

Jackson's Buffett-esque tune turning into a hit

By JOHN GEROME
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE — Pass the sunscreen and pour another margarita. Alan Jackson and Jimmy Buffett might have the breezy hit of the summer with their duet *It's Five O'Clock Somewhere*.

The song is No. 1 on the Aug. 16 *Billboard* country chart and No. 21 and climbing on the pop chart, where Buffett's signature *Margaritaville* peaked at No. 8 in 1977. (It hit No. 1 on the adult contemporary chart.)

Written by Jim "Moose" Brown and Don Rollins, the song captures the carefree spirit of Buffett's boozy, beach-bum anthem.

Jackson sings of taking his lunch break on a hot July day when "that old clock is moving slow" and the boss is pushing hard.

One verse goes, "I ain't had a day off now in over a year, My Jamaican vacation's gonna start right here, If the phone's for me you can tell 'em, I just sailed away."

"It makes everyone want to find that island getaway," said Dave Donahue, program director at country radio station WCTH 100.3 in the Florida Keys, where the song is a top request. "It's one of those great little tropical drinking songs."

It's Five O'Clock Somewhere is one of two new tracks on Jackson's *Greatest Hits Volume II* album scheduled for release Tuesday.

Jackson, 44, said the tune was a natural fit for his friend.

"When I got the song it sounded like Buffett, so I called him up and asked him if he'd do it with me," Jackson said. "We cut the track in Nashville, then I flew to Key West and did the vocals there (at Buffett's Shrimp Boat Studio)."

"I think people like it," he said.

The two men have recorded together before. Buffett sang on Jackson's cover of *Margaritaville* a few years ago.

"I've always been a big Jimmy Buffett fan," Jackson wrote in the liner notes of his album *Under the Influence*, a collection of cover songs that included *Margaritaville*. "I like his music and the fact that he does what he wants to do."



Jackson



Buffett