

Castaways bar goes Top 20 for CMT

By Jennifer Brannock
Staff Writer

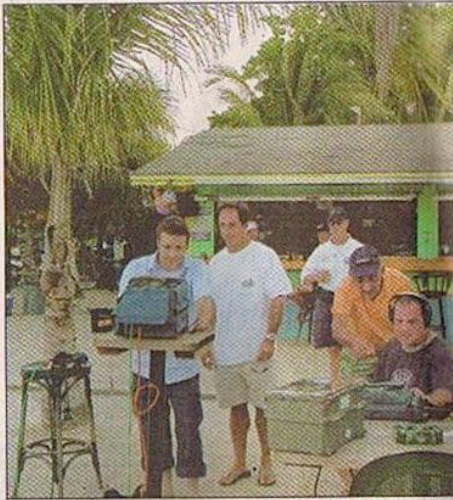
Castaways bar in Jupiter swung open its tiki doors and sandy floors on Tuesday to a film and talent crew from one of Country Music Television's highest rated shows, "Top 20."

After rolling in from Nashville, the cast and crew made their way around Jupiter filming segments for the Aug. 14 "end of summer" countdown show. The program will highlight such local attractions as Castaways, the Jupiter Beach Resort and the Jupiter Lighthouse.

Castaways recently earned a seat in the spotlight after the release of the Alan Jackson/Jimmy Buffett music video, "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere." Parts of the video, which debuted last week, were shot at the beach bar and featured numerous Jupiter residents.

"Top 20" producer Donnie VanCleve said the decision to film next week's countdown in Jupiter stemmed not only from Jackson's video, but also from the tropical setting and beach atmosphere.

"One of the reasons we came down here is because it has one of the summer



JENNIFER BRANNOCK The Jupiter Courier

Country Music Television video jockey Lance Smith, left, Castaways co-owner Jim Burg and Top 20 producer Donnie VanCleve, seated, and onlookers review footage shot during the taping of "Top 20." Smith, VanCleve and their crew visited Jupiter to tape their show from the site of Alan Jackson and Jimmy Buffett's recent music video, "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere."

one songs in the country right now, and the video was filmed here," VanCleve said. "This is like an end-of-sum-

mer, one last getaway in tropical Jupiter."

While the majority of "Top 20" shows are filmed in a stu-

dio, VanCleve wanted to create a beach-oriented theme this summer and took advantage of the opportunity to travel south.

"With summer coming to a close, most people decide to take one last vacation away," he said. "Alan's video allowed us to combine the two into an end-of-summer blow-out."

"Top 20" host Lance Smith was on site to countdown the hits. He reflected fondly on his day at the beach with a beer in hand, lounging beside the ocean.

"It has been the greatest experience," Smith said. "I get to travel to Jupiter, Florida and yap at the camera. I love this."

Smith has been with CMT for more than two years and began hosting "Top 20" in January 2002. Upon graduating from high school in Nashville, Smith dreamed of working in the film industry and leapt at the chance to audition to be a video jockey.

"Growing up in Nashville, you grow up watching CMT," Smith said.

The crew battled with typical South Florida elements such as mid-day rain storms,

but had a perfect day overall, production manager Robin Hausken said.

"It couldn't have been more picturesque," she said. "Jupiter is beautiful. It is a really great place."

Castaways co-owners Jim Burg and Cindy and Charlie Stuve are basking in the publicity that Jackson's video and CMT have brought to Jupiter.

Burg said that since the video's debut he has already received numerous phone calls from Los Angeles inquiring about potential video and movie shoots in the future.

"I've learned a lot because of all this," Burg said. "One thing it has done is really exposed Jupiter."

Business at Castaways has increased in the past week, especially in T-shirt sales, said Cindy Stuve.

"This is a good thing for the entire town," she said.

The crew wrapped up filming today, but Smith hopes his visit to Jupiter will not be his last.

"It's totally cool here," he said. "It's a beautiful location. You can't pass up something like this."

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