

## *Spring Madness at Grand Baymen Belize*

### **Brits... Banks... Buildings... And More!**

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the first Grand Baymen Belize Newsletter. We're sending you a copy because you've requested information in the past about Belize, Grand Baymen Belize, or ECI.

Our goal is to tell you about the interesting, fun and up-to-date happenings taking place in San Pedro, at Grand Baymen Belize, and on our Isla Bonita - Ambergris Caye. You'll find information about events, business updates, Baymen Garden construction progress, and other on-site improvements.

We hope you'll find these newsletters informative and fun. Please don't hesitate to send me your questions, ideas and comments. And, if you don't find the newsletter interesting or helpful, you can unsubscribe at any time, at the bottom of the e-mail.

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## From Bonny London to Sunny San Pedro

It's a great pleasure to announce that Jinnie Kane and Marc Registe have joined the Grand Baymen Belize team. They are the new business owners/managers of the San Pedro Fitness Club.

Jinnie and Marc came to San Pedro direct from London. This dynamic high-energy husband and wife team traded in their sophisticated London lifestyle to take over the San Pedro Fitness Club. When you visit, you'll get a chance to meet them at the Club.



Since they arrived, Jinnie and Marc have been busy painting and spiffing things up. You'll find them adding their personal touch to every element of the business. Their enthusiasm for Belize and the Club is contagious.

While in London, Jinnie led a high-stress lifestyle as an event planner. A few years ago, fate intervened in her career path. She sat in the booth next to ECI's President, Mike Cobb, at the London Money Show. This chance meeting led to an eventual lifestyle change for Jinnie and her husband, Marc.

Although Marc grew up in London, his father is from Dominica. For many years Marc's family roots have been pulling him towards the Caribbean. Whenever possible, he and Jinnie have vacationed in Caribbean countries such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

Marc has managed several businesses but his specialty was operating London pubs. It doesn't take long to figure out he's a hands on guy. Fortunately, this is a critical skill in Belize. Not surprisingly, he's worked in construction, with experience in painting, roofing and maintenance.

It's serendipitous that Jinnie and Marc came to Belize in November to enjoy their honeymoon in San Pedro. They knew that ECI/Grand Baymen Belize was seeking potential business partners to add to the team. On a fluke, they decided to check out what business opportunities were available.

Once this dynamic duo visited the San Pedro Fitness Club, they knew they'd found their next adventure and home. They had a few long discussions. They headed back to London, packed their belongings and quickly returned. The deal had been sealed. They were ready to begin their new adventure.

When you visit San Pedro, be sure to drop in to meet Jinnie and Marc. You'll enjoy their enthusiasm, energy and authentic London accents. They'll be happy to show you the new and improved Club.

If you've never visited the Club property, you won't forget the spectacular three-tiered pool, for sunning or swimming. When you stay at Exotic Caye Beach Resort, on the Grand Baymen Belize property, there's no extra charge to enjoy the pools, tennis courts and fully equipped, air conditioned fitness facility.

## **Baymen Garden Construction to Begin on June 23, 2010**

It's now official. Construction is slated to begin on June 23, 2010. Baymen Garden is the garden condominium community Grand Baymen Belize, LTD, is developing on site. Construction will start with Building A, a building with 12 condominiums. It's located right next to the lovely Club pool.



The Board of Directors met on March 23. With over 2/3 of the units sold, all Directors agreed that it's time to start construction.

For anyone seeking an outstanding pre-construction opportunity deal on Ambergris Caye, there are still a few discounted one and two bedroom condominium units available in Building A. Contact Ann Brunette at [annb@grandbaymen.com](mailto:annb@grandbaymen.com) for info.

Demolition of the poolside grill will allow the room needed for Building A. This phase of work will be completed by June.

We're now tweaking the Building A unit designs. The final construction contract will be awarded in early June. Then construction will start in earnest...

Note that construction will start right after the Lobster Fest.

Why take on such an aggressive construction schedule? Because the Baymen Garden owners are anxious to spend time in their new homes by the pool, gymnasium and tennis courts. The goal is to have their units ready to move in by early 2011.

## Experts Gather for San Pedro Financial Conferences

Visitors to Belize are often surprised to learn that Belizean banks are rock solid. Belize's banking statistics are hard to beat. With a required liquidity ratio of 24%, many financial specialists recommend banking in Belize to their clients. Bank failures are unheard of here.

Financial gurus and savvy investors jumped at the chance to attend a conference in San Pedro. In March, Grand Baymen Belize assisted to host two financial conferences. They included the:

- Belize Financial Advantage Conference - Sponsored by Caye International Bank.
- President's Week Financial Conference – Sponsored by Hemispheres Newsletter.



The Grand Baymen Belize family of businesses supported both conferences. Many attendees stayed at Exotic Caye Beach Resort, across the street from the Caye Bank building. Meals were provided by Sarah's Café and Blue Iguana restaurant. Other meals were held at offsite venues, such as Blue Water Grill and Hidden Treasures restaurants.

Both conferences were well received. Of course, it was a mix of business and pleasure. The morning consisted of a series of relevant lectures. In the afternoons, attendees enjoyed snorkeling, diving, or fishing. Some chose to stroll around town. Others preferred to just hang out in a beach chair, take in some sun, or enjoy a good book.



Both conferences were small by traditional financial conference standards. Neither exceeded 70 attendees. Despite the size, the caliber of speakers was exceptional, to say the least. And there are several perfect spaces in the bank building to hold such a conference.

## Rubbing Elbows with the Experts...

Attendees commented on the benefits of meeting nationally recognized financial experts in the relaxed setting of Ambergris Caye. It was a perfect venue to mix high finance with laid back social interaction.



Mike Cobb

Kathleen Peddicord

Speakers and topics included:

- **Peter Zipper** *President, Caye International Bank, Ltd.* - Mr. Zipper is a well-recognized speaker and expert on Belize banking. He's ever enthusiastic about Belize. He explained why he considers it the best banking and offshore center in the world.
- **Porter Stansberry** – *Publisher of Porter Stansberry's Investment Advisory* - Porter is one of the most successful financial newsletter publishers of our day. He spoke about understanding the impact of Greenspan-Guidotti and the imminent crash of the US dollar.
- **Steve Sjuggerud, PhD** – *Publisher/Editor of True Wealth Financial Newsletter* - Dr. Sjuggerud's goal is to alert his readers to “buy something of extraordinary value at a time when nobody else

wants it.” His practical presentation explained how to earn a safe 18% return in a 0% environment.

- **Kathleen Peddicord** *Publisher of Live and Invest Overseas* – Ms. Peddicord recently published a book, “Retiring Overseas”, now available through Amazon.com. She is a recognized expert in her field. She compared desirable locations to retire overseas. Her daily newsletter, Overseas Opportunity Letter, is a must read for anyone considering investing or living overseas.
- **Hank Brock** *CEO of Mutual Benefits International Group, Ltd. & Financial Planner* – Mr. Brock has written and published several books, and built many companies. His presentation focused on how to profit from the huge future in offshore financial services.
- **Joel Nagel** *Nagel & Associates, LLC – International lawyer* – Mr. Nagel is a recognized expert in asset protection. He presented an overview of comprehensive asset protection for a dangerous world.
- **Mike Cobb** *CEO, ECI Development, Ltd.* – Mr. Cobb reviewed the demographic trends related to Baby Boomers moving south of the border. He offered suggestions for high yield investing related to this market, including how to invest in ECI.

Caye Bank building is located directly across the street from the Grand Baymen Belize property. And the Exotic Caye Beach Resort, (one of the Grand Baymen businesses), is in the perfect location to support conferences held at the bank building.

The Caye International Bank is planning to hold regular financial conferences in the future. The Bank building provides a perfect space for specialized financial or business conferences. Attendees have the option of staying at Exotic Caye Beach Resort. Or, they can stay at other nearby resorts, which are within walking distance.

Grand Baymen Belize will be hosting many more conferences in the future.

## Chill Out While You Check Out the San Pedro Lifestyle!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to invest in, or live on, a tropical Caribbean island? If so, start packing your bags! Grand Baymen Belize developed a specialized weekend program to meet your needs. It's called the “Chill Weekend”.



San Pedro Town Beach

Attending a discounted Chill Weekend is the perfect way to get a snapshot of a unique, laid-back lifestyle. This program is designed to give attendees a “taste” of the Caribbean island lifestyle of San Pedro.

Grand Baymen Belize offers Chill Weekends on a regular basis. The first two of 2010 took place on January 8-10 and on February 5-7, 2010. The next Chill Weekend, on April 23-25, is now full. But the May and June weekends are still open to attendees.

Sign up for a Chill Weekend by [clicking here](#) or directly requesting info from [larry@internationallifestylesrealty.com](mailto:larry@internationallifestylesrealty.com)

A Chill Weekend will only set you back \$299/first person and \$100/second person. This discounted price includes:

- Two nights at Exotic Caye Beach Resort
- Five meals - from Friday night until Sunday morning
- A tour of San Pedro and environs
- A variety of lectures about living, banking, retiring in Belize

There is no pressure when you come to a Chill Weekend. Forget the timeshare horror stories. If you're not sure if it's worth it, check out the testimonials on our website ([www.grandbaymen.com](http://www.grandbaymen.com)). Our goal is for all Chill Weekend attendees to enjoy themselves and to get the feel for living in San Pedro. You'll have plenty of chances to ask any questions on your mind.

Of course, many attendees fall in love with San Pedro and Ambergris Caye. They often decide to invest or live here. But, there's no pressure to do so.

## **Come For the Pedro Lobster Fest – June 14-20th, 2010**

For anyone considering visiting Ambergris Caye, a perfect time to visit is during the San Pedro Lobster Fest. Lobster season opens on June 15th. By then, everyone is craving a crustacean feast. Festivities start on Monday, June 14th and run the entire week.



Activities culminate in the main event, on Saturday, June 20th. For a modest price, you can sample a variety of scrumptious lobster dishes and tropical drinks. Think lobster all the way – in ceviche, a rich curry sauce, BBQ'd, covered in shredded coconut and grilled, steamed with citrus butter, or in a rich tomato based lobster stew. They even have lobster tacos...

Let's not forget the exotic tropical concoctions, with or without spirits. You'll have a hard time selecting one to accompany the main course. The lobster mojito was a big hit last year. And, there will be plenty of sweet endings to choose from. Belize is becoming known for their gourmet chocolate, after all.

Whenever there is a festival in San Pedro, you're sure to find live music. Last year the Minnesota Fat Cats traveled to Belize to play at Lobster Fest venues. After gorging on lobster delicacies, you'll have a chance to boogie off the calories...

The Grand Baymen Belize June Chill Weekend has been scheduled for the Lobster Fest weekend. Indeed, it will be a Chill Weekend to remember.

This year the San Pedro Lobster Fest made it into a new international guidebook. Pick up a copy of Frommer's guidebook, "300 Unmissable Events and Festivals Around the World". Check out page 78. Or, go directly to the website for the San Pedro Lobster Fest, at [www.sanpedrolobsterfest.com](http://www.sanpedrolobsterfest.com) That way, you can get the updates.

## **San Pedro Celebrates Earth Day with the Reef/Lagoon Eco-Challenge**

This year people around the world will celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd. Here on Ambergris Caye, both locals and expats celebrate Earth Day with a variety of events and competitions.

The San Pedro Eco-Challenge is a popular yearly event. This reef/lagoon kayak challenge takes place over a two day period. This year it's scheduled for April 24-25. It is not for the faint of heart. Participants kayak against the strong northeasterly winds blowing off the Caribbean Sea.



On the first day participants will kayak north on the west side of Ambergris Caye. They traverse through a variety of interconnected lagoons on the back of the island.

After camping out the first night, the survivors paddle south on the east side of the island. On Sunday, San Pedranos line the easterly beach, cheering on the competitors as they glide by.

On Sunday the entire town awaits the weary contestants at the Town Square. There are many prizes and much back slapping, as each team drags their kayak into the Town Square.

This fantastic event promotes awareness of San Pedro's ecosystems. It also encourages physical endurance, sportsmanship and community involvement. It's sponsored by the Ambergris Caye Citizens for Sustainable Development, Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Seaduced by Belize.