



S.O.S. Spring and Fall Dates Set

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S.O.S. Carefree Times
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RICHMOND, VA 23226

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S.O.S.™ Carefree® Times

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'86 S.O.S. DATES SET:
SPRING SAFARI: MARCH 20-22
FALL MIGRATION: SEPT. 11-13

S.O.S. ACCOMMODATIONS DISCOUNTS ... condos have been blocked off and special S.O.S. accommodations discounts negotiated for '86 members for the Spring Safari and Fall Migration. Upon your '86 membership renewal, you'll receive S.O.S. Reservations Certificates which entitle you to reserve an S.O.S. condo and receive the special discounts. Reservation will be by certificate only. These certificates will be mailed out along with your '86 S.O.S. card. These S.O.S. accommodations will be booked up fast! First come ... first served! Renew NOW!

"SHAG" ON SCETV ... "SHAG," S.C.E.T.V.'s top quality 30 minute television documentary, will debut on 11 S.C. ETV stations on November 29. Lots of footage from S.O.S. '84 Fall Migration plus old beach stills and film. Check your local paper for exact time. Hopefully "Shag" will air throughout the South at a later date. We'll keep you informed. A home videotape of this show will be available from SCETV. Call Michael Filler for info: (803) 758-7261.

S.C. TO UNDEIL SHAG LOGO ... South Carolina, which has officially adopted the SHAG as its state dance, will announce the winner of its Shag Logo Competition in December. This logo will be used to promote the dance and the state in advertising and merchandising promotions.

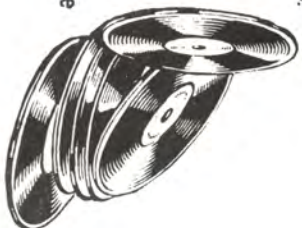
LOT LICE ... It's an old colorful carney slang expression, and a great one! It refers to those who come to the carnival lot early, stay late ... and spend nothing! Fortunately, the S.O.S. doesn't have an abundance of "Tot Lice," but we do have a growing infestation. You've seen them. They're the ones who try to beat the system and crash the party without joining or, to sneak their friends into the party. They're also the one's who give S.O.S. bad checks. The "Tot Lice" pass their S.O.S. membership cards around to friends, say they "lost their card" to get another one, etc. Larry, Fat Harold's bouncer, ripped up unbelievable numbers of S.O.S. cards which he knew were not in proper hands. Larry spot checked other cards to see if they corresponded with names on drivers licenses. If not, these cards were also confiscated and thrown away. Unfortunately, due to this "Tot Lice" infestation, we will be forced to lighten up future security and controls. It's a shame!

CHANGING CHANNELS ... I kinda think of S.O.S. like a TV program that is skewed to appeal only to a limited segment of the population. If this show is not your bag, fine. Simply tune it out. Don't attempt to change the show. Change channels ... or cut off the TV!

ADULTS ONLY ... Got a call prior to S.O.S. from a lady who wanted to bring a group of 12 year old "Junior Shaggers" to the Migration. I told her "no." Maybe it's time to spell things out. The intent and purpose of the S.O.S. is a laid-back beach party and reunion for middle age (and over) adults, the nucleus of which were O.D. beach kids of yesteryears. It's not a shag instructional gathering. Those that want a party for junior shaggers ... or shag contests can organize them. S.O.S. is not such a program, however - it's a party for adults who share a common beach attitude and philosophy, and who, like college kids, deserve their own spring and fall breaks! Those that don't share this attitude and philosophy can always change the channel or cut off the TV!

THANKS ... special hugs, kisses and big "T-h-a-n-k-s" to those who helped make S.O.S. VI a success: Harold Bessent and all his staff, the S.O.S. advertisers, Don Reid and the Sand Flea publication, Rick Hubbard of the Sand Flea Beach Club and its Shaggers Hall of Fame, Stanly Catron and B.M.I., "Bubber" Snow, the media, Marshall Stewart and the Crazy Zack's gang, "Speedy" Lewis and the Lewis Realty crew, all the Beach Music D.J.'s, photographers Don Hinds and Sumter Brawley, Joe Keistler and his girls, Tom Lilly, Larry Blake, Kim and Phil Summers, my wife, Nadine, the weather man, and you, the S.O.S. members!

SAND FLEA NEWSPAPER'S "LIVING LEGENDS" ... In case you missed it, Don Reid, publisher of the Sand Flea, presented the first four "O.D. Living Legends" awards at the S.O.S. Migration on Saturday afternoon. The surprised, appreciative recipients of these awards were Tom Lilly, Charlie Porter, Maurice Treadway and Gene Laughter. I speak for all four when I give our "thanks" to the Sand Flea. We are, indeed, honored. Somehow it's better to be remembered as Living Legends, than dead ones!



1986 S.O.S. RENEWAL SCHEDULE

We will start processing 1986 renewals and mailing out the new 1986 S.O.S. MEMBERSHIP CARDS as of December 1, 1985.

Our goal is to get as many of the renewals behind us A.S.A.P. As you know, S.O.S. MEMBERSHIPS are for a **CALENDAR YEAR** and all 1985 S.O.S. memberships expire on December 31st. In 1986 we start over again and future newsletters will be sent out only to those that renew, as they renew. It is advantageous to the S.O.S.ers to renew prior to the Spring Safari for the membership will then include both S.O.S. '86 parties (Spring Safari and Fall Migration). So, gang ... **THIS IS YOUR RENEWAL NOTICE** and the last newsletter you'll receive until you renew. You'll **SAVE \$3.00** per person **by renewing NOW**, or prior to March 1st. So, **FILL OUT** your 1986 S.O.S. APPLICATION and **RENEW N-O-W** and don't miss a mailing! Should you wish to give an S.O.S. membership as a Christmas present, let us know and we'll mail it right out to the recipient along with a gift card from you.

Your '86 S.O.S. Card Should **MORE Than Pay** for Itself...

THE '86 S.O.S. MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- BOTH '86 **SPRING SAFARI & FALL MIGRATION AT O.D.'s FREE COOKOUTS!**
- NEW, EXPANDED NEWSLETTERS ... S.O.S. CAREER TIMES!**
- ALL S.O.S. BULLETINS AND MAILINGS ... **TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE!**
- 1986 S.O.S. PHOTO YEARBOOK ... with photos from '85 MIGRATION!
- YEAR 'ROUND DISCOUNTS AT O.D.'S FINEST RESTAURANTS!
- SPECIAL CONDO RENTAL RATES FOR BOTH SPRING AND FALL S.O.S. PARTIES!
- SPECIAL OFF SEASON CONDO RENTAL RATES!
- NO COVER CHARGE AT ALL HAROLD'S CLUBS ... YEAR 'ROUND!

(This benefit is provided by Harold as a courtesy to the S.O.S. and can be revoked if abused.)

THE EARLIER YOU RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, THE MORE YOU'LL BENEFIT!

1986 S.O.S. DUES SCHEDULE

Applications received **NOW** until **March 1, '86** \$12 per person
 Applications received **AFTER March 1** ('till Aug 15*) \$15 per person
 On the spot memberships at **SPRING SAFARI** \$15 per person
 Absolutely **NO** mail order memberships will be processed after **August 15**
 Memberships at **FALL MIGRATION (IF AVAILABLE*)** \$15 per person

*S.O.S. reserves the right to cut off memberships prior to the Fall Migration should the S.O.S. membership rolls reach capacity.

LOST S.O.S. CARD POLICY ... This is tough, but as mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the "Lot Lice" have forced us into this position. **Replacement cards will be \$15.** Your S.O.S. membership card is your responsibility and the card is just like cash. Protect your S.O.S. CARD. If you lose it, it's gone.

S.O.S. CARDS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE ... S.O.S. CARDS ARE FOR THE USE OF MEMBERS ONLY! If it is determined that a member loans an S.O.S. card to another person, for any benefit, the membership will be revoked. Spot checks will be made at Fat Harold's and other clubs. Don't be a "Lot Lice!"

S.O.S.™ 1986 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships are for a calendar year and valid through December 31, 1986
 MAIL TO: S.O.S. / P.O. BOX 8343 / RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23226

No mail applications accepted after August 15.

S.O.S. RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CUT OFF MEMBERSHIPS AT SUCH TIME THE ROLLS REACH CAPACITY.

Renewal **New Membership**

If renewal, check here if your address has changed since last mailing: _____

If new member, name S.O.S. Sponsoring Member: _____

Number of S.O.S. membership cards @ \$12 per person : _____
 (\$15 per person if received after March 1)

Amount Enclosed (Make Money Order or check payable to S.O.S.): \$ _____

NAMES: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY : _____ STATE : _____ ZIP: _____

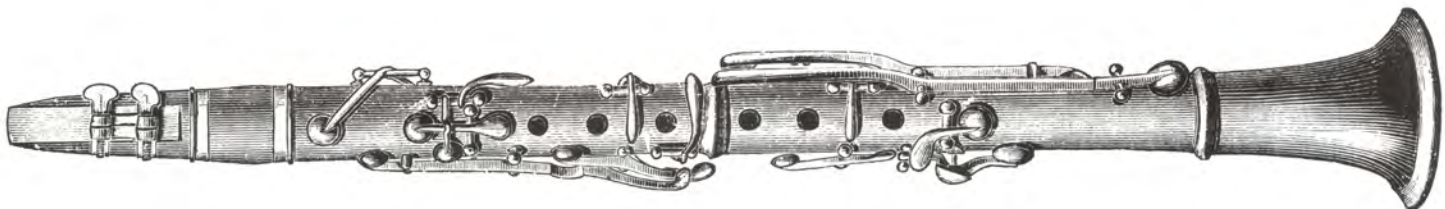
TELEPHONE NOS. : WORK: () _____ AGE : _____

HOME: () _____

FOR S.O.S. OFFICE USE ONLY:

CASH/mo _____ CH NO. _____ **CLEARED**
 S.O.S. no. _____ **ENTRD ON CMPTUR**

S.O.S. Memberships will be available at the SPRING SAFARI at \$15 per person. If you have questions re S.O.S., call me at HOME (not at my office, please!) after 7PM. Gene Laughter (804) 741-1926. Thanks!



'85 S.O.S. MIGRATION POST SCRIPT

TUESDAY ... A surprising crowd of S.O.S.ers were already at O.D. when I arrived Tuesday afternoon. Things really got cooking at Fat Harold's Tuesday night and the S.O.S. was underway ... a full day earlier than planned and anticipated!

WEDNESDAY ... Always the best day and night ... heavy afternoon rains ... clearing and a good crowd at Fat Harold's Wednesday night. The S.O.S.ers come marching in. Lots of old beach friends. Smiles and laughs. A great, great night!

THURSDAY ... Almost like Fridays of S.O.S. Migrations past. Fat Harold's and H.A.T.S. both are full and rocking. The S.O.S. crowd builds by the hour!

FRIDAY ... The S.O.S.ers continue to parade in. Fat Harold's is jammed day and night. H.A.T.S. is packed. The Pad is a nice respite for us "Golden Oldies". Crazy Zacks has a good S.O.S. crowd, but never over-crowded.

SATURDAY ... Bedlam, as always! The Honorable John J. "Bubber" Snow makes a grand entrance and a grand speech. I almost break down giving retired police chief M.L. Bellamy his Appreciation Award. The Sand Flea Beach Club Hall of Famers put on one hell of a show at H.A.T.S. - they are to be commended! The clubs are S.R.O. Saturday night. Crazy Zacks had overflow S.O.S.ers and welcomed breathing room.

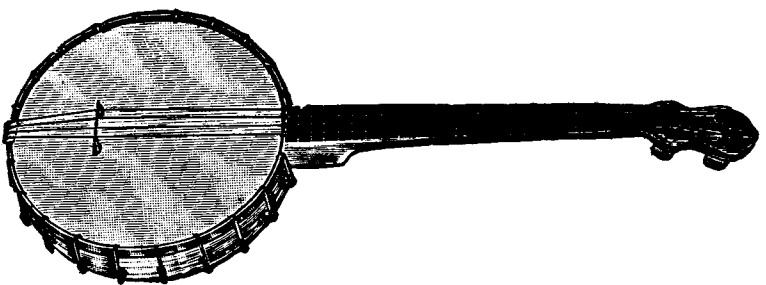
SUNDAY ... Hundreds held on for just one more day ... one more moment ... one more party ... and one more drink (the story of our lives?). Beach people have a difficult time leaving and turning their backs on the ocean and their friends! Harold forgot the program called for happy hour prices on Sunday. Some S.O.S.ers got upset. Harold asked me to pass along his apologies!

MONDAY ... Only a small handful of us sat quietly at a table in Fat Harold's on Monday night ... all were dragging. Voices were almost gone. We whispered S.O.S. war stories and laughed 'till it hurt. Harold Bessent finally relaxed. It was over!

TUESDAY ... An endless, long road back to Richmond. It's normally about 310 miles and takes just over five and a half hours. This time it seemed like at least 1,000 miles and the trip dragged on forever. Finally, we arrived. The 6th S.O.S. chapter was closed. Time to think ahead and of the future.

ALL IN ALL ... Many wrote or commented that it was the best since the first one! Things did go fairly smoothly and the weather fully cooperated this year. Others commented that it was overcrowded. It was, indeed, crowded! Crazy Zack's was available to keep things from getting too crowded, however, and many commented how much they liked it. Some felt that Zack's needs to shore up their beach music selection a bit for the next one.

We were very surprised at how many folks waited until the S.O.S. to renew or to join. That was a puzzler to me as it's cheaper to join or renew early in the year and get the full benefits of both the spring and fall parties, newsletters, discounts, etc. Lots of folks wait until the last minute to make their plans. I guess, it really creates big problems. Harold just wasn't prepared for the large last minute surge - in either personnel or bar stock. No way to anticipate the crowd size. The way things are going, we may be forced to cut off S.O.S. memberships before the '86 Migration next fall. We have about reached our limit in numbers that O.D. can accommodate. If you plan to attend the '86 S.O.S. Migration, I suggest you renew your membership early in the year to assure that you'll get in!



10% OFF The Low Off Season RENTAL Rates for S.O.S.ers ONLY at ISLAND DUNES. ... APR 3 Bath Deluxe Ocean Front O.D. Condos perfect for a winter shag weekend. Room for 4 couples. Only a mile south of Fat Harold's. Call Jeppy McDowell at Lewis Company (toll free 800/334-3390 or S.C. 803/249-1409). Ask for Swink's condo B-1 (first floor)! Other Island Dunes units also available at special off season rates for S.O.S.!

FROM JRR FLORIDA ... Approx. 40 members of the Jacksonville Beach Bop Association attended the Migration and have nothing but praise. A great time was had by all. When the cliché "Southern Hospitality" was coined they must have had S.C. and shaggers in mind. "Congratulations" and "thank you" S.C. and shaggers for making us so welcome and especially for the great time we had."

... Tom Roberts, ex pres., JBBA

SO GLAD YOU ENJOYED IT. WELL SEE YOU GUYS AT THE SPRING SAFARI, TOM ... AND, THANKS FOR ALL THE KIND WORDS!

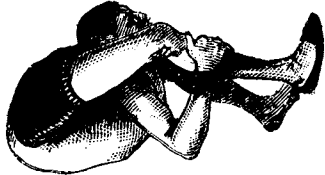


BAD NEWS ... **GOOD NEWS** ... Master S.O.S. Photographer, Don Hinds, suffered a heart attack at the Fall Migration and recently underwent a quadruple by-pass operation at Duke University Hospital. Don is now recuperating at home and says he will be back behind the camera for the Spring Safari! I saw Don just before he left to go home from the Migration on Sunday. He commented that he had never felt so tired. He wasn't aware that he had suffered a heart attack until a week or so later. Take care and best wishes from the S.O.S., Don!

NEWS FROM RED'S (RALEIGH) SEPT SHAG CONTEST: 1ST PLACE ... PRO: Sam and Babs Macintosh. NOVICE: Chris and Debbie Narron. ARTISTUR: John Truelove and Audrey Spinhour.

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COMING UP in the NEXT ISSUE of CAREFREE TIMES ... photo Spread from the '85 S.O.S. ... FALL MIGRATION! Don't miss it. Renew your S.O.S. Membership Now!



GET IN SHAPE FOR THE S.O.S.™

Nine TIME-TESTED TIPS to help YOU Sharpen YOUR S.O.S. Survival Skills for the Big 1986 SPRING SAFARI!

NEWS BULLETIN ... Last August we reported that the Burlington Shag Club was holding an S.O.S. Training Party to get their Troops in shape. Carefree Times has learned that while the August S.O.S. training party was a huge success, the long range results of this operation were a dismal failure as many of the Burlington area S.O.S.ers either CRASHED at the Fall Migration or went into long periods of hibernation upon returning home. Following is sage S.O.S. survival advice that we sent to the Burlingtonians.

- 1. Attend all A.C.C. basketball games** in your area and scream loudly (at the top of your lungs - don't just yell ... SCREAM) throughout every game. Practice shouting and screaming after every play ... after every referee's call. Remember ... never whisper when you can talk. Never talk when you can shout. Never shout when you can scream! This is wonderful for building up the vocal cords!
- 2. Carry a cooler of beer in your car** at all times. Pop a beer at every red light and practice killing the beer before you reach the next light. It's good training and a fun game! (This is best accomplished with a novelty beer can holder that hides the true contents).
- 3. Go to bed 10 minutes later each night.** Continue this process until you can survive comfortably on three hours of sleep each night. The need for eight hours sleep at night is just a myth ... an old wives' tale. Thomas Edison never slept more than three hours per night. Why should you?
- 4. Hang around crowded places.** Go to sales, church gatherings, ball games, parades, conventions, markets, concerts ... any place that's really crowded. Carry a cup of water (or beer) in your hand at all times. Learn to quickly negotiate through the crowds without spilling a drop. Learn to elbow your way through the crowds and to block out others (preferably women and children). This is a great teamwork game! Get a partner. One should lead and block and then both scoot through the opened holes. Alternate blocker, runner moves. Smile and say a lot of "excuse me's" as you progress, but only after you've knocked or tripped them to the floor! Appear innocent. This takes a lot of practice to properly execute.

5. Smoke a lot! Build up to at least four or five packs a day. If you don't smoke, hire a heavy smoker to blow smoke in your face constantly. Get used to living in a totally smoke filled environment. Deeply inhale whenever you are exposed to any kinds of smoke or fumes. Learn to love and crave the tangy smell of smoke. Like scotch, it's an acquired taste. Pre-land chain smoking is good for your health. If your doctor objects, change doctors.

6. Develop an impenetrable diet. Drink a beer for breakfast every morning. Also, put a warm beer by your alarm clock. Chug it quickly when the alarm goes off! Eat only one meal per day. Learn to get by on burgers n' hot dogs.

7. Learn to be conspicuous. Wear funny hats. Or funny t-shirts, or nothing. Dress outlandishly! Be a non-conformist. This will help you to be noticed by the busy bartenders when waiting at an overcrowded bar. Remember, you are competing for their attention. Stand out in the crowd! Tipping big helps too. Flash C-notes. Be a big spender. Do whatever it takes to get your drinks regardless of the cost!

8. Practice kidney and bladder control. Get used to long lines and learn to love them! Get in every line you can. Always choose the longest line at the bank or super market. Wait until half time to go to the rest room at ball games. It's great S.O.S. practice. Meet your in-line neighbors. Start interesting conversations with them. Make waiting in line fun! Get your mind off the real reason for standing in line. Forget that you're dying to go to the bath room. Talk about tax reforms. Forget that your legs are tightly crossed. Count to a thousand ... backwards. It's simply mind over matter. Hold back ... YOU can do it!

9. Never sit when you can stand! Practice standing for days at a time. Attend all S.R.O. events. Stand everywhere you go. Stand at the movies (the usher may indicate that you should stand in the rear of the theater). Stand on buses. Stand at bars. Stand at ball games. Stand at restaurants (tell the waiter you wish a standers' table - if he gives you a funny look, be aloof, leave and try another restaurant). Stand at work (have your desk raised to standing height). Buy an old milk truck so you can stand while driving. Sell all chairs and sofas you own! Sitting is a bad, slothful habit. Break it! Standing stamina is the most important, but least understood, art to surviving any S.O.S. Learn your standing lessons well! (If, you absolutely must sit down, sit on a narrow 4" wooden rail).

Remember the S.O.S.

Training Motto:

ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE!

WINNING NEWSLETTER NAME -- S.O.S. CAREFREE TIMES

Charter S.O.S.ers, Everette Hodge, of Atlanta, wins two '86 memberships for submitting the winning newsletter name! We received many good entries and want to thank all of you contributors. CAREFREE TIMES just seemed to nicely fit the philosophy of what the S.O.S. is all about. These good old beach days were, indeed, carefree ... as is the S.O.S. today. In the not too distant future, we'll look back at the S.O.S. parties of present and recent years and remember them, too, as those "good old beach days" of yesteryear. So, my friends, savor the Carefree Times ... and remember the S.O.S. motto, "Go for the Juggler of Life!" Congratulations to S.O.S.ers Everette Hodge!

H.A.T.S. and the PAD TO REMAIN OPEN IN '86! Got it straight from Fat Harold Bessent's mouth and it's GREAT NEWS! AS you are probably aware, the property has been sold and will eventually become a parking lot for a giant condo high-rise project that will go up where the pavilion is now located. Due to many factors, the condo development market is now soft and this project has been put on the back burner! So, S.O.S.ers, it looks like we're home free for 1986 ... enjoy it while you can ... one mo' time!

CONTINENTAL DANCE LINE ... Several have asked why we never get the "World's Longest Continental Dance Line" off the ground at the S.O.S. Fall Migration. Well, it's simply because we didn't know anything about the event! It wasn't part of the S.O.S. program and no one bothered to coordinate it with the S.O.S. We gather it was supposed to take place at the same time that we had the "Shaggers Hall of Fame" program Saturday afternoon at H.A.T.S.? All in all, a good idea ... and a well kept secret!

S.O.S.O. CRASHES ... We thought S.O.S.O. (Singles Only Leisure Organization) was a good idea. Still do. A singles only beach party.

Several gals urged us to organize a singles sub-group. We gave it a shot, but there weren't enough takers. In order to have such a beach party, we needed guaranteed numbers to entice a beach club to block off a week-end for the activity. At least 2000! Not enough singles stepped forward to be counted. S.O.S.O. has crashed landed. All membership fees have been refunded in full. Maybe we'll give it another try at a future date? If so, we'll let you know.

TIDEWATER (VA) SHAG CLUB ... "Big George" Lineberry and Fran Bingley of Norfolk have started Virginia's first shag club ... "TIDEWATER SHAG CLUB, INC." This should be a fun group! Many of you will be interested in joining so write to "T.S.C.," P.O. Box 10028, Norfolk VA 23513 or call Fran at (804) 857-0065 ... or George at (804) 853-6294.

S.O.S. CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS:

'85 YEARBOOK ... MEMORIES ... We still have a hundred or so copies left, and if you don't pick up your copy, or want another one, send two bucks to cover postage and handling to S.O.S., RT 2 - BOX 12, Denver, NC 28037. First come ... first served. If you want to gamble that any will be left at the Spring S.O.S. Safari, they'll be free for the asking (if still available).

A FEW '85 S.O.S. T-SHIRTS LEFT ... sizes S and M only. Order 'em from Bobby Edwards Enterprises, P.O. Box 2724-CRS, Rock Hill, SC 29730 ... \$10 each including shipping charges. Make check out to "Shag Shirts."

AL MUNN PRODUCES SHAG LESSON VIDEO TAPE for home viewing. "How to" instructions by Pro Shaggers Charlie Wombie and Jackie McGee. Beginners lessons on the basic, stunt, belly roll, pivot, etc. One cassette \$19.95 ... two or more \$17.95 each. Add \$3 per cassette for handling and shipping. Order from Shag Lessons, Dept. S., P.O. Box 10376, Charlotte NC 28212.

S.O.S. '85 VIDEO YEARBOOK ... We're in the process of editing the video footage that we shot at the Fall Migration and will have a final product available to the membership early in '86. More info on this in the next newsletter.

BEACH MUSIC AUDIO TAPES ... Looking for some good "Beach" tapes available by mail?

Mike Lewis has two Fall S.O.S. 90 min. Tapes - different music than earlier ones. \$9 each + \$1 shipping/postage (\$12 for nonSOSers). Mike Lewis/Box 1304/Chapel Hill NC 27514.

Chris Beachley has a series of 90 minute beach music Tapes by year. You select the year and Chris supplies a tape of the music! 1948 - 1955 are now available to S.O.S.ers for \$6 each plus \$1.50 mailing and handling. Chris Beachley, The Wax Museum, 1505 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte NC 28204.