

Volume 17 No.3

# COCONUT TELEGRAPH

[www.margaritaville.com](http://www.margaritaville.com)

Photo: Al Sayegh



# The Pirate & The Lieutenant

## Jimmy meets Lt. Shane Osborne by Chris Dixon

*On April 1, 2001, Navy Lieutenant. Shane Osborne and a crew of 24 were conducting a relatively routine reconnaissance mission in international waters off the coast of China aboard a P3 spy plane. Throughout the flight, the Navy plane had been badgered by a Chinese fighter pilot who kept putting his agile plane within a few feet of the lumbering P3. The third pass the Chinese pilot made however, was too close.*

*The fighter hit the wing of Osborne's plane, releasing a plume of debris that caused damage to the P3's wing and far left engine and knocking the nose section clean off.*

*As Osborne watched the Chinese plane careen out of control, the nose of his own plane took a sickening dive. He had time to think, "That guy just killed us." Twelve days and a great deal of fanfare later, Lt. Osborne and his crew safely set foot again on American soil. Their foreign odyssey was over, but their American one was just beginning.*

*On Thursday, May 24th, Lt. Osborne climbed on stage with Jimmy during his encore at the Coors Amphitheatre in San Diego. Osborne's story is well known, but what isn't well known is the fact that the 26 year-old pilot is a bona-fide Parrot Head. During his solitary confinement, Shane maintained his sanity by keeping Jimmy's live version of Southern Cross playing on repeat in his head. Upon returning to the U.S., Osborne's life has been a whirlwind of medals, CNN appearances, magazine and newspaper articles and hobnobbing with the rich, famous and presidential. However, due to his overriding Parrot Headness, Shane graciously gave nearly a half hour of time to talk about his experiences in life, on-stage and behind enemy lines.*

### **Chris Dixon: Shane, how did you end up at the San Diego show?**

Shane Osborne: Well, Admiral Mike Bowman, who is the former head rear admiral in the Navy, and a friend of Jimmy's, overheard me talking to a few friends of mine about the show. He told me that he might be able to sort us out with tickets, which he did. But somehow in the translation, they put down Dave Osborne. I went up to will call and the people doing their jobs wouldn't let me in. I said, Dave Osborne is that guy who jumps motorcycles! I'm Lt. Shane Osborne. I was supposed to go backstage beforehand, but the concert was already started by the time I got inside. I had a bunch of buddies, other Navy pilots with me, so we got a bunch of Margaritas and headed up on the lawn. Then we ran back to the VIP area during the break. At that point, Jimmy's assistant came over and grabbed my girlfriend Roxanne and I and took us backstage. Then he asked if we wanted to watch the show from the side. So there we were just standing right on the side watching Jimmy play. I called my good buddy John Cummerford – he was the head guy in the back of the spy plane – and we're both huge Parrot Heads. John was in DC at a wedding, so he got to hear Southern Cross live over the cell phone.

### **I heard that song in particular has some significance for you.**

While we were in China, I was isolated for about 8 days, and I had told John that the whole time, Southern Cross was stuck in my head off Jimmy's new live album. I don't even know all the words, but I just kept singing it over and over in my room. The lines, "I have been around the world," and "think about how many times I have fallen." Both spoke to me. That concert was my big grand finale. To hear that song right there live on stage was just awesome.



**Describe your meeting with Jimmy.**

That was Jimmy's last set, and before his encore, he came backstage, and I said, "Rox, let's go, I want to go meet him." I yelled, "Hey Jimmy, I'm the guy from China!" and Jimmy says, "Oh, let's talk about crashin'!" So I got a quick picture with him and my girlfriend. I didn't know he was going to go back out on-stage, but he did, and then all of a sudden a bunch of people came running out to grab me and my girlfriend. They said, Jimmy's talking about you, he wants you on stage!

**What did he say?**

He talked about what I told him about singing Southern Cross, and gave me a big hug, and the whole crowd was chanting USA!, USA! I waved to my boys out in the crowd and Jimmy talked a little more about me. My buddies were freaking out. It was definitely one of the coolest things I've ever gotten to do in my life.

**What were some of the things that struck you about being backstage?**

Wow, just the number of people running around doing things. The control room for the Jumbo-tron, and the sound equipment was incredible. There were a lot of people, and they obviously had work to do. I was just trying to stay off to the side so they wouldn't kick me out, and I could watch Jimmy play from 25 feet away.

**How did it feel being in front of that crowd?**

There were thousands of people out there screaming and chanting, I was just amazed. The Margaritas definitely helped take the nervousness away though. I'm not a beer drinker – just Tequila and Whiskey, and to be able to go to a show and get a real drink – that was kind of nice.

**Tell me about your history as a Parrot Head.**

I've been listening to Jimmy since I was a kid. During college, my roommate Brian Westwood and I would always start the evening with about an hour and a half of Jimmy on his 4 CD collection, Boats, Beaches, Bars and Ballads, and we usually ended the night with it too.

**What do you think turned a younger person like you to his music?**

I think music is timeless, and it's all about the mood it can put you in and the place it can take you to. I think we all know what Jimmy's music does for us.

**Are there any of Jimmy's songs that you keep in your mind, or that you particularly identify with?**

You name it. I listen to them all, and often. I don't have a favorite, I love 'em all. You know, you can just tell that he loves what he's doing and that he's not out just to make a buck. And he loves flying. He's doing exactly what I'd do if I had the money. Get a nice fleet of aircraft and tool all over.

**Have you read any of his books?**

"A Pirate Looks at Fifty" when I was in college. Navy pilots don't do a whole lot of reading when we're trying to save our eyes – I was paranoid about my eyesight growing up. You've got to have 20-20 vision to get in to flight school. I spent three years in flight school and most of my reading was serious technical stuff. But when I read A Pirate Looks at Fifty, I thought, yeah, I could relate to Jimmy's thoughts as a pilot for sure.

**Did you know from an early age that you wanted to be a pilot?**

Oh yeah, I knew from 4 or 5 years old that I was gonna be a military aviator. I had a pretty easy life. Had my goal ahead of me and I didn't want to change it...you have to get a college degree to become an officer, and the Navy paid for me to go to the University of Nebraska through ROTC. Then you graduate and head down to Pensacola, the cradle of Naval Aviation. It's beautiful down there. The beaches are great. You start with the training and it's really kind of similar to "An Officer and a Gentleman." You go through your dunk testing, and obstacle courses, classroom work, the stuff that determines if that is definitely what you want to do. It's a weeding out process.



# The Pirate & The Lieutenant

## **None of it discouraged you?**

No, it was fun. Most who go through it think it's fun. But it is definitely meant to test you. They also want to see if they're going to freak you out in the water. They put you in some hairy situations in that dunk tank.

## **Jimmy credited a dunk tank with helping him keep his presence of mind when he crashed his Widgeon.**

It's huge what training will do for you. And it's amazing how much of it will come back to you if you haven't even done it in a few years. It still comes back to me. And it comes back in the worst situations. So after Pensacola, I went to Corpus Christi and started flying the Beechcraft T34. It was a blast, you get to go out and do aerobatics and all sorts of maneuvers. Then I got into the P3 pipeline. The jet trainers were what I wanted to do, and I had the grades. But the whole fleet of P2's, the planes the Navy uses to train its jet pilots, went down, so it was backlogged. So P3's it was. I stayed in Corpus and flew a King Air 200 T12, a new multi-engine trainer that the Navy just brought online. I was actually the first pilot to get winged on one of those. Then off to Jacksonville, Florida to learn to fly the P3. I fell in love with Jax, but had to move away up to Whidbey Island, north of Seattle for the real missions. All that movement was in just four and a half years. From Whidbey, I began flying the P3 missions. And I'll tell you, I never thought I'd have anything like this happen to me in a P3. It's a big aircraft, and carries a lot of people. You don't get yourself into too many situations like we did.

## **I would imagine flying those long spy missions gets occasionally mundane.**

Oh yeah, up circling around doing reconnaissance on 10 hour missions – you'd better believe it does, it's not always exciting. It's fun, but that part can get old quickly. But right before I moved out to Washington and I took a two week course called FEAR. Which was POW evasion and outdoor training. It was all about the situation I got put into, which of course, I never thought I'd need to use. That came in handy too. In terms of how to conduct yourself in interrogation. Pretty intense stuff.

## **Did they tell you to think about a song when you're in isolation?**

No, that's gonna come into your head no matter what. You're in a room for 8 days with no TV, radio, nothing to do but stare at a wall. You're gonna do something to pass the time.

## **So is it true what you read, that when you're confined, you just kind of lose track of time?**

Oh you do. In today's world, you're so used to bells and whistles, computers, TV's, all this input all the time. All of a sudden, you're sitting in this plain white room staring at the wall and your only input is this interrogation by a Chinese official screaming at you for 6 hours at a time. There was sleep deprivation too, which slows time down even more. They'd wake me up screaming at me if I fell asleep.

## **You've already led a interesting life.**

Yeah, I've peaked at 26. Well, maybe not peaked, but it's not something I want to top. It's been crazy since I got back. We've been treated wonderfully, but you get a little worn out too. I've been to D.C. twice, LA, San Diego, went back home to Nebraska, and got flown to Florida. But it's been great. And we've been getting the interview for a book that's going to come out.

## **So, you've already got a book agent?**

Yep, William Morris. There will be a book coming out in the fall. Kind of on my life, the training and obviously on "the episode."

## **Tell me about the awards that you and the crew received.**

I received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the rest of the crew received Air Medals. And

Senior Chief Mellows and I also received, a Meritorious Service Medal, and that was for leadership on the ground in China. It was actually a pretty high award in itself too. The Distinguished Flying Cross is as high as you can get.

**I would imagine that saving the lives of yourself and 24 fellow crew might warrant something like that.**

Yeah, being upside down in that aircraft is not a good thing. Like you said though, the training kicked in. The money the Navy has to spend to train a pilot is a lot. But I'll tell you what, it paid off here. It brought 24 people home.

**How much of the training was simulated versus real world, and which would you attribute more to your survival?**

Simulators, can do a lot of crazy things, but you don't get the feel. I don't care what anyone says. The real world. That's what's great about Navy training. I may be biased, but we have the best pilots in the world. We talk about losing an engine, they yank the power and you land with two engines working out of four. And flying the P3 — it's an old plane and we get a lot of emergencies anyway. I've had 14 emergency landings in flying this plane for oh, two and a half years now. Engines shut down, malfunctions with gear, flaps, that kind of thing. Thankfully, it's a hardy, forgiving aircraft.

**What's been your impression of being a sudden celebrity?**

I'm happy to say that all my friends have told me that it hasn't changed me a bit. I'm the same guy I was before. Some of it has been good and some has been bad. But the reason I'm willing to put up with a lot of it is just because I think it's a great story for the Navy and the country to bring back some patriotism. Hopefully it was a wake up call to let folks know that there are people out there risking their lives each day. I mean there were people in the Navy who didn't even know that we were getting intercepted every day by armed Chinese fighters.

**Or that they were flying so close.**

It's amazing what you can get used to. You're always kind of nervous, but you just get used to it. I've got screen saver pics on my computer from even before this episode, and another one of those fighters giving me the hang loose sign.

**Where was the rest of your flight crew while you were on-stage with Jimmy?**

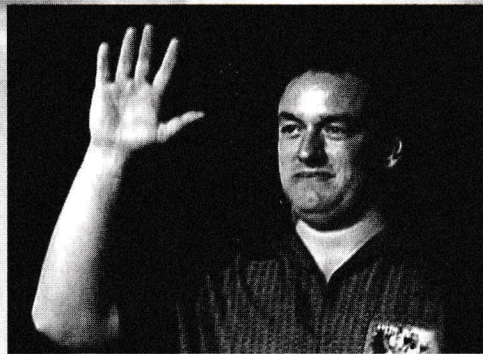
Well, I had to come to San Diego, and they all got flown up to New York by George Steinbrenner to go to a Yankees game. I had to miss it but, they did get me a ball and shirt signed by all the Yankees. But hey, I got to be on stage with Jimmy Buffett.

**Who are some other people you've met?**

Well I went to the White House twice. That was crazy, I've met the president twice in the past month, and the vice president. Got invited to this VIP party afterwards, all these millionaires and actresses, running around. It was pretty cool, but it's over now and that's fine. I had my fun and am glad to be right back where I am.

**Has this experience altered your perspective on your own life?**

Oh sure, it's amazing. It really has. You just sit back and if something is wrong, or bothering you, you just think of how much worse it could be, and how many people have gone through a lot worse. I just enjoy life every day.



Dear Mr. Buffett,



# changes in latitudes

Dear Mr. Buffett,

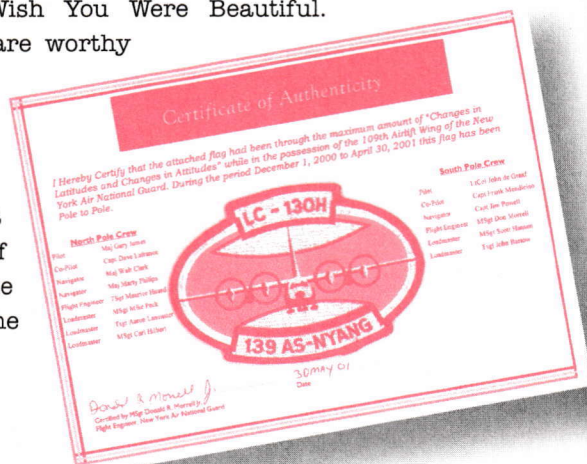
As promised a few months ago...we took the flag to the South Pole and then to the North Pole. The flag was also carried onboard the United States Coast Guard Cutter and ice breaker USS Polar Star during it's ice breaking mission in the Ross Sea during the 2000-2001 season. Several true Parrot Heads helped with this adventure and are listed on the certificate certifying that the flag traveled from pole to pole.

Above all we were able to bring a little warmth to all that saw the flag and heard the music. I do believe the most popular song requested was The Weather is Here I Wish You Were Beautiful.

We hope these collectibles are worthy

of a place of honor in the kingdom of Margaritaville and bring a smile to all that look upon them. In closing we true Parrot Heads will go to the ends of the earth to spread the Caribbean Soul and to find the ultimate Margarita.

Sincerely,  
Mike Ferrell



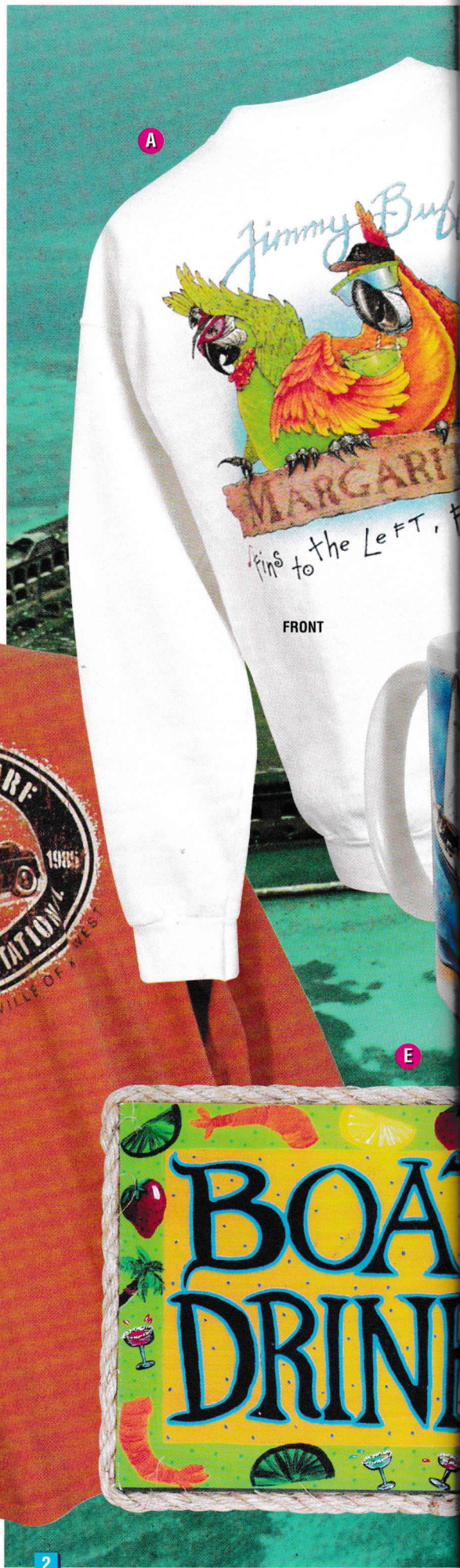
# THE MARGARITAVILLE S.T.O.R.E



**Hawaiian Shirt**  
Custom design Parrot  
Hawaiian shirt.  
100% spun rayon shirt  
tailored in Hawaii by  
Reyn Spooner.  
S #7770 M #7771  
L #7772 XL #7773  
XXL #7774 \$69.95



- A P Fins Sweatshirt** Popular design silkscreened on 80/20 sweatshirt.  
M #8029 L #8030 XL #8031 \$29.95  
XXL #8032 \$30.95
- B Coffee Mug** Classic Caribbean Soul Changes In Latitude design on 15oz. mug.  
#8052 \$8.95
- C Parrot Fins Journal** 100 lined sheets in colorful jacket. Personal journal measures 7" x 5" #5895 \$8.95
- D Legends of Surf Long Sleeve** Design on back of 100% cotton pigment dyed crew.  
M #8034 L #8035 XL #8036 \$25.95  
XXL #8037 \$26.95
- E Ropesign** Boat Drinks rope-framed wood sign measures 7" x 11". #7900 \$16.95
- F Collegiate Cap** Big "M" Margaritaville embroidered on cotton cap. Jimmy's signature and Key West embroidered on back. Adjustable rear buckle. #7649 \$16.00



D

*Jimmy Buffet's*  
**LEGENDS OF SURF**  
 EST. 1985  
**LONGBOARD INVITATIONAL**  
 SPONSORED BY MARGARITAVILLE OF A WEST

*Jimmy Buffet's*  
**LEGENDS OF SURF**  
 MARGARITAVILLE KEY WEST

BREAST

A

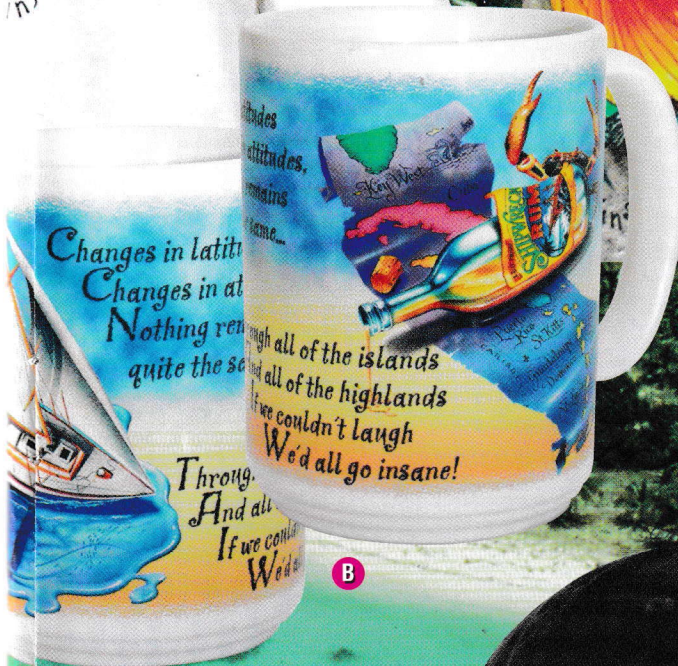
FRONT

E



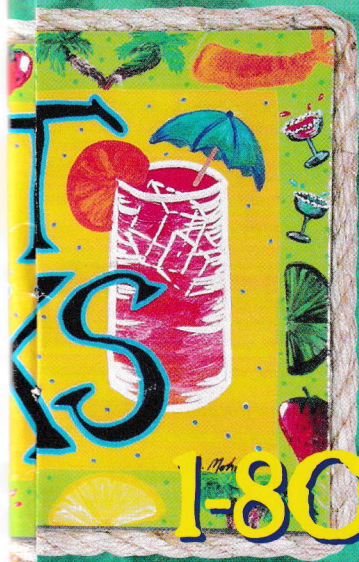


C



B

F



**1-800-COCOTEL**  
1-800-262-6835



A

DETAIL



C

BREAST

D

BREAST

1-800-COCOTEL

1-800-262-6835



World's Most  
Famous Margarita  
Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville  
Key West

B

BACK

BREAST

E

F

5

All T-shirts are 100% cotton crew neck T's available only in colors shown.

**A Margaritaville Arch T'**

Simple design screened on 100% cotton T'  
M #7810 L #7811 XL #7812 \$16.95  
XXL #7813 \$17.95

**B Been There, Drank That**

Front design says it all. M #8058 L #8059  
XL #8060 \$16.95 XXL #8061 \$17.95

**C Ultimate Parrot Head**

Blueprint to Parrot Head-ism.  
M #8053 L #8054 XL #8055 \$16.95  
XXL #8056 \$17.95

**D Growing Older But Not Up**

M #5467 L #5468 XL #5469 \$16.95  
XXL #5470 \$17.95

**E Parrot Oval T'**

100% Garment Dyed Cotton with distressed  
silk screened design. By Yesterdays.  
S #5750 M #5751 L #5752 XL #5753  
\$18.95

**F Patch Cap**

100% cotton cap with embroidered patch.  
#8057 \$17.00



- A Shopping List** Fruitcakes design on shopping / to-do list. 60 10" sheets. Attaches to refrigerator with 2 rear magnets. #7621 \$6.95
- B Lime Magnet** "If life gives you limes..." Magnet measures 2.5" x 2.5". #7777 \$4.00
- C 2002 Jimmy Buffett Calendar** Monthly photos and recollections by long-time Buffett photographer Tom Corcoran. Also includes recent photos. #2242 \$13.95
- D Christmas Island** Jimmy Buffett's Christmas Collection. Cassette Tape #2721 \$5.98 CD #2720 \$13.98
- E 2001 Christmas Design Crew** "Fins to the left, fins to the right" 100% cotton long sleeve crew neck shirt. Available in White only. M #8023 L #8024 XL #8025 \$19.95 XXL #8026 \$20.95
- F Margaritaville 2001 Christmas Cards** "Fins to the left, fins to the right" Box of 20 cards w/envelopes #8027 \$20.00 Single card w/envelope #8028 \$1.50
- G 2001 Christmas Ornament** Popular PFins design now on solid resin Christmas Ornament. Weighs 4oz. and is approx. 4" in diameter. #8001 \$19.95

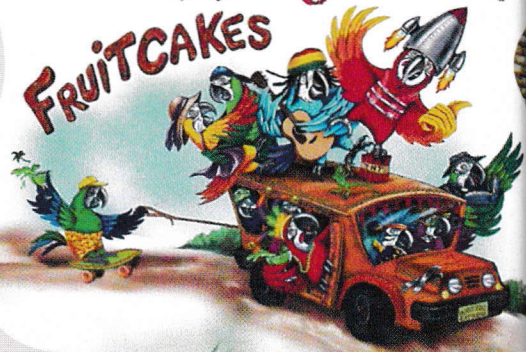


A

## Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville

### Shopping List

FRUITCAKES



D



6

C

# Jimmy Buffett

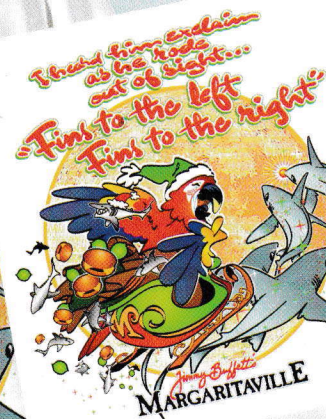
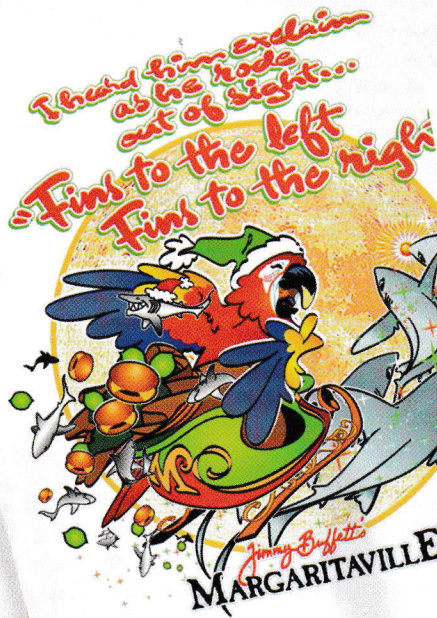
calendar 2002



B

... gives you  
lemons  
make  
lemonade  
... but if life gives you  
limes  
make  
Margaritas

F



E



BACK CENTER

# 1-800-COCOTEL

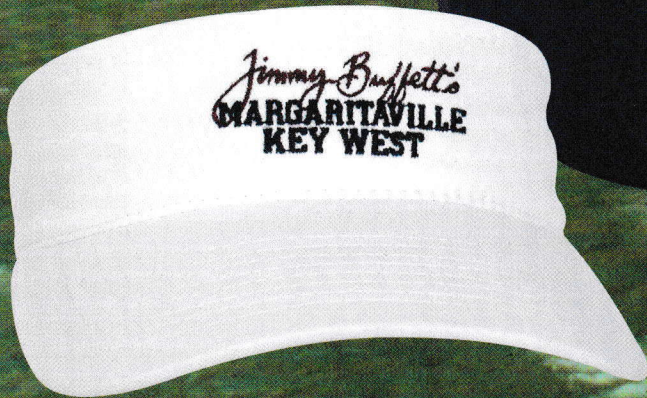
1-800-262-6835



DETAIL

**Ladies Hooded Pullover By Gear.**  
100% cotton jersey. Double-layer hood with cotton drawstrings. Front kangaroo pouch pocket. Contrast colored stripes. Overlook topstitching detail. Available in Gray only.  
Slim fit. S #8044 M #8045 L #8046  
XL #8047 \$26.95

**Ladies Visor** Cotton visor with adjustable velcro back closure. Available in White only.  
# 7672 \$13.50



**Slouch Bag**  
Loose, cotton canvas carry-all. Measures 32" from top of strap, pouch measures approximately 15" x 15" inches. Design silk screened. Available in Navy only.  
#7042 \$18.00

The swaying palms and steel drums of Margaritaville are always just a sip away, but Mexico requires a little more effort. So we'd like to help you get there. To enter the Passport to Margaritaville Sweepstakes, help us name our new, soon-to-be-legendary margarita made with Margaritaville Tequila.

The Grand Prize is a trip worth over \$4000 and includes:

Round-trip coach airfare for two to Puerto Vallarta from the nearest major airport

Six days - five nights double occupancy accommodations at the Presidente Inter-Continental on the Mexican Riviera

\$500 total spending allowance

Hotel voucher for water sports

VIP day tour of the Margaritaville Tequila Distillery

Five First Prize winners will receive the Olympus Stylus Epic Camera

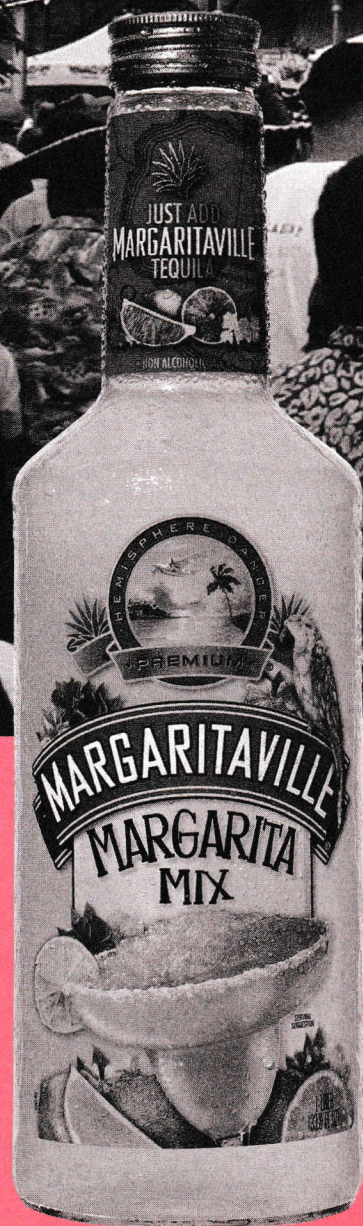
To enter online, during the period beginning on June 28, 2001 at 12:01 AM, ET and ending on September 21, 2001 at 11:59:59 PM, ET, complete the sweepstakes entry page at <http://www.margaritavilletequila.com>, click submit and you will automatically be entered for a chance to win.

All entries become the exclusive property of Sponsor. Sponsor reserves the right to limit the number of entries in the Promotion for any or no reason at any time. Do not proceed in this Promotion if you are not at least 21 years old and a legal United States resident located in the United States at the time of entry. Make sure and read The Official Rules....a real page turner.



Enter the Passport to Margaritaville Sweepstakes  
[www.margaritavilletequila.com](http://www.margaritavilletequila.com)

# WORLD'S LARGEST



Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Cafe in Universal Studios CityWalk Orlando tempts fate and depleting cactus juice supplies stockpiling over 1300 gallons of Margaritaville Tequila in it's quest for entry into the Guinness Book of World Records.

On Friday May 18 the last bottle of tequila was poured into a 7500-gallon FDA approved polyethylene tank affectionately called "Big Rita" shattering the Worlds Largest Margarita record and the Largest Cocktail record as well.



# LARGEST ARITA



- Previous world record for the largest Cocktail is 5711 gallons.
- Previous world record for the largest Margarita is 4756 gallons.
- Big Rita is 13 feet high and 12 feet wide.
- Big Rita weighs 2000 pounds when empty.
- Big Rita weighs 50,000 pounds when full.
- 4500 gallons of Margaritaville Margarita Mix is required for this recipe.
- 1125 gallons of Margaritaville Tequila is an integral part of the recipe.
- 38,400 20-ounce Margaritas can be served.
- It took 2 days to make the Worlds Largest Margarita.

# PHLOOCKINGS

Social activities for people  
of similar tastes and interests.

Dear margaritaville Staff & Jimmy,

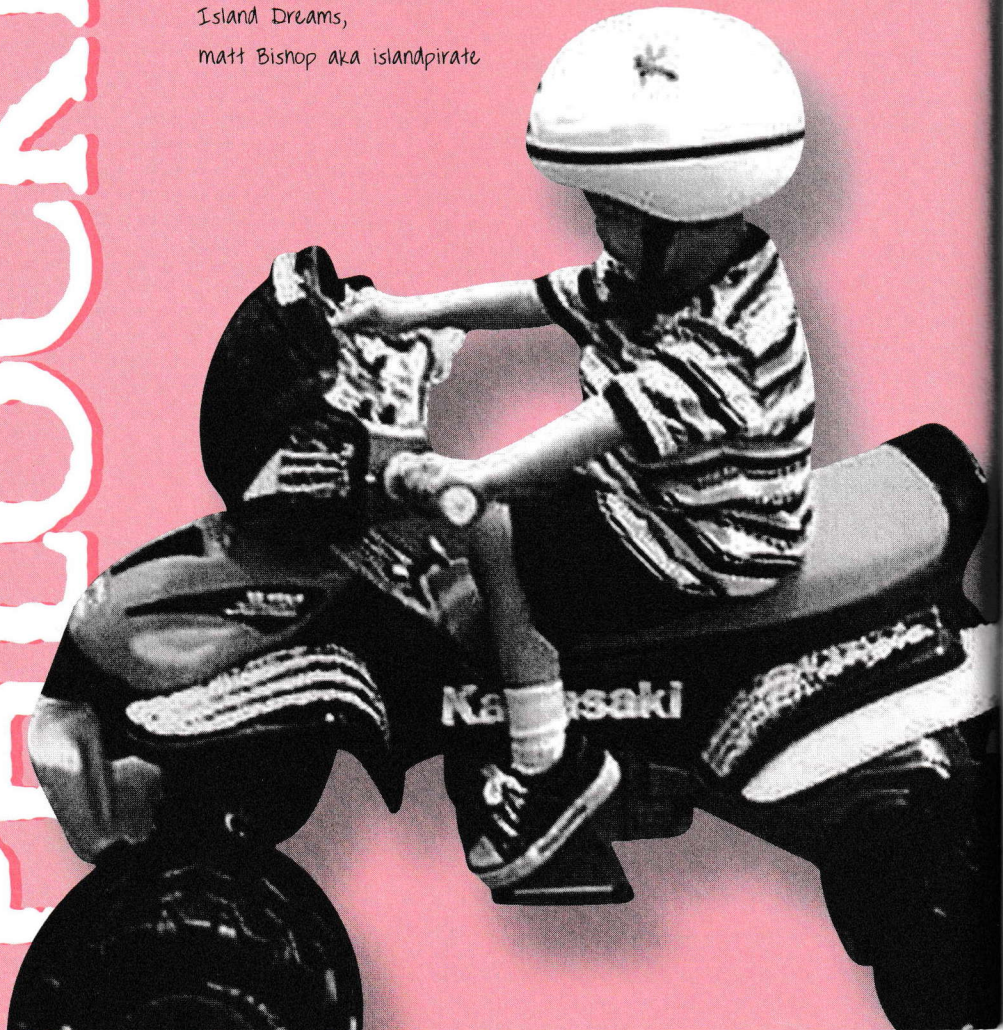
In my last letter that I wrote to you about Gollymon Gon Powell I told you that he would possibly begin treatments in New York City. On March 26 we received the most beautiful words we could hear, CANCER FREE. Gon is now back home enjoying life and all the gifts that the Parrot Heads sent to him. There are boxes full of gifts and cards.

We even received an autographed shirt from Peter Mayer that someone saw him, asked him to sign it and then mailed it to Gon! WOW! Thank you so much for posting Gons story and THANK YOU LETTER on the website. There is no way we could sit down and contact each of these people. At least this way they will be able to know that we appreciate what they have all done. Gon does have to make trips back to NYC for tests, scans, and more antibody injections, but besides that he's your normal three year old Parrot Head.

In the money that the Steel City Fins of Pittsburgh PA. raised for Gollymon they purchased a Ninja 4-wheeler. On the back of Gon's Ninja he proudly displays the plates MARGARITAVILLE and on his helmet, parrots and the word simply stated "PARROT HEAD". Saturday, May 14, Gon was the Grand Marshall at the local Relay For Life. He led the cancers survivor lap on none other than his Parrot Head Ninja 4 wheeler, wearing his Parrot Head helmet, and tropical shirt.

Again, I just want to thank you for posting my letter to the Parrot Heads, for giving us the music, and for caring. And most of all, thanks for all the great friends that Gollymon Gon and I have met through your music.

Island Dreams,  
Matt Bishop aka islandpirate





MARGARITAVILLE  
 The Coconut Telegraph  
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 Key West, FL 33041

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 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Margaritaville

*Shred him, explain  
 as he rode  
 out of sight...*

*Fins to the left  
 Fins to the right!*



**MARGARITAVILLE**

**2001 - A BEACH ODYSSEY**  
**JIMMY BUFFETT**  
 & THE CORAL REEFER BAND

Monday, August 27	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Blossom Music Center
Thursday, August 30	Mansfield, MA	Tweeter Center
Saturday, September 1	Mansfield, MA	Tweeter Center
Tuesday, September 4	Pittsburgh, PA	Post Gazette Pavilion
Thursday, September 6	Camden, NJ	Entertainment Center
Tuesday, September 11	Indianapolis, IN	Verizon Wireless Music Center
Thursday, September 13	Chicago, IL	New World Music Theater
Thursday, September 15	Chicago, IL	New World Music Theater

\*\*\*\*\*3-DIGIT 208  
 \*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*  
 ROBERT HASLETT  
 15185 WINESAP DR  
 GAITHERSBURG MD 20878-2337