

## Some thoughts...

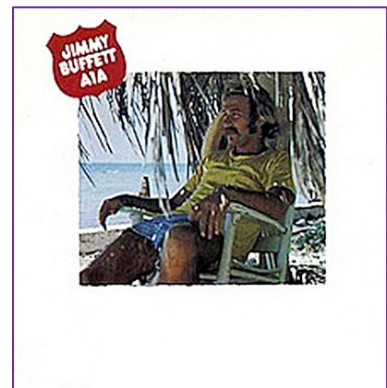
*"Some people never find it, some only pretend. But I just want to live, happily ever after, now and then"*

As we heard about Jimmy Buffett's passing, we all were thinking about the many years of his music being part of our lives. It is said "He was best known for his tropical rock music, which often portrays a lifestyle described as "island escapism". I had already chose the islands as home, when in 1968, I found myself in Puerto Rico. The lifestyle was not exactly the laid-back persona of the lyrics of a Buffett tune because I was in the U.S. Coast Guard, but it was close. Upon my return to New England, with much lower temperatures, I continued to think about the islands. Jimmy Buffett's latest album AIA was released in December 1974 and after multiple plays, I found myself once again in the islands, arriving in St. Croix in the summer of 1975. I secured employment with Antilles Air Boats and became the lyrics.

[Steve Goodman](#) was a singer-songwriter who wrote and played with Coral Reefers Band (AIA). Steve also recorded his own albums and was a regular performer in Chicago. He also performed at the Cellar Door in Washington D.C.

Jimmy Geisler, one of the owners of the Cellar Door, made a trip to St. Croix to visit a friend and liked the island and decided to stay for a while. Steve Goodman also joined in

the relocation. Geisler joined up with Betty Sperber, who owned the King Christian Hotel and who was also a former music talent agent in N.Y. and together they develop the new waterfront bar/nightclub... The Foggy Bottom. They brought some great talent to the island, which included Jimmy Buffett.



So now, I have the complete island life with Jimmy Buffett playing in the small club with me sitting in front with a cold beer in hand... life is good.

*“Mind on a permanent vacation, ocean is the only medication.  
Wishing my condition ain’t ever gonna go away.”*



Jimmy Buffett needed to be around the water and his flying needed to include that element as well. Buffett flew 3 Grumman amphibian aircraft before moving on to a Cessna Caravan on floats. His Grumman Goose was previously an Antilles Air Boats aircraft which seemed appropriate. His Grumman Albatross “Hemisphere Dancer” was housed at Mirabella’s Hangar in Ft. Pierce, Florida during its flying years, before its retirement position at Universal in Orlando. Claude Austin was the maintenance manager at Mirabella, who previously oversaw the maintenance at Chalk’s and Antilles Air Boats. I visited Ft. Pierce on a regular basis and had the opportunity to spend some time with “Hemisphere Dance” and Claude.



I feel that over the years my connection with Jimmy Buffett was not only his music but also his airplanes.

He lived the life he wanted. He is missed.

*“Take it all in... it’s as big as it seems. Count all your blessings.  
Remember your dreams.”*

– Jimmy Buffett