

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Carnival Committee Meetings

On the 16th of March the organizers of Sunjam got together with the Carnival Committee to discuss changing dates in order to leave a week between the 2 events. The dates agreed upon are:

Carnival 22-30 July and Sunjam 5th August.

The Carnival Committee met again on the 20th of March to decide how merchants and businesses will be charged over the Carnival week. Bars, restaurants, hotels and stores will pay a set price according to their size. The businesses on the main road will pay more than those out of town. The dive shops have always willingly donated money and will do so again this year through UDSEC (the dive organization).

All funds raised this year will go towards building bathrooms at Chepes beach. For information about the rental of spaces for this year's Carnival please see Michelle. Her office is located above the Utila fire station.

## Strike in Ceiba



On Wednesday 15th of March all bridges out of La Ceiba heading towards the airport and dock were blocked by taxi and bus drivers protesting the introduction of mini buses in the city. One taxi driver told us "There are too many permits as it is, with more there will be less work and prices would have to go up in order for us to make a living".

By 2pm that afternoon the bridge to the airport had been re-opened and the last flight to Utila was FULL.

## Parrots Dive Center re-opens

After closing its doors about two years ago, Parrots Dive Center re-opened this month. The dive center offers PADI courses, fundiving, whaleshark safaris and snorkelling. It is located on the main street next to JC internet.

## Westjet offers flights from Canada



Canadian airlines Westjet are running weekly charter flights from Toronto to Roatan and Montreal to La Ceiba. These flights will continue while the demand is there. So all Canadians living on the Bay Islands tell your family "it's time to visit"!

## Off to La Ceiba

Earlier this month an American tourist almost fainted before entering the water to dive. He was suffering from Hypovolemia (lowered blood pressure due to dehydration and lack of acclimatization). He was treated at the Clinic with IV fluids and oral rehydration but before leaving nearly fainted again. In cases like this overnight observation is necessary so Dr. John flew with him to Ceiba where he was treated by Dr. Mardiaga at the D'Antoni and kept in overnight for observation. He returned to Utila the following morning. Three days later a Canadian tourist suffered the same problems but recovered quickly after IV and oral treatment.

(see page 15 for tips on preventing dehydration)



## EFR training for teachers



Seven teachers, 4 from the public school and kindergarten and 3 from UMCC spent 2 days in February doing an Emergency First Response course with instructors from UDC. Neil Ross and Yamil Ortiz de Ora Ortiz donated 2 days of their time to train the teachers in many types of medical emergencies. The teachers all passed the course and are now waiting for their certification cards to arrive.

Utila Dive Centre provided the teaching staff and learning tools, The Mango Inn donated the use of their conference room and Ace International covered the certification costs. It's great to have so many teachers medically trained and a further weekend of training is planned for the teachers of the Adventist school.

Thank you to the teachers for attending and to Andy, Neil and Yamil for their time and willingness in organizing the course.

## St. Patricks Day celebrations



There was a party at the Barracuda to celebrate St. Patricks Day on the 17th of March. The place was packed and wild with body painting and free green shots for people clad in green! Irish music was played all night and there were a few VERY sore heads the next morning!

The Champa celebrated St. Patricks Day with an awesome jam session organize by Shawn. St. Patricks Party Champa style was a night of live music with an enjoy-

able jam session organized by Shawn. Dan, Mike and Rob made up the rest of the band and were joined by Reiner and Urs who altogether played to loud applause and cheers from the crowd. The band breaks were filled with Shane MCGowan, The Fury's and as the night wore on a few Dubliners tunes had the last men standing singing along!

## Gun shots in residential areas

Many people living out of town have heard gunshots from hunters near their properties. Some of them were lucky not to get shot. Shooting in residential areas and close to houses is not allowed and carries a 500lbs fine per shot.

## Utila East Wind in demand

We would like to apologise to our readers and advertiser on Roatan. Last month's newspaper was SO popular on Utila and in La Ceiba that there were no copies left for Roatan! Don't forget you can read the Utila East Wind on-line at

www.aboututila.com The paper will soon be available on-line on

www.utilaeastwind.com See next months newspaper for the launching date!

## Father's Day celebrations



The students of Utila Adventist School put on a great show at the Adventist church on Thursday 16th March to celebrate Fathers Day. Every grade entertained the crowd with songs, poems and short plays. Two Fathers were picked out and brought on stage to be tested as to their parenting skills. The church was filled with laughter as they changed diapers on a dolly and then were blindfolded and asked to pick their child out of a group by touching the children's hands. They both succeeded. All the Fathers were then brought on stage and awarded with "Best Father" awards. The 5th grade your song was great. The tiny students of Wisdom Paradise school celebrated Fathers Day on Friday 17th with a party held in the schoolyard. The children had made cards with photographs of themselves with Dad and they proudly sang the songs they had learnt. There was a piñata filled with candy and then chocolate cake for everyone. Nice to see the Dads sitting around chatting and getting THEIR clothes smeared with chocolate!!

## Bush's supermarket

It is the beginning of a new era of convenience for Utila. Bush's Supermarket, owned and operated by Denny and Sherry Bush is expanding their operations to meet the increase in demand created by the great influx in tourism on the island. An additional 3000 square foot of shopping floor has been added with modern check out stations. There will be a great increase in the quantities and varieties of goods including fresh meats, vegetables and frozen goods. Bush's Supermarket is due to open expanded operations on April 3rd.

### MERMAIDS

Restaurant and Buffet

<b>Offers you</b>	<b>Open:</b>
lots of choices	Sunday to Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Seafood	Friday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Chicken	Saturday 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Meats	For free delivery Call: 425-3299 / 3395
Veggie dishes	<b>We also offer Internet and phone calls</b>
Salads	Fax, Photocopies, Prints (Color and Black camera download, Photos and more)
Chinese Food (by order)	<b>Open</b>
Pizza (by order)	Sunday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Cakes	Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Natural Juices	Saturday 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Fresh Fruit Shakes	

## Advertising space available

**If you would like to advertise or find out more about prices and advert design call: 355-4463**

**Email: utilaeastwind@gmail.com**

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*utila East Wind*

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE UTILA EAST WIND TEAM Aurel, Blue Willow, Chris, Chris G, Degr, Gilda, Jacqueline, Jules, Jess, Louis, Matt, Naomi, Mark Smith, Steve**

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO DAN AND JULES. WITHOUT THEM THIS ISSUE WOULD NOT BE ON THE ISLAND IN TIME!**

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**To make the news**

If you think its news call us on 355 4463.

**To place your ad**

For adverts and advice on free classifieds call 355 4463.

**To air your views**

Letters on any subject are welcomed for publication. Priority will be given to letters dealing with local issues. The editors reserve the right to amend or shorten letters at their discretion.

**To get your paper**

Pick up a free copy from bars, restaurants and public places across the island and the ferry and tourist destinations on the mainland. If you ran out of copies you can pick some up at the Utila East Wind Office (ACE Real Estate Office) in Broussard Plaza or give us a call 355-4463

*utila East Wind*  
is available to view on-line at

**AboutUtila.com**