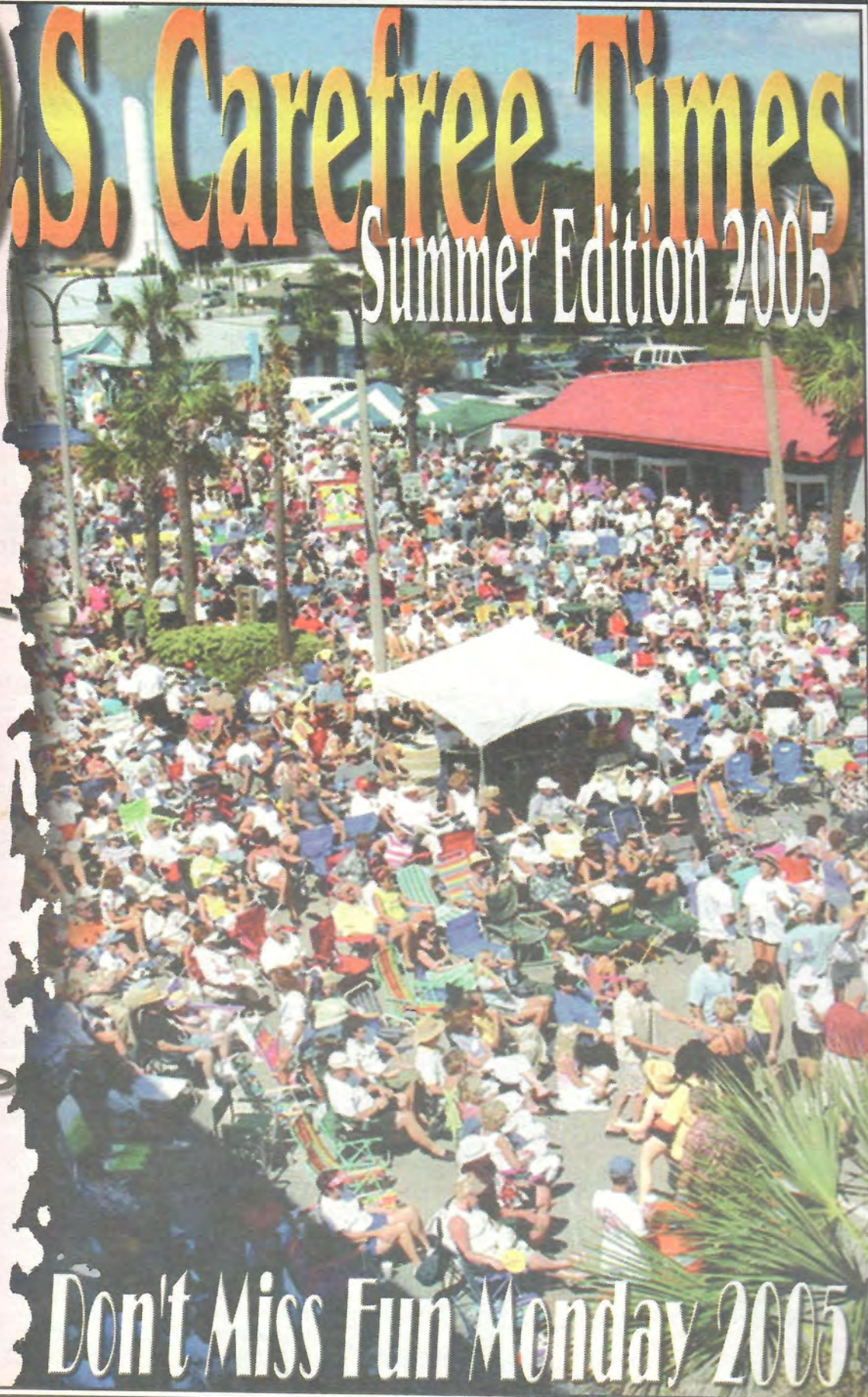


S.O.S. Carefree Times

Summer Edition 2005

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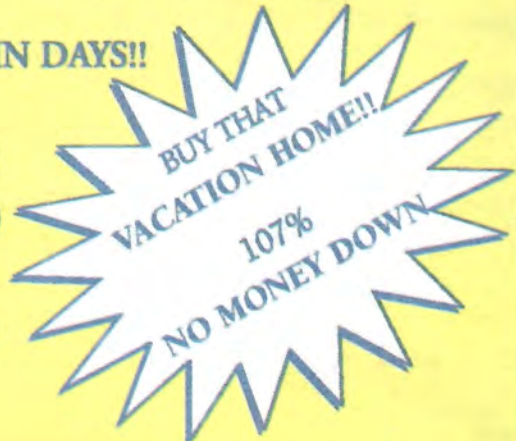
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S.O.S. President Ron Whisenant



Spring Safari was a huge success! If you attended the twenty-fifth anniversary of Spring Safari you know what I mean. The last weekend was wall to wall with people in the streets, in the clubs, and on the beach. It was fantastic.

After the parade on Saturday, it was non-stop partying all afternoon until the early evening. I understand that there was some dancing room later that night because the party people could not make the last shift. The party that afternoon wore out the best of the best. However, it was Saturday night at SOS as usual. A gigantic crowd everywhere you went. That is what SOS is all about. It was a great crowd.

The last Saturday of April, we had another great parade. It just keeps getting better and better. Everyone needs to give Don David a great big thank you for a job well done. If your club is not represented in the parade next year, ask the club president why you are not a part of a great event. It is all about the camaraderie.

I don't know how the Fall Migration could be better, but I will bet that the crowds will be even larger, and the fun twice as much as it was in the spring. Don't be left out of the greatest party in NMB. Fall Migration, September 16- 25th, 2005. BE THERE!

Ron



A Word From Our Leaders...

S.O.S. Chairman

Hector Phifer



Hello fellow SOSer's
I hope all of you enjoyed the Spring Safari of 2005 because I sure did. You folks surprised me when I said you probably did not remember where you were 25 years ago.

The parade was the best to date. I want to say congratulations to all the people who participated in the parade. Without your desire to be a part of this event, there would be no parade. Keep up the good work and make next year's Spring Safari Parade the best. I also want to thank Don David and his little "elves". There are always people who work behind the scene and do not want any credit for putting a great event together. To Don and His "elves," thank you from all of the SOSer's for a "love" well done.

Summer is upon us and like all vacation seasons, we tend to get slightly careless sometimes. I want you to take a deep breath when you go on your vacation this year and be careful. When you go out to a summer gathering or party, be careful. Also, when you are going about doing your summer events etc., I want you to stop and think about what it would be like if you were restricted from your freedoms. There are many sacrifices that have been made over many, many years for our freedom. STOP and give a thought for those who have sacrificed for us.

Finally there is an upcoming event that is going to be a blast. This event will put together some of the greatest bands Fun Monday has to offer. I understand there might be some surprises, but Hollis and his staff always love to surprise us. Don't forget Fun Sunday. To all of you I want you have a safe summer, and I will see ya at Fall Migration.

Love ya,
Hector

*...Come meet me at OD and
we'll get some sand in our shoes!*

A.C.S.C. Chairman

Judy Vick



Greetings from the A.C.S.C. Board!

I know everyone is enjoying this warm weather and looking forward to Fall Migration in September. Fun Sunday and Fun Monday are going to be great. The Enhancement Committee has some great artists lined up for

you. Don't forget to buy a raffle ticket. This is what pays for these acts.

As I mentioned in an earlier column, visit a local shag club party that you've never attended before. There are many great parties this summer. Visit www.shagdance.com to find out about all of them.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe summer. See you in September!

Judy

Our Proud Staff

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Without the help of everyone who contributed, this paper would still be *Just Another Newsletter*.....*Thank You!!!*

This paper is proudly produced for S.O.S. with the paid contributions of our advertisers. We continue to urge you to support them so we can continue to bring you the quality that you deserve.

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Editor's Note

Larry & Shirley Jones



Dear Friends!

Across The Great Southeast the summer is getting hotter with not only the music we've come to love and cherish, but with all the new dance steps being taught throughout our association.

This edition has been exceptionally gratifying for your editors. We have seen an increase in advertisers plus the participation of our readers with new and exciting articles and excellent photography. We want to encourage you to continue the great job you've been doing in the past. It is only due to your hard work and your faithfulness that we are able to continue to bring you this newspaper. If we don't say it enough, THANK YOU for allowing us to serve you in this capacity. As we approach Fall Migration with anticipation, we expect the largest and best publication ever, to be presented to S.O.S. and the A.C.S.C.

Speaking of our advertisers, when you come down to SOS or when you come down for that special get-a-way weekend, we encourage you to patronize our advertisers and to let them know that we appreciate them keeping our dance strong and alive.

We look forward to seeing everybody in the fall so that feeling of "family unity" can be renewed once again. When you are not here the party is not as strong as when we are all together. Time and distance might slow the party, but it can not kill it. Your association and your local clubs work very hard to keep those "endless memories of good times" alive.

You may have noticed that you now have co-editors for your newspaper. My wife, Shirley, has been working behind the scenes to help me with the content and production of the *Carefree Times*. She is now stepping up to take on a more visible role. Without her help and the help of so many of you loyal writers and photographers, we would not have this newspaper. We are forever grateful for your continued support and look forward to bringing you a quality publication. If you have any updates, concerns or additions, please forward them to Shirley at ducksdj@sc.rr.com. We'll see you in September!

Larry & Shirley

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Parade Talk

Well Boys and Girls, we did it again! And this time with style . . . what a great parade! We had 650 participant ribbons that we gave out and we were about 50 short. I sincerely apologize to the folks who did not get a ribbon. I thought that after last year's rain the number of people participating in the parade would be down. Boy was I ever wrong.

The Grand Marshalls this year were superb and were made up of the "Legendary Billy Smith" and Sea Cruz. Billy of course is the 6-10 morning DJ at 94.9 The Surf, has been spinning records on this beach for 40 years and is truly a "legend" in his own time. And Sea Cruz, or the "new" Sea Cruz, that is, what a great and talented group they are. Dino, Molly, and new member Butch Barnes (formally of The Band of Oz) are all Cammy Award winners. They will surely be making some big waves along this beach in the near future.

The entries this year were absolutely great. I have never seen the judges scoring so close. In one category there was 1/2 point separating 1st and 2nd place. You guys are getting tough. The judges, by the way were: Trish Langley of 94.9 The Surf; Cecil Chandler of WBTW TV-13; and Cooter Douglas...where have I heard that name before? Anyway thank you judges for a great and tough job.

Thanks to all of the clubs who participated in this year's parade. You are the folks that make this parade so successful year after year. And in my opinion...I think each entry was a winner!!!

See you next Spring!

Don David

You SOS Parade Chairman



And The Winners Are!

Best Club Vehicle

- 1st Place - Sanford Area Society of Shaggers
- 2nd Place - Twisters Shag Club

Best Shagging Troop

- 1st Place - OD Shag Club
- 2nd Place - Palmetto & Columbia Shag Clubs

Most Original Theme

- 1st Place - Capital Area Shag Club
- 2nd Place - Raleigh Shag Club
- 3rd Place - Lake Hickory Shag Club

Best Shag Theme

- 1st Place - Burlington Shag Club
- 2nd Place - Camden Lugoff Area Shag Society
- 3rd Place - South Strand Shag Club

SOS Close Encounter



By: Harvey Seargeant a/k/a "RV"
Boogie on the Bay Shag Club,
Portsmouth, VA

There I was standing alone at the small bar in the OD Arcade minding my own business, enviously watching fancy footwork and admiring smooth moves on the dance floor when a couple comes through the door. The guy heads for the restroom, the lady heads straight to the bar and stands "right" next to me, way inside my comfort zone. I don't know her and have never seen her before. Now mind you there was no one else around the bar except me until she arrived. She begins to initiate in chitchat by asking me questions. I returned a few short answers while alarms and red flags are going off in my head. The hairs on the back of my neck are standing up and I am considering my "flight or fight" options.

I'm sure everyone is familiar with your significant other or spouse's sixth sense. My wife had hers turned on and tuned to maximum sensitivity. She was in a group of people in the middle of deep conversation some

distance away, when she disengaged herself in mid-sentence and without going around anyone, seemed to float through the crowd and make a beeline straight for me.

She comes up and with a side look at the "other" woman, plants a kiss firmly on my quivering lips and says, "Hi honey". The other woman then brazenly asked my wife, "Do you know him"? About this time, my knees start to shake when my wife answers, "Yes, I've been married to him for 35 years". I lean over as quickly as I can and whisper into my wife's ear, "Her boyfriend or husband just went into the restroom". My wife gives me "the look". You guys know the one I'm talking about. I'm a dead man. It's only Monday and the rest of the week at SOS is going to be pure hell for me. My bladder is suddenly yelling urgently. Doom and despair wash over me like a cold downpour from a thunderstorm at mid-winter. I'm sure many of you can relate to this feeling as most of us have experienced this sensation at one time or another.

The other woman explains, "Oh, I wasn't hitting on him" and "So that's why he wouldn't talk to me." Yes! I am exonerated (sigh)!!!

My wife gives me a smile. My knees stop shaking, I stand a little taller, my back is straighter and my chest seems a little broader. My muscle definition is more pronounced and I am once again in control of my universe and my bladder!

At that moment the husband of the other woman comes out and introductions are made. They are Jim and Stephanie from Mebane, North Carolina and they are members of the Burlington Shag Club. They have only been married two days and are doing SOS for their honeymoon. She's very excited and happy, as only a new bride can be, thus the innocent talking and smiles. Laughs were all around as the story is told. I am again the cool, confident shagger making new friends and points with my wife.

(I'll be giving lessons on how to impress your spouse or significant other at a later date.)



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"Factors such as habitual pearl-wearing, time spent at the beach, proficiency in the Carolina Shag, and a diet of fried foods, green beans, and oysters have all played an instrumental role in ranking South Carolina 1st by a National Hottie Report. The Palmetto State, is renowned as being a perfect, exclusively southern area filled with smiling faces, beautiful places, and the sweetest and most charming girls in the country." -The New York Times

News From The DJ Association



Well here it is July already and everyone is back into the summer party season with much new music being released since Spring S.O.S.

The Internet continues to grow in importance to deejays and music lovers everywhere. For those of you looking for a web site specializing in beach and shag music, check out the new

www.beachshag.com site which originates right in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. and plays some of the best stuff you'll ever hear.

I would like to extend an invitation for all of you to attend this year's Beach Deejay Hall of Fame inductions at Fat Harold's Beach Club. Tentatively, they are scheduled for November 11th and 12th and Fat Harold will have a band along with Association deejays on Friday and Saturday night. Watch the Fall S.O.S. Carefree Times for more news on this big event. You may also note that the Cammy Awards, which honor those in the beach music business, will be held on Sunday November 13th, another reason to come down for the whole

weekend!

And yes, it is not too early to put next March 2nd, 3rd and 4th of 2006 on your calendars. That's the Annual Deejay Throwdown weekend and we're already booking bands and laying the groundwork for another great party at Duck's and Duck's, TOO. Please check out our web site at www.abscdj.com and if you need help with getting a deejay or identifying that elusive song title you just heard contact one of our members. They're always ready to assist! If I can help you with anything send me an email at iredwards@carolina.rr.com. See you at S.O.S.!

And Let's Dance!

Larry Edwards

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Remaining 2005 Contest Schedule

July 8-9	Visions	Richmond, VA
August 12-13	Coctails & Memories	Fayetteville, NC
September 9-10	Lynn's	Charlotte, NC
October 1	Scoreboard	Pittsboro, NC
October 28-29	The Ballroom/Juniors	Hamlet, NC
November 4-5	Memories	Atlantic Beach, NC

Non Sanctioned Contests

July 29-30	Bunk Leach Mixed Dbis/Thirsty's 2	Greensboro, NC
August 25	Fat Harold's Summer Finals	NMB, SC
September 3-5	Chicken Hicks Memorial/Ducks	NMB, SC
November 26-28	Dewey Kennedy Mixed Dbis/Ducks	NMB, SC

Special Events

July 14-16	Junior SOS	NMB, SC
August 5-6	HOFF Annual Golf Classic Weekend	NMB
September 16-25	SOS Fall Migration	NMB
October 14-15	Shaggers Hall of Fame Induction	NMB
November 10-13	Carolina Beach Music Awards	NMB
December 3	SPA/CSA Banquet	TBA

Our Friends With The Department of Public Safety



On Wednesday the 27th of April, SOS fed the Department of Public Safety, the firefighters and significant members of the city

council a BBQ lunch at the fire station at City Hall. We fed some 80 personnel during that time. In addition, SOS presented a check for \$500 for the city's Explorer



Troop, a support group for the Department of Public Safety. The Director of Public Safety, David King, presented Susan Harold of the OD shag club with a plaque for their support for their sponsorship of the "shop with a cop" program. This is a program that allows kids to receive gifts for Christmas.

The ACSC / SOS organization has a great relationship with the city of NMB. We do this in many ways, and the results are always good for the SOS members when we are in town. Just remember that the Department of Public Safety are our friends.

They will not harass you. However, you have to do your part to behave as a good citizen. Just good ole common sense will prevail every time.



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Memories Of Sonny's Pavilion

By: Dr. Sonny Nixon



In 1931 I was born in Cherry Grove Beach, where my family lived in a small frame house on the corner of Main Street at the ocean. There were only three or four summer cottages on the entire beach, and large sand dunes were present then.

In 1947, while in high school at Wampee, I managed to acquire an eight-foot gazebo given to me by a summer cottage owner. I moved it to the ocean's edge and built an eight-foot-wide porch on two sides and ran a summer snowball stand, from which I also rented floats and umbrellas.

I barely had room on the porch for a box to house a jukebox in, but I built one, and Roy Harrelson put in a Wurlitzer "bubbler" and gave me half the "take". Roy owned Winyah Music

Company in Georgetown at the time and also owned the old Roberts Pavilion on the end of Main Street in the Ocean Drive section. My location was served by Paul and PJ, who were his route men.

Whenever the jukebox faltered (which was frequent due to the sand and salt spray), I hurriedly tried to get word to the route men at OD by someone going that way, since there were no phones here and I didn't have any means of transportation. Shaggers were waiting impatiently, and I didn't want them to leave. How so many managed to dance on the eight-foot-wide dance floor, I don't know. Maybe they bellied-up a little more, or they weren't very wide at the time.

Anyway, since I made more profit from the jukebox and an ancient pinball-type machine that gave only one ball for a nickel but paid back nickels in cash (similar to a slot machine), I made every effort to keep the music and one-ball machine operational.

In 1949 I moved the gazebo and built a place called Sonny's, which can be seen in the "SHAG" book with a Studebaker parked in front. This picture was taken around 1952. The jukebox is visible in the corner, and there was considerably more dance floor area.

Sonny's rapidly evolved from a snowball stand into a shagger's place and beer joint. At that time, Ocean Drive was incorporated and Cherry Grove was not. As some of the older shaggers may recall, the city fathers closed

down the places in OD that allowed decadent shag dancing at exactly midnight. Chief Merlin Bellamy strictly enforced this midnight curfew.

I sometimes used a "beer bribe" to get anyone who was a close friend of Harry Driver and Leon Williams to come to Sonny's when the exodus from OD began. I quickly learned that if the shaggers came, I was assured a booming business with dancing and associated activities (use your imagination for that) from midnight until daybreak. Through the years, I made many friends, some of whom I still see occasionally at the Our Time Party in February.

The shagging world as I knew it changed abruptly on October 15, 1954, on the day Hurricane Hazel came ashore. The next day all that was left were the memories and the lot, and that was several feet lower in elevation.

Many of the present day shaggers that are approaching middle age may remember Sonny's Pavilion that I built on the same spot in the Spring of 1955. This place lasted, to help carry on the beach shag tradition, until it, too, went the way of the original Sonny's on September 20, 1989. That was when our area was again visited by a small portion of the Atlantic Ocean when Hugo came ashore. By that time the building had been operated for several years as a family arcade.

Becky Stowe, owner of Beach Memories at OD, made an artist's rendering of this place and still has it on display. Anyway, my

time had passed, and I no longer had an urge to rebuild on the oceanfront.

The dance has grown more popular with each succeeding year, and this area has happily become the Mecca of the shaggers. Years from now, I would not be surprised if it rivaled the Mardi Gras in size and scope.

If anyone out there was around during the early days and has any old pictures they wish to share, please write me at POB 3240, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582.

Sonny, also known as Dr. N. F. Nixon, Jr., finished pharmacy school in 1954 at USC. He traveled for Upjohn Company for two years and then returned to school to finish at the Medical University of SC in Charleston. He practiced medicine for 25 years in Cherry Grove Beach before retiring in 1989.

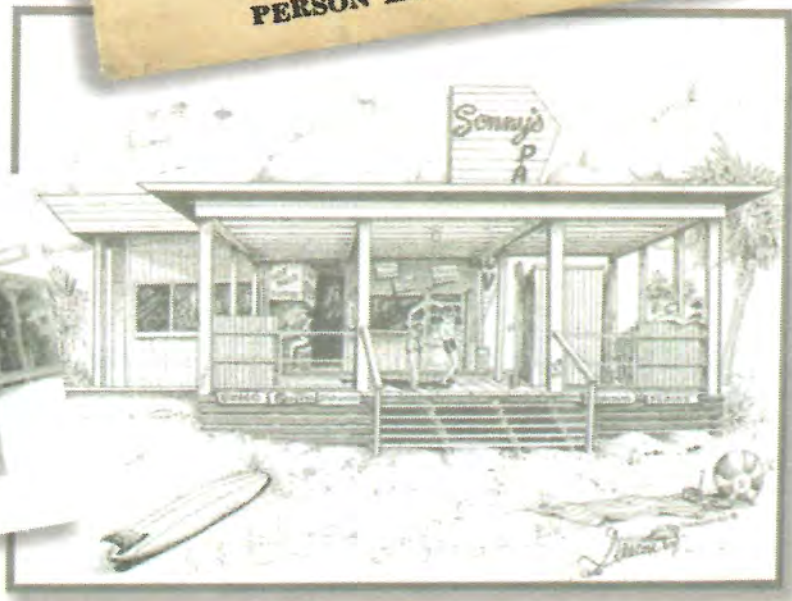
He is married to the former Betsy Brogden from Durham, NC, and they have two grown sons who also live in North Myrtle Beach.



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My Great "Northern Adventure"

By Bob Ramella

Why would anyone in their right mind travel all of the way to northwestern Pennsylvania just to dance? That question resounded in my brain more than once while I was making the trip to Conneaut Lake Park last year. My dancing partner, Helen Wivagg, had invited me to attend her club's Annual Party at Conneaut Lake Park. I accepted but with some real reservations. I had never stayed at a hotel that had no heat, no air conditioning and no phones in the rooms. And while having a party inside of an Amusement Park was certainly a new experience for me, at least I was going to be able to dance with my buddy Helen so I accepted. Little did I know that this acceptance was the beginning of my first Great "Northern Experience" and was another milestone decision of my life.

When I found that Wilkey Whaley and Murl Augustine were going to be guest DJ's for this event and some friends from the South (Buddy and Dottie Whaley) were coming too this was starting to look like a fun time in the making.



Last year was my first "Conneaut Experience". I can

honestly say that I have never been to any party like this one before. The Hotel Conneaut is an old, turn of the century building and has a special charm all of its own. It was built in 1903 and is situated on Lake Conneaut. Conneaut Lake Park is an amusement park that first opened in 1892. The Hotel Conneaut, the Beach Club and the Dreamland Ballroom are inside of the Amusement Park. So when you arrive at the Hotel, everything is right there. The staff of the hotel makes you feel like you have just come back home. The food in the dining room was excellent and the service everywhere made you feel like they really liked pampering you and were glad you were there.



The Dreamland Ballroom is over 22,000 square feet of maple hardwood floor and it is the best dance floor I have ever had the pleasure to enjoy. The Ballroom was built in 1909 and most of the Big Bands of the 30's and 40's played there. While dancing on that floor it is so easy to imagine turning back the hands of time and visualize hundreds of couples dancing to the fabulous music those walls have heard. It is then that you understand why they call it the Dreamland

Ballroom.

The Beach Club was built in 1935 and looks just like so many of the Pavilions that used to be on the South and North Carolina Coasts. It is a unique setting and a special place to party and dance.

Two meals, six dance workshops and music at two locations were all part of the low ticket price for this event. Some of us did not stop partying when the music ended. We moved the party to the porch of the Hotel Conneaut. The Southern Contingent brought out the jello shooters and the Pittsburgh folks supplied the mudslides and well.... you might be able to imagine the rest..

The Pittsburgh Area Jitterbug Club members are in a class all of their own when it comes to dancing and having fun. They put on a World-Class Party. And yes, they really know how to Shag there as well as Jitterbug and Cha-Cha. This Southern boy had a fabulous time dancing almost all weekend. Great music and great people in a fantastic setting equals one REALLY GREAT PARTY!

Wilkie Whaley is coming this year again as a Guest DJ and this will be Wilkie's third Conneaut Experience. Here is what Wilkey wrote about the party:

To anyone who is looking for an excellent party:

Southern Hospitality was found in Pennsylvania at last year's Conneaut Party. I was

treated like a King and everyone was friendly and went out of their way to make me feel welcomed.

When I first arrived at Conneaut Lake Park, I thought I had entered a "time warp". Everything looked like I had just stepped back into the "Fifties".

I have never witnessed a group of people who love to dance and party like the Pittsburgh Area Jitterbug Club. I count this as a "Must Attend" Party each year.

The Dreamland Ballroom was built before the Big Band Era of the 30's and 40's. All of the famous Big Bands played there. The dance floor is wonderful and has attracted dancers from Coast to Coast who came to enjoy the music and special ambiance this wonderful place has earned in our musical history.

The Beach Club is built on the lake and is just like the old pavilions along the Carolina Coast that we all grew up with in years gone by.

Nowhere else in the World can you party in such a unique setting with such a fun group of people. Try it once and you will always come back. I have for the last three years.

Wilkie Whaley

Dottie and Buddy Whaley had their first "Conneaut Experience" last year and this is Dottie's observation about the party.

One of the best things about being married to Buddy is getting to share all the new friends he makes as we "dance"

around the shag world. We went to PAJC's Conneaut Lake Party last year and not only made a bunch of new friends but we got to see a lot of old friends too.

You'll love the people, the park, the lake, the hotel and of course the dance floors. (The park had a "Corvette" show on Saturday last year and Buddy absolutely loved that!!)

Several things are a must. 1) Don't forget your feather boa (you'll have to ask Helen for an explanation). 2) Bring a jacket and some munchies for the late night porch "convention". 3) They love it when you bring shooters (for the convention of course). And 4) Pack light (limited, and I use the word

loosely, hanging space! Only one electrical outlet per room! No heat! No A/C! AND IT WAS STILL GREAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

So you can see why we all fell in love with the Park, the hotel and the Conneaut Experience. It is a special party held in a unique place and put on by fantastic people. So treat yourself to your own "Northern Experience". Bring some friends and let the good times roll. I can assure you that if you try it once, you will be back.

For information about this year's Party visit www.pittsburghareaajitterbugclub.com or email pajitterbugclub@aol.com.

M o v i n g ?

Because we mail via bulk mail, if you move and don't tell us or if your address is incomplete, you will not receive your mail-out S.O.S. Carefree Times issues.

Please fill out this change of address form and return to **Pat Smith, 407 Ivy Circle, Anderson, SC 29621**. Photocopy is okay.
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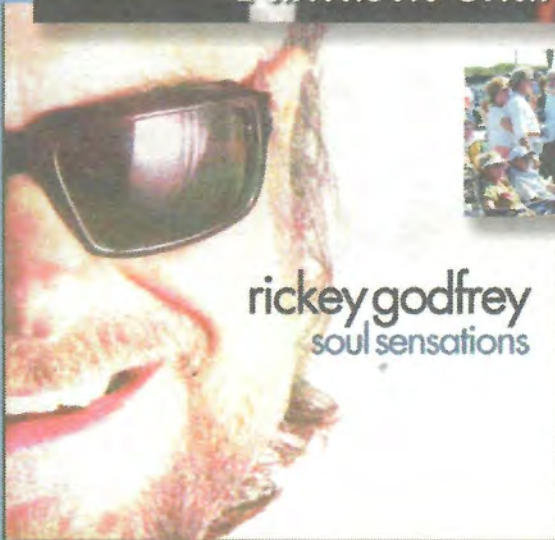
Fun Sunday

September 18th, 2005



Fantastic Shakers

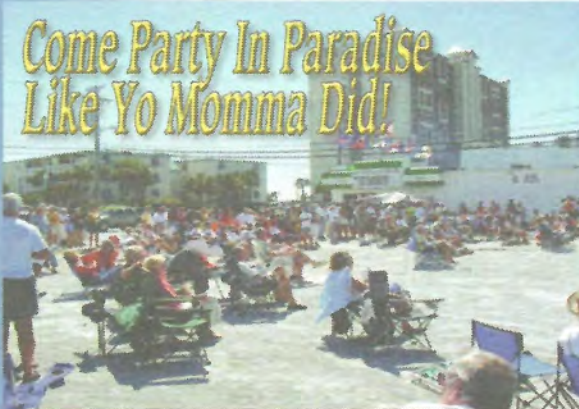
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Judy To The Rescue!

Fun Monday's 10th Anniversary

September 19th, 2005

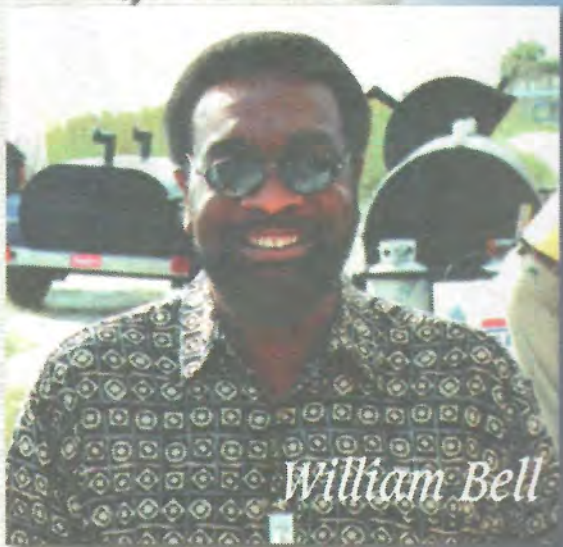
"Celebrating 10 Years
Of Fun Mondays!"



Craig Woolard Band



Mojo Blues Band



William Bell

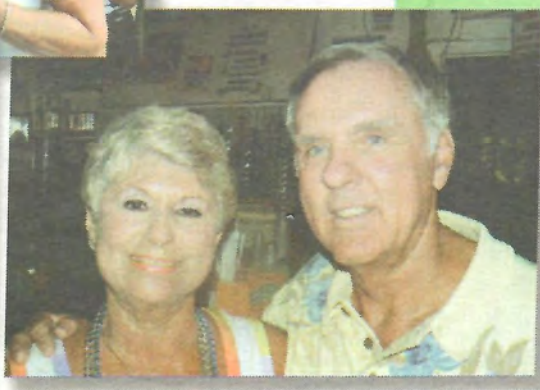
SOS Fun Monday Drawing

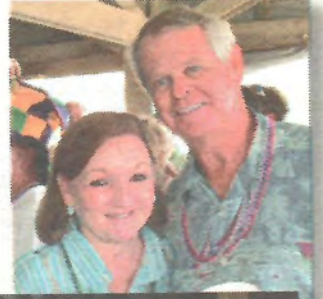
- 1st Ticket Drawn....\$7,500
- 2nd Ticket Drawn...\$2,000
- 3rd Ticket Drawn....\$1,000
- 4th Ticket Drawn.....\$500
- 5th Ticket Drawn.....\$250

12:00 pm to 5:30 pm Main Street, O.D.

Special Guest Appearances By Jim Quick and Angel Rissoff







The Meaning of the Shag Icon

The ACSC Icon Award was first presented at the Grand Nationals in 1995. The award was created to honor the person or persons for their service and efforts within their respective shag clubs and the shag community. Any service beyond the shag club was not necessary for



They always will do what needs to be done, and do it willingly. An Icon is a mover and shaker. You can spot them in all shag clubs.

The award is presented to the Icon for his or her past service performance to their respective shag club.

the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs, SOS, the DJ Association, and other activities that enhance and promote the shag dance to the public sector.

Who are these Icons? Their names are many. They are male and female. They may lead



winning this award. However, many of the elected Icons have served their clubs faithfully, as well as serving the shag community with their efforts in



The Icon Award is earned through unselfish and diligent service. It is never presented for who you are or whom you may know. It is not a "who's who" award. Some Icons are good dancers, a few are very good dancers, but the majority are just basic shag dancers. Being a great dancer is not part of the



your club as an officer, or they may volunteer for the jobs that need to be done for the shag club to be successful. They chair committees, make phone calls and clean up after the party when everyone else has left. They take on the jobs that no one else wants



to do, and they do it with the club's best interest in mind. They are the part of your shag club's heart that pumps life into your club and club activities.



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requirement for being selected as an Icon.

The selection as an ICON is a distinguishing award for those who have faithfully served and performed for their local shag club, the ACSC / SOS organization, and promotion of our shag dance to others.

Charmed By The Dance

The Past & Our Future

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2005 Fall Migration

commemorative 25th year 14K Gold numbered charm. This charm not only celebrates 25 years of fun and lifelong friendships, but continues a strong bond between shaggers everywhere.

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Pendant/Chain - Men - \$400.00

14K Gold Charm - \$215.00

Sterling Silver

Key Ring - \$115.00

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Pendant/Chain -

Ladies - \$130.00

Men - \$140.00

Charm &


Bracelet - \$160.00

Shipping &

Handling - \$5.95

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The charms will be sold at the SOS Headquarters (located next to the OD Arcade & Lounge on Ocean Blvd.) during 2005 Fall Migration, and also can be purchased on SOS website.

"Seems Like Old Times"

Even though Butch and Sundance had run day and night and crossed several states, they weren't too concerned until they saw the hat. It was a white skimmer and that could only mean one person, Joe LaFores, the best lawman in the country.

As we made the last turn in the Spring Safari parade we saw the hat, but this time it was a black fedora with the brim turned up in the front.

This hat, too, could only mean one person. Jo Jo Putnam



was ambling down the street toward us. Now, I realize that Gene Sistare wears a similar hat but Gene is an Icon while Jo Jo is a living legend.

I introduced myself and told him that the last time I saw him was in Lake Wylie with two very young women on his arms. That was fifteen years ago. He thought for a moment, looked at the York Shag Club symbol on my shirt and finally said, "I remember that." He went on to say, "My old friend, One Lung is from York, does he come around anymore?"

I told him that Charles came to every meeting especially since we had awarded him a lifetime membership. Jo Jo went into deep thought again before saying, "Charles Blackwell was the first Jitterbug I ever saw. That was way back in 1949." With a little math I figured that One Lung was only 19 years old at the time. My brain just could not grasp that

image.

Jo Jo eased over to the motorcycle policeman who was helping with the parade and thrust both hands at him in submission, "Seems like old times," he said.

The 25th anniversary of SOS did seem like old times. There were characters that no one had seen in years. Even the business meeting was fun. It opened as usual with introductions and then the Icon awards were presented. Judy Vick, our ACSC chairman started reading an article by Phil Sawyer about how it all got started. It had something to do with a fellow named Swink Laughter. She was having trouble with the lighting and stumbled over several words. Finally, Ron Whisenant, the SOS president stepped up to the mic and said, "Why don't we let Swink tell it in his own words."



introduced himself and admitted that he was probably responsible for all of us being there. He told us how he and a friend had started talking about the old days and decided that they should throw a party and invite all the old lifeguards and beach bums to come. The problem was that they only knew most of them by nicknames. Names like One Lung, Hooper and so on. Swink knew a newspaper man in Charlotte who might be able to help. So they enlisted Kays Gary to get the word

out. Mr. Gary promised he would do all he could with one stipulation, it had to be an open party, not private.

With the party planned and a way to get to everyone they visited the Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Drive and were quickly told that it was a great day when they left back in the fiftys and that they were not wanted back. They got similar respect at all the local clubs. At the point of giving up they decided to have a drink at the Oak Tree Inn to drown their sorrows. As the two were discussing how things had gone wrong, a gentleman at the end of the bar interrupted them. He said that he could not help noticing Swink's friend's pants which had Snoopy and the Sopwith Camel all over them. He told them that if he could have those pants he thought he might be able to help them. Since the men were about the same size an agreement was made and they headed to the bathroom to exchange pants.

The man was the owner of the Oak Tree Inn and the party was back underway. They did not know whether to expect 30 people or 300, but they never expected the 5000 that showed up for the very first SOS way back in 1980.

The rest as they say is history, seems like old times. Swink, if you are reading this, thank you and contact me if you will. I would like to get the names and other information straightened out.

Mike Marr
marrshag@bellsouth.net

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Team Member Name & SOS Card #

A Fresh Perspective On What It Means To Be A Shagger

One summer day in July 2003, my wife and I went to a sports bar in Rock Hill and there happened to be a shag contest going on. We stuck around to watch and were amazed at what we saw and how friendly everyone was. After watching them for a while and hanging out with these very friendly folks we decided this was something we would like to do.

My wife and I have raised our kids and they have gone their different ways. We sat at home for a lot of years not going out. In the words of a very special lady I am honored to have known, "You and Carol had better find something you like to do together because your kids will grow up and leave you and you will look over at her and wonder who she is." Well, because of that summer evening in July 2003 we found out what it is we want to do together for the rest of our lives. SHAG!!

We talked to Tommy and Gail Davis and started taking shag lessons at Thursday 2 in Rock Hill. Tommy and Gail took Carol and me under their wing and spent a lot of time working on the basic step with us, introducing us to other shag club members who are our dearest friends. The folks in the shag world are the friendliest people in the world. Folks from all walks of life, from all over the US.

After shag lessons were over Carol and I joined the Rock Hill Shag Club where I have proudly served as Sergeant of

Arms last year and Treasurer this year. We have joined the Lake Wylie Shag Club as well and again have met the best people you could want to know. Friends for life.

After going to Checkers where Lake Wylie Shag Club meets, I was approached by a man who said he knew me. I said that I did not know him. To make a long story short, Dillon Kimbrell and I knew each other when we were eight or nine years old. We vowed not to lose contact again. Again, the best folks in the world.

Carol and I heard so much about SOS we decided we wanted to go. Carol called our sister-in-law, Sherrie Williams and asked her if she and her husband, Steve (Carol's brother) would like to go. To our surprise, Sherrie said "Stephen" wanted to go. She said they would not dance. This lasted until they got to the city limits sign. They were not there thirty minutes and they were on the dance floor. They had such a good time we have not missed a SOS since fall of 2003. When we got home that Sunday, Steve had our reservations for the next SOS before the end of the next week. He has done this spring, junior, fall and mid-winter since. He even has our agenda planned out for this SOS. We have named him our social director. I must be honest, Sherrie was our social director but Steve fired her.

Steve and Sherrie have taken numerous dance lessons since then and have joined three

shag clubs where he now serves as Treasurer for Lake Wylie. The most important thing of all is, not only are we relatives, but we've become best of friends. We enjoy the shag music, the dance and all the good people in the shag world we call family. All this was made possible because of shagging.

Jesse Boatwright
Rock Hill Shag Club

Important Upcoming Dates To Remember!

ACSC/SOS
SUMMER WORKSHOP
July 8-10, 2005

Junior SOS
July 15-17, 2005

SOS Fall Migration
September 16-25, 2005

Mid-Winter
January 12-15, 2006

ACSC/SOS
WINTER WORKSHOP
February 24-26, 2006

SOS Spring Safari
April 21-30, 2006

Hall Of Fame Foundation Benefit Extravaganza

Golf Tournament, Bands,
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Conley's House of Magic
Dei Sol
The Dragon
Dress My Call
Four Footed Friends
Instant Karma
Leather Outlet
Musical & Comedy Corner
Somewhere In Time Studio & Gallery
Waldenbooks

NIGHTLIFE

Dick's Last Resort
Fat Tuesday
House of Blues
Stool Pigeons Pub

TOYS

Anything Joe's
Bearfoot Dolls & Bears
Kid's Kites
Teddy Town
Toys & Co.

RESTAURANTS

The Crab House
Damon's Grill
Dick's Last Resort
Fat Tuesday
Fire Island Grille (opening summer 2005)
Greg Norman's Australian Grille
House of Blues
Joe's Crab Shack
Johnny Rockets
Juice Hut (seasonal kiosk)
Mud Boar Restaurant & Brewery
Stool Pigeons Pub
TBons Grill & Grill
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Umberto's
Yokoso Japanese Restaurant

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The Fudgery
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Peanut Shop of MB
River Street Sweets
Wee R. Sweets

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Tropical Reef



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UNDER THE FESTIVAL TENT AT BROOKGREEN GARDENS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Music of the Generations

Friday, September 30

FLAMENCO VIVO CARLOTA SANTANA
SPANISH DANCE COMPANY
7:30 p.m. ~ \$20



Flamenco Vivo
Carlota Santana

Saturday, October 1

BRANFORD MARSALIS,
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7 p.m. ~ \$40 & \$20



Branford Marsalis
World-Renowned Jazz Artist

Sunday, October 2

FICTION - IT'S A MYSTERY
2 p.m. ~ \$10

Friday, October 7

DANCE SOUNDS FROM THE FIFTIES
THE VELONS & THE ORIOLES
7:30 p.m. - TABLE EVENT ~ \$25 & \$15

Saturday, October 8

PAWLEYS ISLAND WINE FESTIVAL
7 p.m. ~ \$60

Sunday, October 9

MIAMI STRING QUARTET
4 p.m. ~ \$20



Miami String Quartet

Friday, October 14

BLUEGRASS AT BROOKGREEN
SHADY GROVE BAND
AND SOUNDS OF GRASS
7:30 p.m. ~ \$20



Jim Witter
"The Piano Men"

Saturday, October 15

JIM WITTER'S "THE PIANO MEN"
SONGS OF BILLY JOEL & ELTON JOHN
7:30 p.m. ~ \$30 & \$20

Sunday, October 16

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4 p.m. ~ \$10 Adult Tickets (Children FREE)



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A 1940s Musical & Dance Revue

Friday, October 21

IN THE MOOD - LIVE
7:30 p.m. ~ \$35 & \$20

Saturday, October 22

THE LONG BAY SYMPHONY
7 p.m. - TABLE EVENT ~ \$35 & \$20

Sunday, October 23

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4 p.m. ~ FREE

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"Coming Home With The Crabs" 2003



For those of you who did not go to 2005 Spring Safari SOS, you don't know what you missed! It was a busy time and a lot of fun meeting with old and new friends.

I was asked to write an article about the parade and the accomplishments of our club in entering a float for the past three years. After winning First Place in the "Best Shag Theme" category for three years in a row, I began to think about all the hard work the members put into these floats and all the fun and fellowship that we all had creating them.

When we started doing this, we met on Saturdays and Sundays at my home. Our goal was and still is to keep our

members involved and active and to make them feel a part of this team effort. After our first "surprising" win, we were like kids winning the race. After our 2nd win, it was like winning the lottery and now after our third straight win, I reflected back to what our goal was.

As I looked around on those Saturday and Sunday afternoons, at the team effort and support from our members who did not even take an active part, but still were there supporting all of us that were actively involved, I couldn't help but think, "they are great".

What I saw on that Saturday morning at the 2005 SOS Parade Day, was not about trophies or cash prizes, it was about our Club's effort and teamwork that made it worth while. I was so proud of their accomplishments. You see, we were winners because they cared for each other and the hard work and time made them very proud to be a part of the Burlington Shag Club. Thanks to ACSC/SOS for putting on this event. It has grown every year since I have been a part of it. Thanks to our Club for making this happen. For a little while, we were like kids again!

**Ronnie Gregory,
Burlington Shag
Club**



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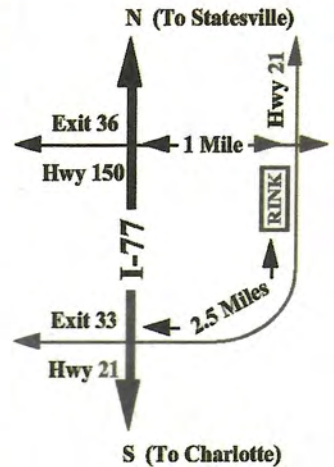
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