

Everything in the Woods Wants to Eat a Quail (Including Me)

By Jimmy Buffett

This article appeared in Esquire's Sportsman's Issue, Fall 1992. Excerpts are reprinted with permission.

Hunting was not a tradition in my family. I grew up on the northern edge of the Gulf of Mexico, fishing, crabbing, and sailing. The only hunting I did as a kid was taking a potshot at a squirrel once in a while with my neighbor's Daisy BB gun. My only contact with the woods was the occasional weekend outing with my Boy Scout troop, crowded into a pup tent with a dozen other khaki-clad kids. I always missed the ocean.

With adolescence I joined a band to meet girls and wound up living out of a suitcase for nearly two decades. The only woodlands I saw in those years were from forty thousand feet. If I got a break, I usually went back to the flats of Key West to fish. Then something changed. I was looking to catch my breath, and after some sage-hen and grouse shoots out in Montana with my sister and brother-in-law, and a few dove hunts with friends back in Alabama, the woods suddenly began to look very interesting. I took a hunting trip to France on an invitation from my friend Guy de la Valdene, who hunts as if he'd been born with a small-bore shotgun in his hands (which he was, more or less). Guy was raised in the world of sport shooting and fishing, and on that trip to Normandy he introduced me to bird shooting and working dogs - and, especially, game dinners - inspiring a passion I have been feeding ever since.

When we came home, Guy and I leased some land in central Florida near Gainesville. The shooting was not the best, but we would bag enough birds for

dinner and take them back to camp on the Suwannee River, stuff them with fresh-shucked Cedar Key oysters, and roast them over an open fire.

How I got from there to Springhill had a lot to do with my first excuse for a hunting dog, a golden retriever named Cheeseburger. He was a gift from Buddy Owens, former insurance salesman and private detective, and present-day owner of B.O.'s, a fish wagon on the corner of Duval and Fleming in Key West. I am a sucker for any dog that looks me in the eye, and when the face of that puppy popped over the tailgate of Buddy's truck as I munched on a grouper sandwich, I couldn't resist. But when I took Cheeseburger to Tallahassee for his first hunt, at the end of the day Guy said simply, "The dog needs some work."

That was five years ago, and now I am as at home in the woods of south Georgia as I am on the beaches of Florida or the Caribbean. Cheeseburger is retired from hunting now - he was hit by a car in front of my house in Key West. He had to have his legs pieced back together, but he's still happy, the fattest of a pack of hounds that also includes a German shorthair, a Chesapeake, a springer spaniel, and whatever puppies are based temporarily at the caretaker's house.

Everything in the Woods Wants to Eat a Quail (Including Me) can be found in *Esquire Sportsman*, Autumn 1992.

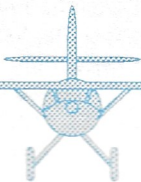
This issue also includes articles by Jim Harrison and Don Henley. Newstand price is \$3.95, and is available through the Coconut Telegraph.

Photo: Ray Stanyard





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Dear Jimmy,

I saw your picture in July AOPA Magazine - the first one I've seen in almost a year and a half (I'm in Benin). I'm sure you receive all sorts of strange letters, so you can count my letter among them.

I was impressed that you had opted for a seaplane instead of some kind of jet, and I was struck by your desire to look for interesting places when flying - Well Done!

I'm writing to say hi, and I would like to meet you some day. Unfortunately it probably won't be for about 3 more years. I'm in Africa now with 4 more continents to go. When I finally come back to the states, it will be via the West Indies and Florida. If you would like to check me out, I'm AOPA 755861, and most of the AOPA Trustees know me. I really would like to talk seaplanes and flying with you someday. Fly safe.

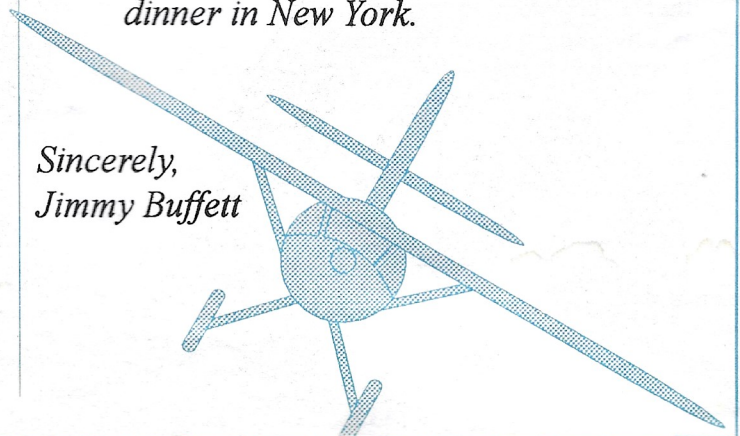
Tom

Dear Tom,

Thanks for the letter and the sticker. It is going right on the interior of the **Grumman Widgeon** that I just bought. I wish you the best of luck on your adventure and I must say that I am jealous, but I now have an exploring airplane too and Patagonia next spring has a certain ring to it.

I am enclosing a copy of my book and a box set of songs that might help you pass the time on your trip; providing you are not already over-gross. But of course we all know bush pilots never over-gross their aircraft. Good luck and stay in touch. When you return, I'll buy you dinner in New York.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Buffett



BUSH PILOT EXPEDITION

The Bush Pilot Expedition is a global voyage of discovery. It is a journey to the remote regions of the world to examine and analyze the role of the bush pilot.

Bush pilots operate across the deserts, jungles, mountains and ice caps of our world. They are in contact with native cultures and the wilderness. They are doctors, missionaries, conservationists, scientists and businessmen. Many have spent their lives in a particular area and can provide a unique perspective on these changing frontiers.

Charles Lindbergh was one of the first men to see the extent of accelerating change in the world from above. As a conservationist, he saw the need for a balance between technology and what he called, "the wisdom of wilderness".

Accelerating change is the key factor in the world today. Nowhere is this more evident than in the developing world. Rain forests are being cut down; endangered animals are being slaughtered; developers and missionaries are working to change traditional cultures.

The author will use the eyes, ears and anecdotes of bush pilots to increase our knowledge and understanding of the changes taking place. Insights from the author's journey will be published in a book, and are intended to be the basis for television, radio, lectures and other distribution.

The author is using a small single-engine plane to fly solo around the world, to live and work with bush pilots on seven continents. These pilots are a worldwide fraternity and a means to gain access to and an understanding of remote areas and people. The author hopes to collect and disseminate the following:

- 1) Details of the journey.
- 2) The experiences, knowledge and perspectives of bush pilots.
- 3) The values of indigenous people and cultures being affected.
- 4) A global impression of what these people have to say and how we might learn more about the importance of balance between development and our natural world.

The author is using a single-engine Cessna 180 (named "Timmissartok" after Lindbergh's plane in Greenland). It is the classic bush plane (low maintenance, minimum cost, rugged construction) and has been fitted with an HF radio, GPS, and auxiliary fuel tank for long distance flights.

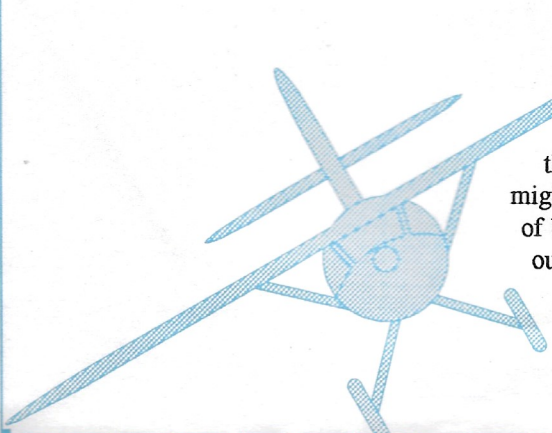
The project began on December 2nd, 1990 with the author's departure from Wings Field, Philadelphia, USA. He hopes to complete the voyage and return there by 1995. The projected itinerary covers: USA - Canada - Greenland - Iceland - Faroe Islands - Europe - Africa - Saudi Arabia - India - Nepal - Thailand - Indonesia - Australia - New Zealand - New Guinea - Philippines - Japan - Russia - Alaska - South America - Antarctica - USA.

Media coverage during and after the journey will be extensive. The author has contracted with Alfred A. Knopf (Random House) in New York to write a book, to be illustrated by Larry Norton from Zimbabwe, one of Africa's leading wildlife artists. National Geographic has expressed interest in a documentary film on bush pilots. The author has been interviewed by CBC (Canada), NPR (USA), BBC World Service, "Outlook" & "Midweek" (UK), PAU (France), and RDI (Ivory Coast). NPR hopes to follow the progress of the project. The author has appeared in a BBC film on Iceland and on several local stations in USA, Greenland, France and Africa. The author expects to make extensive lecture tours on conservation and the project to various clubs, schools and universities. This flight will be the first single-engine flight around the world to land on all seven continents and should establish records for the N.A.A. (USA), F.A.I. (France), and Guinness (UK).

The Explorers Club in New York has given the expedition its highest level of sponsorship and has presented the author with flag #101 to be carried on the journey.

Tax-deductible contributions to the project are essential. They can be made to The Explorers Club (reference: bush pilot expedition) 46 E. 70th St, New York, NY 10021, USA. All contributions are highly appreciated and will be acknowledged in the author's book.

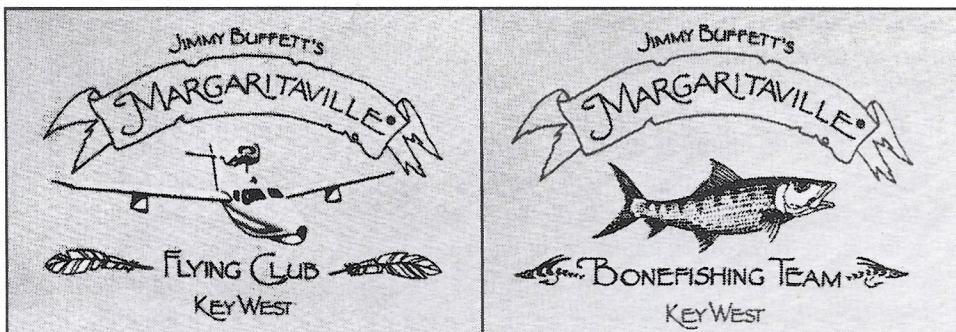
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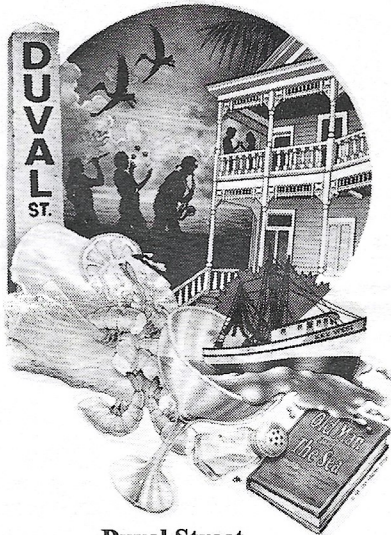
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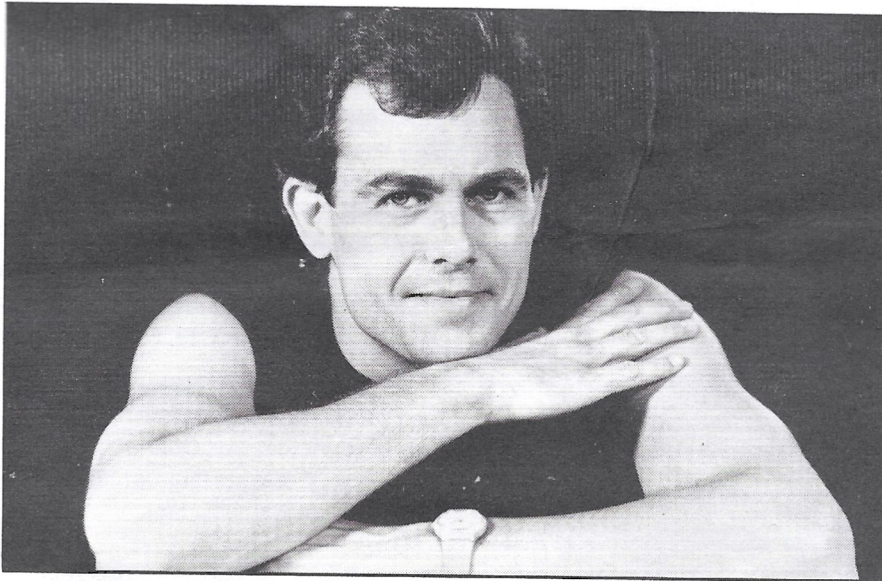
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Greg "Fingers" Taylor



REEFER ROUNDUP

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Greg "Fingers" Taylor and the PM Band both plan new releases for 1993.

Taylor's latest effort "New Fingerprints" was recorded in October '91 for the Italian label Appaloosa. It has been picked up for U.S. and worldwide distribution by Ichiban Records.

The sessions were completed in only four days in Nashville at Buzz Cason's studio, The Creative Workshop. Oddly enough, this is the same studio where Jimmy Buffett recorded his first demo in 1970. Featuring Coral Reefer alumni Tim Krekel on guitar and Jay Spell on piano, along with some top-flight Nashville and Texas musicians, Taylor describes his new release as "hot rock 'n roll, gutsy R&B, and even a country tune." Fingers vocals and trademark harmonica are featured throughout.

"We cut 12 songs in two days, so there's a lot of spontaneity and hot energy captured on these sessions," adds Taylor, "there's also much more harmonica on this album than on the last one."

Highlights include new songs by John Hiatt, Marshall Chapman, and Taylor's self-penned harmonica instrumental "Pork Juice."

Fingers is also planning his first European tour in February and March of this year. Future plans include the re-release of his first two solo recordings Harpoon Man and Chest Pains on Margaritaville Records.

Jim Mayer, Peter Mayer, and Roger Guth, collectively known as the PM Band, (as well as the core of the Coral Reefer Band), have also completed a new project entitled "Red Wine & Lemonade." Produced mainly by bassist/vocalist Jim Mayer, it was recorded over a twelve-month period in Nashville and their hometown St. Louis. Nashville engineer Tom Harding oversaw the mixing of four songs.

Producer Mayer describes the ten new songs as "a bit of a new direction for the band. We've been playing a lot of clubs this year when we weren't on the road with Jimmy, and these sessions rock with a 'live' attitude that wasn't evident on our first record."

Released on the newly formed independent label Shadows, Red Wine & Lemonade should be available through many record stores and, of course, the Coconut Telegraph.

Also look for new releases by The Iguanas and Evangeline on Margaritaville Records in 1993. Stay tuned to the Coconut Telegraph for updates and details.

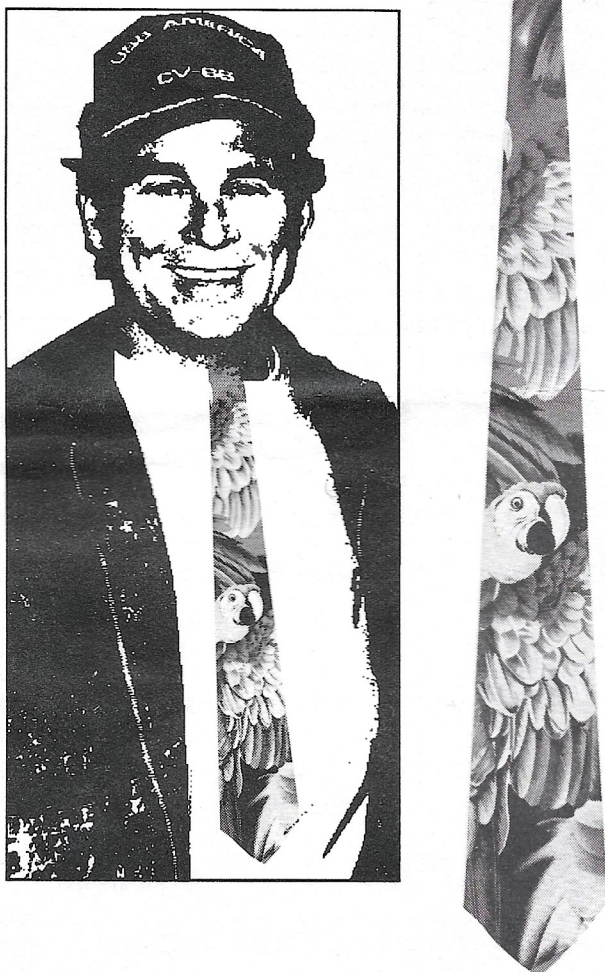


PM Band

Jim Mayer, Roger Guth, Peter Mayer.

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GREAT CONCERT SEATS!

Enclosed is a photo of, I think you will agree, the world's largest Parrot Head.

This photo was taken during the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta that was held October 3-11, 1992. The Parrot balloon is just one of the special shape hot air balloons from the private collection of the late Malcolm Forbes. The thing is enormous; the tail alone measuring nearly ninety



feet from the tip of the tail to the balloon gondola. There's a mechanism on board to roll the tail up for landing so it isn't dragged along the ground during terminal descent.

Thought you might like to see it. Take care and keep up the good work.

Daniel Franks
Albuquerque

Dear Jimmy Buffett

I have thrown 10 or 12 bottles in the Gulf of Mexico at Ft Morgan, AL. Seven of them have been returned. Some of them have been found at Petit Bois Island, Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Goose Bayou, AL.

I threw out a bottle on Feb. 2, 1991 at Ft Morgan. It was found on March 23rd at Boca Raton, FL!! It was found by Ryan McCarthy who was 11, that's 3 years older than me. The bottle went 1000 miles, was in the water for 49 days, and probably went by your house in Key West.

From Moni Reynolds

P.S. I got my name from Martinique.

FOLLOWING THE "OLD ARTICULATOR"

MARK TWAIN INDUCTED INTO HALLOF FAME

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, known around the world as Mark Twain, got his proper due as a newspaperman and was inducted into the Missouri Press Association's Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Henry Sweets, curator of the Mark Twain Museum in Hannibal, accepted the award on behalf of the 19th century humorist, novelist, lecturer and man of letters. Sweets noted that Clemens always was content to be a reporter, writer in 1870, "I am not an editor of a newspaper, and shall always try to do right and be good, so that God will not make me one."

Thanks Dawna!

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