

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

MARGARITAVILLE, JULY 1986

VOLUME 2, NO. 7

JIMMY BUFFETT, CIVILIAN FIGHTER PILOT

(Ed. Note: Lt. Jim (Famous Amos) Anderson reports on Jimmy's experiences at the Navy's survival school.

It all started last winter, when I gave The Margaritaville Store a concert photo of Jimmy. I soon received a short note from him saying he'd sure like to get a flight in a Navy jet. Jimmy ended by saying "I have a helmet"—a la Jack Nicholson in *Easy Rider*. So with great enthusiasm I set out to make the flight happen.

The Navy, however, is very reluctant to take civilians up in tactical jet aircraft. Finally the project was okayed, provided that Jimmy successfully complete the Naval Aviation survival school in Norfolk, VA.

Jimmy arrived on a Sunday night to start "boot camp" for his week-long hitch in the Navy.

He began by learning the effects of flight on the human body during spins and the high "G" maneuvers of an aerial dogfight—then received instruction on how to eject, maneuver his parachute, and deploy his liferaft.

The second day, the real fun began—the water survival test. Jimmy and I got

suited up in full flight gear—flight suit, boots, survival equipment, parachute harness, and helmet (about 30 pounds of equipment in all).

The first event was the 75 yard swim. Now, Jimmy trained hard in Key West for this by swimming daily "laps" in the Atlantic. But he hadn't counted on his flight gear being so cumbersome or the fact that this was FRESH water which, compared to salt water, has absolutely NO buoyancy.

His first 65 yards went very well. However, he caught a wave and a mouthful of water which made his last 10 yards very . . . interesting. He made it, though, and did better than most.

We then went on to the drownproofing test, which required us to float unaided for 10 minutes—no life preserver of any kind. We both did exceptionally well, until we caught a glimpse of each other struggling to keep our noses above the waterline and started laughing. It's still not clear to me just how we made it through the rest of the test.

Finally we came to the last event, which some call the drowning pool . . . a device designed to teach pilots how to



survive a helicopter ditching at sea.

A large, barrel-shaped compartment was suspended high above a deep pool. Each person was strapped to a seat and the "dunker" plunged into the pool, flipped upside down, and quickly sank to the bottom. The trick? Unbuckling and finding the way out and up to the surface. Jimmy had to do it 5 times instead of the required 4, because once he unstrapped and "escaped" too soon (I think he just wanted to do an encore).

At day's end Jimmy was exhausted but exuberant. He had graduated with flying colors from the Navy's survival training school and was ready for his flight.

(Ed. Note: LCDR Dan Carroll shares with us his observations of Jimmy's flight.)

Friday, May 16, 1986. Jimmy Buffett donned the flight gear of a U.S. Navy fighter pilot, and turned a lifelong dream into the experience of a lifetime. Jimmy teamed up with the pilots of Fighter Squadron Forty-Five at the Naval Air Station in Key West, Florida, and took off seated at the controls of a TA-4 Skyhawk—a plane whose flight characteristics and maneuverability simulate the Third World jets that U.S. forces may someday face in combat.

Jimmy had received extensive briefings on the aircraft and its systems (including ejection seat operation). Just as he was about to take off in his jet wearing his flight suit, anti-"G" suit, and torso harness, who should show up but Jimmy's daughter Savannah Jane, with his business associate, Sunshine Smith. A prouder father could not be found as Jimmy asked his daughter to "take a look at your daddy, Savannah Jane."

Jimmy then taxied out and took off for a mock air battle performed over the Gulf of Mexico near the Dry Tortugas.

That day, Jimmy gained the deepest respect and appreciation for the men he was flying with and for their job. Upon his return to Earth he was the portrait of pleasure.

Jimmy Buffett will always know the unique satisfaction that accompanies the rush of performing live for 50,000 people. But the next time you see him in concert and he flashes that knowing smile mid-song, be advised that at least part of it is fueled from having pulled 6 "G's" with a big grin on his face.



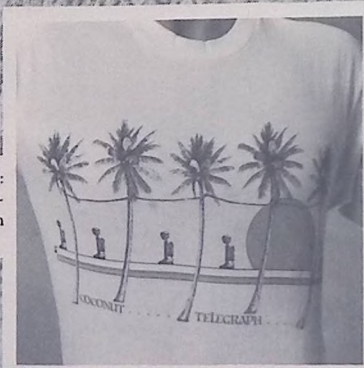
Photos by Lt. Jim "Famous Amos" Anderson

FLORIDAYS: T



ONE PARTICULAR HARBOUR: When the coast is clear, it's time to slip away to that harbour you've been dreaming about.

MARGARITAVILLE WIND-SOCK: Add a breeze, and watch this vivid windsock become the focal point of a distant gaze. \$25.00.



COCONUT TELEGRAPH: Maybe there's no plane on Sunday—but the Coconut Telegraph is always in operation. Hear it?

CHANGES IN LATITUDE: If I'm by the river, you're by the sea, then one of us needs to change latitudes! It's easy in this cool shirt.



FLORIDAYS: The liquid rhythms of Creola . . . the funky beat of *You'll Never Work in Dis Bidness Again*. Jimmy Buffett's brand-new album is worth much more than just a first look. Cassette tape \$9.98.



THE MARGARITAVILLE SIX-PACK: Don't loose your cool and stomp around—keep your cold ones icy in these Margaritaville beer huggers. 6 assorted coolers for \$15.00.



WHY DON'T WE GET DRUNK AND . . . The perfect shirt for those occasions when it must have been the hoodlum drink.

SON OF A SAILOR: Everyone will speak to the Captain when he's dressed like a true son of a sailor.



Jimmy Buffett has always been able to strum real hard . . . play real loud . . . warm a crowd . . . make them dance till they all fall down. Now, to the great delight of his fans, he's back to living Floridays . . . blue skies and ultra violet rays . . . *Floridays*, Jimmy's newest album release, combines the warm island charm of his early work with some spicy new sounds.



UNIVERSITY OF MARGARITAVILLE: Loving the now is a snap when you're spending it at the college of partying knowledge.

The CATALOG

That laid back *Floridays* feeling is yours when you slip into a t-shirt from Jimmy Buffett's Caribbean Soul line. Each fine, 100% cotton screen-printed tee carries an air-brushed design reminiscent of those songs you love to hear.

T-shirt colors are tropical pastels like ocean aqua, sunrise yellow, conch shell pink, coral, cool white, sand, driftwood grey, and suntan. All shirts are \$12.95, and come in sizes S, M, L, and XL.

OUR STORE SHIRT: *Lookin' for Floridays?* You'll find them at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Store . . .



THE MARGARITAVILLE COOKBOOK: Mouth-watering recipes to complement the *spicy kind of life* found in the islands. \$12.95.

LIVE BY THE BAY: From the man who can charm a crowd till they snake dance round, with calypso beat, down island sound, it's a 90-minute concert video. Buffett at his very best. VHS or BETA. \$29.95.

FLORIDAYS MUG: Go ahead—go to the bar and have some beers. Quaff them from our 15-oz. acrylic mug engraved to commemorate the '86 *Floridays* tour. \$8.50 each.

THE OFFICIAL PARROT HEAD SHIRT: *It's a jungle out there*—and you'll fit right in wearing this jazzy parrot shirt.



THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH: Where's the latest Buffett news? *It's in the mood, it's in the blood . . .* and it's humming along the *Coconut Telegraph* wires. A year's subscription is \$2.00.

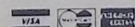
To order, send your check or money order to T-SHIRTS, The Margaritaville Store, P.O. Box 1459, Key West, Florida 33041, or call 1-305-296-8981. There is a \$3.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGE for orders of 6 items or less, \$5.00 for orders of over 6 items. The shipping charge for any glassware order is \$3.50. We ship via UPS. Florida residents, please include sales tax. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE	3 COLOR CHOICES	PRICE

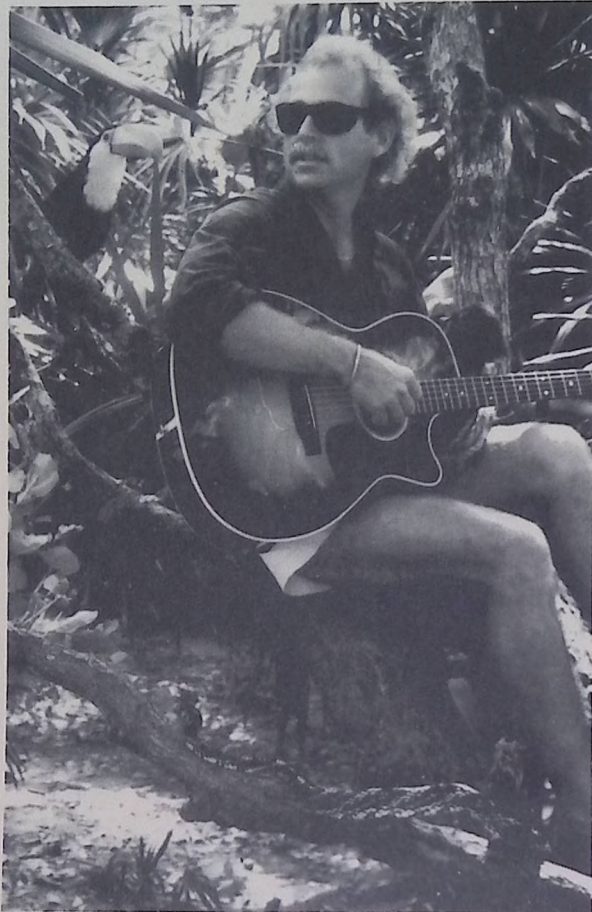
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The PARROT HEAD PAPERS

It's obvious that the summer *Florida* days are here—days of *pale invaders* and *tanned crusaders*. Days when Parrot Heads everywhere come into their glory, having escaped the chilly hand of winter. Summer . . . sun and sand and boat drinks, and Jimmy Buffett concerts under the hot stars.

AUGUST 23 - Kona, HI, Kona Surf Convention Center

There may be last-minute changes in this schedule—but we're always available at (305) 296-8981 with tour updates.

The tour, however, is not the only news from Margaritaville this summer. The tropical murals on Jan and Ernie Scott's Margaritaville Car were completed May 15, and the Car was on display at Jimmy's Atlanta shows. It's a fine piece of work!

Our latest project here is assembling a giant Buffett scrapbook—so please send us any concert reviews, photos, or newspaper clippings you can find.

Jimmy, too, would like your help. To celebrate his fortieth birthday, he's planning a trip around the world—and he wants to know which particular harbours you think he should visit. Help Jimmy with his travel plans—if you know of a place that's exotic, beautiful, wild, or holds special memories for you, drop a line to JB'S VACATION, P.O. Box 1938, Key West, Florida 33041.

It's truly a Margaritaville summer . . . time to break out the blender, turn on the tape deck, and relax in your shaded hammock. Ahhh . . . *better days*, indeed.

- AUGUST 10 - Denver, CO, Red Rocks
- AUGUST 12 - Dallas, TX, Convention Center Arena
- AUGUST 13 - Houston, TX, Auditorium to be announced
- AUGUST 14 - Austin, TX, Palmer Auditorium
- AUGUST 15 - Pensacola, FL, Pensacola Civic Center
- AUGUST 16 - Birmingham, AL, Auditorium to be announced
- AUGUST 17 - Nashville, TN, Starwood Amphitheatre
- AUGUST 20 - Honolulu, HI, The Shell
- AUGUST 22 - Maui, HI, Outdoor Amphitheatre

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