

# Discover Wild Florida

Website

March 2022

## Florida Black Bear National Scenic Byway Newsletter

"Love is like wildflowers; it's often found in the most unlikely places"— Ralph Waldo Emerson."

### *The Sounds of Freedom*

by Tom Rose



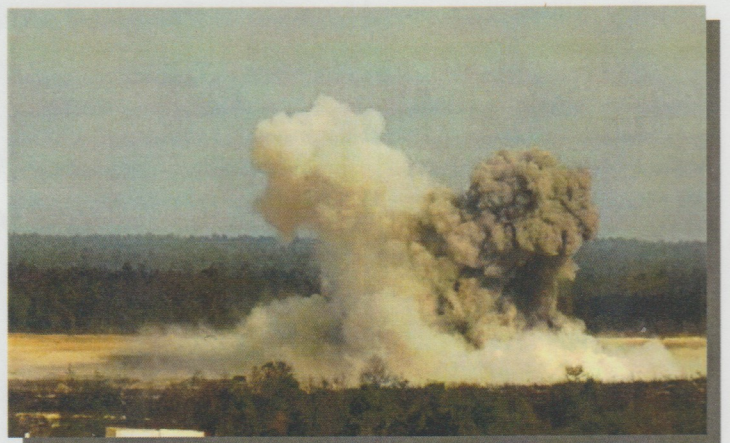
### **BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**

"What's that loud explosion?" an Ocala National Forest hiker asks the Ranger. "Oh, that's the **SOUND OF FREEDOM**" the Ranger replies. "The sound of freedom?" "Yes, that is the United States Navy conducting bombing exercises and practice on the Pinecastle Range."

The Pinecastle Bombing Range is a 5,700 acre section of the 382,000 acre Ocala National Forest that has been used for military exercises, practice bombing and machine gun strafing since World War II. Only about 450 acres are actually used for bombing, the remaining acreage is considered as buffer zone. The location is about 2 miles west of SR 19 and Camp Ocala and one-half mile west of the Farles Lake campground. Currently operations consist of F-18 Fighter Jets from the

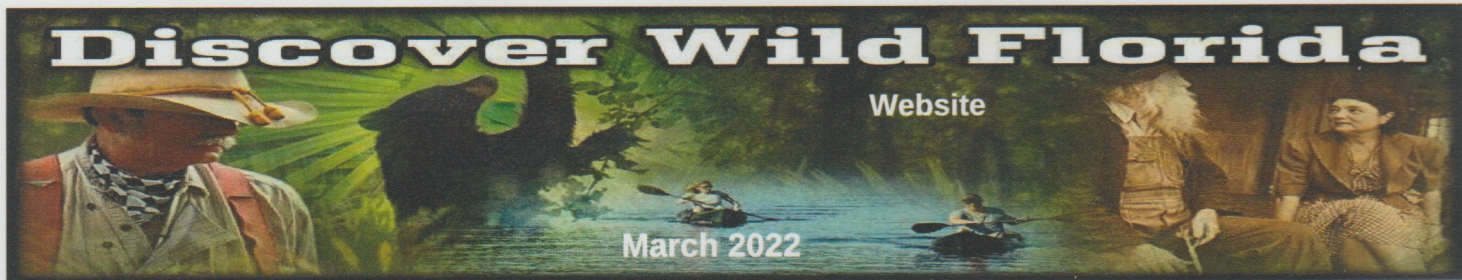
Jacksonville Naval Air Station and aircraft carriers in the Atlantic dropping both live and inert bombs on a weekly schedule. Other activities are scheduled from time to time by the Army, Air Force, Marines and National Guard. Explosions can be loud enough to be heard in surrounding communities and can shake your house and rattle windows.

Kalen at NAS Jacksonville, Fleet Control: "Aircraft using the range can come from various bases including the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville and aircraft carriers conducting pre deployment maneuvers in the Atlantic. Most live bombing comes from the carrier based operations."



Overall the percentage of live ordinance is about 15% live to 85% inert." Exercises are scheduled weekly or as needed depending on the world situation. We issue a press release prior to all range activity with dates and times for the bombing an a reminder of how wildlife





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## *The Sounds of Freedom, Cont*

might be effected. You can contact the Navy about bombing at the following numbers. Noise complaints 1-800-874-5059, Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility, Jacksonville, Fla. Additional information, call (904) 542-5588."

Not everyone is happy with bombing in the Forest. The Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice and the Sierra Club are among the groups that would like to see the bombing come to an end. However, there is little evidence that 80+ years of bombing have harmed the animals or damaged the forest. The occasional published complaint also is misleading, says Matt Newby, publisher of nearby Umatilla's weekly paper, the North Lake Outpost. "I can tell you the vast majority of people around here support the bombing," he says. In fact, when the Coalition protested in Umatilla, some townspeople assembled to demonstrate in



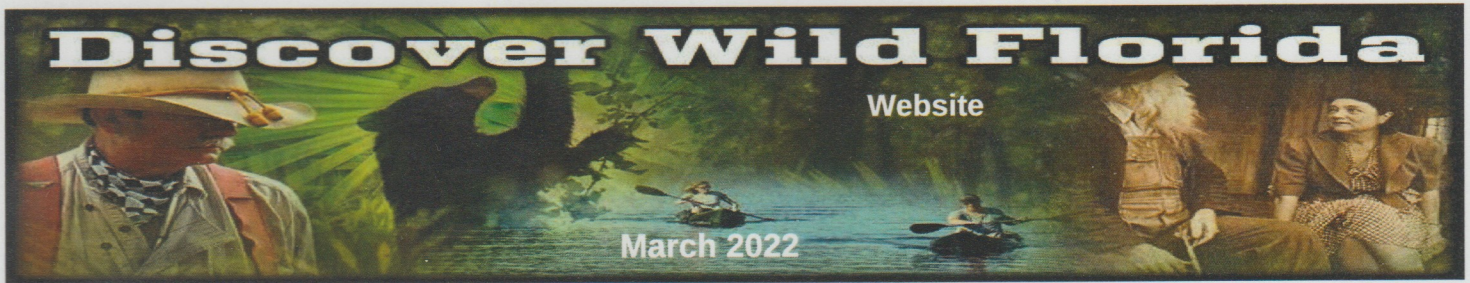
favor of Pinecastle. "It's kind of funny," Newby says. "We have people coming from Orlando and Gainesville to tell us we don't need a bombing range. But people here don't have that negative opinion."

USDA Forest Service web site: "Defending the U.S. and protecting military personnel requires continuous and realistic training. The Navy's Pinecastle Range on the Ocala National Forest, Florida provides unique conditions and an ideal setting for our sailors, Marines and combat aircrew to conduct this essential training.



The Pinecastle Range is a critical asset to the Navy's Global Maritime Strategy and the war against terror. It ensures naval air wing components qualify in strike warfare training, command and control, power projection, and air defense missions. The Navy often employs simulators and synthetic training assets to provide early skill repetition and to enhance teamwork, but live training in a realistic





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such as the Pinecastle Range in the Forest is absolutely necessary to ensure success in combat. This element of training cannot be simulated by any other means.

The Navy understands and recognizes the potential for training activities to affect the community and takes proactive steps to minimize these impacts on citizens and the environment.

When you hear those booms, when the ground shakes and the windows rattle don’t be alarmed. That’s the *Sound of Freedom*.

## *In the Know Tid Bits*

Did you ever get tired of work, honey do lists, and you just wanted to run away, just drive for miles with no destination in mind. Where ever you wound up was fine, but you knew you were never alone, both your cell phone, and your car were equipped with a GPS system. Something we take for granted in today’s world. One would wonder how the first GPS system was ever conceived, it was part of a highly-secret military program developed for the Cold War.

October 1957, Soviet Union launches Sputnik satellite which carried a radio transmitter broadcasting a simple “beep” that could be heard by receivers on Earth. Amateur radio operators all around the globe were able to listen to the signal

for as long as the satellite remained in orbit.

However physicists from John Hopkins University was also listening in, and they noticed something interesting: as the satellite passed overhead, its motion caused its radio signal to first increase in frequency and then decrease—the well-known Doppler effect. They found that by mathematically analyzing the Doppler shifts in the radio signal’s wavelength, they could determine Sputnik’s orbit by successively calculating its positions in the sky. The interesting part, however, came when these analysts also realized that the opposite was true: if they knew where the satellite was located in the sky, they could also use the timing and frequency of its radio signal to calculate their own position on the Earth’s surface.

Next time you think you want to get lost in the forest, you might never get lost with a GPS system in your car and cell phone.

## *Acknowledgements*

*Thanks to NAS Jacksonville and The US Forest Service for photos & information.*



*Meeting Minutes/Newsletter on our website.*

*Don’t Forget about Amazon Smiles.*

Stay tune for our next meeting March 29, 2022