



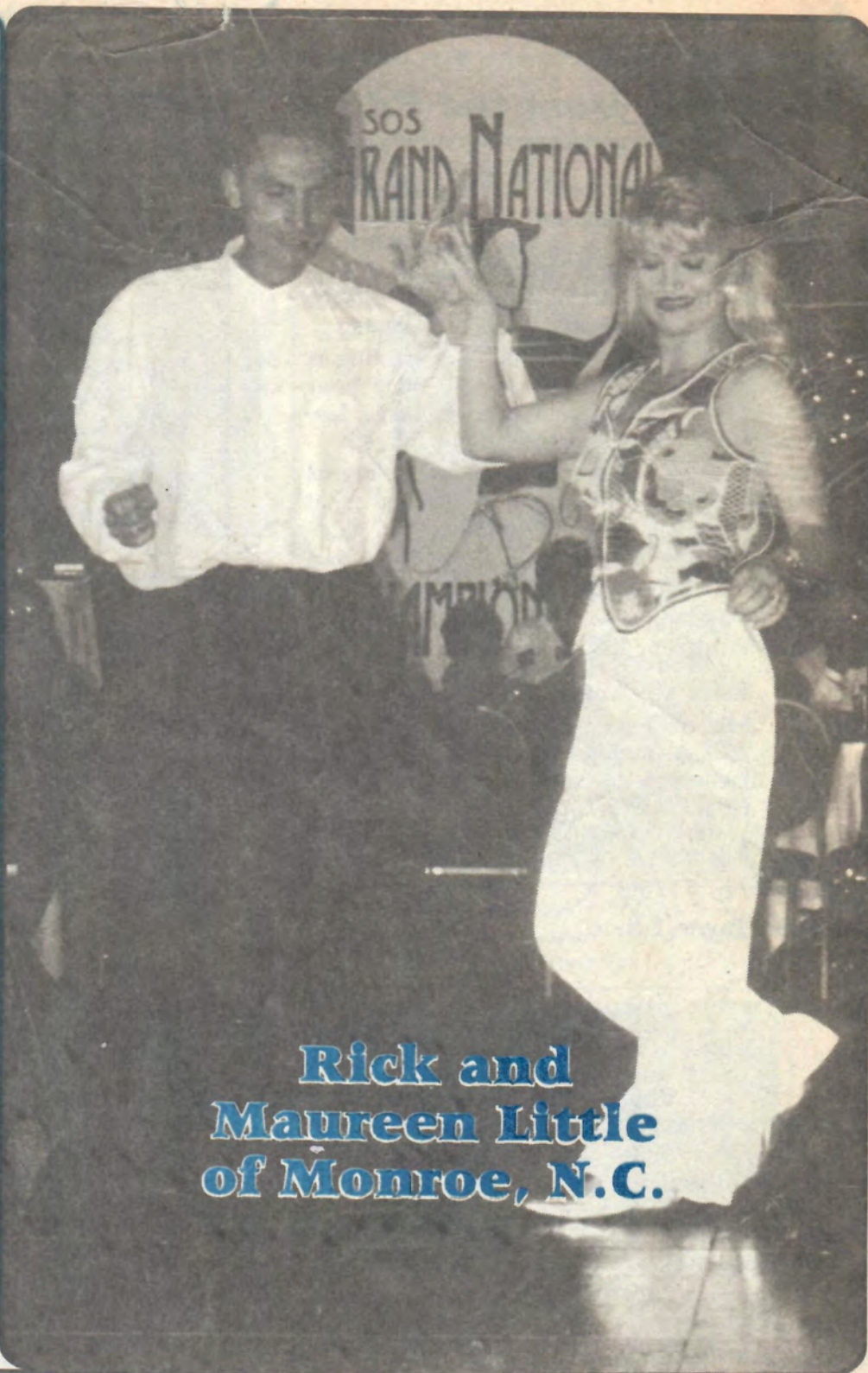
Carefree Times



19 Winter 97



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



**Rick and
Maureen Little
of Monroe, N.C.**

S.O.S.
Carefree Times

Box 4688, Columbia, SC 29204

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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.

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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7528 Arlington Expressway #806
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Michael Payne
Michael Payne, Editor

Upcoming 1998 S.O.S. Carefree Times Deadlines

ADVERTISERS AND CONTRIBUTING EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: We print these deadlines in each issue so that you can be guaranteed an advertising space or top consideration for your article. Unfortunately, we had several submissions that did not make it into this issue due to lateness. We hope to avoid that in future issues, so your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

Issue	Deadline	Distribution
Spring Safari '98	16 February	10 April
Summer Mail-out '98	18 May	15 July
Fall Migration '98	19 July	4 September
Winter Mail-out '98	19 October	15 December

The advertisers contained herein make this publication possible. Please support them every time you are in need of their type goods or services.
Thank you.

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S.O.S. Carefree Times Winter Mail-out

Volume 4, Number 10, Winter 1997

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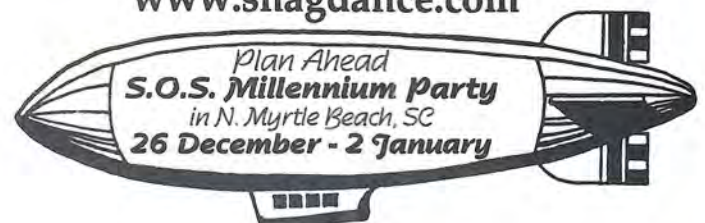
For the latest S.O.S. information,

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Or visit our web site:

www.shagdance.com



Fun Monday '97



(L to R) Kip Anderson, Donnie Way, Little Isidore, and Buba Snow



The Roadrunners



"Miss Fun Monday '97", Ronnie Frost of SahgAtlanta, is crowned by S.O.S. Chairman, Donnie Way



"The Girls" await the decision of the judges!



A large crowd enjoys Fun Monday '97 activities



Not all of the "Girls" are so pretty!

Seasons Greetings, Fellow S.O.S. Members and Shaggers

from Ron Whisenant



Ean you believe that 1997 has almost expired? As they say, "Time flies when you're having fun," and a great year it has been for S.O.S.—another successful year of dancing, partying, and fellowship with some of the best people on earth.

It just don't get any better than this. Our organizations, A.C.S.C. and S.O.S., offer so many things for their members, and membership benefits are being expanded all of the time so that your membership is more valuable than ever.

Speaking of value, did you attend the very first Fun Monday? It was a huge, huge, huge success, thanks to the hard-working group that made this day a reality for our enjoyment.

The Enhancement Committee did an outstanding job for this event, and the committee chairpersons just made it happen. Thanks to Judy Major, Shirley Ward, Dwayne Baggett, Hollis Britt, and the countless others working behind the scenes for their undying efforts to make this event such a wonderful experience for our members, our S.O.S. clubs, the city of North Myrtle Beach, and any other lucky person that just happened to be in the area for that day. What a treat! And congratulations to all of the lucky winners in the reverse raffle.

We continue to work on our long-range plans for the big celebrations for the millennium and the year 2000. We hope to have a plan that can be adopted at the Mid-Winter meeting in January 1998. Make your plans to be in NMB on those dates.

I look forward to 1998 as another growth year for our A.C.S.C. and S.O.S. organizations, largely in part to more and more interest in our lifestyle of music, dance, and social recognition from our efforts to promote S.O.S. via the Internet web site www.shagdance.com. I hope that you have visited our site. If you have suggestions or would like to reply to us, you can send Mike Rink some e-mail via the site.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a joyous and safe holiday. Thanksgiving and Christmas are times for being thankful, for giving, and for caring.

I am proud to be a part of an organization, although not known for being philanthropic in structure, that has shown that we care about others and has contributed in many ways. We, as a group, are so fortunate in our lives and lifestyle to enjoy all that life brings us. If you have a little extra during the Christmas season, help someone who is less fortunate than yourself.

Merry Christmas,
— Ron Whisenant, Chairman,
A.C.S.C.

**Line dancers: get ready for the
3rd Annual Line
Dance Competition
on Saturday, September 26, 1998**

The Upbeats, two-time winners of the competition, are looking for a real challenge for the 1998 competition. Teams, start practicing and be ready for this fall event!

There will be some changes in the format for 1998. Be sure to read all the changes and rules in the Spring S.O.S. Carefree Times.

For more information, contact: Carol Owens, P.O. Box 771, Whiteville, NC 28472; day phone (910) 640-6624, night (910) 642-2868, Beach (803) 249-1717.

Revised Five-year Plan Dates

1998	Mid Winter Beach Classic	January 15-18
	Spring Safari.....	April 24-May 3
	Fall Migration	September 18-27
1999	Mid Winter Beach Classic	January 14-17
	Spring Safari.....	April 16-25
	Fall Migration	September 17-26
2000	Mid Winter Beach Classic	January 20-23
	Spring Safari.....	May 5-14
	Fall Migration	September 15-24
2001	Mid Winter Beach Classic	January 18-21
	Spring Safari.....	April 27-May 6
	Fall Migration	September 14-23
2002	Mid Winter Beach Classic	January 18-20
	Spring Safari.....	April 12-21
	Fall Migration	September 13-22

Seasons Greetings to all Fellow S.O.S. Members!

from Donnie Way



Here's wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fall Migration has come and gone for this year, and it was one of the biggest and best ever. The first S.O.S. Fun Monday was a new value to your S.O.S. membership. If you missed the first one, you must make plans to attend the 2nd S.O.S. Fun Monday next Fall Migration. Our first one had great attendance and wonderful music from Kip Anderson, Little Isodore, and Microwave Dave and the Roadrunners.

The womanless beauty pageant was breathtaking to say the least! Congratulations to Ronnie Frost of ShagAtlanta for being crowned the winner.

Most of all, I would like to thank the merchants, the city of North Myrtle Beach, and the club owners for their support and participation.

Thanks again to all the Enhancement Committee members for Fun Monday, S.O.S. Line Dance Competition, and S.O.S. Beach Run.

Once again, a happy and safe holiday season. And remember, be good ... I might just be Santa Claus!
— Donnie Way, Chairman, S.O.S. Board

Great Christmas gift idea

Why don't you consider giving an S.O.S. membership as a Christmas gift to your loved ones and friends?

It is so easy to order your Christmas presents over the phone at 1-888-767-3113 without having to go shopping and fight the crowds to find the right present for that person you care for.

And you cannot say it any better than by giving them an S.O.S. membership. It will change their lives forever, as it did yours.

News briefs ...

Windy Teeter, a shagger and ex-competitor and now a recording artist, sang her latest release, *A Woman Has a Right to a Man's Point of View*, at the 1997 S.O.S. Grand Nationals in Atlanta.



Windy Teeter

1998 S.O.S. Membership Application

Includes two mail-out issues of the *Carefree Times* • Photocopies are acceptable

Name(s) 1. _____
 2. _____

Mailing Address 1. _____
 2. _____

City, State, Zip 1. _____
 2. _____

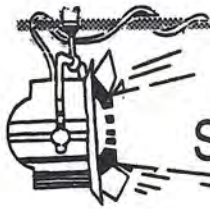
Telephone 1. (day) (____) _____ (night) (____) _____
 2. (day) (____) _____ (night) (____) _____

Were you an S.O.S. member Yes No in 1997?

Memberships _____ at \$35 = Total Enclosed \$ _____

S.O.S. / Box 4688 / Columbia, SC 29204





Spotlight on the ...

Dillon County Shag Club



The origin of the Dillon County Shag Club goes back to 1988. As the story goes, Gene Varn and Jerry Richardson, along with their lovely better halves, were partaking of some "blue hand buds" at their beach house in Garden City. During the course of the evening, the conversations drifted toward starting a shag club back in their hometown of Dillon, South Carolina.

So, in the winter of 1988, the planning began for organizing a shag club without knowing what the response would be. Telephone calls were made to everyone they thought may be interested, and some of the interested persons then passed on names of other possible members.

The response was tremendous. At the first dance, held in January 1989 at the Twin Lakes Country Club, approximately 200 people were in attendance, with Dillon's own Roger Holcomb as deejay.

The name of the club was voted on by the charter members, with Dillon County Shag Club being selected as the name because there was a cross section of members from the three main communities in the county: Dillon, Latta, and Lake View.

Over the years, the membership base expanded to include members from a 60-mile radius, including Fayetteville, Florence, Bennettsville, Lumberton, Southern Pines, Whiteville, and Laurinburg.

Gene Varn was elected as the first president, with Jerry Richardson serving as vice president, and Sharon Burney as secretary-treasurer. The second year saw Gene and Jerry re-elected; however, Sharon became secretary, and Sherry Holcomb became treasurer, and Jimmy Henderson was elected sergeant-at-arms.

Although the club membership numbers have

remained steady over the years, probably the biggest year was 1991. The word was out that they had a huge party in Dillon the third Friday night each month, and people came from all over.

It wasn't long before other shag clubs sprouted up in the surrounding communities and hurt attendance a little. The average dance attendance these days is approximately 100, rather than the 200 in prior years, but the 100 that are there have a ball, and the facility and drink prices are second to none.

The biggest club party was in March 1991. There were well over 400 members in attendance, with Gary Bass as deejay, at the first annual Shaggin' Super Scramble (golf tournament and dance).

Swing Into Spring

at the Ramada Resort
Deauville Hotel,
Miami Beach, Florida
March 12-15, 1998

- * Raffle Drawings, 50/50 : Great Prizes!
- * DJ's - Judy Collins, Jerry Munson, Doug "Gator" Levitas, Randy Atlas
- * Ocean front hotel with 1000 feet of beach!
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Ramiro Gonzalez - Fabulous Footwork
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Continuous music from 1pm. - 2 am.
2nd ballroom plays Disco and Latin at night
- * 4000 sq.ft. of dance floor overlooking the Atlantic ocean



For Registration Info: Call (954) 424-4499

The event will be sold out - tickets will be limited to the first 750 dancers!

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



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Address _____

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Enter total number of tapes ordered _____

Gary Bass CD's _____

Total amount enclosed _____



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218 Main Street, N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

HOLIDAYS

S.O.S. Fun Monday brings thousands to Main St. in North Myrtle Beach during Fall Migration

by Judy Major

It was 6:30 am on Monday, September 8, 1997, and the sun was trying its best to rise above Main Street in what would become a beautiful, memorable day for those who planned to attend the First Annual Fun Monday.

The only sign of life (and you have to remember that this was the morning *after* the first weekend of partying at S.O.S.!) as I strolled down Main Street to await the arrival of the porta-potties, was the city workers placing up the barriers that would close the streets to traffic and Tug Mathisen of CSC anxiously awaiting setup of his vending booth.

We knew we had planned a day full of fun for everyone, but it was anyone's guess as to what the attendance would be, whether the weather would be on our side, and what problems we might encounter.

Well, folks, the weather couldn't have been better; what few problems we did have were quickly resolved; and you came—thousands of you came! We love you all for helping to make our first annual event a very successful one.

By 10 am, when deejay Mike Lewis cranked up the music, people were already filtering in from all areas. And at 11 am, when the first of twelve contestants in the All Male Beauty Contest strutted across the street and he announced that Fun Monday had officially begun, the streets were full.

Ronnie Frost of SnagAtlanta was crowned our beauty queen based on the crowd's reaction. Every one of our guys deserves a lot of credit for having the strength and guts to enter, don a woman's bathing suit and makeup, and present them-

selves to everyone watching. What a hoot they were! Some of those contestants looked awfully comfortable in that position!

It was a lot of fun, and we thank all who entered, hoping they'll be back again next September along with many of you who attended. If you're looking for attention, this is certainly one way of getting it!

Our live entertainment started out with the Roadrunners featuring Jay Spell, followed by Kip Anderson and Little Isadore and the Inquisitors finishing things off. The crowd swayed to the music while others danced in the street and still others sang along to some of our favorite shag tunes.

Due to the crowd reaction and the enthusiasm shown, the music played until after 5:30. We were hungry for more. The Blues Festival was a huge success! Deejays Larry Jones and David Jones provided music in between the bands' performances, which provided the crowd with non-stop music all day.

Jerry Pope of the Florence Shag Club was our official \$10,000 winner in our reverse raffle, with his check being presented at the A.C.S.C. meeting that following Saturday. Additional prizes of \$5,000 were also given away—\$50 to every ninetieth number drawn, \$200 to Anthony Weeks who sold the winning ticket, \$100 to the Florence Shag Club for selling the most tickets, and \$200 to the first official loser whose ticket was the first one drawn.

A special thanks to all the shag clubs and shaggers who sold tickets for the reverse raffle, which helped make this event possible.

We were very pleased to present a check for \$2,400 to the director of Caring for Kids/Future for Kids,

which is an organization in the Myrtle Beach area that provides services to children who are in need of food, clothing, school supplies, etc. We were proud to select this as our charity of choice as it allowed us to sponsor four children for an entire year with what they specifically needed.

We had several businesses along Main Street set up vending on the sidewalks, and we appreciate their participation. Thanks go to the Charleston Shag Club, Tug Mathisen, Angie and Gene Jarrett, Danville Shag Club, Ocean Drive Shag Club, Twisters Shag Club, Fat Harold's, Ducks/Ducks Too, and Pirate's Cove for setting up vending booths and being an active part of Fun Monday.

Many, many thanks go out to the Fun Monday Committee and S.O.S. Enhancement Committee for all your time and effort. A bottom-of-the-heart thanks to my co-chair, Shirley Ward, and to Chuck Ward, Dwayne Baggott, Bill Brown, Judy Collins, Hollis Britt, Brenda Davis, Ken McDonald, Bobby Brooks, Carol Owens, Jon Worrell, Susan and Al Butler, Becky Rice, Sara Benton, and Milton Adcock.

Now, where will you be on Monday, September 21, 1998 when we have the Second Annual Fun Monday? We have already begun to make plans for next year, and we would like all of you to be a part of it.

Set up a vending booth, enter the beauty contest, or just come on down to Main Street where it's all happening!

Reflections on Fall Migration '97

"Nothing could be fine-ah ..."

"Nothing could be fine-ah than to shag in Car-oh-ly-na in Sep-te-e-ember." To those who did not attend this year's S.O.S. Fall Migration in North Myrtle Beach, you really missed an awesome party, and I hope to see all of you there next year. You don't know what you're missing!

S.O.S. Fall Migration '97 was declared a state of euphoria by a large contingency of SCBC members and other Pittsburghers fortunate enough to have attended this year's convention/reunion in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

As one famous commercial puts it, it just doesn't get any better than this! ... the music, the dancing, the weather, the partying, the food, the beach, the clubs, the golf courses, the shopping—all mixed together with a strong dose of Southern hospitality.

Billed as the largest adult party in the U.S. (estimated at 15,000 people), it lives up to its reputation. It's a continual (annual) reunification of the post WWII generation of Southern states teenagers whose souls were permanently bonded together through a love of the music of the early rock-n-roll era, rhythm and blues, beach music, and a dance called the shag.

The shag is a slow version of the jitterbug and features a lot of intricate footwork. But it's smooth as poetry in motion when put to music.

Why North Myrtle Beach? This is where the shag originated, because this is where the young people of this era ('50s) went to dance to the music of black recording artists (The Tams, The Embers, The Drifters, etc.) which was played only at the beach.

Lou Spinogatti says he thinks the shag originated there because of the hot, sandy beaches.

"You have to keep your feet

movin' so as not to get burnt."

In the '50s the Northern version of beach music was being pioneered by radio deejays like Porky Chedwick (the Daddio of the Radio) here in Pittsburgh and Alan Freed in New York who featured the music of black recording artists like Bo Diddley, The Cadillacs, The Moonglows, and The Spinners.

S.O.S. (the Society of Stranders, named after the 35-mile grand strand of beach) is represented by over 125 shag clubs through the Southeast. Phil Sawyer, the president of S.O.S., said the spring and fall migration (parties) bring together the finest people in the world.

Personally, I couldn't agree more. To me, the people are what make it special, thousands of them—the friendliest people I've ever met, anxious to make you feel welcome and make new friends.

This year was my third year to attend this event, and it was better than ever. What amazes me is that in the three years I've attended this major party, not once did I ever observe any violence or even the slightest act of hostility.

It was past experience that led me and the other founders of our club to establish the SCBC. I strongly encourage all of you to try and attend next year. There is no way to describe it. You must experience it.

Hallelujah Dixieland, Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory! — JK

'Youth' gone astray!

It never ceases to amaze me how placing a bunch of "seasoned" adults on a narrow stretch of South Carolina beach brings out the teenager in them.

Put them on the sand with a cool one in hand, and they'll act, do, and say the darnest things—things that

aren't normally part of their daily persona—things that we usually associate with the more immature antics of the adolescent.

I guess some never outgrow their youth. It's always there lurking just below the surface waiting for an excuse to escape in some fashion. S.O.S. gives us all that singular opportunity to recycle those bygone days when image and decorum were mere words found in a dictionary.

For a few brief, glorious days, we forget our problems, strip off our everyday face, and to heck with decorum. Let me tell you, however, that some of you guys do a better job of blowing off the decorum part than others! The t-shirt I saw at S.O.S. Fall Migration '97 sums it up pretty well: "Recycled Teenager."

I guess if the shoe fits, wear it. Certainly there were a lot of "teenagers" at S.O.S. Ain't life grand?!

I witnessed the above phenomena among PSA members in general and a few members in particular. The womanless beauty contest, the weenie bake, the 2001 appreciation night, and the dockside outing were but a few of the more public displays of "youth gone astray." Where do I being?

"Billie Jean Diamond." — You might ask, what type of guy would dress up in hose, heels, makeup, skirted swimsuit, broad-brimmed hat, earrings, and—my goodness—those necessary falsies and parade around in public?

He's a guy with good self-esteem; he's a guy very supportive of his shag club; he's a guy who loves a good time; and oh yes, he's a guy who's only slightly inebriated.

Billy Erwin, thanks from PSA for being such a good sport. You and the other "gals" were great and provided the highlight of Fun Monday. Without doubt, Billy, you da man!

Weenie "Bake" a la Laugh — Once in a while, eating in and socializing is more fun than putting up with the hassle of going out. An indoor weenie bake with fixin's and
(Continued on Page 14)

SOS Beach Run

1997 S.O.S. Beach Run a Success!

by Susan Butler

Three hundred sixty-six runners and walkers participated in the 2nd Annual S.O.S. Beach Run on September 13th. This was a hearty increase over last year's 235.

The 5K, 8K races and the 1 Mile Fun Run were managed by Danny and Lisa White of Race Management Systems. We were assisted also by Greg Branhill of the N. Myrtle Beach Recreation Department. In addition to handling race day traffic organization, he rounded up about 25 members from the N. Myrtle Beach Junior ROTC to assist with traffic control. Thanks to all these folks and a special thanks to all other volunteers and workers.

A special thank you to Elaine Hunter for allowing us again to use the O.D. Arcade & Lounge as race day headquarters. And during post-race ceremonies, special thanks to Phil Sawyer and Donnie Way for their opening words, to Ed Piotrowski of TV15/21 who participated in the run and acted as our Emcee, Bob Bestler of *The Sun News* who also ran and spoke on marathon running, Jerri Himmelsbach and Bubber Snow who presented trophies to the winners, Debbie Huggins with her expertise, Jim Kyer who took a zillion photographs, and Dean and Pat Strickland who made a video tape of the run.

Kudos and personal thanks go to Marie and Roger Peacock for handling PSA's as well as numerous other tasks, to Frankie Hein who handled our T-shirt order, to Sue Anne Hall for our T-shirt design, to Randall Graham who handled our refreshments, to Linda Connell who covered the Grand Strand with

applications by traveling door-to-door and leaving them at all athletic establishments, to Bobbie Wills for her assistance with the trophies, to the Fun Monday guys and Don and Becki David for help on packet preparation and various other jobs, to Bill Jumper for his untiring support and help, to Tom McElhaney for his expertise and patience and who printed our shirts and booklet, to Hollis Britt, Hector Pfeiffer, the Enhancement Committee members, and to those of you whose names I have omitted, please forgive me, for I am pooped and my mind won't work!

We were honored on race morning to have with us Dr. Bill Davis, director of S.O.S. Healthcare (nice name, eh!). Within this umbrella, we find the Caring 4-Kids program, a local children's charity which exists through contributions and volunteer efforts. Many children are overlooked within the existing system of charities. Caring 4-Kids helps identify and fill the needs of these children. More than material gains, the children are given hope. All profits from the S.O.S. Beach Run are given to Caring 4-Kids.

This year we will donate dollars to sponsor three children for a year. Thank you again, Dr. Davis, for giving so many so much.

Our profits come from sponsorship and run application fees. This year, we applaud the following run sponsors: *Time Warner Cable* (Mary Anne Moore); *Outdoor Life*; *Quick Stop* (Kenny McDonald); *Barefoot Landing* (Bobbie Norton); *Harry's House of Pancakes* (Sam Georgakopoulos); *Troxell Chiropractic* (Jim

Troxell); *Dew's Hardware*; *Kellaheer, Connell & Conner Law Firm* (Gene Connell - thanks Frankie Hein!); *Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers*; *O.D. Arcade & Lounge*; and *Myrtle Beach Tours & Travel*.

For the first time this year, we sold ads for a sponsorship booklet. Those listed above took a whole or half page, depending on the amount of sponsorship. Other businesses contributing were *The Albatross*, *NBSC*, *S.O.S.*, *The Anchor Bank*, *Christmas Joy*, *Nations Bank*, *Mickey Spillane*, *Office Depot*, *Print It*, and *Coastal Engravers*.

The 3rd Annual S.O.S. Beach Run will be bigger and better. The position of race chairman has been a fulfilling one for me, and I know I will miss the excitement of meeting all those deadlines, but it is time for me to pass this honor on to a new and fresh race chairman. It has been a pleasure and a learning experience for me.

Thank each and every one of you who supported the S.O.S. Beach Run.

See you next year! And, yes, I'll be in there helping!



"Elvis! It's you! I thought you were alive!"

If the Weeju Fits: Dance Etiquette

Several complaints/comments have been made to us about dance floor etiquette and personal hygiene. Below are a collection of these comments and suggestions (some humorous?) on how we can make dancing more pleasant for us all.

Personal hygiene ...

► Body odor (#1 worst offender!). This sounds rank ... and it is. Suggested remedies: shower if possible beforehand. Wear a clean shirt. If you sweat heavily, bring an extra shirt or wear a cotton T-shirt (V-neck) under your shirt. Sounds like this would make you sweat more but actually does the opposite; it absorbs perspiration plus has the added benefit of cooling you! Use a generous amount of deodorant. Go easy on perfumes/colognes and use after your bath, not instead of!

► Halitosis (bad breath). Brush teeth and tongue, floss, use mouthwash and gum helps but don't look like you're enjoying it too much. Breath mints are good but only last for about 1/2 hour. Try not to eat garlic, onions, and spicy foods before dancing. (If you do, chewing on some parsley afterwards helps.) Avoid gassy foods (unless you plan on doing a lot of progressive dancing). No snuff. Drink plenty of fluids. Exercising (dancing) can cause you to become dehydrated thus causing dry mouth which causes bad breath. So can dancing with your mouth open (looks bad, too!).

► No toothpicks, cigarettes, or drinks on the dance floor for obvious reasons.

► Rough, scaly hands. Remedies: Use hand creams. Walgreens has a great Vitamin E hand cream that actually heals dry, cracked hands. Try a free sample at Walgreens cosmetics counter (and, no, I don't work for Walgreens!). Wear gloves to protect your hands while working. Note: keep hands away from eyes/nose (bring tissue) and wash hands frequently, especially during the cold and flu season.

Attire ...

► No bulky wallets ... looks tacky. No dangling keys which can hurt someone. Be careful not to wear belts that have sharp edges or buckles.

► Remove watches because they can catch in the ladies' hair. Also avoid rings with sharp or pointed edges. Hoop or dangling earrings can also catch and be dangerous. Less is always better when it comes to jewelry.

► Clothing: Tank tops for men (and some women?) are out. Nobody wants to look at sweaty armpits. Don't wear blouses or shirts with raglan (bulky) sleeves. The extra fabric can catch on jewelry and/or fingers and make some dance moves difficult to do. Avoid blouses or shirts with looped fringe for the same reasons.

Dance club / floor etiquette ...

► Try to introduce yourself to—and dance with—one "new face" or someone you haven't danced with for a while. Introduce that new member to someone else when you're done. This should help newcomers feel welcome and less intimidated.

► Never say "no" when asked to dance and then get up and dance with someone else. This is rude! Please give a reason: I'm resting, visiting, take a rain check, etc. Sometimes a "no thank you" is in order if the first set of rules above aren't followed, the person is drunk, etc. On the other hand, if you're turned down, gracefully take "no" for an answer.

► Please practice dance floor courtesy as well as dance floor etiquette. Always apologize (a smile helps, too) whenever you bump into someone on the dance floor whether it's your fault or not.

► If you want to be asked to dance again, don't criticize your

dance partner on the dance floor. Don't say things like "you aren't leading" or "you can't follow." This is social dance time ... leaders lead and followers follow. Unless you're asked, leave the critiquing to the dance instructor during class time.

► Experienced dancers: Take the time to dance and give your support to the less experienced dancers. Remember how you felt, even inspired, when someone better than you asked you to dance. Get to know them as a person, not by how good of a dancer they are. It could be the start of a new friendship. Beginning dancers: Don't be shy. Feel free to introduce yourself as a new member and don't be afraid of asking someone in the club to dance. That's what we're all there for.

► Keep flailing arms/legs contained on a crowded floor. Keep in mind that untrained dancers and non-club members do not know these rules, so be easy on them. You can't change their behavior; you can only change your own. Remember the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" so we all can have an enjoyable dancing experience.

► We all have local bars that offer us a great place to dance and socialize ... let's not jeopardize these wonderful club benefits. Smile and be friendly to the staff at the check-in desk, the waitresses, bartenders, and especially the deejay. Be sure to thank him when he plays a request (bribes help: bring goodies, etc.). Pay your way ... be sure to always order a drink or soda and always be sure to tip. (Waitresses are dependent on tips for wages, so please place drink orders from them whenever possible.) The money you spend at bars is what keeps them operating. Where else can you go for so cheap and have so much fun!

Reprinted from the Albuquerque Swing & Country Dance Club newsletter, Jan/Feb '97 and edited to fit our society.



Shag of the South



State dance still enjoys a step or two on local dance floors

by Ronda Cornelius
Anderson Independent-Mail

In England, "to shag" is to have sex. In the '70s, "the shag" was about carpeting. But in South Carolina, the shag has always been about cool cats showing off their smooth moves on the dance floor.

Described as "a languid Lindy Hop or jitterbug in the hot tub," the shag evolved from "fast dancing," flourished on the Carolina coasts in the '50s and '60s, then went underground for decades.

Now the shag is back and in a big way. Designated the state dance of South Carolina in 1984, the shag has the power to lure about 10,000 people to North Myrtle Beach for a 10-day party twice a year. The rest of the year, more than 14,000 shaggers support about 120 clubs in the Southeast and affiliate clubs all over the country.

"The shag is much more than just a dance," said long-time shagger Johnny Hammond. "It's a lifestyle."

The Electric Shag

Founded in 1987, the Electric City Shag Club comes together every Wednesday night to shag at Andrews nightclub. There, the deejay spins an upbeat mix of beach music—everything from the Platters to Microwave Dave and the Nukes. The dancers boogie-walk, belly roll, and fly-back, creating their own steps and improvising fancy footwork until they can't dance anymore.

"What it's really about is getting out there and showing off—performing," said Bill Perry, a charter member of the Electric City Shag Club who danced the shag on the Strand back in the '60s.

Back then, summer on the beach meant lifeguards, beach bums and cool cats, tan girls in short shorts,

cruising, hanging out, hot days, hot dogs, cold beer, and freedom.

At night in the heavy humid air, a crowd of kids would converge on a wooden dance floor to shag the night away near the waves.

"It was the golden age of being a teenager," Mr. Perry said. He even met his wife, Dot, at a shag dance. She said he's always been a "hot-dogger."

It started in Harlem

The shag traces its roots to Harlem in the late 1920s. There, at Harlem's Savoy Ballroom, a group of black dancers created a new swing dance heavy on footwork and improvisation called the "Breakaway" or the "Hop." The Hop turned into the "Lindy Hop," a speedy dance that eventually became known in the 1930s as the Jitterbug when Glenn Miller and his orchestra brought the dance into the mainstream.

When the fast northern dance done by Jitterbugs or "fast dancers" migrated to the South in the '40s, the Southerners kept the same steps, but eventually they slowed the tempo down. Way down. Sometimes even to half-time.

"(The shag) is a slow form of the jitterbug," Mr. Perry explained. "A slower style."

"It's smoother," Mr. Hammond said.

Southerners who adapted fast dancing stayed on the ground—no flipping the girl up in the air or swinging her all around like the "hep cats" did in the north. Instead, the beach dudes concentrated on their footwork, keeping upper body moves to a minimum. Even today, shaggers dance in a "slot," front and back in a small area of floor.

Some of the shag style can also be traced to the shuffle and trucking style of The Big Apple, a circle-style

African dance that stays in a slot.

"The idea is to move like you've got a book on your head," said Mary Ann McBride, president of the Electric City Shag Club. The shag is a sensual dance with intricate, controlled footwork, she said. "Someone who dances all over the floor—that's not really shag."

Summer fun

Shagging and pre-shag fast dancing has been popular in waves. According to Mr. Hammond, the first wave started in 1945 with the end of WWII and lasted until Hurricane Hazel wiped out the Myrtle Beach pavilions in 1954.

As a teenager in the '50s, Mr. Hammond used to bicycle from Pendleton to Boscobel Lake, the place to be in the summer. With television in its infancy, teens had to find other summer activities: they sunbathed swam, had picnics, and danced.

"Things were more laid-back then," Mr. Hammond said.

Boscobel's pavilion had a jukebox with outdoor speakers. Kids loaded up the jukebox with rhythm-and-blues tunes and checked out the Clemson A&M college students who had been learning dance steps on the coast.

When Mr. Hammond got a little older, he joined thousands of other teens who migrated to the beaches in the summer. Girls would go six to a car, guys would go six to a car, and then everybody would meet up.

"It wasn't just the shag. The beach is an experience. The music was there to enhance it, but the whole thing just fits together," he said.

Mr. Hammond and his friend hung out at the beach and the teenage canteen, danced in the club and on the pier. "Automatically you just danced because they set aside place." (Continued on Page 13)

Shag of the South (Continued from Page 12)

And they looked for people—especially girls—to ask to parties; at night, they went to dance places like the Ocean Drive Pavilion and the Pad, he said.

In the '50s the boys wore "cat clothes": shirts with the collars turned up; tailor-made, baggy-fit trousers; saddle oxfords; and long, combed-back duck butt haircuts. The girls wore short shorts and Weejuns penny loafers or saddle shoes. Dancers needed shoes with smooth leather soles for skimming across the floor.

Then on Oct. 15, 1954, Hurricane Hazel blew through Myrtle Beach and smashed most of the wooden dance pavilions.

Killing the shag

After Hazel's destruction, the next threat to shagging was a human phenomenon: In 1956, Elvis Presley brought *Heartbreak Hotel* and rock 'n' roll to the mainstream. The second wave of fast dancing/shag had begun; the shag was threatened. All the dance-of-the-week fads, like the Bugaloo, bit into shag time, Mr. Hammond said.

The shaggers just kept on, though, with the beach music—artists like the Drifters, the Coasters, and Jackie Wilson.

The next wave of the shag, which finally started being called the "shag," began in 1962 during the soul music trend and lasted until the '70s, Mr. Hammond said. At that time, shaggers listened to the Tams, Catalinas, and the Embers, but the rest of the world seemed to have new music and dances to do.

"(The) British invasion is what killed the shag," Mr. Hammond said. Not to mention disco and the draft. Many dancers went to Vietnam instead of the beach.

S.O.S.

The shag did not die, however far it went out of sight. In 1977 the

Embers recorded *I Love Beach Music*, and signs of shag revival began. Shaggers began to teach the once-improvisational dance in lessons.

Then in 1980, a former shag life-guard decided to have a little reunion. Gene Laughter, an ex-life-guard from the '50s nicknamed Swink, expected about 500 people. Instead, about 2,000 showed up. The crowd got even bigger the next year. A revived fifth wave of shag had begun.

The reunited shaggers soon formed S.O.S., the Society of Strangers, which now has about 15,000 members and a journal, the *S.O.S. Carefree Times*. Each year S.O.S. hosts two ten-day parties: Spring Safari and Fall Migration.

"It's really a wild ten days," said Gladys Makison, former jitterbugger and charter member of the E.C.S.C.

Old-time shaggers go from dance floor to dance floor, dancing and drinking and meeting old friends. There have only been two fights in the 17 years the parties have been going on, Mr. Hammond said. And those two fights were between the same two guys on the same day.

"You see more hugging and kissing than you do fighting," Ms. McBride said.

After the initial success of the S.O.S. parties, shag clubs began popping up in the Southeast like beach umbrellas. Today more than 110 clubs belong to the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs.

Clubs usually have a few big parties as well as meeting once a week to dance. The Electric City Shag Club has its big dance, the Electric Storm, in May at Clemson University's Outdoor Lab. Membership in the club varies between 75 to 168 members, Ms. McBride said.

Shaggers who like to compete can enter shag contests, the biggest being the Grand Nationals in Atlanta, which attracts dancers from across the country.

You never meet a stranger

The ACSC creates a network for shaggers. When shaggers travel, they can refer to the shag club directory list and meet other shaggers to dance or ask for help, as the case may be.

"A shag club is like family, like an inner circle," Mr. Hammond said.

"You never meet a stranger when you're shagging," Mrs. Makison said.

Mrs. Makison and her husband Ed come out Wednesday to Andrews and Friday to the Carolina Shag Club in Greenville, where they also have a membership. She said she loves to dance the shag. "It just takes your mind off everything and you have a good time," she said.

"You can be down and out, and you walk in and hear that (beach) music and it's like a shot of adrenaline," Ms. McBride said. "It's all a good time, a fun time."

The shag, a way of life for Carolina beach "bums and bunnies" in the '50s and '60s has never died and never will, not if an ever-growing tribe of shaggers can help it.

"You know it's got to be good if it's lasted 50 years," Mr. Hammond said.

Submitted by Mary Ann McBride. Reprinted from "Anderson Independent Mail," 3/30/97.

Shuttle Hits

In a light-hearted touch, NASA's Mission Control sent a Top 40 list of country songs to the orbiting Atlantis-Mir complex. Here are just a few in no particular order:

- Achy, breaky Mir.
- If the Mir is a rockin', don't bother dockin'.
- I thought I Soyuz last night.
- There's a tear in my Mir.
- You picked a fine time to leave Mir, Mike Foale.
- Last night the throttle let me down.

Reflections on Fall Migration '97

(Continued from Page 9)

cold adult beverages was just the ticket on Tuesday night.

Everyone who wandered through TideMaster 501 had a really large time. The food was wonderful and the company even more so. Ask Karen, Mary, or Kaye about them big balls, udders, big yawns, sandpaper, and that big old, big old a-hole! My jaws still ache from laughing.

Oh yeah, guys, any breathalyzer checks lately? That was an evening where you literally had to be there to fully appreciate the fun.

The Moon and Howdy Show

— The 2001 Appreciation Night on Wednesday was a very nice gesture by 2001 to recognize shagger patronage throughout the year. There was free food (kind of sparse), free pours (strong and plentiful), and free show by TKO (good, but not as good, in my opinion, as prior years). The music was grand and the dance floor full. Overall, a nice midweek break from the beach club routine.

However, the return trip to OD brought out the unabashed youth in Peggy and Feraldo. Would you believe that those two actually mooned our vehicle? Believe it! They pressed those fannies in tandem right smack

against the window! It could have been a very scary sight, but thank goodness they kept their britches on. However, Feraldo must have thought we were in California as he repeatedly flashed howdies to everyone on US 17. That has to be the most wicked howdy in the Carolinas. Glad I wasn't in the van with those two kids. Talk about a teenage flashback!

Calabash Invasion — What would you do if 22 wild and wacky adults suddenly descended upon your peaceful dinner? Well, led by our kids, Marilyn and Mike Upright, a merry band of 22 PSA'ers and/or guests demonstrated their youthful exuberance and entertained one whole dining room at Dockside on Saturday night with jokes, antics, and general conviviality.

It got a little loud and boisterous. Hopefully, we won't be banned in the future. At least the cops weren't called on us nor were we asked to leave.

That's a Wrap! — As usual, PSA was well represented at S.O.S. In addition to the ones that dined together on Saturday night, I can easily think of another dozen or so that were there.

Of course, I can also think of many, many others who should have been there. Hopefully, next time!

1997 S.O.S. (Spring Safari and Fall Migration) is now history. But not to fear ... there's plenty of opportunity

for fun and frolic ahead. The cycle starts all over again with Mid-Winters in January. The way time flies, January will be here before we know it. — Mike Stokes

"Nothing could be fine-ah" reprinted from the SCBC club's newsletter (Pittsburgh). "Youth gone astray" reprinted from the Piedmont Shag Association's November 1997 newsletter.

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TURNING THE TABLES



News from the Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays

Mike Lewis,
President
Association
of Beach
and
Shag Club
Deejays



The Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays continues to grow and spread the good word about the shag dance, the music that propels it, and the whole lifestyle we have built around it.

Our membership now approximates 300 Regular, Associate, and Corporate members throughout the Southeast. We welcome your participation as an Associate (anyone who loves and supports beach and shag dancing and music) or Corporate (the same, for businesses) member.

Our newsletter is a terrific way to stay abreast of happenings in the deejay world, which includes new music, new equipment (for professionals and aficionados), and much more. The newsletter comes as a part of your membership, as well as discounts from other corporate members, the wonderful directory we publish, etc. Call or write me or any officer or board member of our organization for details.

By the time you read this, we will have completed another of our charitable projects, again in the spirit of The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs and S.O.S. Inland Throwdown in the Pines for Special Olympics was held November 22, 1997 with the co-sponsorship of M.A.S.S. (Moore Area Shag Society) in the beautiful Southern Pines-Pinehurst area of North Carolina's Sandhills.

Our Association prides itself in the charitable projects in which we are involved, especially when the focus is kids!

Can we help you do something special? Again, just contact me or ask your local Association deejay to do so. Plans are underway now for 1998 projects, so don't delay.

In the first full weekend in March 1998 (as every year), our Association will take over the cozy environs of Ducks and Ducks Too in Ocean Drive Beach, S.C. to throw a huge party just for you and your S.O.S. cardholding friends. You can also invite others as your guests to see what it is we do—music on two dance floors, free food, great door prizes, a wonderful \$10,000 Reverse Raffle, and more—just another activity to support our charitable causes and an excuse for you to shake off the winter doldrums at the beach.

Fat Harold's Beach Club even lets me park in their parking lot if you go in and get your first cool adult (or junior) beverage there! They also light up all their lights that weekend because so many of you have come in the now seven years we have been doing it. Mark your calendars for a 40-deejay blast at O.D.!

Finally, a word from all the members of our Association. We loved kicking all your floats last S.O.S. Parade! We're going all out again with a monster multi-vehicle theme. We challenge every A.C.S.C. club and other groups to get busy and hit the street—if you dare!

Questions? Comments? I'm easy to reach and ready to help. Let me hear from you and your club soon!

Mike Lewis, President
Assn. of Beach & Shag Club Deejays
Box 1111, Carrboro, NC 27510
Telephone: (919) 942-4498
Internet: beachdj@email.unc.edu

Recommended Shag Deejays

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

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2375 Jim McCarter Rd. • York, SC 29745
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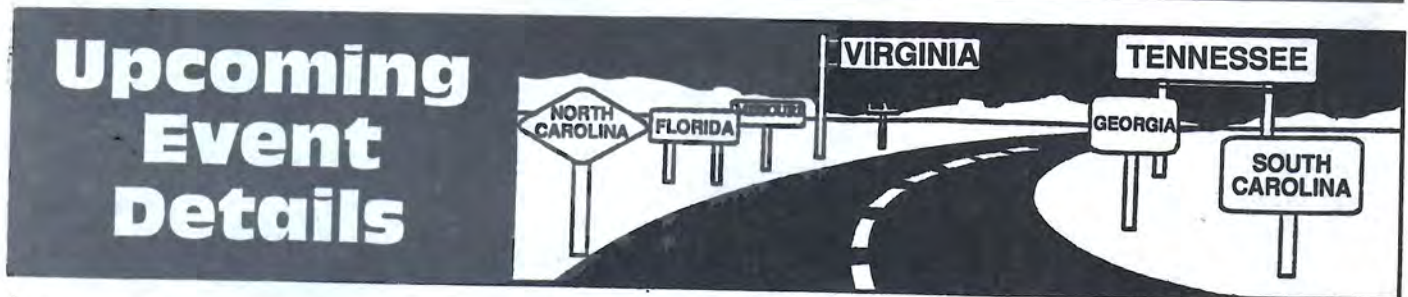
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1998 12 Month Event Planner 1998

JANUARY 1998 2-4 Island Winter Classic, Hilton Head, SC 15-18 Mid-Winters, N. Myrtle Beach, SC 22-25 Monterey Swingfest, Monterey, CA	FEBRUARY 1998 5-8 Spring Fling, Daytona Beach, FL 6-8 Winter Boogie, Lake Hickory, NC 20-22 Winter Shag Blast & ACSC Winter Workshop, Atlantic Beach, NC	MARCH 1998 5-8 DJ Throwdown, N. Myrtle Beach, SC 12-15 Swing into Spring, Miami, FL 27-29 Spring Break, Kitty Hawk, NC
APRIL 1998 2-4 Circle of Friends, Avon Park, FL 24-3 Spring Safari, N. Myrtle Beach, SC	MAY 1998 21-25 SOS Grand Nationals, Atlanta, GA	JUNE 1998 5-7 Southern Comfort, Columbia, SC 23-28 Boogie on the Riverwalk, Jax, FL
JULY 1998 10-12 ACSC Summer Workshop, Ft. Mill, SC 17-18 Junior S.O.S., N. Myrtle Beach, SC 22-26 Boppin' on Beale St., Memphis, TN	AUGUST 1998 12-16 Back to the Beach, Jax, FL	SEPTEMBER 1998 18-27 Fall Migration, N. Myrtle Beach, SC
OCTOBER 1998 2-5 DJ Hall of Fame Weekend, NMB, SC	NOVEMBER 1998 11-15 Move Across the River, Ft. Mitchell, KY	Your event can be listed here next issue. Contact Michael Payne (see pg. 2)



JANUARY

- 2-4 **ISLAND WINTER CLASSIC III** at the Crowne Plaza Resort Oceanfront, Shipyard Plantation, in Hilton Head Island, SC.
- 15-18 **MID-WINTER CLASSIC** in N. Myrtle Beach, SC. Remember, you must have a "dot" from your local shag club to attend. Info: (888) SOS-3113.
- 22-25 **MONTEREY SWINGFEST '98** at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey, CA. Rates \$79 (800) 824-2196, tickets \$65/\$75 at door. Info: (805) 937-1574.

FEBRUARY

- 5-8 **SPRING FLING** at the Daytona Beach Ramada Resort Oceanfront in Daytona Beach, FL. Tickets \$20 (\$10 day), room rates \$44-\$52 (1-4 people) 800-654-6216. Info: John O'Dell (407) 977-6209.
- 6-8 **FOOTHILLS WINTER BOOGIE XI** at the Holiday Inn Select in Hickory, NC. Rates \$65 (1-4 people), (704) 323-1000. Tickets \$30 until 12/31, \$35 after. Info: Ann (704) 324-6122.
- 20-22 **CAPITAL AREA SHAG CLUB'S 10TH ANNUAL WINTER SHAG BLAST & A.C.S.C. WINTER WORKSHOP** at the Sheraton Resort in Atlantic Beach, NC. Rates \$47 (2 persons) 800-624-8875. Tickets \$35. Info: 888-SOS-3113.

MARCH

- 5-8 **DEEJAY THROWDOWN** at Ducks and Ducks Too in N. Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 12-15 **SWING INTO SPRING** at the Ramada Resort Deauville Hotel in Miami Beach, FL. Tickets \$40 before 1/31, \$50 after (day tickets \$30). Must have reservation code to get room. Info: (954) 424-4499.
- 27-29 **SPRING BREAK '98** at the Comfort Inn South in Kitty Hawk, NC. Rates \$40-\$50. (800) 334-3302. Tickets tba. Info: (919) 261-6405.

APRIL

- 3-5 **6th ANNUAL AMERICAN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS** at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel in NY. Info: (800) 64-SWING.
- 9-12 **SEATTLE'S EASTER SWING** at the Doubletree Hotel (formerly Red Lion) in Bellevue, WA. Rates \$83. Tickets \$79. Info: Maria (206) 784-5501.
- 24-26 **8th ANNUAL CALIFORNIA SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS** at the Buena Park Hotel in Buena Vista, CA. Rates \$65 (1-4 persons), (800) 422-4444. Info: (562) 92-DANCE.

MAY

- 8-10 **CLASSIC '98** in Chicago, IL. Info: (773) 202-8776.
- 21-25 **S.O.S. GRAND NATIONAL DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP** at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, GA. Rates \$79 (1-4 persons), (770) 953-4500. Tickets \$65/\$70 at door, \$25 daily. Info: Charlie & Jackie (770) 512-7848.

JUNE

- 5-7 **SOUTHERN COMFORT WEEKEND** at the Jamil Shrine Temple in Columbia, SC. Hotels: Holiday Inn Express (803) 772-7275, Howard Johnson Inn (803) 772-7200. Tickets \$30 until 3/1/98, \$35 after. Info: Mike or Pat (803) 808-1882.

JULY

- 10-12 **A.C.S.C. SUMMER WORKSHOP** at the Radisson Grand Resort in Fort Mill, SC. Rates \$79, (800) 333-3333.
- 22-26 **BOPPIN' ON BEALE STREET** in Memphis, TN. Info: Rick (901) 324-8978.

AUG

- 12-16 **8th ANNUAL BACK TO THE BEACH** at the Hilton Hotel in Jacksonville, FL. Rates \$69 (1-4) 800-445-8667, tickets \$30/\$35 after 7/31. Info: (904) 388-2383.

NOV

- 11-15 **MOVE ACROSS THE RIVER** at the Drawbridge Estate in Ft. Mitchell, KY. Info: (513) 489-4983.

★ 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

Ice Water on White Drawers

by Phil Sawyer

Even before we came close to the landing, I could tell this was a special place; a block building in a holler near the water with Christmas lights around all of the eaves.

Laughter and loud voices rang out into the night on the lake. The dock was hard to see. But we came up to it and made a not-too-bumpy landing. Some amongst us whipped a couple of knots on the line to the pontoon that no sailor, or even Boy Scout, had ever seen. This would not be a night we would forget.

There was little to suggest a fishing place, except the screen cage full of crickets, and an ever so small wall of fishing stuff on fly-specked display cards.

The good ole boy behind the counter had not the slightest idea of what they

were biting, but he did know which case the cold Buds were in. Three gallon jars, one each of hot sausage, pickled eggs, and pickled pig feet, nestled their way amongst my change; 50¢ from \$2.00 for one of the coldest Buds I ever had on the lake.

The men's room was just behind the pool table, where four "sharks" were far more interested in calling the pocket the eight ball would fall into than the action on the patio. I made my way politely and waited my turn. (Before the night was over, I found a tree out back where there was no wait.)

But this all goes for naught—until we reached the deck. There on a beautiful night with a crescent moon reflecting a diagonal five miles long, in a setting that any movie producer would pay a million dollars for, was the damnest party I have ever been a part of.

There was Karaoke of a sort. Country music prevailed. But they did have some beach, and we shagged. They loved us, and we loved them. A good ole girl with three tattoos (guess where) and her husband, whose body was the canvas for a needle and ink artist's life work, stood next to us. They were nice and friendly.

Around midnight the contest began. First there were four studs in the "wet cotton drawers" contest. Stripped to their white cotton boxer shorts, the girls poured ice water on the proper spot, almost surely guaranteed to make it shrink. But these studs managed to keep it flopping until, from time to time, it would snake out for a full, if brief, view. Miss Chick whooped and hollered.

We would have stayed longer, a lot longer, but the night was late and we had miles to go on a very dark lake. Our Captain, with a sure and steady hand and eye, got us home. It was truly A Night To Remember.

Art by
Marilyn Hesse

by Johnny Hammond

I was just thinking how uncanny it is that all of us can listen to an old song and each will have a different memory of that song. For most of us, we relate our favorite songs to certain people or certain incidents with which we were involved when the song was at its zenith. It works for me.

There will always be those old R&B songs that remind me of the days of old, before they changed the dance and modified the old songs to fit the dance ... time marches on.

I remember a lot of movies because of the theme songs. Movies and music are my favorite hobbies—well, unless you want to count partying. No, partying isn't a hobby. Partying is ... well, let's just say a man does what a man has to do.

Now, getting back to the wild world of music. I think it would be interesting, entertaining, and, perhaps, even educational to look at some of the unusual things that have happened in the music world—especially those that are controlled by you and me, the Public.

Have you ever noticed how one song released by an artist will shoot up the Country Chart and the same song recorded by another artist will top the Pop Chart? For instance, when Hank Williams recorded *Your Cheatin' Heart*, it shot to No. 1 on the Country Chart. Shortly afterward, Tony Bennett had a hit with it on the Pop Chart. Same song, different delivery; both mega hits.

The song *Stand By Me* was a Top Ten hit for Ben E. King in '61, and in 1986 the same song by the same artist broke the Top Ten again because it was the theme from the movie. It was 25 years later and a

whole new audience. Good music lasts forever.

Mickey Gilley had a country hit with it in 1980, and probably no one but a hard core record buff would know that Spyder Turner's 1967 novelty working of the classic was also a chart shaker. Actually, it wasn't even meant to be used as a record. He cut it for an audition tape doing impressions of how Jackie Wilson, David Ruffin, Billy Stewart, Smokey Robinson, and Chuck Jackson might have done the song. It turned out to be his biggest hit. There's just no way of telling how the public's taste will run.

One of the all time great songs, *Unchained Melody*, recorded by Al Hibler, sold over a million records. The same song recorded by Roy Hamilton was voted the No. 1 R&B record of the year. Les Baxter recorded *Unchained Melody* as an instrumental, and it climbed to the No. 1 spot and stayed on the Top 40 list for 21 weeks. Liberace also did a successful recording of it, but I don't remember how high it got on the charts. All of these renditions were done in 1955.

That was the same year the movie *Unchained* was released starring LeRoy "Crazy Legs" Hurst (the football star) and, in the movie, Al Hibler sang the song that started it all.

We would probably all agree that the 1965 mega, mega hit by The Righteous Brothers was the best of all *Unchained* records. I'm telling ya, Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch, that version debuted December 1964 between Christmas and the New Year's Eve party where they dimmed the lights for that special slow dance,



Johnny Hammond

and they were playing *the* song.

Now, here's the grabber. This same song by The Righteous Brothers climbed the charts to No. 13 again in 1990 and hung for 11 weeks—exactly the same length of time as their '65 hit. The reason for this was that it was the theme song from the movie *Ghost*. Just think, 25 years later, a whole new audience sitting in a theater watching this tear-jerking love story, and this fantastic song starts playing. They had never heard it before. Can't you just imagine some cat saying, "Listen, isn't that great? Oh, man! I've got to have a copy of that. I love it." ... and the beat goes on.

Like I said before, good music lasts forever. Believe me, if the timing was ever right for a good belly rubbing song, it would have to be the naughty nineties. They sure don't write 'em like they use to.

There have only been two times in musical history when an artist recorded a song that made it to No. 1 and later came back to reach that lofty position again. The first time was in 1942 when Bing Crosby recorded the most popular secular Christmas song of all time, *White Christmas*, from the movie of the same name. Then later (I don't remember the year, maybe it was '43) it reached No. 1 again. The other time was when Chubby Checker recorded *The Twist* in '60, and it was re-released in '62 to climb to No. 1.

It's like, when a new artist or group comes along and records that

(Continued on Page 23)



Introducing the 1997-1998 National Shag Dance Championships Dance Team

The Board of Directors for the National Shag Dance Championships have named the members of the 1997-1998 Dance Team.

This team of synchronized dancers will promote shag and the National Shag Dance Championships through appearances at the Charlotte Hornets basketball games and in Myrtle Beach at the Beach Ball Classic, Gatlin Brothers Theater, and Myrtle Square Mall.

The team is also scheduled to appear next April at the American Classic Swing Dance Championships in New York City.

The team will also perform at the National Shag Dance Championships Preliminary contest at the Beach Music Cafe in Myrtle Beach on January 31 and at the Finals in March.

In its sixth year, the team is sponsored by Anchor Bank and Myrtle Square Mall and is composed of winners and finalists from the national contest.

This year's routines are choreographed by Overall Champions Michael Norris and LeAnn Best and previous Overall Champions Sam

and Sarah West. Other team members include (from North Carolina) Norman Aldredge, Jimmy and Cameron Caruso, Kristin Leggett, Archie and Sheila Chase, Leslie Melton, and William Greene. Team members from South Carolina include Brenda and Bill Barber.

Music the team will shag to includes the sounds of Etta James, Earl Bostic, and Jackie Wilson.

For more information regarding the Shag Dance Team or the National Shag Dance Championships, call Barry Thigpen at (803) 497-7369.

Down Memory Lane

(Continued from Page 22)

great song you'll never forget, they never have another hit. How do you explain it? It's certainly not because of lack of talent.

Such a record was one of my all-time favorites, *16 Candles* by The Crests. That little ditty reached the No. 2 position and stayed for 14 weeks. They never broke the Top Ten again. Bill Justis and Ernie

Freeman both had Top Ten hits with *Ranchy* in December 1957. Neither ever had another hit.

One of the greatest doo wop belly rubbin' songs of all time was *Earth Angel* by the Penguins. It broke the Top Ten in February 1955. Nobody ever heard of The Penguins again. *Earth Angel* still gets a lot of play on oldies stations today.

Another singer who I thought would last forever was Julie London. When she sang *Cry Me A River* in '55, it was No. 1 on *Lover's Lane*, although it barely broke into the top ten on the pop chart. She was the sexiest of the sexy, but she never had another hit. The last time I saw her was in the '70s. She was a nurse on Emergency. What a waste!

Maybe these are all examples of what Andy meant by "15 minutes of fame."

I guess it's like Willie "The Shake" said, "There's a time for all things." [Comedy of Errors, Act II, Scene II]

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," July 1997.

Make-A-Wish makes out ... thanks to SASS!

by Kathy Jones

The Sanford Area Society of Shaggers (SASS) held its annual fund raiser, "Shagging in the Sandhills," on March 22, 1997. This is an event done each year with the proceeds going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Carolina.

This year's proceeds also went to help sponsor a local need, Hospice of Lee County. The money donated to Hospice funded Camp Rainbow, which is a one-day camp for children ages 6-14 who are dealing with the death of a close loved one.

This year a golf tournament was added as an extra attraction and was a huge success. With this addition,



(Left to Right) Linda Ray, Ronnie Jones, Linda Barrett, Richard Porter, Glenda Galloway

as well as a silent auction that was held during the dance, our "Shagging in the Sandhills" was an even greater success.

We raised \$8,696.00 and were able to grant two wishes for the Make-A-

Wish Foundation and provided all funds needed for Camp Rainbow/ Hospice of Lee County.

We are very proud of all of our club members who helped make this event such a tremendous success. A special thanks goes to Linda Ray, our overall chairman; Ronnie Jones, Golf tournament chairman; and to all committee chairmen.

We look forward to another very successful Shagging in the Sandhills this year and hope to see all of you in Sanford on March 28, 1998 for this special event.

Kathy Jones is the current president, past vice-president, treasurer, and newsletter editor of S.A.S.S.

They like us at North Myrtle Beach ... and well they ought — by Phil Sawyer

"The shag is a South Carolina tradition that we are fortunate to have celebrated in North Myrtle Beach."

Thus Greg Hembree, North Myrtle Beach City Attorney, began his response to the question in the April 17th edition of *The Times*: "With the Spring Safari of S.O.S. upon North Myrtle Beach, how do you feel about the semi-annual event which brings 10,000 shaggers to our area?"

"Shagging is good, clean fun that is a much better way to spend your time than on some of the less wholesome alternatives that have popped up along the Grand Strand in recent years. Welcome to North Myrtle Beach," he continued.

"I think they are wonderful. They add so much to Main Street," adds Dorene Gable, receptionist. George Okun, casino owner, responds, "I hope they shag till they drag. Of course, we welcome them with open arms and open wallets."

Mark Osbahr says, "Their contribution is good for our economy. They are definitely a low maintenance group, unlike the college spring breakers or the bikers."

Joy Thigpin, an accountant, says that it is important to the summer season and that it is too bad that the city no longer gets the college students. She adds, "Maybe if they were as welcome as the shaggers, they would come back."

The secretary of the First Baptist Church, Donna Gruver, continues, "The shaggers bring needed revenue into our area. If we provide for their needs as well as protect everyone's rights, they will continue to enjoy their visits here, and we will also."

All of these are glowing reports of how the residents feel about us shaggers.

But quoted below, in full, is the reaction of Carolyn Scabery, who operates Hardwick's Cafeteria on the corner of Ocean Boulevard and Main Street. (Hardwick's is, as the record

goes, "smack dab in the middle.")

Carolyn's response to the question is, "I think it's fantastic! Hardwick's has been around about as long as the dance has, and the shaggers have given us a lot of their business over the years. The S.O.S. gatherings have been a real boon to the economy of North Myrtle Beach, especially to the O.D. area.

"Aside from that, as we have come to know so many of the dancers, we see them as our friends coming to visit again. Many have become part-time residents and property owners in our area and come to the beach all during the year, bringing friends and families with them.

"They have also supported and appreciate the revitalization efforts on Main Street. Without their financial help in purchasing pavers for their clubs and individuals, it would have been even more difficult to have made the progress we enjoy today. I hope everyone has a great time and that S.O.S. continues to grow and prosper."

The real people at O.D. love us, and well they should.

1997 Junior Shag Association

4th Annual S.O.S. a success — by Chuck Jenkins

This year's Annual S.O.S., held on July 18-19, was a huge success! We had 142 juniors register for the weekend of dancing and fun.

Sam West held our workshop on Saturday morning and had 53 new faces sign up to learn their very first basic or maybe work on a step they needed to "clean up." The crowd of onlookers during the workshop had as much fun as the juniors themselves. We had juniors from five states shagging together.

Deejays Eddie Anderson and Summie Davidson had their hands full both Friday and Saturday nights. The place was packed both nights. Thank you, Eddie and Summie—you did a whale of a job for the juniors, and everyone had a wonderful time.

The board would like to thank the following for their contributions to help make this weekend such a success:

Carolina Shag Association, Beach Music Cafe, Judy's House of Oldies,

Boulevard Grill, Becky Stowe, O.D. Pavilion and Sunset Grill #2, Dillard's of Gastonia, Gaston Shaggers, York Shag Club, Burlington Shag Club, E.T. Enterprises, Charlie & Jackie, Ducks, Stages Video Productions, Ripete Records, Harry's Pancakes, Have Shag Will Travel, Cammy Awards, Virginia Beach Junior Shaggers, O.D. Shag Club, Celebrations, Raleigh Area Shag Club, Hilton Head Island Shag Club, Sandhills Shag Club, Capital Area Shag Club, Hartsville Shag Club, Wilson Area Shag Club, Piedmont Shag Club, Bopper's Shag Club, Johnston County Area Shag Club, ShagAtlanta, Club Faces, Rocky Mount Area Shag Club, Charleston Shag Club, Sunset Apparel, Lake Hickory Shag Club, The Company Store, Fat Harold's, The Barrell, Weejuns, Palmetto Shag Club, Summie Davidson, R&B Records, and Sundrop Bottling Company.

We had such a great response this

year with the S.O.S. (If I have overlooked anyone, please forgive me.) We got 20 new JSA members and three corporate members to join JSA. Becky Stowe's print brought in \$485 for JSA. (Thanks Mrs. Becky.)

We still have JSA merchandise available. Call Debra Barta (Nikki Kontoulas' mother) for shirts at (910) 294-4118.

The handicapped contest on Friday night and the mixed doubles contest on Saturday were great successes. We had over 20 couples competing in each contest. Thank you, L. H. Brown and Connie.

The volleyball contest on Saturday proved that "young guys" again came out on top. The "old guys" will have a year to regroup and get ready for next year!

Thanks also to Wade Adler and to my mom Carol Jenkins for all their work and help. We could not have done this without you both. Will see you next year! Keep shagging!



Shagging Santa

I saw Mama shagging with Santa Clause

Around our Christmas tree so very green.

I knew right away it had to be Santa

'Cause he was the best shagger I had ever seen.

He was dressed in a red tux, weejuns and all!

They danced and they danced; they had a ball.

He paused for a moment, dumping sand from his shoes,

Then he grabbed a horn and played the blues.

I laughed so hard there were tears in my eyes;

Santa's a shagger; that can't be denied.

He spied the stockings we had hung with care;

He did a drop spin and boogie walked over there.

He turned to my Mom, gave a smile and a wink

And filled all the stockings before I could blink,

New weejuns for brother, a gold shag charm for me,

A Wurlitzer jukebox for the whole family!

From our front yard, there came a loud clatter;

I rushed to the door to check out the matter.

On the lawn a '57 Chevy appeared;

The hood emblem was a red-nosed reindeer.

The car was painted the brightest red I've ever seen;

On the front grill hung a wreath of green.

There was music blasting from the radio

And the headlights were flashing, ho, ho, ho.

He placed a kiss on Mama's cheek

And as I turned to take a peek,

Santa jumped in the seat, on the horn he blew,

"Have a shagging good night—Merry Christmas to you!"

— Gloria Kinard



First — Second— Annual This Magic Moment Original Rhythm & Blues Festival

If you would like information on Charter Memberships, call (803) 254-2547 and leave your name, address, and phone number or mail your check or money order to TMM, Inc., PO Box 561, Blythewood, SC 29016.

Here are some suggested ways in which you can play an important role in our quest to ensure that This Magic Moment Original Rhythm & Blues Festival is an ongoing, outstanding annual event, just as originally planned:

► This one's for *every* festival-goer, this year and in the future. For a minimum contribution (more gladly accepted) of \$50, or two for \$80, we'll send you a collector's T-shirt, proudly proclaiming that you survived the monsoon-laced first festival, and our collector's first festival official 24x20 poster. (New posters will be produced each year.) This quality garment and beautiful poster will constitute classics for years to come as first-year festival-goers (and those who wanted to attend but couldn't) recall and embellish antidotes about "the flood of '97."

Mail your check or money order to: TMM, Inc., PO Box 561, Blythewood, SC 29016. For T-shirt, please specify your size and choice of navy blue or natural. (Shipping and handling included.)

► Help us locate more quality sponsors such as Coca Cola, Budweiser, US Airways, BellSouth, Peilican Food Systems, The Breeze Network, etc., which were sponsors for the first festival.

► We're hoping to hold one or more mini, one-night festivals with the same top-caliber artists and

musicians as headlined the Charleston Festival. (Such mini-festivals will be held *indoors*.) Please purchase tickets, bring friends, and join us for more great R&B. We'll notify you where and when these mini-festivals will take place.

► Do you or anyone you know have special talents or skills or other qualifications to provide in-kind assistance? (Fundraising? Own a radio station or ad agency? Artistic? etc.) Please let us know.

► Do you know any potential patrons who love the music and what it stands for? Such patrons who provide us extraordinary assistance during this difficult financial time will receive well-deserved special recognition at the next annual festival and mini-festival. In fact, anyone assisting in any way above will be recognized at the next festival.

Notice anything unusual about the suggestions above? We haven't asked you to literally *give* us any money (unless you want to become a patron). Even a contribution of \$50 or more will net you a neat classic T-shirt and one-time only poster.

Our request is for you to enhance your participation in the festival. It's *our* festival—*yours and mine*. If you have any suggestions not listed above, please let us know.

For the record, no officers or directors have received compensation for their services as such, and all have assisted in funding the festival.

We hope to hear from you as we work together to keep this dream alive, well, and growing bigger and stronger.

Thank you — Harry Turner, Kelley Jones, Jim McDonald

Dear Festival Friend,

The good—really great—news is that the First Annual This Magic Moment Original Rhythm & Blues Festival (artistically, production-wise, etc.) was an unqualified success! It was indeed "magic" as so many of you have said.

The bad news, as everyone attending knows, is that a tropical depression parked over Charleston for virtually all three days, producing some of the worst weather (torrential rain, violent thunderstorms, etc.) in recent Charleston memory. Brittlebank Park was largely reduced to a muddy swamp.

As so many of you noted, during and after the festival, ticket sales were dramatically diminished due to the incredibly inclement weather. Finances are traditionally tenuous for any such first-time event, but even the minimum anticipated ticket sales would have produced a break even situation.

Thus, we're left with a rather sizable debt. But we're just as determined to press toward Festival II as we were to bring you the greatest Festival I possible, despite the horribly adverse conditions.

Many of you have offered your help, financially and otherwise. For that we are most appreciative. Of course, we also acknowledge with appreciation that many of you have already assisted us by purchasing lifetime Charter Memberships, and they're *still* available at \$100 single; \$175 couple.



John Denver

Dead at the age of 53!

Compiled by Michael Payne

"The Country Boy" who soared to fame in the 1970's, with songs like *Rocky Mountain High*, died on October 12, 1997, when his recently purchased experimental plane crashed into Monterey Bay, California. There was no indication of a problem.

Now, John did not sing Beach Music or Rhythm & Blues, and I doubt that, with the exception of Cloggers and Freestylers, many of us ever danced to his music, but this event made me ask, "Which other famous people have died in an airplane crash?"

Fatal Flights

•15 August 1935:

Humorist **WILL ROGERS** died in a plane crash near Point Barrow, Alaska. With him was aviator **WILEY POST**.

•16 January 1942:

The 33-year old actress **CAROLE LOMBARD** died in a plane crash while she was on a war bonds tour near Las Vegas.

•15 December 1944:

The 40-year old bandleader **GLEN MILLER** died while on a flight from England to Paris. **MILLER** was entertaining the troops while serving in the Army.

• 3 February 1959:

BUDDY HOLLY, age 22, "**THE BIG BOPPER**" (**J.P. RICHARDSON**), age 29, and **RITCHIE VALENS**, age 18, went down while en route to a show in Fargo, N.D. All three were pioneers in "Rock 'n Roll". **HOLLY**'s credits include Peggy Sue, while **THE BIG BOPPER** was known for Chantilly Lace, and **VALENS**' big hits were *La Bamba* and *Dona*.

• 5 March 1963:

33-year old **PATSY CLINE**, along with **COWBOY COPAS** and **HAWKSHAW HAWKINS**, were killed near Camden, Tennessee. Who amongst us has not pressed close to someone special while **PATSY** sang Crazy?

•10 December 1967:

Up-and-coming 26-year old soul singer **OTIS REDDING** died in Wisconsin. Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay, which became his biggest hit, was released after his death.

•30 May 1971:

46-year old World War II super hero, and later actor, **AUDIE MURPHY** died in Carroll County, Virginia.

• 20 September 1973:

JIM CROCE died in Natchitoches, Louisiana. This 30-year old rock icon had many hits including Bad, Bad Leroy Brown.

• 20 October 1977:

RONNIE VAN ZANT and **STEVIE GAINES** of the Lynard Skynyrd Band are killed in McComb, Mississippi.

•31 December 1985:

RICK NELSON died at age 45 in DeKalb, Texas.

• 21 March 1987:

DEAN MARTIN's son, **DINO MARTIN** is killed in the crash of his Air National Guard Jet near San Bernardino, California.

• 27 August 1990:

Blues great **STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN** died at age 35 after departing a concert near San Diego.

• 16 March 1991:

Seven members of **REBA McENTIRE**'s band are killed near San Diego.

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SOURCE..... **S.O.S.**

OPINION

Shagging is Number One in the Triad

by W. Mike York, Jr.

It makes common sense to designate shagging the official dance of North Carolina. A whopping 49 shag clubs are located from Murphy to Manteo.

The greater Triad Area has three active shag clubs swinging along the 40/85 corridor—Winston Salem, Greensboro, and Burlington. Two famous Hall Of Fame shaggers—the late William “Shad” Alberty and Bunk Leach—grew up in Greensboro.

The Greater Triad Shag Club in Greensboro has members from Randolph, Davidson, Alamance, Rockingham, Forsyth, and Guilford County.

The shag dance originated and developed in the Carolinas. North Carolina has more shaggers than any other state in the U.S. South Carolina made shagging the official dance of their state several years ago. Endorsing shag as the state dance of North Carolina would enhance cooperation between the Carolinas.

Also, by naming shag the state dance of North Carolina, we would enhance unity between European and African cultures. Shag dancing is closely associated with African-American Rhythm and Blues music. Shag dancing brings all music connoisseurs together and is danced to country, jazz, and many types of popular tunes.

Southern citizens of our region need a state dance that originated in North Carolina—not England, France, or even Lubbock, TX. The bottom line is: we shaggers are practical people and pay our own way. No genuine shagger would ever think of adding a penny to the sales tax in the triad to build a shag stadium. We just think it deserves being named the North Carolina State Dance.



Mike York

Mike and his wife Gwen are members of the Burlington Shag Club and Thirsty's.

Three Minutes ...

by Donna Sue Richardson

I was out *Dancing, Shaggin' on the Boulevard* on Saturday night of S.O.S. My shag mafia found shelter at The Barrel as all the other clubs were *Wall to Wall* with people.

I surveyed the room during a pause from dancing. I spotted a young man in baggy jeans, sloppy tee-shirt, and hat complete with a chain hanging from his waist. My *First Impressions* conjured up an image of a person who was out of place in the shag world.

My *Memories and Souvenirs* of dances from Hell with non-shaggers during S.O.S. flashed before me as this *Young Boy* approached me for a dance. All I could think was *Been There, Done That*; I didn't think it over as I politely declined his invitation by saying I didn't want to dance. (I thought to myself, *You Lied*.)

This sweet young man further questioned, “Are you sure you don't

want to dance?” as if in some way to reassure me, “*Don't Worry Baby*.” I again declined; the youngster must have been saying, “*I'll Walk Away*.”

My male comrades quickly admonished me, “I think you just made a big mistake. You didn't look at his shoes, covered with dust from dancing! It would have only been three minutes out of your life.”

In defense of my actions I noted, “*If I Don't Dance*, it'll be *Lovely, Lovely*; those bad dances are *Tough on Me*.”

Mr. Baggy Pants found a willing partner several songs later. Our mouths dropped to the floor as he began to dance. He was *So Fine* a shagger—one who could *Satisfy My Soul*. He put on a display that was no *Kidstuff*—*Alligator Walk* and all! (*I Didn't Know!*) I was *Smack Dab* in the *Middle* of my friends asking, “*What Does it Take?*” You were *Such a Fool!*

I mustered up my *Integrity* (because I gave him no *Respect*) as I walked over to make an apology. I explained that *I Can See Clearly Now*

that I had made a major shag social error in declining the dance based upon appearances.

He so graciously accepted my apology and responded, “I still want to dance with you.”

This Magic Moment rings in my ears today. However, *Young Hearts Run Free*; it was *Hit and Run*—he was gone. I was left *Alone* with no dance.

(My only consolation was a *Look on the Bright Side*. Wayne Hicks, a pro shagger, soon took me by the hand and led me to the dance floor. *The Thrill on the Hill* concluded with a move prefaced by “*Hang on in There, Baby*” as he put me in a drop!)

I continue to *Sing the Blues* with embarrassment and disappointment. I'll have to *Rack 'Em Up* as I wish I could *Turn Back the Hands of Time* and have *One Dance With You ... Where or When*.

It would have only been three minutes out of my life.

Donna Sue Richardson is a member of the Roanoke Valley Shag Club.

Charlie & Jackie
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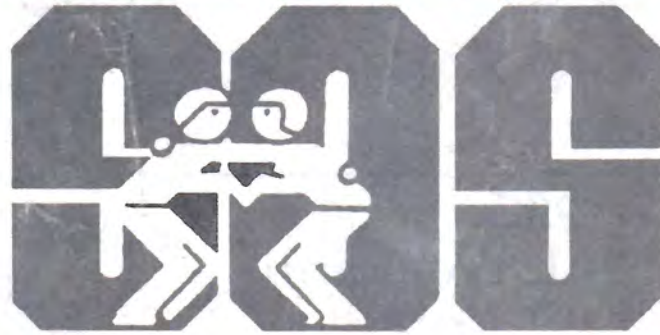
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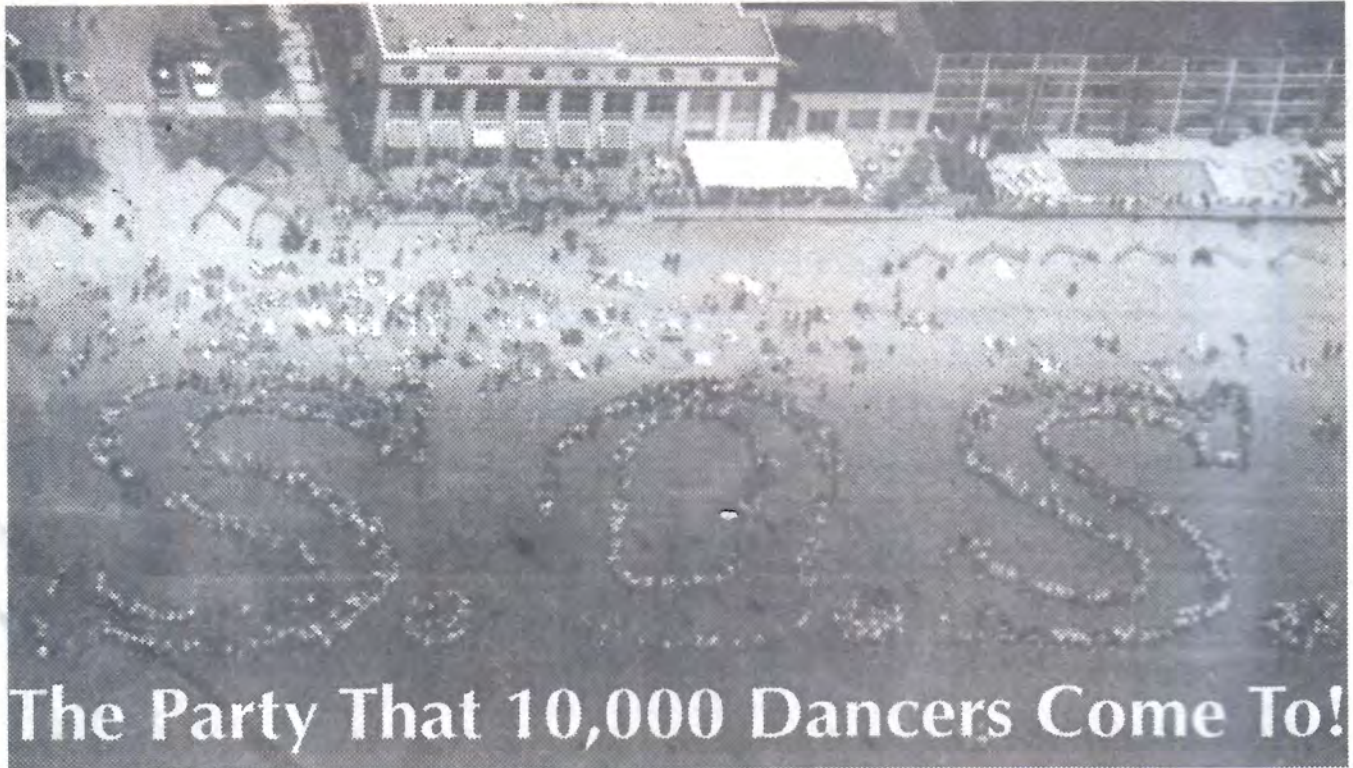
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Second Annual Fun Monday
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