

The Margaritaville Store opened on January 28, 1985 and the first Coconut Telegraph was mailed in February of that year. The plan was to put together a newsletter to keep in touch with the fans. And with over a million Coconut Telegraphs printed and mailed, we'd like to think we've accomplished that task. Throughout 2005 we will highlight articles from the newsletter, recalling that, "...those who choose to ignore history are destined to repeat it." One can only hope.

Jimmy's love affair with flying is now in full bloom. And as in most love affairs, there's an element of surprise, including an attempted homicide and near drowning. A few hours ago, as this pirate was looking at forty, I remembered that I had vowed to get my private license by that time. My flying days go back to my misspent years at the University of Southern Mississippi where my good friend, Bobby Vincent, introduced me to flying. Bobby went on to fly fighters for the Navy, and I discovered women, the guitar, and poverty, so flying went out the window. Time and again I would occasionally try to pick up where I had left off with my flying lessons, but I never saw it through until the deadline I set for myself approached, and then I got serious



The Hemisphere Dancer afloat

Taking off and landing in the water held a romantic fascination for me. The plane I bought was a Lake Renegade, a single-engine amphibian. I christened her Lady of the Waters and hired an instructor to come down to Key West to teach me to fly. Now, to a former altar boy, that kind of monetary investment certainly provided enough guilt-incentive to study hard. Studying doesn't come easily to me. I wasn't much good at it when I was supposed to be doing it. But six months later I was the proud bearer of a single-engine land-and-rating."

Several years later a bigger plane served as target practice for local uniformed sharpshooters in Negril, Jamaica. Jimmy and friends had just touched down near Negril and were enjoying a swim when the plane was fired upon. Local authorities had mistaken the outing for a smuggling operation. All was made well and in true Buffett fashion, a song came out of the experience.



Jimmy Points out the Jamaica Mistaica

Late in 1992, Jimmy received a letter from fellow pilot Tom Claytor. Tom, in the midst of his Bush Pilot Expedition - a solo flight around the globe in a single engine bush plane - saw Jimmy in the AOPA Pilot Magazine and sent his compliments on Jimmy's choice of plane. Jimmy replied, expressing envy at Tom's journey and offered to buy him lunch at the end of his journey. The Coconut Telegraph offers periodic reports on Tom's whereabouts. He was last spotted playing Elephant Polo in Hua Hin, Thailand helping the Mobile Easy team clinch the Kings Cup Tournament beating the Australian team 6-4. Track Tom's progress at www.claytor.com

In August, 1992 the New Orleans Store & Cafe celebrated their grand opening while Jimmy Buffett and the Chameleon Caravan careened across the country. One stop that year was in Washington state where Jimmy was interviewed on KIRO Radio by entertainment editor Terry Rose. The lengthy discussion covered a variety of topics, particularly touring.

KIRO: "Growing older but not up." You epitomize that, you've done it for 25 years with your music. You've given people youth and joy and verve...is it time to move on?

JB: No, I like what I'm doing. I have a great summer job and there are plenty of things I love to do; from films to making records, to producing records. But what I really love is to perform live. I don't do it as much, part of my touring schedule has diminished, but I'll always work. I may do fewer dates or take a year off. It's been 25 years and as much fun as it's been, the road is still really a grind. I'm at a point now where I can pick and choose what I want to do. I don't see it as moving on, I see it as a point where I have options.



Jimmy at play

KIRO: You once said that, Your life has been living out a fantasy, and you get the pleasure of telling the rest of the world about it. Is that still true?

Margaritaville Looks @ Twenty

JB: Well, yea. The place where the fantasy seems to be dwindling is with the people; we have more tourists than travelers running around the world. I run all over the country and all over the world, and still find spots that just take my breath away. As long as you're in motion, life is an experience and it's meant to be lived. Fortunately, I come from a family of gypsies and sailors. When I was 5 years old I was already thinking about getting out of Mobile.

KIRO: Do you ever wake up in the middle of the night thinking about the joy you've given millions of people with your songs?

JB: I get it mainly from the stage - it's an indescribable feeling. You asked about drugs, but the greatest narcotic is applause. There's not a better rush for me and that's where I get it. It's great to have a job like that, to make a little difference. The world's a terrible place. It was never meant to be hospitable, so if I can bring a little humor and little escapism, I think that's great.

In May, 1993 ten Cincinnati high school students received Seacamp Scholarships. Seacamp is a non-profit marine science camp in the Florida Keys where the students will spend two weeks participating in classroom and recreational activities. The students were selected in a reading contest held in the Cincinnati Public Schools. The assignment was to read and summarize three books from a list chosen by Jimmy. All papers demonstrated a keen interest in the marine environment and in order to encourage further reading and study, all entrants received an award. The top ten being the Seacamp Scholarships.

In 1994 Jimmy added acting to his resume with his bruising performance in a movie based on the controversial turn of the century baseball player Ty Cobb. Jimmy played a handicapped heckler beaten by Tommy Lee Jones' Cobb. The intent of the scene was to portray Cobb as being despicable enough to not only beat someone in the stands, but to beat a disabled person as well. After several takes, Jimmy was battered and bruised, but still climbed aboard a flatbed truck to deliver an impromptu performance for the cast and crew.

Jimmy would later appear, audibly at any rate, as a pilot in the movie Congo...a convoluted tale of an urbane electronically amplified talking ape and her return to the jungle accompanied by the Rocky Horror Picture Show guy as a treasure hunter. If I remember correctly Jimmy's plane blew up.

FRUITCAKES

Jimmy dedicated the Fruitcakes album to his old friend Gamble Rogers. The liner notes state that, "As we each continued down our respective paths, we saw less and less of each other, but stayed in touch as good friends do. When the Margaritaville Cafe opened its doors in Key West, it was Gamble whom I asked to initiate the stage and hopefully leave his mark there for others to follow. That week we shared many a good laugh recalling our days together and caught up on the years that were passing so quickly. He had settled into a quieter routine of teaching and doing festivals around Florida. I was trying to hold down the fort of the troubadours that was being bombarded constantly by pop culture. I attribute a lot of my ability to remain true to my vision to Gamble Rogers and what he taught me. Many of his tricks of twenty years ago are the same ones I still use today. With love and respect, I dedicate this collection of songs to the memory of James Gamble Rogers, a troubadour and a friend who has gone over to the other side where the guardian angels dwell and has in all likelihood, become one."

Gamble Rogers was inducted to the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 1998.

BAROMETER SOUP

Jimmy and the guys were relying on Key West to provide the inspiration for the next album. Hardly an original idea, a variety of artists possessing a variety of talents have treated Key West in a similar fashion. I don't mean "leave the money on the table" fashion, but rather a more positive "feel the vibes" fashion. Jimmy Buffett's not the first successful author to frequent the backrooms and bar stools of southernmost saloons. Authors and attitudes ranging from Ernest Hemingway to Tennessee Williams; writers so polarized they seem at times to meet on the other side, have borrowed from Key West's bank of creativity habits. Not hard to imagine Big Daddy and Brick having and having not in Freddy's Bar; "tin roof's must get awful hot, huh?" John James Audubon painted, Mario Sanchez carved and Count Carl



There's a little fruitcake in everyone of us.

Photo: Al Sayegh



Jimmy filming the Fruitcakes video at Universal Studios



With producers on the set of Congo

Von Cosel waxed necrophilic, but that's another story

Jimmy and the resident Coral Reefers came to Key West ready to work, set to scare up the ghosts of Key West past and explore the southernmost city's streets; an urban Ouija board-finding the answers wherever they were led. "Between the studio at the Fish Camp and the old Monroe County Library, we searched the works of our collective favorite authors for source material. When the songs were done we peddled our bikes and mopeds across town to Shrimp Boat Sound."

Miami Herald columnist and author Carl Hiaasen appeared on Barometer Soup:

"When Tourist Season was first published back in 1986, Jimmy phoned to tell me how much he liked the book and its demented environmentalist anti-hero, Skip Wiley. I never dreamed he would put Skip in a song, so it was a wonderful surprise when he called last spring and invited me down to Key West for the recording session. Contrary to Jimmy's generous words in the liner notes, I made no memorable vocal contributions to "The Ballad of Skip Wiley." However, I did a splendidly authentic job with the cocktail-party sound effects at the beginning of the song. I also contributed some fine shouting on "Bank of Bad Habits." It was a blast being in the studio with Jimmy, and I'm sure he'll be calling me for help with future albums."

Carl Hiaasen, Tavernier, FL

BANANA WIND

"I was born and raised on the shores of the Northern Gulf of Mexico, which runs from Perdido Bay on the Florida, Alabama border (just east of the Flora Bama bar) to the Pear River that separates Mississippi from Louisiana. To most folks, it is about as far south as you can go without getting your feet wet. To me it is the northern edge of the Caribbean. The night sky and constellations above Pascagoula look pretty much the same as those above Martinique. The culture that came with the early French explorers was cradled in New Orleans but flowed east and west permeating the bayous, beaches and bays that make up this unique region. Banana Wind is an island term...a wind not as dangerous as a hurricane but strong enough to blow bananas off the trees. This collection of songs is just a continuation of my story. Stories of ships and sailors, life and death, women and children, love and friendship, seaplanes and paradoxes."

The Parrot Head Madness section of the Prodigy Arts Club Bulletin Board wants Jimmy to know that we are 120 members strong on the computer lines. "We started the topic on Prodigy in 1990 and Parrot Heads communicate daily to discuss Jimmy Buffett, his songs, his concerts and how he's affected our lives." This was the the first snowflake in what would become the Internet Avalanche.

Parrot Heads continue to organize in what are now referred to as PHlocks, hell bent on improving their local surroundings; environmentally, socially and personally. With the advent of the Internet and the World Wide Web, their presence, now virtual, became global. We reported that, "hordes of newly computer-literate Parrot Heads demand ever-increasing modem speeds and software upgrades to access computer bulletin boards; be it Prodigy, Delphi, Compuserve or America Online - all tributaries flowing into the Internet river."

This was in the days before direct access to the then embryonic internet. The Internet as we know it, is the direct descendant of ARAP-NET, the U.S. military's research and development network. Initially used by the computer industry and academics, the computer network now circles the globe delivering unwanted [Spam] to your mailbox. It has since grown to unforeseen proportions and is an indispensable part of our lives. Thank you Al Gore.

We noted then, and still believe now that, "Fiber optic pirates stalk the becalmed waters of the World Wide Web. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and the web is salted with virtual Margaritaville's. In the anarchical world of the Internet, anything goes, so dress warmly keep that firewall up and for god's sake stay on top of your virus updates.

Next Issue: World Domination Begins



Jimmy at work



With Carl Hiaasen in the studio



With Seacamp Scholarship winners

Singer/songwriter/author Jimmy Buffett and SIRIUS Satellite Radio announced an agreement to present a Radio Margaritaville music channel exclusively for SIRIUS subscribers. The new 24-hour channel, featuring a wide variety of music, live broadcasts of Buffett's concerts and other unique programs, will debut this summer.

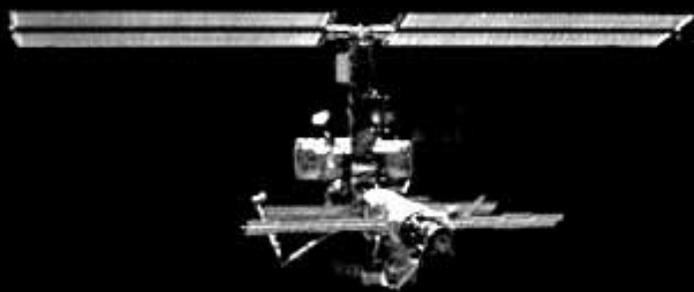
"I first listened to SIRIUS' incredible programming in my car and my boat," said Jimmy Buffett. "We designed Radio Margaritaville after the old pirate radio stations that sat offshore and played what they wanted. When I saw how SIRIUS is changing the way radio is being heard, I welcomed the opportunity for Radio Margaritaville to join them."

"Margaritaville is more than just great music - it's a lifestyle," said Scott Greenstein, SIRIUS President of Entertainment and Sports. "Our subscribers requested more of Jimmy Buffett. With this new channel, we'll bring them not just his tunes, but the music Jimmy listens to himself. Jimmy's impeccable sense of what his audiences love and enjoy will now come to life for SIRIUS subscribers, who will be able to enjoy it wherever and whenever they want."

Jimmy Buffett launched Radio Margaritaville in 1998 as an Internet-only channel, which will still be available at www.radiomargaritaville.com. Now, for the first time, Jimmy Buffett fans across America can hear the channel in their cars, on their boats and on the go by becoming SIRIUS subscribers. SIRIUS will also broadcast Radio Margaritaville live on a regular basis from a studio located at Buffett's Margaritaville restaurant at Universal City Walk in Orlando, Florida. The channel is expected to broadcast from its other Margaritaville Cafes and Restaurants currently located in Key West, New Orleans, Las Vegas, Jamaica and Cancun.

SIRIUS delivers more than 120 channels of the best commercial-free music, compelling talk shows, news and information, and the most exciting sports programming to listeners across the country in digital quality sound. SIRIUS offers 65 channels of 100% commercial-free music, and features over 55 channels of sports, news, talk, entertainment, traffic and weather for a monthly subscription fee of only \$12.95. SIRIUS also broadcasts live play-by-play games of the NFL and NBA, and is the Official Satellite Radio partner of the NFL. The arrangement with Jimmy Buffett is the latest SIRIUS endeavor to provide its subscribers with unique, proprietary content featuring some of the most popular and intriguing personalities in entertainment.

SATELLITE RADIO MARGARITAVILLE



MORE INFORMATION AT
WWW.MARGARITAVILLE.COM/SIRIUS

Artificial Reefs of the Keys is a non-profit group in Key West working to bring the de-commissioned USAFS Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg to our waters to become an artificial reef 6.5 miles south of Key West. Thanks to generous the support of Singing for Change Foundation, Parrotheads in Paradise and many Parrot Head clubs all around the country, ARK has been given the green light from the National Marine Sanctuary to sink the U.S.S. Hoyt Vandenberg. For their substantial contribution, ARK has awarded Parrot Heads their own room on the ship for their underwater "Clubhouse." The Balloon hangar on the stern will be their permanent Margaritaville. Steel plaques bearing the club names and acknowledging their support will be welded inside the room.

At over 520 feet and 13,000 tons, this will be the largest ship ever intentionally sunk for this purpose. The Vandenberg will become a world-class diving destination, benefiting the environment, education and research. Meticulously cleaned and prepared, the vessel will become a habitat and breeding site for countless marine species, and will offer incomparable rewards to the Lower Keys - not only to the SCUBA diving business but to the health of the living reef, to educational opportunities for faculty and students at Florida Keys Community College, and to the local tourism industry in general.

This is made clear by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council's firm support; the TDC unanimously approved an extension of its commitment to sinking the Vandenberg, which includes substantial-but not full-funding, according to Joe Weatherby, ARK's number one idea man, founding president and current contractor on the project. "The ship has been removed from the U.S. Maritime Association's disposal list and is in final negotiations and review of vessel transfer and grant funding," Weatherby said. "All the ducks are lined up, but we need help now. We can't announce a final sink date until all funds are in place." Approximately \$600,000 must be raised independently within the next few months. Special sponsorships are still available, "know anybody with a million dollars who wants an artificial reef named after them?"

There are scores of political, governmental, corporate and individual supporters of the project from environmental, educational and economic areas. Also: the Key West City Commission, the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, Florida Keys Community College, the Key West Chamber of Commerce, Innkeepers Association and Business Guild, Reef Relief, Last Stand, Florida Keys Wild Dolphin Alliance, Save the Turtle Foundation, Florida Keys Lodging Association, Propeller Club of Key West, the KW Bar Pilots' Association, the Key West Citizen and hundreds of KW businesses.

Anyone in Key West in late June is invited to a fundraising blast TBA - phone (305) 797-7077 for details and an invite. An actual porthole from the Vandenberg, a gift awarded to major donors, is on display behind the bar at Margaritaville in Key West.

SINK THE VANDENBERG

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.BIGSHIPWRECKS.COM

STATE OF THE PHLOCK 2005

People who believe in the lifestyle inspired by Jimmy Buffett... the giving and sharing come naturally...

2004 was a banner year and full of "firsts" for Parrot Heads in Paradise in so many ways:

- PHiP celebrated our 15th anniversary
- PHiP surpassed the 200 chapter threshold
- Meeting of the Minds was sold out for the very first time
- For the first time ever, Jimmy came to "our house" for a private concert and, in doing so, provided long overdue validation and recognition of Parrot Heads in Paradise as a significantly viable and valuable entity unto itself.

As always, we had a few chapters fall by the wayside, but we've also added several new chapters to the PHiP family already this year, with more on the horizon. At this writing, our organization stands at 205 chapters in seven (7) different countries, 45 states and one U.S. Territory. Our total membership increased a whopping 22%, with a total of more than 23,671 dedicated, fun-loving Parrot Heads within the ranks. Again, it's mighty apparent that the "Parrot Head Nation" is not only alive and well, but thriving.

Now, for the big news, in 2004, Parrot Head Clubs collectively raised for and/or donated to charitable organizations a staggering \$ 2,202,957. Additionally, chapters worldwide donated more than 404,690 man-hours to philanthropic and environmental activities. And, there's more to the story. These numbers, while spectacular, do not include those efforts which are not measured by dollars or man-hours:

- Tons of canned goods collected and donated to local food banks across the country
- Hundreds of thousands of pop tops collected for and turned into money by Ronald McDonald Houses throughout the land
- Toys collected and donated to Toys For Tots to provide Christmas for underprivileged children who otherwise would have nothing
- Thousands of critical items donated to local animal shelters... everything from food & blankets to old newspapers & leashes
- Hundreds of gallons of blood and plasma donated to save countless lives across this great nation
- "Care Packages" sent to our soldiers in Iraq

I could go on and on, but the picture is clear... the good deeds that Parrot Heads perform for the benefit of the community, the environment and our fellow man often cannot be measured in quantitative terms, yet are so vital to the recipients and should be a constant source of satisfaction to each of us. So, to each and every one of you, a heartfelt THANK YOU for a job well done! You truly are "Angels In Tropical Shirts" and you should be very proud of yourselves and your accomplishments. Spring is here, summer is nigh and the concert season is upon us... Time to do what we do best: Have fun and "Party With A Purpose!" Till next time, may all your dreams be tropical!

Bob Heffelfinger,
Director of Membership, Parrot Heads in Paradise, Inc.



Philadelphia Cares mobilizes people to address the critical social, educational, and environmental needs in the greater Philadelphia region through volunteer action. Philadelphia school children advance their education through computers provided with help from SFC and a generous donation from Hewlett Packard.



Photo: Rob O'Neal

Jimmy gets a cap and a Key West Police Department T-shirt in exchange for a \$4000 SFC contribution to the Key West Police Athletic League from Officer Alfredo Vazquez (L) and Officer Frank Lalama (R), Bureau of Community Affairs. A fair exchange we think.



SINGING FOR CHANGE KIDS, KEYBOARDS, KEY WEST COPS

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A Salty Piece of Land Tour Dates (As of May, 31)

JUNE 13	Toronto, ON	Molson Amphitheater	AUGUST 21	Cincinnati, OH	Riverbend Music Center
JUNE 15	Bristow, VA	Nissan Pavilion	AUGUST 25	Philadelphia, PA	Citizens Bank Park
JUNE 17	Uncasville, CT	Mohegan Sun Arena	AUGUST 27	Philadelphia, PA	Citizens Bank Park
JUNE 20	Boston, MA	Tweeter Center	AUGUST 31	Indianapolis, IN	Verizon Wireless Music Center
JUNE 22	Boston, MA	Tweeter Center	SEPTEMBER 4	Chicago, IL	Wrigley Field
JUNE 26	Pittsburgh, PA	PNC Park	SEPTEMBER 5	Chicago, IL	Wrigley Field

For more information: www.margaritaville.com/tour

Free Standard S/H on orders over \$75.00 placed within the U.S. Applies to orders using Surface Shipping only, not applicable on FedEx Express orders. Some exceptions apply - not available on Drop Ship Items
Offer good on orders placed June 15 - July 31, 2005.
Use promotional code 75FREE

Volume 21 No. 3 Summer 2005

COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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