



S.O.S. Carefree Times


19 Summer 96

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
of the
SOCIETY OF STRANDERS
and
THE ASSOCIATION OF
CAROLINA SHAG CLUBS



**Enio Cordoba
and Terryl Jones**

 **S.O.S.** 
Carefree Times
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The S.O.S. Carefree Times is designed to promote shagging and shag music and to raise the enthusiasm for them. This publication is also to support and promote the A.C.S.C., S.O.S., and the individual clubs within. It is for and about our organizations and our events.

Our publication can only be as interesting as you, our readers, make it, so we solicit your assistance. We will always need pictures, feature articles, humor, short stories, poetry, etc.

This issue concentrates on the Second Annual S.O.S. Grand National Dance Championships, held May 24-26, 1996 in Atlanta, and the memory of Dewey Kennedy. Also included are the Shell Award and Shagging Icon Award winners.

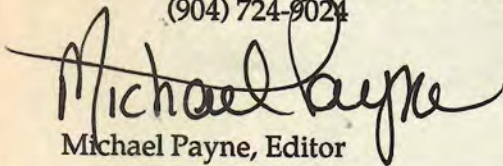
We welcome comments from you telling us what you think about current issues and what you would like to see in the future.

So, put your feet up, read the news and views in this issue ... and enjoy!

As always, please insure that I am on your newsletter mailing list.

Send all submissions to:

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Michael Payne, Editor

Upcoming 1996 - 1997

S.O.S. Carefree Times Deadlines

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Fall Migration '96	23 July	30 August
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Summer Mail-out '97	2 June	15 July

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Thank you.

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1996 S.O.S. Grand National Miscellaneous Photos



Neither rain nor sleet nor broken leg



Kenny Wetzel, actor Robert Duval, and friend



Wayne and Sharlot Bott



Barry Durand and Lisa Austin open the show ...



David and Tracy Appel



Rick and Maureen Little



Charlie and Jackie



Lance Shermoen, Michelle French



Enio Cordoba and Terryl Jones



Cody Melin and Resa Henderson



Bob Bahls and Debbie Bernard



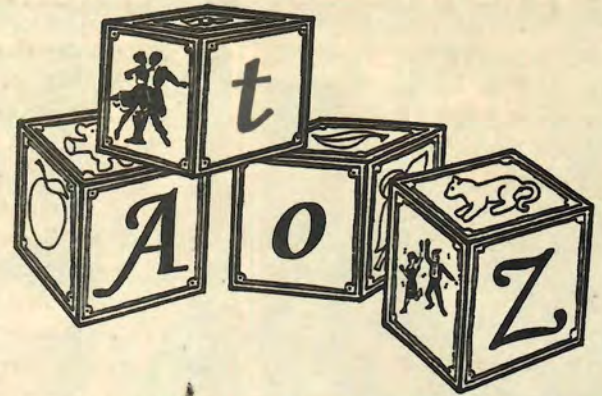
Scott Morris and Therese Pavlatos

S. O. S. ...

FROM **A**BLE TO **Z**EBRA

Some Alphabetical Observations On Our Favorite Beach Party

By Phil Sawyer



- A** - The Arcade, where Murl is King, and oh what barbecue!
- B** - Cold Beer, Beach Bums, Bass Weejuns, Baby Oil with Iodine, Beach Music -- without them, this would never be right.
- C** - The Cafe with the Ocean View -- stands right next to the Old Pavilion we once knew.
- D** - Ducks and Ducks Too and where Lee and Tinker reign, and Shad sits in judgment.
- E** - Down East, as they say, where it all got started.
- F** - Fun, Fun, unrestrained Fun! Nobody has more.
- G** - The Galleon -- soon to be no more -- the memories, ah the memories!
- H** - The Harolds and Elaine too -- the owners who take care of you.
- I** - It Will Stand -- 'nuff said.
- J** - Juke Boxes -- now we all want one. Wurlitzer, Rock Ola, Seaburg -- it doesn't matter.
- K** - Is Camp Kemo -- how much have we raised?
- L** - Lifeguards -- floats and umbrellas, tourist in deep water, sunstruck girls, bleached hair and deep, deep tans!
- M** - Music -- the speech of the angels, brandy of the damned, harmonious voices of creation. Rhythm and Blues, Beach -- without it, NO S.O.S.
- N** - Is the Nationals -- Grand Nationals, that is -- Simply the finest exhibition of shag and swing in the Nation; and a fleet named "Nor".
- O** - Ocean Drive -- OD -- Oh Dee -- the Pavilion and the Pad, Beaver Boys, Bingo, and Skee Ball -- the finest stretch of strand from Maine to Key West.
- P** - The Parade -- the most fun event in the Spring -- floats and foolishness -- more to come!
- Q** - Q is for the Quote, "A cold beer on a warm night with a hot date, and no plans for tomorrow." "Put me down."
- R** - Rhythm and Blues -- Beach Music and DJs -- without them we would not be.
- S** - S.O.S. Swink's Folly -- like Carnival and Mardi Gras, a world class party. That says it all!
- T** - Ding Ding they go, the Trams run the Boulevard -- to the party and home, safe and sound -- take one next time.
- U** - Unique -- a powerful word describes a power party!
- V** - Virgins -- more come to the beach than go back home!
- W** - Is for Wonder -- the wonder of it all -- sixteen years and still going strong!
- X** - Marks the spot where shagging began. Where would you put the "X"?
- Y** - Y is for Yankees. They'll never learn. Grits, boiled peanuts, barbecue, and pootang. It's all too much for them.
- Z** - Nothing for Z -- Z is the end. Our thing won't! See "T" above.

“World’s Largest Shag Dance”/Rededication of Main Street

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of D.O.I.T. (Downtown Organizations Interacting Together), I would like to thank you [Association of Carolina Shag Clubs member presidents] for the role you played in making the recent “World’s Largest Shag Dance”/Rededication of Main Street so successful.

The event itself attracted between an estimated 4,500 and 5,000 people, while Spring S.O.S. attracted nearly

three times that number. The impact S.O.S. has on our North Myrtle Beach community and Main Street, in particular, is phenomenal.

While we have not yet learned whether our event qualifies for the Guinness Book of World Records, I can assure you that it set both local and regional records and will be long remembered as one of the highlights of Spring S.O.S. 1996!

We do wish to remind you and

your club members that paver sales are going strong and prime locations are still available.

We appreciate all you have done to make our project a success, and we look forward to working with you in the future. We’re proud to count you as one of Main Street’s staunch supporters!

—Denise Blackburn
Program Manager
D.O.I.T.



It’s official ... Shag Bear joins S.O.S.

Among the new friendships made at S.O.S. Spring ‘96 were the many expressions of affection for a fuzzy little teddy bear known as the Shag Bear. Comments such as, “I partied with the Shag Bear” were heard. Many people searched in vain hoping to take home their own version of this lovable little character.

But alas, there is but one Shag Bear cruising North Myrtle Beach in his own red 1972 Olds Cutlass convertible. So where did he come from? Why the Shag Bear?

The Shag Bear has his origins as a Christmas gift selected by a warm-hearted secretary for her boss and given to each member of that boss’s staff in December 1995. Somehow, this gift was not appreciated by every member of that staff. Some

tactless members of this group chose to show their lack of appreciation through little negative comments which reached this sweet lady with obvious results.

This little bear set out on a mission to correct the wrong done this sweet lady. But how? He decided that the best way to accomplish this was to show what a wonderful gift he was, not only to the original recipient, but to all who came in contact with him by taking on a special personality. And what better personality than that of the Shag Bear?

Starting out as a simple teddy bear, he soon became so much more. Shag Bear lives because he is now part of a phenomenon—the Society of Stranders and the event known as S.O.S. Spring Safari.

He hopes he represents the best of the society by being gracious, friendly, a supporter of the society,

and above all the preservation of the shag as a dance and a life style.

Shag Bear was there for the largest outdoor shag event ever. He participated in the parade and the gospel hour and made all the obligatory appearances at each club in turn—right down to taking a seat on the wall in front of the Pad and on the benches in front of Ducks.

And ... no real Shag Bear could pass up an opportunity to spend time at Judy’s House of Oldies and take home some tunes to maintain his spirit through the long months until Fall Migration.

Oh, yes! The Shag Bear will return ... he looks forward to seeing all his old friends in September and above all making many new friends. If you missed him this time, join the Shag Bear at Fall Migration, and you, too, can say, “I partied with the Shag Bear at S.O.S.”



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Shaggers and Swingers...

The GNDC as observed
by Bo Bryan

On Memorial Day weekend, about a year ago, at Charlie and Jackie's First Grand National Swing Dance Competition, I caught my initial glimpse of the broader swing culture and its dance variations. In order for me and for the community of shag dancers to have that pleasure and that learning experience, bridges of respect and endearment had to be constructed between dance cultures from all around the nation, reaching southward into this strange and mythic land we Southerners call home.

Very briefly, I'd like to give you my assessment of what I saw this year, but first I'd like to share a memory of that first Grand National, the moment I knew and understood that the bridges of swing were opening. To set the scene, I should say in all sincerity, those exotic performers from California, New York and so forth were brave to come to Atlanta. The community of the shag was skeptical. We did not know what to make of the costumes swingers wore and most shaggers had never seen high energy swing performed live.

Frankly, we were taken aback, stunned even, in a positive sense. I remember standing in a chair, over against the wall, in the gymnasium sized ballroom of the Waverly Hotel, watching several pairs of performers swirl in exhibition of the high-flying forms swing dancing has achieved in sixty years.

And then I saw Ramiro and Sylvia unwind. Ramiro and Sylvia are West Coast Swing dancers two of the best, winners of national and international competitions. They performed a stylized sequence of what appeared to me to be a take off on the Jitterbug, the original and fundamental seed of all swing dancing.

Ramiro and Sylvia brought down the house. When the music began, I felt as if I were digging with my eyes and my emotions round the gold plated roots of a dance that in my memories of childhood remains a legend. At that moment, the Shag, the dance of my youth, seemed to sprout and bloom from history, imparted by the legs of strangers. The hair on the back of my neck stood up.

For me, and for most of the good old boys and girls who witnessed, it was a transcendent moment. For those who, then and now, represent the broader community of swing dancing, that instant, when the Shaggers leapt into their chairs and howled ... well, it meant the bridge was built, dedicated and ready to open at last.

Perhaps the highest accolades the broader community of swing received that night came from a pair of folk heroes, universally acknowledged as such in the land of Shag: Dewey "Tinker" Kennedy and Shad Alberty.

Dewey always had a lot more to say than Shad. He was Jackie McGee's best friend. When I spoke to Dewey before last year's event, we both expressed a great deal of concern as to whether the shag crowd would warm to the swingers.

In that moment of transcendent bridge building I've spoken of, Dewey Kennedy must have had a reaction something like mine, for he stopped me on the mezzanine a short while later.

I cannot quote Dewey. I would have to delete the more colorful aspects of his monologue for public consumption. To distill what he said, let me paraphrase with a single expletive, "That was one hell of a show!"

From a writer's point of view, Dewey's opinion was perhaps not quite trustworthy. Dewey was prepared to love whatever he saw because he loved Charlie Womble, and he loved Jackie McGee. Shad Alberty loved them too.

He helped to get them started in the dance, though Shad Alberty was different.

Shad was the lone wolf, the legendary, dancing renegade who in many ways helped to resurrect the shag from oblivion in the early 1970's. As a boy artist decades before, he had invented steps that began to elevate the shag to its classic form.

That night, when I saw Shad leaving the ballroom, in passing, I asked him, "Shad, what did you think?" The old lone wolf, the instigator of the modern shag, who even then was battling the disease that would take his life, verified and validated the completion of a new swing bridge. He smiled once and nodded once and, in my mind at least, the ribbon was officially cut. The bridge then opened for the holiday traffic, the celebration began.

Shad Alberty was buried with honors not many months after that brief and important validation. His funeral was attended by an army. Like Shad, Dewey Kennedy sadly and recently departed this life for the far side, where the angels are all musicians and the dancers' feet grow wings.

If they had been at the opening of the second Grand National, now an annual bridge building event, I think what they might have said, one with a few words, the other more elaborately, would have pretty much boiled down to this: "God Bless, and welcome back to the bridges of swing."

At the second Grand National, held just weeks ago, the atmosphere was one of relaxed expectation. The shaggers traveled back to Atlanta for another taste of the exuberant and dazzling. The crowd was larger. The costumes of the swingers, if anything, were a tad more provocative. To paraphrase Dewey Kennedy, again for public consumption, and to conclude as briefly as possible, "That was one hell of a show"

meet in Atlanta

*The GNDC as observed
by Paulette Singletary*

Memorial Day Weekend . . . Atlanta, GA . . . the S.O.S. Grand National Dance Championship . . . who could ask for anything more!

Michael Payne (your Carefree Times editor), Nate and Stephanie Haskett and myself ventured up to Atlanta to take in this monumental event. Michael and I were there last year, but this was a "big first" for Nate and Stephanie.

Again, we were dazzled by the Waverly Hotel. Us shaggers are not used to such elaborate surroundings. In North Myrtle Beach, I sometimes think it's a contest to see how many people you can get in one condo -- it's not that we're cheap, it's just that we don't spend much time in the condo!

Back to Atlanta . . . the first night started off with the Masters Division. Now some of the swing dancers may have thought that this was a little "boring" in comparison to their style, however, if you are a shag lover, these are dancers that you love to watch and appreciate.

By the way, since Michael was taking the pictures for Jackie and the Carefree Times, we had front table seating -- thank you Jackie! Also, seated at the table next to us was Robert Duvall and he was dancing with every lady who asked him -- I was chicken though -- I wouldn't ask.

The next event had you jumping out of your seats -- the Junior Swing Division. There is so much energy and enthusiasm from this group that it is positively a joy to watch. Matt Auclair and Meagan McKechnan (along with Matt's brother Tim) were *awesome*, just as they were at the NBA Convention in Jacksonville, FL a few months ago. If I could only spin like Meagan, I'd be a happy dancer indeed!

The following day started out with workshops in the morning and a Jack and Jill contest in the early afternoon. The Jack and Jill was something new this year and it really went over well. I would say that the majority of the entrants were swing dancers; however, one of our shag ladies, Ellen Taylor, was one of the prize winners -- way to go "lovely lady"!

Team Division came next. They were all fantastic, but the Carolina Shag Team had really been working hard over the last year and they came out on top!

Saturday night featured the S.O.S. and Classic Divisions. So many of the shaggers have incorporated a little "swing" in their style and it was very exciting. I even recognized a shag step or two in some of the swing routines. When Mario or Ramiro and their partners took the floor, the crowd went wild -- they knew they were in for a show -- and they were not disappointed! Those guys' feet move like they have a mind of their own!

Also featured on Saturday night was the S.O.S. National Dance Team. I was especially excited to see them because I didn't get to the Nationals earlier this year . . . they were terrific!

Sunday morning we were awakened to the most wonderful smells imaginable! They serve a **HUGE** brunch in the atrium of the hotel and we could look over the balconies and see food everywhere. If I had gone down for that I would never have been able to make it to the events for the day!

There were more workshops that morning and the afternoon was jam packed with more competition -- first the Showcase Division, then the Junior Shag Division (one of my favorites), then the Cabaret Division, and finally the Theater Arts Division (this was a brand new division and only two couples competed -- the costumes, the lifts and the absolute beauty of the



dancing were magnificent). There was general dancing in between each division and the afternoon just flew by.

At last the time had come for the announcement of the winners and special awards that were being given out. Everyone was on the edge of their seats, especially the competitors and the Shell Award nominees.

I won't write about who won each event, because you can find that out in another part of this publication, but I will expound on one special award that was given for everyone's "Favorite Entertainer". This was a very prestigious award because it was voted on by the crowd. The well deserved winner was Ramiro Gonzalez.

I must say that it was very exciting to see the camaraderie among *ALL* the competitors -- the hugs and kisses that were exchanged, the tears and the laughter. The kids were a special treat to watch because they are so caring and giving toward each other and they just plain love to dance!

Jackie McGee and Charlie Womble are certainly a class act performance. They are loved and respected by everyone in the dance community -- Shag, Swing or whatever! They are what makes this event happen and they deserve credit for bringing the "Worlds of Shag and Swing" together. I can hardly wait until next year!

A Tribute to Dewey Kennedy

by Vicki Carter

This is a follow up to the article, "Retired and doing fine in Spo-De-OD," that appeared in the Spring Safari issue of the S.O.S. Carefree Times



Dewey and Vicki

The aforementioned article was written on the suggestion of one of Dewey's friends, Jay Nelms. Last fall when most of the summer tourist season had dwindled and the locals were finding it much easier to travel from one place to another to visit and just "be together," I mentioned to Dewey that I would like to invite him and Jay to dinner one night and at that time I would like to also do an interview with him for an article to be submitted to the S.O.S. Carefree Times for the 1996 Spring Safari issue. He was very excited about the idea, and I let him choose the night.

Remembering that he and Jay loved to eat dinner at Hardwicks on Mondays because that was boiled cabbage and meatloaf night, I prepared the same and plenty of it because if Dewey thought he was going to be even a little late getting there, he would call ahead and tell them to hold back two orders for him.

He sat down and ate and ate and eventually referred to his cleaned plate as "almost as good as Hardwicks"—with a twinkle in his eye!

He had only been there an hour and had not stopped talking in between bites. I had put my fork

down about 15 minutes into the meal because it was obvious he was there to tell me a story; and if I did not seize the moment, something vital was going to be missed. It was at the three-hour mark that we got the final memories down on paper.

I could hardly wait to take the first draft by for his review and approval. He said that he wouldn't change a word—he thought I had covered all the facts just as he had related them and was very happy with the way it read. I was pleasantly surprised and left his home feeling as though I had performed a small miracle—he was not easily impressed.

By the time this article is read, folks should know that the first SPA Contest at Ducks was held the weekend of March 22-24 and, according to Norfleet Jones, will be known hereafter as the Dewey Kennedy Memorial Contest.

While judging the contest that weekend, I had the opportunity to get some personal feelings on paper from some of Dewey's friends and acquaintances. They should be shared.

"The first time I ever danced with Dewey was at the Rutherford Road Sand Flea. He told me real quick not to look at my feet, don't look down, hold my head up, and put my shoulders back. I was terrified." — Julie Evans

"I loved to kid Dewey about his age because he was the only other dancer at the beach older than me and that he would always be older than me. I sure will miss my Monday night dinner date at Hardwick's." — Jay Nelms

"If I had your hand ... I'd throw mine in." This was a 'Deweyism' which meant that he liked or was impressed

with you or something about your present situation. This was always followed by a smile, a hug, or a handshake. I think this was Dewey's way of spreading happiness and trying to make someone feel as good about themselves as he did every day of his life. Dewey loved life and he loved people. We are all better for having known him." — Bob Myrick

"Dewey would always ask me to play 'One Drop of Love' or 'Got To Give It Up.' He usually wanted me to play it right then! I would find the record, pull it, cue it up, and then he would announce, 'Not yet—I can't find a partner.' We went through this over and over and over." — Floyd Robertson

"Dewey Kennedy was such a great person, and we are proud and honored to have known him. He always referred to Susan as 'Red.' The dance and the sound of music and moving feet were the common bonds between Susan and Dewey. On the other hand, you all know I'm no Fred Astaire, and Dewey was more than a dancer.

"He and I bonded as it related to green flags and the roar of cars around a track. Dewey was his own person, and there was only one thing I know he loved as much as dancing and that was the dropping of the green flag, and oh, how the 'Dew Man,' as I called him, loved that #3 car. What a great race the 'Dew Man' has run! He was definitely a winner!

"Dewey always said to me jokingly, 'Boy, if I had your hand, I'd throw mine in.' Well, he has thrown his hand in and we are here to tell you the game will forever miss this player! We love you 'Dew Man' ..." — David Neal

"My summer dance partner ... my corner bar buddy ... Mr. Earnhardt No. 1 fan. May he ride in my #3 car forever." — Jackie Medlin

"I danced with Dewey at the Ocean Drive Shag Club's St. Patrick's Day Party in 1995 and for Camp Kemo's Fall S.O.S. of 1995. I'll never, ever hear or dance to 'Boat Dock' again and never feel like Dewey is right there with me." — Beth "Bus Stop" Bowen

"The first time I danced with Dewey he kept saying, 'No, Sara. You do a back step.' After that, he was the only man in

A Tribute ...

Ocean Drive that I did a back step with and it was hard work, but he always smiled and told me, 'That's right, that's right.' In my book, he'll live on forever here in O.D. and continue to be with us—because he was what it's all about."
—Sara Benton

"If I'm lyin', I'm dyin' ... was what I would hear if Dewey was trying to impress on you that he was telling you the absolute truth. Of course, you knew just the opposite was the case and he had just told you a whopper! I will miss you, my friend. Hit 'em long and straight up there." —Bob Wood

"Dewey, I want to be just like you when I grow up." —Mitch Batten

"One, two, Dale Earnhardt, four ..."
—Gary Bass

"There's a million 'Deweyisms' we remember and will never forget, but the thing that stands out to us at this moment is his everlasting smile. He enjoyed life more than anyone we've ever met. He lived life every day—110%. We're thankful to have known Dewey, and he will be missed. He was our friend, and we will always love him." —Bill and Brenda Barber

"It's very rare to find real friends. So far in my life I can count my real friends on my fingers only. I met Dewey in 1984 and from that point on, we became real friends to each other. We danced together, we shared secrets, we argued, and we laughed together. Thank you God for giving me the chance to let such a unique person as Dewey become my friend!

"I wonder now if the phrase, 'Mention my name and you'll get a good seat' (classic Deweyism) really will be true? I love you, Dewey, and I am looking forward to seeing you again someday. Your friend ..."
—Joyce Davis
O'Ryan ("Babes")

"Dewey would always come to the side window of the D.J. booth at Ducks, bend over, cock his head to one side, and give that famous 'Dewey look' and ask, 'What's next?' ... meaning when are you going to play my favorite song, like David Sanborn? All the D.J.s love you

Dewey. God Bless!" —Terry Bumgarner

"When I first met Dewey in the early 1980s, he was about 9 years older than me. Five years later, he was younger than me ... never could figure out how he did that. When he was trying to impress the ladies, he was 49, but he would whip out his driver's license in a heartbeat for the senior citizen discount at a Hardees or McDonald's." —Al Cain

"My first memories of Dewey were the one-on-one visits when he was our house guest in Fayetteville. He always brought me a little gift. He always left his bedroom and bath tidy. We had some wonderful visits on the side porch. However, Dewey didn't mind rejecting the toast—too dark—or reminding me that the pasta salad wasn't as good as last time.

"We have a piece of chain saw sculpture at the beach house that is supposed to resemble an old seaman, but we've always called it Dewey ... and I'm so glad. Ya'll come see him sometime."
—M. G. Cain

"Dewey Kennedy, my old high school classmate, often selected 'Boat Dock' when dancing in local shag contests around North Myrtle Beach. Then he would kid the other contestants that the 'oldest' man danced to the fastest song. Being six months older than me, Dewey kidded me that as long as he was around, I would not be the oldest dancer in a contest. He has now left me an honor I'll try to appreciate. Thanks, Dewey! But ... I'll never dance to 'Boat Dock' ..."
—Bill Clinard

"My friend Dewey had some great quotations, and one of my favorites was, 'When you become the biggest hog at the trough, I'll start listening to you.'"
—Tom Bare

"When I first started dancing with Melissa, Dewey seemed to always approach me, grab my hand, and begin to shake it. He also started touching his mustache in a way we all know and would say, 'Son, if I had your hand, I'd throw mine in too!' Now, I don't know if he was referring to me dancing with her or me dating her. I will also remember him for giving me the 'duck with feet' collar pin. He said, 'Those feet were

made for walkin'—duck-walkin' that is.'" —Geoff Burdick

"Dewey was a class act and the thing Dewey said that I remember the most (talking about his children) was, 'I wouldn't give a nickel for another ... and I wouldn't take a million for my own.'" —Sam West

"If I had your hand, I'd throw mine in ..."
—David Campbell

"If a dancer made a little mistake in a record, Dewey called that a hiccup. If a dancer made a big mistake in a record, Dewey called that an upchuck."
—Sarah West

"My first experience here at Ocean Drive, during S.O.S., was Mr. Dewey Kennedy. It was a little over a year ago (March of 1995) when I came to S.O.S. for my birthday. I didn't know a soul ... then I was introduced to Dewey. He took me under his wing for the entire time I was here. He took me to breakfast and, of course, Hardwick's Cafeteria, and a couple of times he would pawn me off to the young 'wormable one.'

"He never hesitated to dance with this new shagger and to let me know I was doing the knee pop wrong! 'No, no, no,' he would say. 'It's back and forth.' He was only a part of my life for a short time, but he made a strong impact on it. He will certainly be missed but never forgotten. I love ya, Mr. Dewey ..."
—Melissa Goebel

"What a wonderful experience I had in March of 1995—the Nationals. It was my honor to dance with our beloved Dewey. It is something I'll never, ever forget. During our practice times, there were all sorts of sayings and memories he shared—'Dew,' I'll miss you and ... thanks for the memories." —Laura Burdick

"I loved one of his favorites (Deweyism): 'If I had your hand, I'd throw mine in.' ..."
—Stacy Shaw

"On any given night, in the D.J. booth at Ducks, Dewey would stick his head through the side window and say, 'Play me something.' That face and that smile will never be forgotten as the crowd chants, 'Dewey, Dewey!' We love you and miss you. You will live in our hearts forever." —Butch Metcalf

1996 Shell Award Winners



Favorite Male S.O.S. Dance Partner

Jay Nelms, N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Presented by LeAnn Best — 1996 Shag Nationals Champions — Presented by Michael Norris

Favorite Female S.O.S. Dance Partner

Berta Lull, Virginia Beach, VA



Favorite Deejay

Judy Collins, N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Presented by Kenny Wetzel

Favorite Club Weekend Party

Virginia Beach Shag Club

Presented by Ron Whisenant

Art by
Marilyn Hesse

by Johnny Hammond

Everything was fine until May of '59. I was sitting on the table while the doctor was finishing my physical exam. I was trying to explain to him how my trick knee would lock when twisted a certain way. I looked up and noticed a huge grin on his face. He patted me on the shoulder and said, "Son, you're going to love the Navy. I think you'll fit in nicely."

To this day, I have no idea what he meant, but I knew I was on my way.

They weren't just picking on the peons. Look what happened to Elvis. After all, Elvis just curled his lip and shook his hip at a Senator's daughter. (She liked it.) Bam! He was in the Army.

It certainly looked like the end was near. I mean, Little Richard packed his bag, hung his purse on his shoulder, and took off for Bible school. Jerry Lee was riding high until he started his European tour. His first stop was England, where he introduced his little 13-year-old cousin as his blushing bride. Needless to say, the next day his career was as dead as a President on U.S. currency.

It had been just three months since the Iowa plane crash that took Buddy Holly, Big Bopper, and Ritchie Valens. This had become known as "the day the music died." Believe me, dear hearts, they were pretty close to hitting the nail smack dab on the head. R&B and original rock 'n roll were getting softer than a tub of Country Crock.

This was when Dick Clark brought out his kids from South Philly. New singers, such as Frankie Avalon, Bobby Rydell, Fabian, and,

added to the roster, two kids who had a couple of hits but had not really made it: Paul Anka and Bobby Darin, two very talented boys, who climbed fast.

By 1959 Dick Clark had become the top cat with his American Bandstand TV show. Remember when Dick would have new artists on the show to plug their latest? He would spin the platter, and the artist would lip-sync. This was the first place I ever saw that. (I think it was before Vanilla Ice was born.)

He would play new records, and his kids would rate them on a scale of 10 - 100. Remember ... "I gave it a 6. I like it, but you can't dance to it." (Dat's right, baby, 'cause it ain't got no soul.)

Talk about up-and-coming stars, how about the kids who danced on Bandstand? Did you know that some of these kids actually had fan clubs? I mean, this had to be big time for kids who just walked in off the street. And parents loved them. They were soooo clean, neat, and properly dressed. Believe me, R&B and rock 'n roll had lost much of its bad-ass kick as it was assimilated and sanitized for the teens dominated by Mr. Clark.

What the dancing kids and the kids in TV land didn't know was that the "world's oldest teenager" owned quite a bit of stock in those records he was pushing on the 10 - 100 scale. He gave some of them some much needed exposure. They were trying to push new white singers so they could get a piece of the black R&B market. Of all the new singers who were rising, Bobby Darin was the only one who posed any kind of threat—and it was a



very, very weak one.

I think the last song I heard on Bandstand that could be classified as R&B was *So Fine* by The Fiestas. As a matter of fact, *So Fine* was the last song written in the '50s that was still R&B. It was written by the Godfather of R&B, Johnny "Hand Jive" Otis, and cost only \$40 to record. Unbelievable, but true.

This new brand of rock 'n roll didn't have its music played on stations that had sponsors such as Camel cigarettes, Miller High Life beer, or Colt 45. The new sponsors were toothpaste, milk, bread, etc. Hey, I don't know. Maybe it's your music. If it is, I'm sure you love it as much as I love the Clovers. But I'm telling you, man, it's weak. I mean milk weak. Where's the back beat?

Another thing was that the old people weren't as worried about Bobby and Fabian as they were about Big Joe and The Midnighters. That I can understand because they had music that said something and said it with a feeling. Oh, Mama! It was sooo good. Sure it was trashy. That's *one* thing we loved about it. But the beat was unequaled. When you heard *Beat Me, Daddy...8 to the Bar*, you knew somebody was going to lay down some hard licks.

When you hear it, are you really listening? It's the music that comes in through your ears and comes out your feet. And if you can stand perfectly still while you're listening to it, well, you may as well go back to the shack, Jack, 'cause you're in the wrong place.

(Continued on Page 24)

Second Annual S.O.S. Spring Parade



2nd Annual S.O.S. Spring Parade begins



1st Place float, Virginia Beach Shag Club



2nd Place float, Lake Norman Shag Club



3rd Place float, Assn. Beach & Shag Club DJs



Some floats were not as large as others



Going for the world's record for dancing in the street



Elvis ... is that you!?



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 U.S. Open Team Champions
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- | | |
|---|---|
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|---|---|

TAPE 1

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pause Walk-up Arch Side Step Tuck Barrel Ducks Arm Up Pivot | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pause Walk-up with Boogie Walk Arch with Male Turn Backwalk into Pivot Side Spread Side Spread with Backwalk Away |
|---|---|

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1996 S.O.S. Grand National Masters Division Winners



First Place Winners — \$2,000 Prize
John and Pee Wee Teel



Second Place Winners
\$1,000 Prize
Norfleet Jones and
Lynda Carrol Flynn

Third Place Winners
\$500 Prize
John and Joan English

1996 S.O.S. Grand National S.O.S. Division Winners



First Place Winners — \$2,000 Prize
Sam West and Sarah West



Second Place Winners — \$1,000 Prize
Trey McCants & Jennifer Beaver

Third Place Winners — \$600 Prize
George Hamrick & Leslie Williamson

Fourth Place Winners — \$400 Prize
Jimmy and Cameron Caruso

Fifth Place Winners — \$200 Prize
Geoffrey Burdick & Melissa Goebel

Sixth Place Winners — \$100 Prize
Bill and Brenda Barber



1996 S.O.S. Grand National Sandy Coley Scholarship Award Winner

Chuck Jenkins of Clover, SC
shown with benefactor, Jim Coley and family of Greenville, SC

1996 S.O.S. Grand National Cabaret Division Winners



First Place Winners — \$2,000 Prize
David and Leslie Elkin



Second Place Winners
\$1,000 Prize
David and Tracy Appel

Third Place Winners
\$500 Prize
Enio Cordoba and Terryl Jones

1996 S.O.S. Grand National Classic Division Winners



First Place Winners — \$2,000 Prize
Mario Robau, Jr. and
Carmen Scarborough



Second Place Winners — \$1,000 Prize
Wayne and Sharlot Bott

Third Place Winners — \$600 Prize
Ramiro Gonzalez & Sylvia Sykes

Fourth Place Winners — \$400 Prize
Manny Viarrial & Linn Bartunek

Fifth Place Winners — \$200 Prize
Bill Cameron & Blake Hobby

Sixth Place Winners — \$100 Prize
Mike and Amber Cross

1996 Jack and Jill Mixed Doubles Winners

First Place Glenn Harris & Michelle Kinkaid
Second Place John Fiesta & Ellen Taylor
Third Place Rick Weston & Diana Manning
Fourth Place David Elliott & Susan McMahon

Fifth Place Larry Wells & Sue Canada
Sixth Place Mike Pale & Melanie Roberts
Seventh Place Monty Simpson & Beata Howe

1996 S.O.S. Grand National Jr. Shag Division Winners



First Place Winners — \$1,000 Prize
 Grayson Smith and Jessica McAlhany



Second Place Winners
 \$500 Prize
 Michael Norris and LeAnn Best



Third Place Winners
 \$200 Prize
 Brent Key and Shea Carver

1996 S.O.S. Grand National Jr. Swing Division Winners



First Place Winners — \$1,000 Prize
 Matt Auclair and Meagan McKechem



Second Place Winners
 \$500 Prize
 Tim Auclair and Kate Berardino



Third Place Winners
 \$200 Prize
 Keith Hersinger and Michelle Kile

Judges

Contest and Judge Coordinator — Annie Hirsch

- MASTERS DIVISION — Sam West, Jimmy Reaves, Terry Columbus, Doug Perry, Judy Eastwood
- CLASSIC DIVISION — Jack Carey, Frank LaFemina, Teddy Kern, Kelly Buckwalter, Randy Clements
- JUNIOR SWING DIVISION — Jack Carey, Frank LaFemina, Teddy Kern, Craig Hutchinson, Kelly Buckwalter
- TEAM DIVISION — Judy Duke, Sylvia Sykes, Mario Robau, Jr., Craig Hutchinson, Barry Thigpen
- S.O.S. DIVISION — Bob Myrick, Don Bunn, Judy Eastwood, Terry Columbus, Jimmy Reaves
- JUNIOR SHAG DIVISION — Sarah West, Jimmy Reaves, Don Bunn, Ellen Taylor, Doug Perry
- THEATER ARTS DIVISION — Michelle Kinkaid, Jack Carey, Kelly Buckwalter, Teddy Kern, Enio Cordoba
- CABARET DIVISION — Jack Carey, Craig Hutchinson, Kelly Buckwalter, Sylvia Sykes, Cay Cannon
- SHOWCASE DIVISION — Maxwell Ho, Michelle Kinkaid, Teddy Kern, Val LaFemina, Randy Clements

1996 S.O.S. Grand National Showcase Division Winners



First Place Winners — \$2,000 Prize
Barry Jones and
Kellese Martinez



Second Place Winners — \$1,000 Prize
Lance Shermoen & Michelle French
Third Place Winners — \$600 Prize
Barry Durand & Lisa Austin
Fourth Place Winners — \$400 Prize
Bob Bahrs & Debbie Bernard
Fifth Place Winners — \$200 Prize
Cody Melin & Resa Henderson
Sixth Place Winners — \$100 Prize
Steve Haywood & Ann Saunders

1996 S.O.S. Grand National Team Division Winners



First Place Winners
\$2,000 Prize
"Carolina Shag Team"
Steve and Kathy Day
Hisamichi & Kimberly Fujimura
Tommy Stroud & Donna Roach
Gerald and Martha Medford
Mike and Marianna Smith



Second Place Winners
\$1,000 Prize
"Eight is Enough"
Ernie and Gail Holmes
Rod Hagar & Sarah West
Geoff Burdick & Mellissa Goebel
Sam West & Andrea Adams



Third Place Winners
\$500 Prize
"Dance Manhattan"
Choreography: Debra Ramsey
Members:
Wesley Boz & Elena Lannucci
Charlie Bruno & Susan
Wiczntewski
Tom Cochran & Pat Catalano
Ken Chan & Irma Fisher
Tucker Farley & Regina Sinclair
Brian Mann & Jenny Rose Lisena
Alan Rocoff & Motty Griffin



1996 S.O.S. Grand National Theater Arts Division Winners



David and Leslie Elkin



First Place Winners
\$2,000 Prize
David and Sharon Savoy



David and Sharon Savoy

Second Place Winners
\$1,000 Prize
David and Sharon Savoy

1996 S.O.S. Grand National Favorite Entertainer of the Year Winner



Favorite Entertainer of the Year trophy





Ramiro Gonzalez Entertainer of the Year



Ramiro Gonzalez struts his stuff with Sylvia Sykes in Classic Division

1996 12 Month Event Planner 1997

For A.C.S.C. clubs, Competitive Shaggers Association, and S.O.S. related events

JULY 1996 4-7 Summer Sizzler, Nashville, TN 7-9 Sand Gnat, St. Simons Island, GA 12-13 ACSC Summer Workshop, S. Pines 19-21 E. Carolina Shag Blast, Raleigh, NC 19-21 Jr. S.O.S., N. Myrtle Beach, SC 19-21 Meet Me In the Middle, Greenville 26-28 Mixed Doubles, Greensboro, NC 26-28 Twin Rivers Shag Blast, New Bern	AUGUST 1996 1-4 Southern Exposure, Clearwater, FL 3-4 Jr. Shaggers, Greenville, SC 7-11 Boppin' on Beale St., Memphis, TN 16-17 Non-pro Contest, Durham, NC 16-18 Geechee Blast, Charleston, SC 16-18 Geechee Reject Party, Statesville, NC 17 Jackpot Summer, S. Pines, NC 23-25 Shag Tracks, Chattanooga, TN 30-1 CSA Contest, Fat Harold's, NMB	SEPTEMBER 1996 6-15 Fall Migration, N. Myrtle Beach, SC 26-28 Boogie By the Bay, Tampa, FL 27-28 Derby City's Fall Ball 27-29 CSA Contest, Island Beach Club, SC
OCTOBER 1996 3-6 DJ Hall of Fame, Fat Harold's, NMB 4-6 Hall of Fame Weekend, MB, SC 5-12 Sea Cruise '96 (800) 847-5951 11-12 Slip, Slide, Shag, Greenwood, SC 18-20 CSA Contest, Loafers, Raleigh, NC 24-27 Cruise & Contest (800) 852-7773 25-27 Beach Blast, Virginia Beach, VA 30-3 Orange Squeeze, Daytona, FL	NOVEMBER 1996 1-3 CSA Contest, Beach Music Cafe, MB 1-3 Fall Cyclone, Twister's, Mooresville 7-10 Move Across River, Cincinnati, OH 8-10 CSA Contest, Courtney's, Atl Bch, NC 8-11 Shag/Beach Party, Atl. Bch., NC 15-16 National Living Legends, VA 22-24 CSA Contest, Flaherty's, Fayetteville	DECEMBER 1996 
JANUARY 1997 16-19 Mid-Winters, N. Myrtle Beach, SC 31-2 Foothills Winter Boogy, Lake Hickory	FEBRUARY 1997 	MARCH 1997 13-16 March in Miami, Miami, FL
APRIL 1997 11-20 S.O.S. Spring Safari, NMB, SC	MAY 1997 29-1 S.O.S. Grand Nationals, Atlanta, GA	JUNE 1997 17-22 Boogie on the Riverwalk XII

Upcoming Event Details



JULY

- 4-7 **SUMMER SIZZLER III** at the Airport Days Inn in Nashville, TN. Rates \$55 (1-4 people), (615) 361-7666 (code Nashville Shags). Tickets \$20 / \$25 after 6/1. Info: (615) 227-6815.
- 7-9 **SAND GNAT SHAG-A-GANZA** on St. Simons Island, GA. Info: (800) SHAGGER.
- 12-13 **A.C.S.C. SUMMER WORKSHOP** and **SUMMER SHAG EXPLOSION** at the Elks Club in So. Pines, NC. Lodging: Holly Inn (910) 295-0988, Hampton Inn (910) 692-9266, Mid Pines Inn (910) 692-2114, Motel 6 (800) 464-8356, Fairway Motel (910) 692-8485, Innkeeper (910) 944-2324, Holiday Inn (910) 692-8585 (party headquarters). Tickets \$25 before 6/15, \$35 after. Info: Chuck Priest (910) 692-4749.
- 19-21 **EASTERN CAROLINA SHAG BLAST** at the N. Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh, NC. Rates \$59 (1-4 people) 800-HILTONS (code ECSB). Tickets \$30. Info: (919) 878-0552.
- 19-21 **MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE** at the Greenville/Spartanburg Marriott. Rates \$69 (864) 297-0300. Tickets \$25 until 7/2, \$30 after. Info: Susan Blackwell (864) 895-3506.

- JULY**
- 26-28 **ANNUAL SHAG BLAST** in New Bern, NC.
 26-28 **FOURTH ANNUAL BUNK LEACH CHARITY MIXED DOUBLES CONTEST** at Thirsty's in Greensboro, NC. Info: Vivian Burick (910) 218-7074.
 26-28 **TWIN RIVERS SHAG BLAST** at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in New Bern, NC. Rate \$68 (code Shag Blast) (800) 326-3745. Tickets \$40 before 7/1, \$45 after. Info: Helen Pase (919) 514-9888 Home, (919) 638-6161 Work.

- AUGUST**
- 1-4 **2nd ANNUAL SOUTHERN EXPOSURE** in the Starlight Ballroom of the 99-year old Belleview Mido in Clearwater, FL. Rates \$65 (1-4 people), (800) 237-8947. Tickets \$25 before 6/1, \$35 after. Info: Sandy Watson (813) 545-0899.
 3-4 **3rd ANNUAL JR. SHAGGER COMPETITION** in Greenville, SC.
 16-18 **GEECHEE BLAST '96** at the Sand Dunes Club in Charleston, SC. Lodging: Red Roof Inn \$49 (800) 843-7663 (code #B242000006), Days Inn \$49 (800) 881-1800. Tickets \$30 until 7/14, \$35 after. Info: Judy Major (803) 821-7120.
 17 **SUPER SUMMER JACKPOT PARTY** at the Elks Club in S. Pines, NC. Info: Chuck Ward (910) 692-2339.

- SEPT**
- 6-15 **S.O.S. FALL MIGRATION** in N. Myrtle Beach, SC. Info: Phil Sawyer (803) 782-7582.
 26-28 **BOOGIE BY THE BAY** at the St. Petersburg Hilton (800) 944-5500 in St. Petersburg, FL. Rates \$69 (1-4 people) (800) 944-5500. Tickets \$20 before 9/1, \$25 after. Info: Jenni (813) 960-9188.
 27-28 **DERBY CITY'S FALL BALL** at the Barren River State Park.

- OCTOBER**
- 3-6 **DEEJAY HALL OF FAME WEEKEND** at Fat Harold's in N. Myrtle Beach, SC.
 4-6 **HALL OF FAME WEEKEND** at the Beach Music Cafe in Myrtle Beach, SC. Info: Janet Harrold (803) 444-3500.
 5-12 **SEA CRUISE '96** with DJ's Joanne Johnson and Murl Augustine. Sails from Miami. Ports of call are Labadee, San Juan, St. Thomas, CocoCay. From \$649. Info: Terri Wall (800) 847-5951.
 11-12 **SLIP, SLIDE & SHAG** at the American Legion Bldg. in Greenwood, SC. Tickets \$25 until 9/27, \$30 after. Info: Jim Long (864) 374-3677.
 24-27 **2nd ANNUAL BEACH MUSIC CRUISE & SHAG CONTEST AT SEA** aboard Premier Cruise Line's Big Red Boat departing from Port Canaveral. Ports of call: Nassau and Port Lucaya. Featuring the "Fabulous Embers," the "Incomparable Band of Oz," and the new and talented "Coastline Band" and DJ Charlie Bird. From \$193 per person. Info: Stuart Buchanan (800) 852-7773.
 25-27 **ANNUAL BEACH BLAST** in Virginia Beach, VA.
 30-3 **7th ANNUAL ORANGE SQUEEZE** at the Ramada Resort (800) 654-6216 (code BBOO Orange Squeeze) in Daytona Beach, FL. Info: Bill Lynch (800) 226-4200.

- NOV**
- 1-3 **FALL CYCLONE '96** in Mooresville, NC.
 7-10 **MOVE ACROSS THE RIVER '96** at the Regal Cincinnati Hotel Convention Center in Cincinnati, OH. Rates \$52 (1-4 people), (800) 876-2100 (code Cincinnati Bop Club). Tickets \$20 before 10/7, \$25 after, \$15 day pass. Info: Paul Hennessey (513) 489-4983.
 8-11 **THE JOLLY KNAVE 25th ANNIVERSARY SHAG & BEACH WEEKEND** in Atlantic Beach, NC. Info: (919) 726-8222.

- JAN**
- 16-19 **MID-WINTER BEACH CLASSIC** in N. Myrtle Beach, SC
 31-2 **FOOTHILLS WINTER BOOGIE X** in Lake Hickory, NC.

- MAR**
- 13-16 **MARCH IN MIAMI** at the Ramada Resort Deauville Hotel on the Atlantic Ocean in Miami, FL. Rates \$79 (code SFSDS). Tickets \$35 until 1/31, \$45 after. Info: Brenda (305) 264-3040.

☆ **ATTENTION ALL FAST DANCE CLUBS** ☆

Your party or event can be listed (as far ahead as space permits) in this column at no charge. But you **MUST** get the information in on a timely basis to:
 Michael Payne, 7528 Arlington Expressway #806, Jacksonville, FL 32211, (904) 724-9024

1996 9 Month Event Planner 1997

For all other activities outside the A.C.S.C. or S.O.S.

JULY 1996 3-7 Phoenix Convention, Phoenix, AZ 5-7 Ft. Lauderdale Swing Bash, FL 6-13 Herrång Dance Camp, Sweden 11-14 New Orleans Extravaganza 12-14 Boogie in the Mountains, N.Y. 13-20 Herrång Dance Camp, Sweden 20-27 Herrång Dance Camp, Sweden 26-28 Summer Dance Festival, CA 27-3 Herrång Dance Camp, Sweden	AUGUST 1996 7-11 Holiday to Dance Camp, Oregon 9-11 Rocky Mountain Swing, Denver, CO 16-18 West Coast Championships, CA 24-25 Reunion Ball, Buena Park, CA 29-2 Dallas D.A.N.C.E., Dallas, TX 30-1 Michigan Swing Champs., Flint, MI 30-2 Labor Day Weekend, CA 30-2 Bay Swingers, San Francisco, CA	SEPTEMBER 1996 5-8 Blues/Swing Festival, Cape May, NJ 6-8 National Jack 'n Jill, Las Vegas, NV 13-15 Rising Star Amateurs, Dallas, TX 13-15 World Swing Championships, CA 16-20 Crusin' & Boppin' (800) 289-9990 27-29 Windy City Classic, Chicago, IL 28-4 Swing Cruise (206) 776-2118
OCTOBER 1996 4-6 Virginia Open Swing Championships 4-6 CA Boogie & Blues, Long Beach, CA 10-13 Boogie by the Bay, San Francisco, CA 18-20 London Lindy Hop Festival, England 25-27 Swingthing, Thousand Oaks, CA	NOVEMBER 1996 7-9 New England Swing Champ's, Boston 26-27 Tribute to Swing, Downey, CA 28-30 Swing Festival, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 28-1 US Open Swing, Anaheim, CA	DECEMBER 1996 28-31 Nat. New Years Champ's, Dallas, TX 
JANUARY 1997 13-17 Swing Cruise (800) 521-2346 17-19 Swing Expo '97, Las Vegas, NV	FEBRUARY 1997 14-16 Presidents Day Conv., Sacramento 	MARCH 1997 20-23 Chicago Classic Swing Convention 27-30 Easter Swing, Seattle, WA 28-30 Classic '97, Irving, TX 28-30 Las Vegas Swings, Las Vegas, NV



JULY

- 3-7 **15th ANNUAL JULY 4th PHOENIX CONVENTION** at the Marriott Camelback Inn in Phoenix, AZ. Info: Bobbie Robinson (800) 598-2538.
- 5-7 **FT. LAUDERDALE SWING BASH** at the Cypress Creek Inn, 4900 Powerline Rd. (800) 873-6527. Rates \$40 (code Swing Bash). Tickets \$20 before 7/1, \$25 after. Workshop pass \$35 before 7/1, \$45 after. Info: Kal Branson (954) 938-9749.
- 6-13 **HERRÅNG DANCE CAMP '96** in Sweden. Four weeks to choose from: 6-13, 13-20, 20-27, 27-3. \$306 per week includes everything. Info: Lennart Westerlund +46 (8) 643 40 58 or write to: Plogkatan1, 255 5 116 34 Stockholm, Sweden.
- 11-14 **NEW ORLEANS SWING DANCE 1st ANNUAL EXTRAVAGANZA** at the Doubletree Hotel on Canal Street. Rates \$79-\$99 before 6/10, \$179 after. Tickets \$45 before 6/11, \$50 after. Info: Bob or Vera Blake (504) 242-0452.
- 12-14 **BOOGIE IN THE MOUNTAINS** at the Fallsview Resort Hotel in Ellenville, NY. Info: (888) 21-SWING.
- 26-28 **7th ANNUAL SUNDANCE SUMMER FESTIVAL** in Palm Springs, CA.

AUG

- 7-11 **'96 HOLIDAY TO DANCE CLASSIQUE BALLROOM—LATIN & SWING CELEBRITY DANCE VACATION AND CAMP** at the Hotel Newport Resort in Newport, Oregon. Info: Pat Horne (509) 547-9647.
- 9-11 **5th ANNUAL ROCKY MT. SWING CLUB CONVENTION** at the Airport Holiday Inn in Denver, CO. Tickets \$65. Rates \$69 (800) 511-2118. Info: Anita Deaton (303) 98-SWING.

AUGUST

- 16-18 **WEST COAST SWING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS** at the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center in Long Beach, CA. Info: Bob Brewer (800) 451-6489.
- 24-25 **10th ANNUAL REUNION BALL** at the Buena Park Hotel in Buena Park, CA. Info: (310) 869-8949.
- 29-2 **DALLAS D.A.N.C.E.** at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas, TX. Info: (214) 526-8889.
- 30-1 **MICHIGAN SWING CHAMPIONSHIPS** at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Flint, MI. (800) 239-1234 (code Michigan Swing Dance). Info: (810) 694-7625.
- 30-2 **7th ANNUAL LABOR DAY SPRING FESTIVAL** in the Buena Park Hotel, Buena Park, CA. Info: (310) 92-DANCE.
- 30-2 **BAY SWINGERS DANCE CLUB CONVENTION** at the Airport Holiday Inn in San Francisco, CA. Info: (415) 668-9589.

SEPTEMBER

- 6-8 **NATIONAL JACK 'N JILL CONTEST** at the Sahara Motel & Casino in Las Vegas. Info: (800) 346-6893.
- 6-8 **CAPE MAY BLUES AND SWING DANCE FESTIVAL** at the Macomber Hotel in Cape May, NJ. Hotel (800) 257-0432. Info: (800) 64-SWING.
- 13-15 **1st ANNUAL RISING STAR AMATEUR SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS** at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas, TX. Info: Barry Jones (214) 407-1178.
- 13-15 **WORLD SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS** at the Red Lion Hotel in Long Beach, CA. Info: (310) 435-7676.
- 16-20 **CRUISIN' & BOPPIN'** to Key West and Cozumel aboard Carnival's Ecstasy from Miami. Info: Ellen Ray (800) 289-9990.
- 27-29 **3rd ANNUAL WINDY CITY CLASSIC** at the Holiday Inn O'Hare in Rosemont, IL. Rates \$89 (847_ 671-6350. Tickets \$65. Info: Lynne Goldberg (708) 446-7798.
- 28-4 **SEATTLE'S SWING CRUISE AND LAS VEGAS GETAWAY** aboard the Holland American Cruise Line's "Westerdam." Cost \$469 plus port tax. 3 nights aboard, 3 nights at the Casino Excalibur. Info: Dean Fisher (206) 776-2118.

OCTOBER

- 4-6 **'96 VIRGINIA STATE OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS** at the Tyson's West Park Hotel in Falls Church, VA. Info: Hutch (703) 698-9811.
- 4-6 **CALIFORNIA BOOGIE & BLUES SWING WEEKEND** at the Travel Lodge in Long Beach, CA. Info: (310) 435-7676.
- 10-13 **BOOGIE BY THE BAY** in San Francisco, CA. Info: (415) 979-4456.
- 12-20 **SOUTHSIDE IMPERIAL SWING DANCE CLUB'S CRUISE.** (800) 727-9577.
- 18-20 **LINDY HOP FESTIVAL '96** in London, England. Info: Sylvia Sykes (805) 569-1952.
- 25-27 **SWINGTHING** at the Hyatt Westlake Hotel in Thousand Oaks, CA. Info: (805) 937-1574.

NOV

- 7-9 **NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS** in Boston, MA. Info: (508) 481-3911.
- 26-27 **TRIBUTE TO WEST COAST SWING** at the Celebrity Center in Los Angeles, CA and Downey Theatre in Downey, CA. Info: (310) 869-8949.
- 28-30 **SUNSHINE STATE CW & SWING FLING FESTIVAL** in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Info: Grant Austin (305) 584-5554.
- 29-1 **US OPEN NATIONAL SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS** at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, CA. Info: (800) 537-8937.

DEC

- 28-31 **NATIONAL NEW YEAR DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS** at the Sheraton Park Central in Dallas, TX. Info: (214) 491-0629.

JAN

- 13-17 **SWING & COUNTRY WESTERN CRUISE** aboard the Carnival Cruise Line's Fun Ship "Holiday." Departs from Los Angeles with ports of call Avalon, Catalina Island, Encenada, Mexico. Costs from \$265. Info: Tom Mattox (310) 92-DANCE.
- 17-19 **SWING EXPO '97** at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas. Tickets \$65 (3-day), \$25 (one day). Info: Marie Pelliccioni (702) 458-1302.

FEB

- 14-16 **FIFTH ANNUAL PRESIDENTS' DAY CONVENTION** at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Center in Sacramento, CA. Rates \$69 (1-4 people). Info: Gerry Fontes (916) 422-5801.

MAR

- 20-23 **CHICAGO CLASSIC SWING DANCE CONVENTION** at the Marriott Hotel in Oak Brook, IL. Rates \$84 (code Swing Dance), (708) 573-8555. Tickets \$60 before 3/15, \$70 after. Info: (312) 202-8776.

TURNING THE TABLES



News from the Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays



Steve Baker, President, Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays

Happy post S.O.S. As of this article, I am recuperating from shag flu, as I am sure many of you are, too! Ain't it great being young again?

How many of you are still saying Beep Beep after S.O.S.? Microwave Dave definitely had the floors packed with his version of the *Road Runner*. Several other songs will be heard for months to come, such as David Brinston's *Hit & Run* and *Avalon* by The Rhythm Sheiks.

The S.O.S. Parade was a huge success. Virginia Beach took top honors, but I must say that the Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays' float won the hearts of all. We finished third! Not bad for our first try. Chief Gene Petty promised a big surprise for next year.

By now all member shag clubs should have received our proposal for next year's Inland Throwdown. This promises to be something to remember. If you have any questions regarding the Inland Throwdown, please call me at (919) 676-2159.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming ABSCDJ events:

Saturday, June 22
at Reds Beach Music, Raleigh
(919) 876-Reds.
Music & Pig Pickin'
at 6:00 pm. Cost is free.

October 4, 5, and 6 at Fat Harold's 1st Annual Beach Music DJ Hall of Fame Weekend

Again, thanks to all who have supported the ABSCDJ's in the past; and if the ABSCDJ can help your shag club in any way, please call me.

Down Memory Lane

(Continued from Page 12)

Now, the man who was really pushing this type of stuff was just up the road from Dick Clark, in New York City. It was the old Moondog himself—Alan Freed. The "establishment" was after Freed from day one.

Dick Clark had his watered-down version of rock 'n roll, which was approved by the main stream. But it was just the opposite with Freed. He wrote, played, promoted, and MC'd some of the biggest happenings of the late '50s.

I remember one incident where the kids jumped up and started dancing in the aisles, and they arrested ole Moondog for inciting a riot. After that, he was on the down side of the rollercoaster. The establishment finally won when he was found guilty in '62 of accepting payola.

Alan Freed was the most colorful and, probably, the most controversial figure the music business had in the mid-to-late '50s. He wasn't just a DJ or MC. He was, in a sense, an entertainer and a very amusing guy.

George McDonald once said, "You can't live on amusement. It is the froth on water ... an inch deep and then mud."

Johnny Hammond once said, "Hey, man, ain't nothing wrong with Muddy Waters!"

Johnny Hammond is a member of the Electric City Shag Club in Anderson, SC. This article was first published in their newsletter, *Shag 'N Tales*.

Recommended Shag Deejays

David Sessoms
P.O. Box 58033 • Fayetteville, NC 28305
(910) 488-5603

Summie Davidson
2375 Jim McCarter Rd. • York, SC 29745
H (803) 684-9325 • W (803) 684-5068

James A. Hightower
200 Allison Rd. • Greenville, NC 27834
(919) 752-9640

My goal is to ensure you have a good time!

★★★ **Mike Rink** ★★★

H (704) 892-1061 17219 Jetton Road
W (704) 875-5106 Huntersville, NC 28078

Larry Wall
Beach • Shag • Oldies
— For All Occasions —
(706) 554-4146
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Steve Baker
200 Sawmill Rd. • Raleigh, NC 27615
(919) 676-2159 Home
(919) 847-5283 Work
Member DJ Hall of Fame

Bob Brewer
789 S. San Gabriel Blvd., #B
San Gabriel, CA 91776
Tel: (818) 451-6889 • Fax: (818) 451-6981
Res: (714) 894-5757 • 800-451-6489
*Swing Dance DJ for 15 years • Chairman
CA Swing Dance Hall of Fame 1994*
• Also with Pegasus Tours International,
offering special discounts for dancers

What a year! Playing all three states:
VA/NC/SC

If you need help with some awesome music for your event, get on the calendar now. Call:

Gerry Holland
(910) 228-7916
Burlington, NC

Recommended Music Supplier



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Records - CD's - Posters
DJ & Photo Services

Clyde Waller
966 N. Cannon Blvd.
Kannapolis, N.C. 28083
704-932-1763 Res. 933-0807

ATTENTION RUNNERS AND WALKERS

As an addition to Fall S.O.S., there's a special event being planned! There will be a 5 K, 8 K, and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk the second Saturday of Fall Migration, September 14th, in Ocean Drive.

This race is USATF Certified through Race Management Systems of Marion, SC. The divisions are male, female, consisting of 13 age groups. Outstanding prizes will be awarded for each division with special recognition



for the A.C.S.C. Shag Club with the most participation. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your shag club to participate in a very outstanding event. Entry fees \$8 to \$15. Race Course is Flat! Fast! Start/Finish Main Street & Ocean Blvd, N. Myrtle Beach.

Sponsor
"Best Margaritas In Town" - 3 locations
N. Myrtle Beach, Murrells Beach, Murrells Inlet



If you would like to receive more information by mail, please complete and mail the attached form along with a SASE to: SOS Beach Run, P.O. Box 1988, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 MAIL BOXING _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone: _____
 Shag Club: _____



I would like to participate as a runner, volunteer, both (circle one)
 Age _____ M/F (circle one)
 Race choice 1Mi. 5K 8K (circle one)
 non profit

"Just another part of the S.O.S. Celebration!"

Attention Line Dance Teams: Prepare for Fall Migration '96 Line Dance Competition

DETAILS

APPLICATION

COMPETITION DATES: PRELIMINARIES SEPT. 11TH, 12TH, & 13TH
 1:00pm - 3:00pm DAILY HOSTED BY A "SOS" CLUB
 FINALS: SAT. SEPT. 14TH 1:00PM - 3:00PM

TEAM REQUIREMENTS:

- ALL MEMBERS OF EACH TEAM MUST BE A MEMBER OF SOS
- TEAMS WILL BE COMPOSED OF 8 TO 12 MEMBERS
- EACH TEAM MUST HAVE A NAME
- EACH TEAM MUST HAVE A TEAM CORRESPONDENT
- AN ENTRY FEE OF \$5.00 PER PERSON MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION. PLEASE MAKE OUT ONE (1) CHECK PAYABLE TO "SOS"
- EACH TEAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUPPLY THEIR OWN MUSIC. MUSIC MUST BE ON CD OR RECORD, 2-3 MINUTES LONG.
- NO COSTUMES WILL BE PERMITTED (TEAMS WILL BE ALLOWED TO DRESS ALIKE).
- EACH TEAM WILL DANCE ONE OF THREE LINE DANCES DURING PRELIMINARIES AND FINALS. PLEASE SELECT FROM:
 "THE CONTINENTAL"
 "THE BUS STOP"
 "ELECTRIC SLIDE/BOSS"
- EACH TEAM WHEN APPLYING WILL NEED TO SELECT THEIR PREFERRED DATE OF COMPETING. THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 8 TEAMS PER DAY AND A TOTAL OF 24 TEAMS. THE DAYS WILL BE FILLED ON A FIRST COME BASIS. IN THE EVENT ALL SPACES ARE TAKEN, CHECKS WILL BE MAILED BACK TO THE TEAM CORRESPONDENT AND THE NAMES AND ADDRESS KEPT BY DATE RECEIVED IN CASE ANY TEAM WITHDRAWS FROM THE COMPETITION. IN THE EVENT BOTH DAYS YOUR TEAM CHOOSES ARE FILLED THE TEAM CORRESPONDENT WILL BE CONTACTED AND NOTIFIED OF THE OPENINGS.
- PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.
- DEADLINE FOR ENTERING WILL BE JULY 1ST 1996.
- DEADLINE FOR CANCELLATIONS AUGUST 15, 1996.
- PLEASE SEND A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE WITH ALL APPLICATIONS.

TEAM NAME: _____
 NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER TEAM CORRESPONDENT: _____

TEAM MEMBER NAME	SOS CARD NUMBER
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____

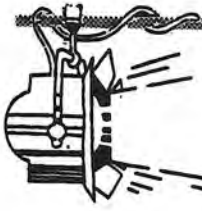
DATE TEAM WISHES TO COMPETE : 1ST CHOICE _____
 2ND CHOICE _____

TOTAL MONIES SUBMITTED \$ _____ CHECK NO. _____
 (MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "SOS")
 (FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) PER PERSON ENTRY FEE)

IN THE EVENT ALL SPACES ARE TAKEN FOR COMPETITION, CHECKS WILL BE MAILED BACK TO THE TEAM CORRESPONDENT AND THE NAMES AND ADDRESS KEPT BY DATE RECEIVED IN CASE ANY TEAM WITHDRAWS FROM THE COMPETITION. IN THE EVENT BOTH DAYS FOR COMPETITION ARE FILLED THE TEAM CORRESPONDENT WILL BE CALLED AND NOTIFIED OF SPACES THAT ARE AVAILABLE.
 PLEASE REMIT TO: SARA S. BENTON 910-371-0059 AFTER 6:00PM (M-F)
 P O BOX 592 LELAND, N.C. 28451

MEET US ON THE DANCE FLOOR AT FALL SOS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
 SARA S. BENTON CHAIRMAN SOS LINE DANCE P O BOX 592 LELAND, NC 28451 910-371-0059
 CAROL MARSHALL OWENS N. MYRTLE BEACH, SC 803-249-1717 WHITEVILLE, NC 910-642-2868
 JEAN K. ARMSTRONG COLUMBIA, SC BETH "BUS STOP" BOWEN WILMINGTON, NC 910-395-4043
 MARIE TAYLOR COLUMBIA, SC HOLLY BRITT LUMBERTON, NC PENNY STORES N. MYRTLE BEACH, SC



Spotlight on the

FIRST COAST SHAG CLUB

by Paulette Singletary

In April of 1991 a woman from Jacksonville, FL., Vicki Ettlinger (who had been taking beach bop lessons for a few months) and two of her girlfriends (who were non-dancers) went to N. Myrtle Beach, S.C. to see what this thing called S.O.S. was all about. They had heard about it from Vicki's friend, Roger Reynolds.

Now Vicki is not a woman of few words, but she tells the story that when she saw the dance called 'shag' she just stood rooted to a spot with her mouth hanging open watching the most intriguing and sensual dance she had ever seen.

When she got back to Jacksonville she went straight to Kelly Cordell, who had been a dance instructor for over 25 years, and asked him if he knew what shag was. Well, Kelly told her that as far as he knew, shag was carpet. That was not the answer she wanted to hear! So, Kelly told her that if she got some videos he would learn the dance and teach it to her!

WELL GANG . . . that's the true beginnings of the First Coast Shag Club as we know it today. Vicki got Charlie and Jackie's tapes, Kelly spent many hours in front of the TV watching them and learning the steps, and then he began to teach Vicki. Kelly had been teaching me the West Coast Swing, but it wasn't long before I was also learning the shag.

In September of 1991, Kelly made it up to Ocean Drive for his first S.O.S. and then he was really hooked! It was at about that same time that he began giving shag lessons in Flashbacks Lounge (an establishment that is in a bowling alley that happens to be owned by Vicki and her husband -- it works for me) and by the beginning of 1992,

a small group of us were talking about forming a shag club. (I got to go to my first S.O.S. in April of 1992. WOW ... what an experience!) Kelly had done a lot of homework trying to learn all that he could. He, Vicki and I even went to one of Atlanta's parties a day early one time so that we could take a private lesson with Jackie McGee -- now that was an enlightening experience for all of us!



Now in case you aren't aware of this fact, Jacksonville is a Beach Bop town. I have been doing the bop since -- well, I can't remember that far back -- but it's been a long time! There are two beach bop clubs in town which consist of over 500 dancers. Quite a few of them started watching our small group of shaggers and they wanted to learn what we were doing. Pretty soon we had established ourselves as shag dancers among the boppers. I'm not sure they always knew what to think of us -- we were always back in some corner practicing a step either with a bar stool or with a partner -- but I think they enjoyed watching us! We got a lot of teasing about our 'Shag Corner' at Thunderbirds and our 'Shag Table' at the JBBA parties, but I think we also got a lot of respect for working so hard to learn a 'new' dance.

By February of 1993 (after being an informal club for nearly a year), we decided to 'formalize' the First Coast Shag Club. We had the name, we had the logo, we had the t-shirts -- now all

that was left was to get together some by-laws and elect some officers. Kelly Cordell was elected as President, Fred Carter was Vice-President, Anne Jernigan was Secretary/Treasurer, and David King was the Sergeant-At-Arms. I was given the 'privilege' of doing the newsletter. Most of the officers have changed (Kelly is still President, Nate Haskett is Vice-President, I am the Secretary/Treasurer and Ray Gahafer is the Sergeant-At-Arms), however, I still do the newsletter!

Shortly thereafter we decided to do what had to be done to join the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. We were given a lot of help by the Golden Isles Shag Club and in January of 1994 we were voted into the Association.

We are 116 members strong now and still growing. We have shag lessons every Monday and Wednesday night at Flashbacks and Kelly has progressed into a shag competitor -- first with me as a partner, then Vicki Ettlinger and LaVerne Horton, and now he dances with his wife, Shirley (they danced in the Nationals this year). We've come a long way in just a few years and I'm very proud to be a part of such a great group of people. Even though we are 'shaggers' on the dance floor, a lot of us are still 'boppers' at heart -- it's a part of our heritage as much as the shag is a part of the Carolina heritage!

ATTENTION DANCE CLUBS!

Your club can be featured in an upcoming issue. Simply submit your typed article to me at the address on page 2, and I'll take it from there!

- Editor



SHAGGERS' HALL OF FAME



Brenda Alberty
Shad Alberty
Jack Armstrong
Millie Arrington
Mitch Barkoot
Tom Barrineau
Dennis Beam
Burt Bennett
Harold Bessent
Larry Blake
Lorraine Blake
Sumter Brawley
Sandra Bryant
Roger Burris
Peggy Burris
Nelson Burton
Weezie Carr
Betty Catron
Jean Clarke
Dick Clay
"Snookie" Crawford
Jim Dingler
Dottie Driver
Harry Driver
Judy Duke
D.B. Evans
Jean Ferguson
Louise Fidel
Lynda Carol Flynn

Hank Fulmer
Johnnie L. Fulmer
Ann Givens
Betty Greer
Sue Hallow
Janet Harrold
Carolyn Hedrick
Chick Hedrick
"Chicken" Hicks
Buck Holcombe
Bill Holler
Norman Holliday
Wanda Holliday
Rick Hubbard
Ann Huddle
Bud Hunt
Dottie Hunt
Billy Jeffers
Wanda Jeffers
Lamar Johnson
Franz Johnson
Marcia Johnson
Glenda Johnson
Jo Anne Johnson
Bill Jolly
Norfleet Jones
Betty Lou Jones
Betty Kane
Bobby Kellam

Buddy Kennedy
"Spider" Kirkman
Sherbie Lancaster
Gene Laughter
"Bunk" Leach
"Speedy" Lewis
"Big George" Lineberry
Billy Mace
Louie Madden
Sandra Marshall
Nick Mathis
Jo McEachern
Jackie McGee
Barbara McInnis
Babs McIntosh
Clayton McManaway
David Michael
Eddie Monsour
Kathryn Monsour
Ann Moore
Lacy Moore
George Morris
Janet Morris
Margie Morris
Lila Munn
Harry Oliver
Joan Owen
Mike Pace
Billy Pack

Jeannie Pack
Eddie Page
Vee Page
Betty Lou Parrott
Doug Perry
Bill "Red" Pittman
Charlie Porter
"JoJo" Putnam
Clarice Reavis
Domer Reeves
Chic Sawyer
Phil Sawyer
Sandra Schwartz
Dennis Sides
"Cadillac" Jack Smith
Connie Smith
Marilyn Smith
"Bubber" Snow
Ellen Taylor
Frances Taylor
"PeeWee" Teel
Nick Theodore
"Fiddle" Turner
Rufus Wactor
"Wormy" Wall
Dick Webb
Leon Williams
Vera Williams
Charlie Womble
Betty Ziegler



CONGRATULATIONS! 1996 INDUCTEES



Burkley Altman

Jim Davis

Dewey Kennedy

Susan Neal

Helen M. Andrews

Harry Hitopoulos

Toby Long

Buzz Sawyer

Dot Dick Brader

Louise Hunhucker

Berta Lull

Bobby Summerset



The Competitive Edge

by John English

The Competitive Shaggers Association is off and running with six contests already completed and seven more to go.

Here is a list of the remaining contests for the year:

August 30, 31, September 1
Fat Harold's, N. Myrtle Beach, SC

September 27 - 29
Island Beach Club,
Litchfield Beach, SC

October 11 - 13
Weejun's Beach Club, Columbia, SC

October 18 - 20
Loafer's, Raleigh, NC

November 1 - 3
Beach Music Cafe, Myrtle Beach, SC

November 8 - 10
Courtney's, Atlantic Beach, NC

November 22 - 24
Flaherty's, Fayetteville, NC

Whenever a contest is held in your area, please try to lend some support by either attending or by offering to serve as a judge for one of the divisions. I know many great shaggers throughout North and South Carolina who are more than qualified to judge a competitive shag contest, but I seldom see their names on the flyers. Don't wait for the club owner to call you. Volunteer! Not only will your job be appreciated by both dancers and club owner, but you will have one of the best seats in the house.

One of our major concerns for the past several years has been the lack of participants in our Pro Division. It is not uncommon for as many as ten to twelve participants to show up for a contest to compete in our Amateur and Novice divisions, but only a small number come out to enter the

Professional Division. This has been a major concern for our organization as well as the SPA organization that sponsors the majority of our contests.

For many competitive shaggers, their goal has been to compete until they are able to win enough Amateur and Novice contests to move to the Professional Division. Once they have reached their personal goal, some choose never to compete again.

Our present Board of Directors is trying to come up with ways to encourage the professional shaggers to continue supporting our contests.

When Joan and I began competing in 1983, there were only two divisions: Non-professional and Professional. There were more than enough dancers to support both divisions. We cannot remember a time when there was not a cut in both divisions.

Often, a couple who has had a great deal of success in placing and winning in the Amateur and Novice divisions finds that not placing or finishing seventh or eighth in the Professional Division is too disheartening to continue.

Once you reach the Professional ranks, both male and female are expected to dance well and to be entertaining. That's a large order to fill for many couples. Often you may find yourself having to work harder than you ever thought possible. To dance well as a couple is one thing, but to dance well and entertain at the same time takes talent and hard work at any level.

Some of the more entertaining competitive couples are those who have gone through the Junior ranks, turned 21, and then entered our shag arena. As more of these couples succumb to age 21 (ha!), perhaps our Professional ranks will grow again.

In the next article I will present some ideas I have, as well as some I have heard from others, for getting more crowd attendance at our contests.

I still believe that competitive dance brings out the best in your dancing at any level. Please come out and support the next contest held in your area.

John English is a member of the Board of Directors for CSA.

Friday night at S.O.S. — by Bo Bryan

April 18, 1996, Friday night at the S.O.S. Spring Safari in North Myrtle Beach, Ocean Drive: I walked downtown about 11 pm. The largest, best groomed, prettiest S.O.S. crowd I'd yet seen packed the dance halls. Thousands were here to celebrate. And here I was, after two years of research and reflection, still trying to understand fully what brought this crowd together.

Being a writer, I need to learn why people do what they do. My job is always to seek the fundamentals. When I wrote the book, *Shag*, I thought that glamour was the principal catalyst for this crowd. The glamour of bygone youth, the nostalgia for rebellion. In the book, I thought I nailed it.

At a party in Ocean Drive and at a good fifty gatherings over the past two years, I heard people laughing, saw friends and strangers embrace. I saw individuals alone, staring with melancholy at the starless sky, as though they had lost love.

And then I saw a number of men and women holding hands, walking slowly, silently and peacefully, secure in each other's presence. I wondered how so many in this crowd had achieved that togetherness.

Any longer, I don't believe it's the glamour, the dancing or the music, and I don't believe it ever was. The shag is only a common interest, a challenge for some, a passion for only a few. It's love and the hope of love that brings this society together, and I am saying this merely to thank you, thank you for inviting me to the party, and thank you for asking me to dance.

Thirteenth Annual Shag Dance Championships

1996 Champions

OVERALL WINNERS — Michael Norris and LeAnn Best
(This was the first time that the Junior Division won the Overall crown)

Congratulations to all competitors. Following is a list of winners from each category:

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

1. Sam West and Sarah West
2. George Hamrick and Leslie Williamson
3. Jimmy and Cameron Caruso
4. Ernie and Gail Holmes
5. Gene and Kathy Benfield
6. Bill and Brenda Barber
7. Rick and Maureen Little
8. Bob and Jane Jacobs

NON-PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

1. Geoff Burdick and Melissa Goebel
2. Larry and Shirley Jones
3. Mandy Holt and Chris Lester
4. Archie and Sheila Chase
5. Matt and Lynn Evans

MASTERS DIVISION

1. John and Pee Wee Teel
2. John and Joan English
3. Norfleet Jones and Sheila Bodie

JUNIOR DIVISION

1. Michael Norris and LeAnn Best
2. Grayson Smith and Jessica McAlhaney
3. William Greene and Kristen Leggett

Following are the standings from Ducks contest held March 22-24, 1996:

AMATEUR

1. John and Peggy Murray
2. Mike and Kay Anderson
3. Willie and Charity Herring
4. Archer Joyce and Pat Jurney
5. Patrick McCullough & Laura*
6. Bill and Joan Sessoms

*Last name unavailable at press time

NOVICE

1. Archie and Sheila Chase
2. Mitch and Sue Batten
3. Matt and Lynn Evans
4. A. C. and Kathy Williams
5. Larry and Shirley Jones
6. Butch and Kathy Dukes

PROFESSIONAL

1. Sam West and Sarah West
2. Sy Creed and Dana Brown
3. Geoff Burdick and Melissa Goebel
4. Bill and Brenda Barber
5. Jimmy and Cameron Caruso
6. Wes and Sandra May
7. Joe and Louise Garcia

All the above courtesy of the C.S.A. April 6, 1996 newsletter.



Carolina Shag Makes History at American Swing Dance Championships in N.Y.

by Linda Dean

It won't be long before the Carolina Shag will be an internationally recognized dance. This year, for the very first time in an internationally recognized swing dance championship, a Carolina Shag Division was added ... thanks to the efforts of Susie Beaver.

The American Swing Dance Championships, held in April at the Manhattan Center in New York City, played host to dancers from the United States to Sweden to London, just to name a few. Dances featured were the Lindy Hop, West Coast Swing, Carolina Shag, Team Dancing, and Cabaret.

I thought this was so neat that I interviewed Susie about this event. She couldn't say enough wonderful things ...

"Myself and the other shaggers were well received. I was ecstatically pleased and honored to be a part of this group that danced. I feel that we made a wonderful impact on the swing community by giving those that attended, from all over the world, a chance to see Carolina Shag at its greatest. The response to our dance and dancing was beyond belief ... We and our dance were accepted with open arms."

The first place dancers in the Carolina Shag Division were junior shaggers Brent Key from Sunset Beach and Shea Carver from Mt. Holly. They won \$1000 plus a neat trophy. Susie says that everyone placed and received cash prizes and a trophy shaped like a "Big Apple" engraved with ASDC and the American flag embossed on it. By the way, Brent and Shea might be junior shaggers to us, but in this championship competition, they were considered adults.

All five couples performed five different interpretations of the shag ... everything from the smoothest to the fastest.

Susie says she'd like to thank those that danced and those that made us feel welcome in the Big Apple ... and a big thanks to the



promoters, Alan Rocoff and Teddy Kern, who were responsible for adding the Carolina Shag Division to this competition in New York.

Also, coming up in October is the Virginia State Open Swing Dance Championships. "We applaud Craig Hutchinson for adding the Carolina Shag Division to this competition. He's always recognized the Carolina Shag and been a great supporter." And yes, Susie will be dancing in this competition.

Susie went on to say that Jackie McGee and Charlie Womble were also at this competition dancing in the Open Classic Swing Division. And, of course, once again Jackie and Charlie placed Second overall. Susie says that they did an extraordinary job with their performance and talent of a shag/swing combination dance.

As many of you already know, Jackie and Charlie continually support and teach the Carolina Shag throughout the country. Some of us were lucky enough to take their workshop at the recent S.O.S. at Ocean Drive ... but don't ask us to perform for you ... yet!

Also, Susie said that another first at this event was that one of our famous shag and beach deejays, Judy Collins, was spinning all our favorites throughout the weekend ... "Great job, Judy!" And she added, "It was great to have one of our national shag judges, Judy Bazemore Eastwood, attend and judge the Carolina Shag Division."

Susie and Jackie were both invited to participate in the National Championship Invitational Jack 'n Jill. (This is like one of our mixed doubles contests.) Susie said that it was a great honor to be in this contest—you must be an international

(Continued on Page 31)

COMPETITION WINNERS

OPEN CLASSIC

- 5: Ken • Donna Roesel
- 4: Michael • Amber Cross
- 3: Bill Cameron • Blake Hobby
- 2: Charlie Womble • Jackie McGee
- 1: Kyle Redd • Beata Howe

CAROLINA SHAG

- 5: Otis Harris • Judy Davis
- 4: Calvin Wade • Susie Beaver
- 3: Bill Hopkins • Janis Grimes
- 2: Trey McCants • Wendy Teeter
- 1: Brent Key • Shea Carver

OPEN SHOWCASE

- 5: Tim • Jackie Marlow
- 4: Barry Douglas • Joyce Stoughton
- 3: Tim Auclair • Michele Wells
- 2: Barry Durand • Lisa Austin
- 1: Barry Jones • Kellese Martinez

TEAM

- 5: Potomac Swing Dance Club
- 4: Hop to the Beat
- 3: Sandra Cameron Dance Team
- 2: Dance Manhattan
- 1: The Usual Suspects

MASTERS

- 5: Tom Duffy • Beverly Solazzo
- 4: John Boden • Cher Chilton
- 3: Dan Beck • Dee Becker
- 2: Bob • Beverly Budzynski
- 1: Don • Rosalie Dressler

PRO/AM

- 5: Ken Roessel • Ava Bernstein
- 4: Randy Clements • Lyn Lawrence
- 3: Mark Grasset • Sylvia Sykes
- 2: Eddie Sanabria • Margaret Batiuchok
- 1: Steve Neeren • Debbie Ramsey

CABARET

- 5: Barry Douglas • Joyce Stoughton
- 4: John Festa • Ramiro Gonzales
- 3: Dale Stotts • Kyle Larsen
- 2: Roberto Pagan • L.A. Greenhouse
- 1: Matt Auclair • Michele Wells

INVITATIONAL

- 5: Sonny Watson • Blake Hobby
- 4: Sonny Watson • Laura Smith
- 3: Kyle Redd • Debbie Ramsey
- 2: Ramiro Gonzales • Jackie McGee
- 1: Ken Roesel • Maria Torres

JUST SWING (Novice)

- 5: Stefan Gonick • Rachel Nazareth
- 4: Bill Borgida • Robinne Gray
- 3: Dave Townsend • Elizabeth Schwartz
- 2: Steve Neeren • Laura O'Neal
- 1: Eddie Sanabria • Jodee Adair

JUST SWING (Advanced)

- 5: Kyle Redd • Laura Smith
- 4: Tim Auclair • Lisa Vineyard
- 3: John Festa • Debbie Ramsey
- 2: Ramiro Gonzales • Sylvia Sykes
- 1: Barry Jones • Beata Howe

LINDY HOP

- 5: Keith Hughes • Christine Nelson
- 4: Rob Van Haaren • Diane Thomas
- 3: John Knapp • Meredith Stead
- 2: Sonny Allen • Margaret Batiuchok
- 1: Ivan • Elisabet Berggren

Finally something definitive has been written about the Shag. This book is everything I hoped it would be. Wonderful stories, pictures and facts. Having been a part of the beach scene for so long, I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed reading SHAG, The Dance Legend. It brought back a lot of memories. Congratulations on a job well done.

Harry Driver, President,
Shag Hall of Fame

The answer to a Shagger's prayer. If you have, or ever had, one grain of sand in your shoes, this book is a "must have" for you. Bo Bryan and Will Maddox have done the world of Shaggers, Stranders and lovers of beach music a great service. The people, the places, the music, the dance; this one has it all. As true to the Shag as an eight-count basic step.

Phil Sawyer, President,
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Carolina Shag Makes History

(Continued from Page 30)

champion or a professional instructor to be invited ... wow!

Anyway, an international Lindy Hop champion dancer, who did not know the shag, drew Susie. She said it was a real challenge for her ... to shag her way through the Lindy! Also, Jackie was lucky enough to be drawn by an incredible dancer and did a wonderful job of performing a push/shag/swing combo, placing second.

In closing, I just hope you find all of this as exciting as I do. The shag is a wonderful dance, and for it to be shared with other dancers from all over the world is really quite something. So, when you see one of these shaggers who made it to the Big Apple, congratulate them for a job well done!

Linda Dean is a member of the Winston-Salem Shag Club. This article was first published in her club's newsletter and was edited slightly for length.

HEY-Y... YOU'RE
LOOKIN' GOOD
TODAY, LARRY



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WANTED TO HEAR AFTER
THE FOOD RAN OUT

THE PREMIERE SWING DANCE



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