



EASING FEARS WITH
PHILIPS

TRADING SPACES ON
WALL STREET

FORT LAUDERDALE'S
JOHNNY V'S

FUN ON THE
SLOPES



NOVEMBER 2005

Continental

BONAIRE

scuba, wet and dry

Dolphins play in the wake behind boats that shuttle divers and snorkelers to pristine coral reefs. Flying fish often join them, skimming across the sparkling aquamarine sea with their wings spread wide. Calm warm water teeming with colorful fish makes Bonaire, an arid island just north of Venezuela, a scuba diver's mecca.

"Captain Don" Stewart, who established the dive industry on Bonaire, also helped create the Bonaire Marine Park. According to Stewart, when he arrived on the island in 1963, the economy was based solely on charcoal, salt, and goats.



Today Bonaire is a leader in Caribbean marine conservation. Stewart, now 80 years old, with a foot lost to salvaging an underwater wreck, remains enchanted with the sea. "I found eternal life," he says, "the sea is my church."

Like a true minister of the deep, Stewart preaches about reef conservation as the salvation of the island. Catch up with him Monday evenings at the Manager's Rum Punch Party held at Captain Don's Habitat, his eponymous resort. Everyone is welcome to attend the gathering, as well as the colorful slide shows that the hotel hosts Sunday and Thursday evenings. The shows highlight Bonaire's underwater treasures — delicate seahorses, grinning barracudas, small fish poking only their curious eyes out of crevices — and are a treat for divers, snorkelers, and landlubbers alike.

Other resorts also have regularly scheduled slide shows, and nonguests are welcome. Captain Don, however, offers this warning: You might not arrive as diver or a snorkeler — but you will probably leave as one. habitatdiversorts.com/bonaire

— JoAnn Milivojevic