



cial order hamburgers. Jessica McCloskey, head administrator of GSTA, told me that the Habitat staff, from the office to the restaurant to the dive staff, bent over backwards to make the experience great. "And we are a big, messy group, but they have been amazing!" she said.

The group had its own buffet for each meal, with all dietary issues cheerfully accommodated by Floris.

Logan, a senior team leader, lost his Army dad when he was 5. He is now 23, a rising senior at Utah State. He told me that he began with GSTA's scuba program when he was 15, and it challenged him. "I was not a strong swimmer at first," he said, but he persevered, and today he is a NAUI Divemaster. When I asked him what he got from the program, though, it was not about scuba (which he loves) but inspiration. "GSTA exposed me to good leadership, particularly Kent Solheim. I learned to stick to my values, work through challenges, and be responsible to myself and to others." Now, he is paying it forward as he sees the younger group members grow and change.

And it's not just diving. Talent show, dance party, karaoke—these teens are always active. This includes daily 6 a.m. workouts that, according to their Instagram page, include 400 push-ups, 400 squats, and pushing a truck around the parking lot! I'm tired just thinking about it. During their last night on the island, the GSTA leaders convened an awards ceremony to recognize everyone's achievements, while Habitat dive manager Roger Haug DJ'd. Tributes offered included tongue in cheek awards for "most likely to set underwater speed records" and "most likely to push the red button." After awards, the teens danced around the pool to Roger's music.

Both Logan and Evan almost laughed when I asked if the discipline of GSTA programs made university life more manageable. "After GSTA, where you are responsible for other people in addition to yourself, college is easy!" Logan said.

It has been a privilege to be GSTA-adjacent this week. You can learn more about them at [www.gstadventures.org](http://www.gstadventures.org).

## Pet of the Week

Please meet our cat of the week, Bambi. Bambi is a female cat, calico or tri-color and is just lovely. She came to us about six weeks ago with three kittens, who are also ready for adoption. Bambi has been helping us socialize some of our other new kittens that came to the Shelter without mothers. Bambi is sweet and so patient with the little ones.

Bambi has done well with our other cats and seems to develop a nice relationship quickly. I believe she would do well in a home with other cats and children. She enjoys being held, cuddled and curling up on your lap. Once she is familiar with her new home and surroundings, she will do fine as an indoor or outdoor cat.

Come and meet Bambi and take her to her forever home!

Bambi is sterilized and has tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV.

Photo/story: Amy Bowen



# Bambi

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Or call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

## Animal Shelter News

### Save the Date: Charity Dinner and Auction for Animal Shelter Bonaire

Animal Shelter Bonaire is proud to announce an exclusive Charity Dinner and Auction on August 16 to raise funds for the welfare of animals on the island.

Guests are invited to join us for an enchanting evening of fine dining and philanthropy at the stunning Red Palm Village Bonaire. Ticket holders can enjoy a delectable four-course dinner paired with exquisite wines. The ticket price is \$175. A highlight of the evening will be our exciting auction featuring fantastic items.

This is a unique opportunity for guests to acquire special items while support-

ing a worthy cause. All proceeds from this event will go directly to Animal Shelter Bonaire providing care and shelter for animals in need.

We invite the community and all animal lovers to mark their calendars for this unforgettable evening. Further details will be provided soon on the website, The Bonaire Reporter and socials of Animal Shelter Bonaire.

You can register for this event through Animal Shelter Bonaire. Contact Marissa Lamers at [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) or call +599 7901622.

Marissa Lamers



## STCB fishing line clean up

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) fishing line cleanup was held in the waters surrounding the North pier on July 7. Twenty divers made their way underwater armed with shears and mesh bags to remove fishing line that can be detrimental to turtles and other marine life. In a special moment, the cleanup crew saw a turtle cruising the depths.

Photo Julie Morgan