

Guitar Class

by volunteer instructor Scotty Pook

The kids call me Mr. Scotty. I have lived full time on Caye Caulker for eight years. This past summer Heidi and Joni told me about the new school and asked if I would be interested in teaching music. I agreed to do it. I have been a professional musician for 45 years. In those years many musicians have shared their knowledge with me. Now is the time to give that back. The first challenge was to get guitars for the students to learn on. I was fortunate to have a group of guitar players in the States donate guitars and strings for the class. Two tourists donated their guitars, and Heidi loaned us a very nice guitar too.

Class began in September right on time. I got my first six students for that month. Three girls and three boys. I told them that the goal was for them to be able to play a song by the end of their one month session. I told them to choose the song. They chose a great song by Bob Marley, 'Three Little Birds'. They worked very hard to learn the chords needed for the song. By the end of their time they could play it. I could not have been more proud of them. You could see their own satisfaction with their achievement. It is not easy to learn to play an instrument. The students all worked very hard and that work paid off.

I find the students to be very respectful and willing to meet the challenge. The class has been great fun for me and I feel that the students are having fun too. I did not know what to expect from the school or the kids. Both have proven to be far beyond anything I could have imagined. I am so happy that I volunteered my time to be a part of Ocean Academy. A school like this is long overdue for Caye Caulker. I am proud to be a small part of it.

To see short videos of the guitar class, log on to www.youtube.com and search "First song 'Three Little Birds'". Scotty's second guitar group learned to play "Watina" by the late Andy Palacio; you can see their

