

Hanging Around the Rim in St. Barts

We all know the phrase “ranging around the rim” from basketball or other endeavors. In my old profession, if you failed to win an investment banking client, you might choose to “hang around the rim” to see if your competition might not get the deal done. The phrase also applied on two fronts on a recent trip to St. Barts where the St. Barts Bucket Regatta was held March 28-30. Chesapeake Bay sailor Graham Kastendike (Mumm 30 *Mulligan*) was there visiting friends and would love to have participated in the regatta of 30 100- to 200-foot yachts. But, of course, the spots on these beautiful yachts in high season in St. Barts were in high demand with the owners’ friends, family, and professional crew members in line.

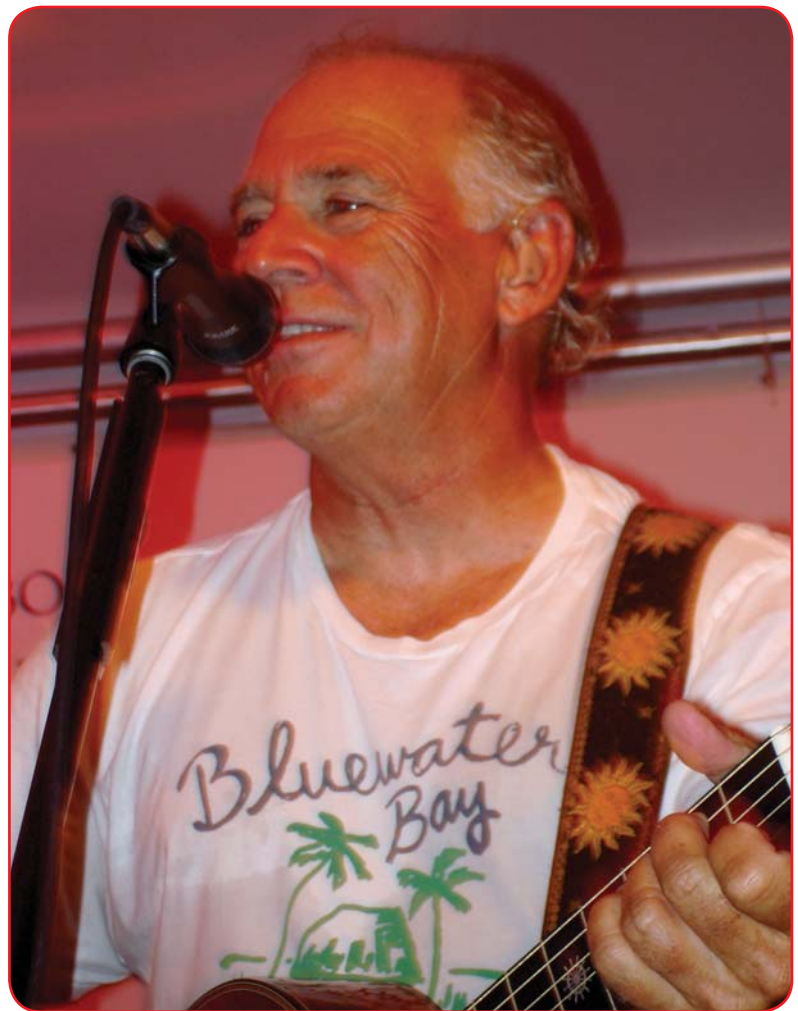
Undaunted by this fact, Graham went down to the Quay “ready to sail” where all 30 yachts were docked on the first morning of the three-day regatta. As the yachts were readying to cast off lines, he heard that one boat, *Avalon*, was short handed due to a few crew members having “passport issues.” A few competent sailors (not passengers) were needed. Graham went aboard, hastily presented his sailing resume, and *Avalon* set sail. Good “hanging around the rim,” Graham!

The adage applied again to yours truly during the same week in St. Barts. I admit to being a die-hard Parrotthead. Jimmy Buffett had shown up at the Bucket Regatta awards ceremony last year and sung four or five songs solo. The rumors were around that he might do so again, and his seaplane with the shark fin on the tail was at the airport. Connecting the dots from several conversations I had with “friends” of JB earlier during the week, it appeared to me that (while a well-kept secret), there was likely to be a much longer Buffett concert at 9:30 p.m. at Saturday night’s party.

At 9:15 p.m., I positioned myself four feet from the microphone placed on a small one-foot-high stage, and yes, after 15 minutes of looking silly standing there pretty much by myself, Jimmy Buffett and six members of his Coral Reefers band walked on stage and yelled, “Surprise!” After an hour and half concert (and my madly texting back to fellow Annapolis Parrottheads a dozen times), JB handed me his pick and set (song) list. “Hanging around the rim” worked again.

For those looking for a terrific week, the St. Barts Bucket Regatta is about as good as it gets! The Newport Bucket Regatta held in July is also a wonderful event (www.bucketregattas.com).

by Dick Franyo



This photo of Buffett might have been clearer had the photographer not been madly text messaging Parrottheads back home while taking shots. Photo by Dick Franyo



Bay sailor Graham Kastendike catches a ride at the Bucket Regatta in St. Barts. Photo by Dick Franyo