

S.O.S. Carefree Times

Winter Edition

2005

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Happy New Year
from your S.O.S.
& A.C.S.C. Boards

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MORE THAN A RESORT... A COMMITMENT

New Year's Extravaganza O.D. Arcade

Friday, December 30, 2005
7:00 pm-Murl Augustine
Saturday, December 31, 2005
7:00 pm-Murl Augustine



Ellen Taylor Workshop
Saturday, January 14th
11:00 - 12:00 Basics Plus
\$10.00 Per Person

O.D. Arcade D.J. Schedule 20 Mid-Winter 06

Thursday, January 12th	8:00 pm - Close - Larry Calhoun
Friday, January 13th	12 Noon - Larry Calhoun 4:00 - 8:00 pm - Terry McPhail 8:00 - Close - Murl Augustine
Saturday, January 14th	12 Noon - Terry McPhail 4:00 - 8:00 - Larry Calhoun 8:00 - Close - Murl Augustine 5 pm Bar-B-Q
Sunday, January 15 th	10:00 am - 12 Noon OD Shag Club Brunch

S.O.S. President

Ron Whisenant



Hello All! What a great Fall Migration! Were you there? Were you part of this great party? If you were not in attendance, then this is what you missed. The weather was perfect, the crowds were in town, all

of the clubs were packed, and the party lasted until the wee hours of the morning. What a great way to end the year and the celebration of our 25 years of enjoyment of our dance and music. **It was absolutely great!**

Fun Sunday was a great afternoon of entertainment on 1st Avenue South, outside of the O D Arcade. The bands were great, the beautiful weather and a wonderful crowd meant enjoyment for the "happening experience." This was another successful event put on by our **Enhancement Committee**. They continue to put on these events Fun Sunday and Fun Monday each year. It doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of planning and hard work to make these events successful and entertaining for you. When you see one of these committee members, please tell them that you appreciate their efforts.

Fun Monday was a happening, and a thing of beauty. From the wee hours (6:00am) starting the setup of the event until the last bit of work to close the event (7:30pm) was an all day affair for those workers who help put this event on for the SOS membership and the general public. The chair placement began as early as 7:30 am for those who wanted a front row seat. As the day evolved, it was a beautiful day for all who attended. They were entertained by some great talented bands and singers. Some were lucky enough to win some money through our ticket sales that allow us to fund the Fun Sunday, Fun Monday activities and to raise monies that go to our SOS Foundation.

During the Fun Sunday and Fun Monday events, we were able to raise some donations for

the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. The committee under Lynn Rae raised \$2400 to be earmarked for the Katrina relief fund of New Orleans. Lynn's committee sold kisses, virgin hurricane drinks, and Anget water donated by Anget and Jim Hern. Thank you to all who helped in this effort.

As you read this Carefree Times, please be aware that your shag club president has 2006 membership cards available for your purchase at a \$5 discount. The 2006 SOS membership is the perfect Christmas gift for any shagging friend, or someone you want to introduce to our shagging culture and lifestyle. It is the perfect gift in the shag world.

The holiday season is upon us. This is a time to share with family, with friends, a time to be thankful for many blessings. During this busy, happy time, please pause for a moment every now and then to remember the "reason for the season," the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is in Him and through Him all things are possible. Pray for our troops who serve to defend our freedom, our safety, and our nation.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

May the many blessings of life fulfill us and keep us safe, until we meet again.

Ron



S.O.S. Chairman

Hector Phifer



Howdy,

I hope you had a great time Sunday and Fun Monday this year! I know that all who attended enjoyed the great weather, and some even went home with a little more cash than they brought with them.

To Hollis Britt and his little elves, "many, many thanks" for what you do to put these events on for the last 10 years. I know you will top next year's event with more great entertainment.

The season is upon us, and to all, I hope you have a wonderful and joyful Thanksgiving and Christmas. I know you will gather with your family and have parties throughout the season with friends, but don't forget to be careful and remember your fellow man that might not be so fortunate. This feeling of giving to others is one thing our group enjoys because we help others the year round and do it better than anybody else I know. The feelings that we get from our giving will always put the fuzzies in your heart, and there is no substitute for that.

In closing, remember that prayers open up the doors for help and makes wishes a reality. I would like to say to you that I wish you all a happy holiday season and may God bless you all!!!

Love,
Hector



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Editor's Note

By Larry & Shirley Jones

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

It's been a busy, but fulfilling year being your editor and publisher of the *Carefree Times*. We certainly have a lot to be thankful for by having this opportunity to serve you in this capacity. We continue, with every issue, to find new ways to make YOUR paper better than the last. As you will see with this issue, we have changed printing processes which should give us the next level of quality that we have been striving to reach. To be honest, we can not do this paper on our own. It is with the help of so many of you writing articles, sending photographs and just the kind words that you have given to us during our tenure as your editor, that has made our job a lot smoother. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of your paper to date.

If there are any extra themes or interests that you would like for us to report to you, please feel free to write us and tell us about it, or better yet, write an article and be a part of your publication. As you have seen, we have grown with each edition and we couldn't have done it without YOU!

We just wanted to take this time to wish each of you a wonderful holiday as we celebrate the **true** reason for the season. Without the birth of **Jesus** it would be just another holiday like *Arbor* or *Groundhog Day* so please keep it in your thoughts as you celebrate!

Our Proud Staff

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Without the help of everyone who contributed, this paper would still be

Just Another Newsletter **Thank You!!!**



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Yes, Virginia Shags

by Heather Jennings

Recently while standing in line at SOS (and you know which line I mean), I was talking to a very pleasant lady and I happened to remark that I was visiting from Virginia. She asked me in that wonderful Carolina drawl, "so, y'all shag up there?" I smiled and told her yes, but I thought to myself – surely people know there is shag outside of the Carolinas!!! Of course, maybe she was new to shag or maybe she'd been in line too long to think clearly, but it made me realize that while I can't fathom dancing anywhere else regularly, apparently there are people who don't know about the multitude of shag opportunities in Virginia!!

First let me say that to the best of my knowledge, there are now nine shag clubs in the state: Boogie on the Bay (Portsmouth), Colonial Shag Club (Newport News), Danville Shag Club, Lynchburg Shag Club, Northern Virginia Shag Club (Alexandria, Fairfax, Springfield), Richmond Shag Club, Roanoke Valley Shag Club, Virginia Beach Shag Club and the newest club, the Battlefield Boogie Club (Fredericksburg, VA). Each of these groups hosts wonderful regular dances as well as special events.

On October 15, my husband Craig and I traveled to Richmond to attend the Richmond Shag Club's "Fabulous Fifties" dance party. The dance, held at the ACCA Shriners' Temple was

attended by a large group of (perhaps 250?) shaggers, many costumed in 50's garb, dancing to the music of guest DJ, Murl Augustine. The Shriners' Temple is already an incredible facility, but it was also nicely decorated with a 50's theme. The dance began around 6:00 with a catered dinner where we were treated to some of the best barbecue and fried chicken I've had in awhile, but which also included mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, rolls and dessert! Yum! After dinner we talked with friends from the Richmond Shag Club, watched as winners were crowned in the bop, hula hoop, and costume contests and then shagged the night away until after 11:00 pm; all in all, a very enjoyable evening.

On October 22, Craig and I traveled to Merrifield, Virginia to attend the Northern Virginia Shag Club's annual fall workshop & dance. The event, held at the Elan Dance Sport studio was attended by about 80 shaggers, dancing to the music of Craig Jennings and Dennis & Nancy Gehley. The event began with two shag workshops by Pro competitors Leslie Melton and William Greene, an incredible dancing duo!!! Following the workshops, there was a dance from 7:30 to midnight with heavy hors d'oeuvres and mixers provided by the shag club. In between snacking, we danced, socialized with our friends, and had a great

shaggin' time!!

On October 22, there was also a Halloween Charity dance held in Newport News, VA by the Colonial Shag Club. Since I'm still finding it impossible to be in two places at once, Craig & I were unable to attend this event, but we've been to Newport News before and the Colonial Shag Club is a fun bunch of folks so I'm sure they had a wonderful time!

So - if you find yourself in Virginia and are looking for somewhere to dance, look no further than a nearby Virginia Shag Club. Many of them have weekly dances and most, if not all, have special weekend parties or events, most of these posted on the SOS/ACSC web site. The parties are always a fun time and you will meet new friends and probably pick up a new shag step or two! What could be better than shaggin' away your time with a bunch of fun lovin' Virginia dancers??? After all, since we don't get to visit OD as often as we like, we have to make certain we've got an OD 'state of mind'. Hope to have you shaggin' soon in the 'sweet Virginia breeze'!!!
(Heather Jennings is a member of several Virginia shag clubs and is the current Vice President of the Battlefield Boogie Club.)



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Friday 4pm -1am Snacks Provided

Saturday 1pm-1am Chicken Dinner 6:30-7:30

DJ's

Thursday

Kyle Beam

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Friday

Bill Harper

Butch Metcalf

Saturday

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Eddie Teeter

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Down Memory Lane by Johnny Hammond

Editor's Note: *It has been such a long time since we've heard from our friend Johnny Hammond who wrote articles for the Carefree Times for many years. Johnny has been plagued with numerous health problems and has not been able to contribute articles for our paper for some time, but his devoted wife, Ann, sent the following article to us that appeared in their local shag club and we are honored to publish it. Thank you, Johnny and Ann for continuing to support the Carefree Times.*

There was a mini-series on TV a couple of years ago about The Temptations. If you're a baby boomer, and I know most of you are, you probably caught this series and enjoyed it even more than an ole timer such as I.

There have been 19 performers to wear the banner "Temptation" over the last 30 years. This story was mainly about the first six. It covered their joys and their heartaches. I would like to reflect on a few things from the dark side that that weren't covered.

First, let me say their story was strong enough and interesting enough to have been a four-part series. They were celebrities. They had it all; loving fans, big houses, big cars, big money and they paid a very, very big price. When The Temptations were formed in 1960, the original members were Otis Williams, Melvin Franklin, Eddie Kendricks, Paul Williams (no relation to Otis), and "Al" Elbridge Bryant. Harmony was the name. Survival was the game. I guess there's a certain amount of darkness

that comes to everyone living as a celebrity. Some make it...many don't.

In 1963, Elbridge Bryant, after missing many rehearsals and partying day and night, developed an attitude the group could no longer condone. After many opportunities to clean up his act, he was let go. He continued to slide downward until he developed cirrhosis of the liver and died penniless somewhere in Florida. I think the year was 1979.

Replacing "Al" Bryant was the dynamic David Ruffin. The group had known David for years. He was the younger brother of Jimmy Ruffin, R&B singer under contract to Motown. David was a natural born performer and, whatever finishing touches the group needed, he provided and then some. He was a shot in the arm for the group but soon became a pain in the ass.

David, Paul, and Eddie were all lead singers and each did an outstanding job. There have been few groups who could claim such versatility. Even so, their first real hit didn't come until '64. They struck gold with *The Way You Do The Things You Do*.

Friction between Eddie and David developed early because Eddie felt that David, who really wanted to be a solo artist, was just using the group as a stepping stone and didn't really have the group's best interest at heart. In the mid-60's, "The Temps" became one of the brightest jewels in the crown of Motown. They were a vocal and dance group who made the Motown sound a favorite with millions

throughout the world. Although they had numerous personnel changes, they remained a Top Act for nearly three decades.

The first serious trouble with David began in 1967. Twenty-two-year-old Tami Terrell (singing partner of Marvin Gaye) was living with David when she had to undergo the first of six operations for a brain tumor. It was widely rumored her condition was the result of beatings she suffered for the strung-out Ruffin. This was never proven. Tami died in 1970, just before her 25th birthday.

By 1968, David was totally out of control. His drug problem had shifted into high gear. He didn't just skip rehearsals, he said he didn't need them. Finally, he started skipping performances. Even though he was the standout and no one has ever done it since the way he did, and probably never will, his attitude had to be confronted. The other shoe dropped when he sent word for the group to go on without him. At the time, David was involved with one of Dean Martin's daughters and it was her opening night in Vegas. David felt it was more important to be at her opening than his own. Bam!! He was out. He even caused problems after he left the group but he will, more than likely, always be thought of as the lead singer of The Temptations.

A sad page was added to the Temp's history in April of 1988 when David was jailed in Detroit on possession of cocaine after he couldn't post \$150 cash for a \$1500 bond. Charged with intent to distribute a small amount of the

drug, he faced a possible 20-year prison sentence but was found guilty only of use and ordered to undergo substance abuse treatment. It did little good. Bad Boy David wasn't ready for help. On June 1, 1991, he died of a drug overdose under what can easily be described as "mysterious circumstances."

The Temptations had many tragedies and personal heartaches to befall them. I think the one that most affected them for the longest time was Paul Williams. Paul's creative juices were always flowing. He was the most instrumental in keeping their smooth and sexy choreography refreshed and updated.

In the beginning, he was the only non-drinker in the group. They called him The Milkman. Man, did that ever change - from milk to two or three fifths a day. This, and I don't know what else, led to fast health deterioration. He finally had to come off the road in '71. He just couldn't keep up any longer. He had also developed respiratory problems. Paul was kept on the payroll for a while but

that too ended. After losing his wife and kids and most of his money through bad investments, Paul soon lost his spirit and continued to drink.

In mid-August, 1973, Paul Williams was found dead in the street near 14th and West Grand in Detroit (not in his car in a remote spot as depicted in the mini-series). The official cause of death was a self-inflicted gunshot to the head. He was 34 years old.

Eddie Kendricks' health was deteriorating when he came to sing *My Girl* at David Ruffin's funeral. As he approached the church, he was arrested for failure to pay \$26,000 in child support. He was allowed to sing but then jailed for a couple of days until a \$10,000 bail was posted.

The very next year Eddie died of cancer. He blamed his condition on 30 years of heavy smoking. He was 52 years old.

The fourth original member to die was Melvin Franklin, who suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for many years. He, along with Otis Williams retired in 1986.

Melvin's condition worsened after retirement and, in 1995, he was admitted to the hospital after a series of seizures. He sustained significant neurological damage, which was complicated by diabetes and other medical problems. Melvin Franklin was also 52 years old.

Otis Williams is the lone survivor. The Temps went through so many things together and separately. There's no way things could have always worked smoothly. They stood out all those years, not in spite of those who left but because of them. Eddie saw The Temps as crucial to Motown, just as David saw himself as essential to The Temptations. They were both wrong.

Their amazing legacy includes 76 R&B charters in singles alone and 52 Pop counterparts. An incredible 41 of those R&B hits were Top Ten over a period of 25 years (1962-1998).

Otis Williams used to say, "It ain't the magic in the wand, it's the magician who uses it." ~ Think about it!!

Happy Holidays !

The Hall of Fame Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank everyone for their donations throughout the years, and the shag clubs for holding events that benefit the Hall of Fame Foundation.



News From The DJ Association



Season's greetings to all of you shaggers, shaggettes, music lovers, groupies etc. from the Association of Beach and Shag Club DJs. We hope all of your wishes will come true for the new year as well. Let me introduce myself, I'm Steve Baker and I have returned for another year as president of the the ABSCDJs. Our new slate of officers will continue the fine work done by our immediate past president, Larry Edwards. If for any reason we can

help your shag club with your event, please feel free to contact me @ sbaker4@nc.rr.com.

We are currently working on the final plans for the 15th annual DJ THROWDOWN to be held at DUCKS / DUCKS TOO on March 2,3, and 4th 2006. The party begins on Thursday night at 8 pm. Cover at the door will be \$10.00 / person. The music will start promptly at 8:30 pm. The Shakers will again be there along with a few surprise artists. My advice to you is to get there early and get a seat because last year was packed! We will again have our famous reverse raffle throughout the weekend with \$6000.00 to be given away on Saturday, March 4th at midnite. If you need a ticket contact one of our members. They will be glad to sell you a dozen or so! Who knows you may be the lucky one that night! The DJ Hall of Fame award will be presented this weekend also,

more than likely on Saturday night. Please check the schedule which will be posted in the club for details. Also remember that during the weekend you will be able to hear over 40 ABSCDJs play the best music you have ever heard. Mark your calenders and come to Ocean Drive and party with us at Ducks in March during Throwdown. You won't regret it until Monday morning!!

See you at the beach!
Steve Baker
President ABSCDJ's
DJ Hall of Fame member



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15th Annual DJ Throwdown

March 2, 3 & 4, 2006

Doors Open at 8:00 pm Thursday, March 2nd with The Embers, Followed by a Surprise Guest Closing with the Fantastic Shakers
\$10.00 Cover per person.

Friday & Saturday the doors will open at 12:00 noon each day, with Association Djs spinning all your favorites.

Food will be on Saturday from 2pm - 4pm

Both Friday & Saturday are Free!

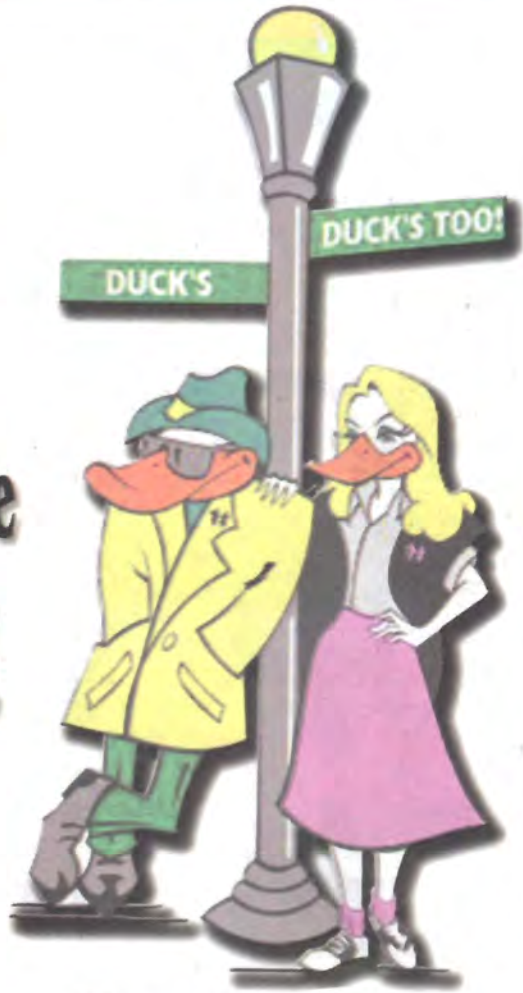
Our Reverse Raffle Drawing will be held at 12 Midnight, when the Grand Prize Drawing of \$6,000.00 will be given away.

For More Information

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Steve Baker.....919-676-2159
Butch Metcalf.....336-883-9873

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**The Embers,
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The Fantastic Shakers!**



SOS Memories



A soft sea breeze cools the summer sand.
Two happy lovers stroll down Ocean Drive hand in hand.

Wings of wailing music soar through the night, giving youthful hearts the power to take aging feet on one more flight.



I wish I was the Wizard of Oz with a magical bag. I would pull out ruby loafers for all, so they could click their heels and shag.

There are friends from the past and those we've yet to meet, all sharing memories and laughter on heaven's own street.

How many smiles have I seen? How many souls did I touch? I can't measure their worth. They all mean so much.



If our life is a dream then don't wake me up. The joy I feel when I dance is like an overflowing cup.

At sea side pavilions and smoky beach clubs we gathered round. Each spot has a past. They are all hallowed ground.

Judy, Terry, and David, the wild Ray and crazy Murl, keep spinning the tunes that lift our hearts and make our dancing feet twirl.



In my envious eye I see Sam West, Don Bunn, and the smiling AC. The masters of the dance are all heroes to me.

From Paul Craver to Jim Quick, from Gary Bass to Nappy Brown, I love all the smooth music that the minstrels lay down.

The legends lift up my heart and the music sets my soul free. In this rhythmic paradise is the only place I wish to be.



If life was a book and I was the author of the age, I would write us all dancing and sprinkle sand on each page.

The shag may just be a dance and magic may not flow from a DJ booth, but every step makes me happy and every note returns my youth.



Life really began when I learned how to dance. The shag makes my soul sing and fills me with musical romance.

The bright neon lights of Main Street send up a challenge to the stars. The celestial orbs may light up the heavens, but we will light up the bars.

Happy Shagging,
Chris & Angela Jestes



2006 SOS Winter Edition



2006 SOS Winter Edition



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Don't Wait To Make Your Reservations

Thursday December 29thFrank Anderson..... 8 until
Friday December 30thButch Metcalf..... 8 until

We will open at 2pm and close at 6pm on the 31st and reopen at 8pm
for the New Years Eve Festivities, Saturday December 31st
with Butch Metcalf and Steve Baker

(We will have The Todd House breakfast buffet right after the champagne toast at 12 midnight.)

January 1st our traditional New Years Day dinner
(Ham, Collard Greens, Black Eyed Peas, Corn Bread, and something sweet)

Tickets are \$25 per person. A ticket will be required after 8pm until 2pm. Contact
Cooter by email (shagducks@sc.rr.com) or phone (843-249-3858) to order your tickets

Jan. 13-16 SOS Mid Winter Party..... Many DJs &
Lessons with Charlie and Jackie Saturday 11am - Food by Todd House 5pm

Feb. 17-19.....Lake Norman Shag Club Chicken Pickin' at the Beach.
Feb. 25-26.....Keeper of the Dance Inductions
and CSA Contest.....DJ Butch Metcalf



Fat Harold's Beach Club

New Year's Package



Wednesday, December 28

**Kick off party.....Cook-out 7:00
Club opens at 4:00 PM**

Thursday, December 29

**Party with Fantastic Shakers
Can get in with package purchase
or \$10.00 cover charge**

Friday, December 30

**Club opens at 4:00 PM
Cocktail Party 7:00 PM**

Saturday, December 31

**Club opens at 12 noon until 5:00 PM
Closed from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM
for clean up and preparation for
party Re-open 7:00 PM for party.**

Sunday, January 1

**Club opens at 12 noon for lunch.
DJ's from 12 noon until close.**

Mid-Winter 2006

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

**Midwinter Kick Off Party
8:00 PM - Hot Dogs & Chili Beans
"What a way to start a party!"**

Thursday, January 12, 2006

**Open Noon - DJ's playing from
5:00 pm to Close, Front & Back**

Friday, January 13, 2006

**Open Noon - DJ's playing from
Noon to Close, Front & Back
Coastline Band 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

Saturday, January 14, 2006

**Open Noon- DJs playing
Noon - 2 am, Front & Back**

Sunday, January 15, 2006

**Open 11 am DJs playing
from 11:00 am - Close**

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- Mid-Winter - January 12 - 15
- ACSC/SOS Winter Workshop
- February 24 - 26
- SOS Spring Safari
- April 21 - 30
- ACSC/SOS Summer Workshop
- July 7 - 9
- Junior SOS - July 14 - 16
- SOS Fall Migration
- September 15 - 24

2007

- Mid-Winter - January 11 - 14
- ACSC/SOS Winter Workshop
- February 23 - 25
- SOS Spring Safari
- April 20 - 29
- ACSC/SOS Summer Workshop
- July 13 - 15
- Junior SOS - July 20 - 22
- SOS Fall Migration
- September 14 - 23

SETTING THE EXAMPLE!



Well, another SOS has passed us by, and I, like many others, am already looking forward to Mid-Winter. I have had the opportunity to attend many of the business meetings at SOS and the workshops. As I sat at the last meeting I saw many familiar faces of friends and shag acquaintances. Once again I heard that all too familiar complaint of clubs not checking for SOS cards. I thought about this and decided isn't it our place as SOS members to have that card in hand ready to show. Why wait for the person at the door to ask for it? I know I am always ready to show my MVP, VIP, Bi-Lo, Extra Care or any other discount card to the sales clerk to receive that store special. We as SOS members should be setting an example for those that try to slip by without buying a card. Have that card ready and show it at the door!

Debbie Turner
Causeway Shag Club



COMPETITIVE DANCER VS. SOCIAL DANCER

By: Cathy Williams

There is an assumption among shag dancers that there is a huge difference in the competitive dancer and the social dancer. The competitive dancer will here be defined as the one who enjoys shag contests and virtually trains like an athlete to prepare for these events, attends club functions and SOS. Social dancers rely on a few moves learned early on or in group class, attends club functions and SOS. These are generalizations of course, but basically describe our two groups.

It is possible that these seemingly opposite points on the dance spectrum are not so different after all. There are situations where the social dancer has competition forced on them (kicking and screaming all the way). There are occasions where dancers are needed in order to sanction a contest. From personal experience, this is both terrifying and exhilarating- mostly terrifying.

You arrive early at a contest and get settled in a good, front-row seat ready to be entertained and dazzled by the experts. Suddenly, the club owner or contest coordinator appears at your table to solicit your help. It seems another couple is needed to meet the required number of dancers in order to sanction the event. AND it seems there is NO ONE but you to fill this position.

Before you know it, numbers have been drawn, and there you stand in the harsh glow of that spotlight before God and everyone feeling naked and alone

in front of the dance world. It is amazing how many thoughts can go through your mind in just a fraction of a minute. How did this happen?! Why did I agree to this?? What am I going to do? My partner is going to kill me! Will I ever live this down? How can all these people be laughing and having a good time, and I am sweating bullets?!

For those who may never have experienced the sheer terror of being the sole focus of attention of a bar full of patrons, dancers, spectators, and worst of all—judges, well you may try to visualize early civilization, ancient Rome, a coliseum with hungry lions and a lone Christian to get the idea.

And then the unthinkable happens-the music begins. Who picked this song and why does it seem SOooooo fast? Will my legs and feet ever move? The DJ must be out to get us. How long can a two minute song really last?

With the resigned mind-set of a prisoner taking that last walk to the gas chamber we are determined to get through this and then relocate our business and move. The dance starts with a few basics, turns and a pivot. The record is still playing-looks as though we may have to do a together step so the easiest one we know is called. Lo and behold it comes off without a hitch. Then another and a male step or two is followed by something we think looks like a spin and the song starts to fade and the DJ begins to talk again. But.....wait.....we have

more stuff....the crowd is actually clapping.....we have MORE!!!.....we didn't even get to our showstopper step. But alas, it is over. We did it. We didn't fall or trip or even throw up. WOW. WHAT A RUSH!

After congratulations all around and pats on the back from other competitors the transformation has begun: from social dancer to contest junkie!

On the ride home, the conversation revolves around the competition experience. We received a third place-not bad for zero preparation. Just think what could happen if we practiced and took a few private lessons and picked our own song (and spent a gazillion dollars on travel, gas, hotel rooms, meals, half/half tickets, clothes, shoes and entry fees!)?!

Gone were the butterflies from a few hours ago. Gone was the mouth so dry you could work up several cotton balls. Gone were the legs so heavy you needed a walker. In that place where once there was fear was now the self assured, confident, "I can do this" competitor. Until of course the next contest.

Fifteen years later that road has taken many turns. There have been ups and downs, cheers and tears (who does that judge think he/she is?), joys and sorrows and equal amounts of hits and misses. We have learned that you are never as BAD as your worst score and never as GOOD as your best result. There is nothing like hitting the road for a 5 hour drive (or more) to

attend a contest, full of hope and expectation only to return on that same drive deflated and disappointed. We have all been there.

The best part of this experience has been the people and friendships that have come our way. Not the type where you meet and greet once, but the lasting kind of relationships where you are involved in the lives of your friends. Where you call to see how things are going, where you are there to support each other in times of need, where you care and share and not just the good times.

There is a great bond created by going through these experiences together. We enjoy getting together to listen to each others' "war stories" over dinner or breakfast at DON'S in North

Myrtle Beach or in each others' homes. As competitive as these years have been, we find it is more about the dancers than it is about the contest or the outcome. It is about yelling for each other and wishing each other the best.

We all would like to improve our technique and get progressively better but knowing you will be among friends with the same motivations make the ordeal of competition more fun. As a social dancer, it is always exciting to take a workshop and come away with a new step. It helps challenge you as a dancer and keeps the dance new and fresh. And I have never met a shagger who didn't like to show off a new move or teach it to a friend.

So I guess this proves every social dancer has a little competitor

buried deep inside and every competitive dancer longs to dance just for fun. It takes all of us with differing views and attitudes to make up our shag community. Respect for all those views is "key". It takes all of us sharing our talents to keep the dance going for generations to come. It doesn't matter if your talent is not in competition. Your gift may be in making new shaggers feel welcome and encouraging people to give it a try. Your talent may be as an instructor or fund raiser for a local shag club. It is really not about star quality or talents and who has them and who doesn't. We all have something to offer. It is about using them. It is about making our time and friendships count.

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Friday, January 13

12:30 - Male Leads and Female Steps

2:00 - Advanced Turns and Spins

Saturday, January 14

12:30 - Stutters and Hooks

2:00 - Together Steps

Sunday, January 15

12:30 - Lead and Follow Combination

2:00 - 6-Count Steps for Males and Females

\$10 per person/per workshop

Or take both workshops in one day for only \$15

Special DVD of material taught during MidWinter will be available for purchase at workshops.

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North Of The Border

by Jim Rose

Contrary to popular belief, Beach & Shag Music and dancin' is alive and well here in Virginia. And the growth is vibrant, as the formation of a new club in Fredericksburg has shown.

The Battlefield Boogie Club has been the dream and quest for more than a handful of dedicated shaggers in the Fredericksburg area. It all started with a long and hard search for a place that would even listen to some "Old Fart" telling his story about how this music and dance could bring in new customers and business. Now, that's a sales job!

Well, that was three years ago and the rest, as they say, is history. The Battlefield Boogie Club was officially formed in November of 2004 and meets every Tuesday night, with lessons being taught each week. Currently we have about 65 members, with new folks showing interest each week.

Our next big step will be joining the ACSC. We're all working towards that goal. Our newly elected Board of Directors has done an outstanding job in getting the club up and running and keeping us on track! We even have a web site that we're very proud of; www.battlefieldboogieclub.com. (Thanks Heather!)

The music played is typical of a lot of clubs, mixing the newer

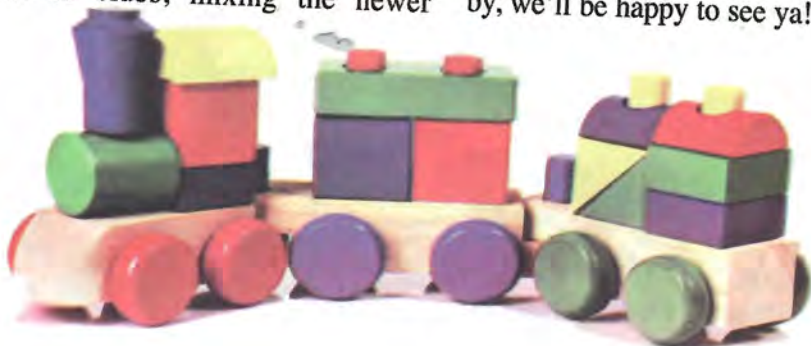
"beach" music with more of the older R&B classics. We really wanted to introduce people to what the clubs play in OD. And yes, we get the questions...is that really beach music! For the most part, people really enjoy hearing songs they're not used to hearing up here.

Ah, the dance! It's amazing, we're attracting young and old alike, who see the Shag and say...yea, I want to learn that! So, thanks to our great team of instructors, we're getting people ready to hit the floor dancing!

Members are also getting involved in traveling to other venues for dances and dance competitions. A few months ago we had about 18 members travel to Beckley, WV for a weekend event. And, we had a great group for a CSA competition in Richmond, VA. Not bad for a new club.

Are we excited yet? You bet! It's a great feeling to be able to extend this music and dance to more people and get them excited. I only wish I had the time and room to acknowledge all of the great people and their work in getting this new club off the ground.

If you're ever up Virginia way and looking for a place to shag, a friendly group to talk to, or just to listen to some good music, come on by, we'll be happy to see ya!



LET'S JUST PACK UP AND MOVE TO THE BEACH

By Susan Harrell



I know, you have heard the stories about how someone saw the "Shag"...and moved to the beach. Well, here's another, and with a great ending I might add!

In 1990 when I met Kevin in Burlington North Carolina, I did a basic...sort of, and Kevin knew nothing about shagging. I use to see him at Fat Richard's in Burlington, and at the Bushes in Greensboro from time to time. He was always standing there, beer in hand, just watching. I'm pretty sure he was just there to watch the women at that time, and not to watch people shag.

We had both made our way to Spring SOS in 1991, and through mutual friends ended up standing together at Duck's on the last Sunday ...drinking Alabama Slammers. We talked for 11 hours straight. No kidding, 11 hours! If you know Kevin, knowing how quiet he is, you might think that is impossible! Don't forget now, he was just around the shag for the women, since he didn't know how to dance! But little did we both know that was just the beginning...for us, and of us!

After SOS was over and we were back in the real world in Burlington, we started dating...thanks to my broken down car, and Kevin being a mechanic and all.

So, one year later to the very day that we spent 11 hours talking at Ducks, we were married.

And where else but at 1992 Spring SOS!!! I know most of you remember the great "Tilghman Pool Parties" we use to have on Saturday during SOS. That was the place! We stood in front of the Charlotte Shag Club Tent, with our great Burlington friends gathered around, along with about 700 other shaggers. We had to say our vows over a portable microphone so everyone could hear. We made 2 really special friends that day. We had the honor of having Dr Phil Sawyer officiate our wedding. He and Ms Chick are the greatest! After 13 ? years, it's still fun for us both when almost every time Dr Phil sees us he checks our ring fingers...and says, yeah...it's gonna last!

My friends started right away on Kevin, and didn't let up until he gave in. They were determined he needed to take shag lessons. After almost 2 years, finally he said okay...it's time. Lesson after lesson, and I do mean lesson after lesson, I swore I was going to quit. But not Kevin, he was determined that he was going to get it. I thought the pivot would be the breaking point for him, but I was wrong!

We eventually started doing competiton with the Competitive Shaggers Association. We came to the beach quite often doing contests, renting condos during peak season and paying out the ying-yang for them. We joked

about moving to the beach for about 5 years, just to save money on condo rent.

I will never forget...it was 1999, Fat Harold's Labor Day CSA Contest weekend. After checking out of our condo, standing on the front balcony, we made our deal. We would quit our jobs, sell our house and move to North Myrtle Beach. We shook hands on it, and did not speak about it even once on our 4-hour ride home to Burlington. It was Labor Day Monday and the stores were open when we got home. We stopped a block from our house and bought a For Sale By Owner sign and a magic marker. I wrote our phone number and big letters...MOVING TO THE BEACH and put in our front yard.

That night, Kevin called Barry Thigpen in Myrtle Beach and Barry gave him the phone number of one of the dealerships in NMB. Since he was a Master Mechanic, he could have gotten a job anywhere, but over the phone without meeting anyone face to face...how lucky can you get! He gave his notice at

work and 2 weeks later, during Hurricane Floyd, and during 1999 Fall SOS, we were moving Kevin to the beach. Yep, I said Kevin, not me. Someone had to stay home and sell the house. Our house sold in 3 weeks, and by mid November I moved down and we bought a condo.

Right away we joined the OD Shag Club and less than a year later, I was on the Board of Directors. Two years later I was voted Vice President and the next year, President. We were so active in the OD Shag Club, our competition fell by the wayside. We miss our fellow competitive dancers but our time we have spent with the shag club has been the most enjoyable of anything we have ever done.

We have both worked for the City of North Myrtle Beach for 5 years now. We have sold the condo and built a house across the big bridge, in Little River. Now we sit on our screen porch in the evenings, and dance our nights away.

Everything has fallen into

place for us here, so we know it was meant to be. I guess we have found our real home now, Paradise we call it. What could be better!!!!





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Saturday, Dec 31st Tommy Black & Blooz

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Saturday, Jan 13th Coastline Band

Saturday, Jan 13th Sammy O'Banion
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Sunday, Jan 15 Craig Woolard Band

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