope that you're still enjoying staying up-to-date with events on Bonaire! What's your opinion about these quarterly issues—is it better or....? We always welcome your feedback, please drop us a line at info@dive-friends-bonaire.com.

We have a lot of exciting news packed into this issue. If you're lucky enough to be visiting us soon, you can read about our special dive packages for the coral spawning season or even volunteer for our upcoming clean-up dive. Also, we've been making improvements everywhere...our second new car, the renovation of our fleet, AND new rental equipment!

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

We hope to see you soon at Dive Friends Bonaire.

Gerrie Fokke

Manager Dive Friends Bonaire

Join our E-Mailing List

Do you have friends, colleagues, family are somebody else who also wants to stay up-to-date with Dive Friends Bonaire? Then suggest that they subscribe to our mailing list!

Or, if you prefer to unsubscribe for our mailing list please use the link below or let us know by emailing info@dive-friends-bonaire.com.

Those interested may subscribe or unsubscribe at any time by using this link: http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com/subscribe_mailinglist.html



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.



Pictured from left to right: Asko (operational manager) Jurjen (senior instructor) and Gerrie (general manager)