

 **S.O.S.**   
**Carefree Times**

The official publication of the  
Society of Stranders and Association of Carolina Shag Clubs

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...from Surfside, South Carolina

 **S.O.S.**   
**Carefree Times**

Box 4680, Columbia, SC 29209

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## Message From the Editor

The opinion page in the Spring Safari '98 edition of the *Carefree Times* entitled "Disco Sounds! Do They Fit in With the Shag?" was the first article to create a stir in quite some time.

I've heard that some people were very much against the stated opinions but that by far, those that have been heard to state an opinion were for it. They didn't all necessarily agree with the authors but agreed that they had the right to be heard.

We didn't feel that the opinions were political, and they certainly were not aimed at anyone in particular. They were just as advertised—opinions of three members of the dance community. I personally feel that a person is a genius when his or her opinion is the same as mine and not so smart when we differ!

We're sorry if we stepped on anyone's toes. But we honestly felt, and still do, that the music we dance to, the music we are all trying to preserve, is an important issue and worthy of discussion. Everyone has their own opinion on this and that, but we are all a part of the same dance community that loves its dance and music.

And remember that our publication can only be as interesting as you, our readers, make it. So we welcome your submissions of feature articles, short stories, pictures, humor, poetry, etc.

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Michael Payne, Editor

## "S.O.S. Carefree Times" Upcoming Deadlines

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## In This Issue . . .

The (Shagging) Information Age	3
A.C.S.C. / S.O.S. News	4
In Memory of Beth Mitchell	5
S.O.S. Gets Better and Better	6
Fall Migration: It's Perfect	7
Shagging Icon / President's Award	8
Ellen Taylor Reflects on the GNDC	9
Grand National Dance Championship	10
Spotlight on the Richmond Shag Club	12
It Might Happen at S.O.S.	14
The Fun Part of Summer	15
Spring Safari Parade pictures	16, 17
Event Planning Calendar & Details	18, 19
DeeJay Association News	20
Grand Nationals Final Results	21
Down Memory Lane	22
The Magic Dragon	23
The Humor Page (For Women Only)	27
More Humor (For Men, Too)	28
A Good DeeJay	29

## S.O.S. Carefree Times Summer Mail-out

Volume 4, Number 11, Summer 1998

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For the latest S.O.S. information,  
CALL TOLL FREE:  
1-888-SOS-3113

OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE:  
[www.shagdance.com](http://www.shagdance.com)

**E**ver since the first shaggers gathered for dancing fun and social interaction, there has always been a hunger for shag-related news and information.

Today, shag club mailboxes are constantly filled with newsletters and party flyers from other clubs. Many clubs have realized that putting these newsletters and flyers out for the members to see is a great way to increase attendance at club

a simple, hassle-free process that doesn't cost you a penny to use.

Your best source of shag information is the ACSC/SOS Internet web site, which you'll find at this address: [www.shagdance.com](http://www.shagdance.com). The name shagdance was chosen because it is very easy to remember and because it describes our favorite pastime (for those who don't know our definition of shagging).

Shagdance is the only official source of ACSC and SOS information on the web. Whether you are looking for the next shag club party or making future vacation plans, visit the shagdance site when you want updated, accurate information.

# THE (SHAGGING) INFORMATION AGE

*by Mike Rink*

meetings and functions. If you don't belong to a shag club or if your shag club does not share the newsletters and flyers with you, there is still hope.

Thanks to modern technology, everyone now has easy access to an enormous amount of shag information. The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC) and the Society of Stranders (SOS) maintain a 24-hour toll free number that provides some help. That number is 1-888-767-3113.

When you call the ACSC/SOS toll free number, you don't have to join an organization, provide personal data, or give someone your credit card number to get information. It is

As one of our Internet visitors noted, "After seeing three different dates for the next SOS on other web sites, I was glad I could get reliable information on shagdance."

In addition to upcoming SOS dates, you'll find Fun Monday details, a description of SOS membership benefits (and an application), and a lot more about SOS on shagdance. There are even photos from SOS and the Spring SOS Parade.

Shagdance is also the best source of information about local shag clubs and their events. The site is updated almost daily with direct input from these clubs. There are two complete listings of shag clubs on the site—one sorted by club name and one sorted by city. This makes it convenient if you are looking for a particular club or if you are trying to find out if there is a shag club nearby. Since both listings include club presidents' names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses, it is incredibly easy

to contact any shag club from the shagdance site.

There is a huge listing of shag club parties on shagdance. Typical party listings include when and where each party is located, ticket prices, deejay names, motel information, a contact phone number, and other party details.

On shagdance you will also find a direct link to someone actually in the club who is hosting each event. So if you send e-mail to ask a question or request a party flyer, your message is handled directly by the host shag club, not some outside person or other organization.

The site also contains a listing of The Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays. If you need someone to play music for your shag event, check out the listing of deejays on shagdance. Deejay addresses, phone numbers, and even direct e-mail links are included for your convenience.

Letters and input received from our visitors as well as other items of interest and fun are also posted on shagdance. Your submissions are needed. If you have photos, an article, or just a shag-related memory you can share, please do. Jokes and other fun or interesting items are also appreciated. Send us something to one of the following addresses:

## WEB INFORMATION

17219 Jetton Road  
Cornelius, NC 28031

## OR E-MAIL:

[mikesmail@mindspring.com](mailto:mikesmail@mindspring.com)

As with the toll-free number, the shagdance web site is provided to you as a free service to enhance your shagging experience. It makes no difference who or where you are—if you can get on the Internet, you can visit shagdance. When you want your information to be complete, accurate, and easy to access, this is the place to go. It's fun, too!

TIP: If you use Netscape, Internet Explorer, America Online, or some

(Continued on Pg. 26)

## Three years of 'love equity' soon to end

*A message from Ron Whisenant, Retired Chairman, Association of Carolina Shag Clubs*



**B**y the time you receive this *Carefree Times* issue, my term as Chairman of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs will be coming to an end.

It has been three short years of "love equity" in an organization that is very dear to me. I have met and become acquainted with some of the

best people in the whole wide Shagworld who love the same things in life that I have grown to hold dear to the heart.

The friends, the new relationships, the dance, and the music have become a part of me that will last forever.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve each of you shagging friends during my three years. It wasn't always easy to make the hard decisions, fix the problems, handle the disgruntled, and try to make everyone feel that they were treated fairly. But it was my desire to accomplish all of those things.

The end result is that the ACSC has continued to sustain itself through new growth and will continue as long as we nurture and promote our dance and music and support our newly elected officers.

How about that parade? Was that awesome or what? It just keeps getting better and better and better. Thank you, shag clubs—you put forth the efforts and expense to put a float in "your parade."

You are the reason that this was

the best parade ever. And you will be the reason that it will be even better next spring.

You have my gratitude and thanks for the fine effort. A special thank you, Don David, for a job well done. You and your staff did a super job. I am sure that you can probably get the job again next year if you want it. The "hot pink" hats were outstanding. Congratulations to all of the winners.

S.O.S. was great. What else can you say? It doesn't get any better than this, does it?

It took my dogs weeks to get over the dancin' and migratin' that ole Peg and I did. It's getting harder and harder to drag her from place to place, especially after it gets late and she's got her snoot full. She loves to party ... what can I say?

I look forward to the next time that I get to see you and party with my friends. Until then, God bless you and keep you safe.

I love y'all. — Ron

P.S. My E-mail address is: [rwhisen686@aol.com](mailto:rwhisen686@aol.com).

## Hurricane Watch — Know What to Expect

— by Phil Sawyer

The dates for the Fall Migration, September 18 through 27, put our favorite party right smack in the middle of the hurricane season. This is something we have to live with.

There is a chance that there will be a tropical storm—or worse, a full blown hurricane in the Atlantic during the immediate days before or during our beloved event. So, what will we do, and how will we advise our members?

Even with all of the advances of Doppler Weather Radar, storms are not 100% predictable. Anything can happen! However, with your local hurricane advisories on television and radio, you will have the same

information we have.

First of all, we are not going to do anything stupid. If there is any danger, the event will be delayed or rescheduled. If, heaven forbid, there should be widespread damage in North Myrtle Beach, the Fall Migration will be canceled.

However, there is one simple rule that everyone should know immediately and understand. If the structures in North Myrtle Beach are still standing; if the Governor has not evacuated the area; if there is power and water available; if the motels, condos, and clubs are open; then the Fall Migration will go on.

All of us should remember that the cancellation of Fall Migration

could cause about as much economic damage as a brushing hurricane. So the best rule of thumb is this: if the beach is there, we'll be there.

Also, we have our toll free number, 888-767-3113, and our web site, [www.shagdance.com](http://www.shagdance.com). So if you have any doubt about what is going on, check one of these out. The latest information will be available.

Remember, S.O.S. will be rescheduled or canceled only in the most damaging of circumstances.

Join me at S.O.S., and we'll drink a toast and pay our respects to forces of nature that are far more powerful than anything humans can create on this little planet of ours—the third rock from the sun.

## ☞ In Memory of Beth Mitchell ☞

*"A bright, beautiful star ... a true shag angel"*

— by Susan Harrell

Beth was killed in the tornado that struck Stoneville, North Carolina on March 20, 1998. Beth was driving her brand new car, which she'd only had for one week. Along with her was her mother Nancy Lee and her cute little poodle Onyx, when the tornado flung her car into the side of a building, killing Beth and severely injuring Nancy Lee.

Some of you may not have known Beth. She was a very beautiful dark brown-haired ball of fire. She had a grin on her face all the time, her eyes always bright, even at 4:00 in the morning when we all would go to eat breakfast after a contest.

Laughing every time Brad would mess up practicing a step, she even laughed when she messed up. I will miss her saying, "You go, girl!" when Kevin and I come off the dance floor at contests.

I can't say I have ever heard of anyone having so many people come to visitation as I saw at Beth's. My best guesstimation would be around 500 people. Standing in line, I saw fellow shaggers from four states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia.

Juniors, Novice, Pro, and Masters Division dancers came to pay their respects to Beth's family and to help each other through such a terrible tragedy.

Beth and her dance partner Brad Kinard had just two weeks earlier won First Place in the Non-Pro Division of the National Shag Dance Competition in Myrtle Beach.

She had worked hard for many years to achieve her goal of being the champion in the Nationals. The excitement on Beth's and Brad's faces when their names were called will never be forgotten.

Each contest we go to from now on will be missing something—a bright and beautiful star, Beth Mitchell. Never to be forgotten and always in our minds and hearts, your fellow shaggers love you and miss you, Beth.

Beth's mother Nancy Lee is at home now recovering from her injuries with the help of her loving family. While at the hospital, we asked her if there was anything we could do for her, and prayers were all she wanted. Please keep her in your prayers, as she has a broken heart to heal that surely will take a long, long time. Beth was not only her daughter but her best friend.

Little Onyx escaped without injury and is also at home helping Nancy Lee recover.

*Susan Harrell is a member of the Burlington Shag Club. This article was first published in the "Shag Rag" 4/98.*

## The Beth Mitchell Memorial Scholarship

— from Barry Thigpen, Chairman,  
National Shag Dance Championships

Dear Shaggers,

In memory of our 1998 National Non-Pro Champion, the National Shag Dance Championships Board of Directors has established the Beth Mitchell Memorial Scholarship to assist in the education of worthy college students.

The board is setting it up in order for all contributions to be tax free. This is being done by the accounting firm of Smith, Sapp, Bookhout, Crumpler and Calliham and the law firm of DuRant and Martin, both of Myrtle Beach.

The goal of the fundraising activity will be to acquire enough

principle that the interest will pay for the scholarship annually. This will take a considerable fundraising effort but a very attainable one!

The Nationals will purchase a plaque for display that will name the:

**Benefactors (\$1000+)**

**Patrons (\$500+)**

**Beth's Angels (\$100+)**

The scholarship committee will include Mr. and Mrs. Worth Mitchell, Beth's parents. Eligibility requirements are in the process of being finalized.

We encourage shag clubs, individuals, businesses, and families to mail contributions today to this lasting memorial for a true shag angel.

The Nationals has pledged \$1000 for additional accounting and attorney fees plus a \$1000 contribution to the fund.

The 1997-98 National Shag Team contributed \$1000 from their S.O.S. Grand Nationals First Place win. The Danville Shag Club has donated \$1000; plus we have already received other contributions, large and small.

Please become a part of this worthy endeavor!

Mail to and make checks to:

**Beth Mitchell  
Memorial Scholarship**

Box 6767

Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

# S.O.S. Gets Better and Better

—by Leon Swartz

**H**ow do I describe a great time, a great party, and great friendships? We had such a wonderful time at Spring Safari '98 that we really didn't want it to end.

We got to dance with a lot of our shaggin' friends, some we won't get to see until Fall SOS. I hope that the Lord will watch over them and keep them healthy so they will be back in September.

Kathy and I got to dance with the Prince (as she calls him) and the Princess of the shag world—Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee. Jackie's smile energized the Arcade. She had me so intoxicated I forgot to try a pivot with her. That's okay though ... Fall is coming, and it will give me more time to practice.

I also got to dance with the Queen of Shag, voted the one that everyone wanted to have as a shag partner, the one and only Ellen Taylor. She is a true lady that enjoys meeting and dancing with people, no matter how much shagging experience they have.

Dancing with her makes you feel as though nothing matters but being on the dance floor and having a great time. I have watched her and her husband dance. It just takes your breath away. They just float across the floor as if they were one.

The parade was a great success, too. There were floats, cars, music, and our own huge semi-tractor trailer with hand-built dance floor. We had our own deejay booth, with one of the top deejays playing, while (the ever-ready shaggers) Roland Hale and Pat Metcalf danced with Elizabeth Spurlin and Lee Cavin. Gosh that was such a good time.

The personality of the people at SOS seems to change into an emotion of enthusiasm and happiness. They are having a great time and sincerely hoping that you are having one, too.

The fellowship makes you want to stay longer or at least be one of the first to come back to the next SOS. Isn't this what it is all about?

Good times + good friends + great memories = SOS.

*Leon Swartz is a member of the Twister's Shag Club.*

Several Spring Safari '98 visitors sent e-mail to the S.O.S. web site ([www.shagdance.com](http://www.shagdance.com)). For those of you without access to the Internet, here is what some of them had to say ...

"Being from Goldsboro, NC, Ricky and I have been shagging for a long time. But since we now live in South Florida, we don't get to hear very much shagging music (just an occasional oldie) and we had missed it terribly.

Winding down a vacation recently, we headed for Myrtle Beach to spend the night in hopes of finding a place to get a shag fix. Little did we know that Spring Safari was in full swing! Heck, little did we know that Spring Safari existed!

We found out just how rusty we were, too. Some of the shaggers are so very, very good! But we were not intimidated. We just have to practice, that's all. And the music—it's been weeks now and I still walk around here singing *Shakin' the Shack!* The night turned into a weekend, and we came home with our S.O.S. badges and plans to mark our calendar for the Fall Migration.

What a party and what a great bunch of people. I could just go on and on. The excitement remains."

—Frances Ward

"I had a wonderful time at Spring S.O.S. I now live in Myrtle Beach, and I look forward to seeing all my friends from the Aiken/Augusta

areas from where I migrated. I am looking forward to the Fall and everything in between ..."

—Audrey Crosby

"We attended the first part of SOS this year which was a little different for us. We met four of our friends at OD and had a blast. It amazes us that each time gets better and better—even when you think you've had all the fun!" —Wally and Betty Jo Hall, Greenwood Shag Club

"Just wanted to let you know I had a ball at my first S.O.S.! My friend and I went down Friday morning and came back Monday afternoon. Believe me, coming back to reality was not fun! We met a lot of nice folks and listened to some fine beach music. Everyone was friendly and encouraging to this beginning shagger." —Becky Boykin, Aiken, SC

"We had a ball at S.O.S. I know for sure I'll have "shagger's feet" in about 30 days. The crowds were great; the parade was the best ever; the deejays, music, and dancing were everything one could hope for ... S.O.S. was a fabulous party! I hope to repeat the experience in September!" —Vicki Perry, OD Shag Club

"The S.O.S. Spring Safari was our first shagger's gathering, but you can bet it won't be our last. We had a wonderful time and met some of the nicest people. Every time we had a question, someone was able to answer it. We had never seen such fancy shag dancing and are still in disbelief on some of it.

We are from Charleston, WV and are just starting a shag club here. Hopefully, in the years to come, our club will be able to make as good a showing as some of the ones we saw this past week. Thank you for putting together such a nice group of people to party with. See you in the Fall." —Reba Mitchell

## Fall Migration ... "If it's perfect, don't mess with it" — by Jim Dean

Fall Migration comes at just the right time of the year—in the fall! See, the great thing is that the beach doesn't know that it's fall. It thinks that summer is still here. You know, the sun shines, the moon glows, and all is right with the world.

So let me tell you why you should never miss this second helping of S.O.S., that easily gets better year in and year out.

Close your eyes! Take a deep breath! Open your heart! The song was definitely written by someone after a trip to Ocean Drive for Fall Migration.

What's the first thing you do when you hit the beach? Make a mad dash for the water just to get your toes wet. Or some people are so thirsty after that long sojourn that a pitcher of "tea" of the Long Island variety is required. Everyone, I suppose, has their own method of quenching a thirst or two.

Last year at Fall Migration '97, some people got to OD before Linda and I did but only by a day or two. Sunday was a travel day, then unloading and some supper, and I made the rounds of the clubs that night alone while Linda rested.

Monday was Fun Day at S.O.S., and the two-block area from Ocean Boulevard to Hillside Drive on Main Street was set aside for live entertainment provided by The Roadrunners, Kip Anderson, and a group known as Little Isadora and the Inquisitors with Little Leopold and Little Philamina.

Little was known about this group until they launched into *Harlem Hit Parade* and followed this with *So Fine* and *Give It Up*. This group came to us straight from the beach music capitol of the north—better known as Brooklyn. It just goes to show that beach music has

origins in places you would never suspect. Their CD was one of the hottest items at Judy's House of Oldies.

The party in the street lasted from 1:00 until around 6:00 pm; and by the time the sun set, Jim Wooten's feet were as hot as a sunburn from dancing on the asphalt.

As an extra added attraction, Microwave Dave and the Nukes entertained us with a live version of *Beep, Beep*. (I always wondered how he got that sound out of the guitar.) It's still a great record!

Let me congratulate the WSSC's entry into the beauty contest that was held to open the festivities on Fun Day. Although "she" finished an extremely close second to the winner, 'Amy' Elvis will always be Number One in our hearts and on our program.

Tuesday was a night to remember (if only I could!). After an afternoon nap, we ventured out to the clubs around 9:30 pm and proceeded to party until the wee hours of the morning. It was a new world record, because we wore out Murl Augustine at the OD Arcade and Lounge and were turned away at the Boulevard Grill. The Barrel was closed down, and the Pirate's Cove had turned off the lights.

I know what you're thinking, though—it was early in the week and the real party animals hadn't arrived as yet. But for now, it is a record that will stand until the next S.O.S. and then some well-trained partiers will give it their all to push the boundaries of partying to the limit ... one more time.

On Thursday the Barrel provided the entertainment on its patio overlooking Ocean Boulevard. The One and Only Elvis gave a show that ended all shows. This intrepid entertainer serenaded the appreciative

audience with every musical offering ever recorded by the man from Tupelo, Mississippi.

On Thursday night, with the clubs crowded and hot, the one cool spot on that hot September night belonged to the OD Pavilion. The Pavilion, as they advertise, is where it all began. I can believe that! Doctor John Hook, Randy Rowland, Bo Lee, and Jim Bowers preside there, and the music is alternately as hot as the daytime ocean breeze and as cool as ocean water.

Our group sat on the railing looking out over the dark ocean and kept it cool. We shagged on the cement in the cool breeze, practiced new steps, line danced, and listened to Jim Bowers. Clifford Curry stopped by. The hour grew late; the full moon climbed higher in the midnight sky; the ocean rolled in ... perfection!

On Friday the WSSC hosted a party in conjunction with the Burlington, Danville, Greater Triad, and Eno Beach shag clubs. Joanne Johnson presided in the deejay booth.

You know, I used to think that nighttime and partying were inseparable. But as the Migration went on, I discovered that you can begin to party earlier and earlier in the glare of the afternoon sunlight with no ill effects.

By 3:30 pm, the inside of the Barrel began to look like midnight at the Oasis. Linda and I, already packed, left the revelry and merriment and headed inland. The party went on. We left it in good hands ... and feet.

*Jim Dean is a member of the Winston-Salem Shag Club.*

**WARNING — WARNING — WARNING**  
The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta announced today that the President has proven that you CAN get sex from aides.

## "The Chairman's Lifetime Achievement Award" Winners

### Shad and Brenda Alberty

Shad and Brenda Alberty were largely responsible for the resurgence of the shag through their organization of and participation in shag contests in the late 1970's. They were not only "Masters of the Dance" they were also excellent teachers who introduced thousands of new people to the shag experience. Shad Alberty passed away in February 1996, but lives on today through his contributions to the shag.

### Bob Wood

Bob Wood has left his mark on the shag through his unselfish dedication of his time and efforts as president of the North Atlanta Shag Club, Chairman of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs, and Chairman of SOS. Through his leadership ability and total dedication to these organizations, he provided a driving force that affected each positively. Bob was also instrumental in helping make the dream of the SOS Grand Nationals a reality.

### Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee

Charlie and Jackie are household names not only in the shag world, but through out the fastdancing society. They are 9-time National Shag Dance Champions, Members of the Shagging Hall of Fame, Shag Dance "Couple of the Decade", US Open Team Champions, US Open Swing Dance Champions, 3-time Feather Award Winners, 11 years undefeated on the Pro Shag Circuit, and producers of the SOS Grand Nationals. They introduced the shag to the west and other areas of the country. Their influence has certainly been felt.

### ...About this Award

These awards were presented to these fine representatives by Ron Whisenant, Chairman of the ACSC, for their extraordinary contributions in the preservation and promotion of the Carolina Shag. The presentations were made during Spring Safari '98, in North Myrtle Beach, SC.

## 1998 Shagging Icon Award Inductee

### Earl Robinson



- Instrumental in founding the Richmond Shag Club.
- Board of Directors, Richmond Shag Club, 1986-1989
- Inducted Virginia Hall of Fame, 1987
- Member Virginia Living Legends
- Shag Instructor

Earl, a former bopper who began dancing at the age of 12, fell in love with the shag in the late 1980's and, in an area consisting primarily of boppers, decided to form a shag club. He first had to convince others that such a club would be worthwhile. After persuading a local club owner to open his club to shaggers two nights a week, Earl and eight other volunteers formed the Richmond Shag Club. He spent his own money purchasing the music that shaggers like, so the club would have the best music. He went to SOS and returned determined to convert others to the shag.

He began teaching, started the free dance lessons, and brought in outside instructors for the Richmond Shag Club.

Earl's students have won the Rocky Mount Shaggers Cup for the past three years and he continues to promote the shag by teaching and competing as a member of the Competitive Shaggers Association. He says that he has not regretted switching from bop to shag for one minute.



## Ellen Taylor reflects on the GNDC

When Michael asked if I would write an article about the Grand Nationals in Atlanta from a shagger's point of view, my first thought was, "How can I possibly describe how exciting this event is for me and really do it justice?"

My next thought was, "What can I say to convince skeptics who fear that combining the two dance worlds is ruining the shag—that in truth, the shag is already part of the swing world and has been since the seed was planted long before any of us were dancing?"

I thought about Billy and Wanda Jeffers having the time of their lives dancing with everyone at the event. I also remembered seeing Billy and Betty Lou Parrot at one of the Hall of Fame inductions at the Old Sand Flea on Rutherford Road in Greenville doing the "original" shag as it was taught by the Master of Swing, Arthur Murray, in the early '40s.

It was dancers like Billy and Wanda who took the original shag, the jitterbug, and other dances of their day and smoothed them out, calling it fast dancing. It later became known as the shag as we know it today.

Now, to the event. Wendy, Carolyn, and I arrived in Atlanta on Wednesday for some leisure time together before the event began. We arrived at the beautiful Renaissance Waverly Hotel and were greeted by the same bellmen that have been there since the first event in 1995. One of the bellmen in particular remembered us and even remembered our names, which was quite surprising. It was evident that they were pleased that it was time for the event again and were looking forward to seeing the dancers and hearing the music.

On Thursday the dancers began to arrive, and by evening everyone was primed and ready to dance. The early bird party began about 8 pm, and it wasn't but just a few minutes

before the floor was filled with dancers from all over the country.

Shaggers and swing dancers were mixing and loving it. They were doing what is now appropriately called "the schwag." What is so great about this is that it really works. It is simply a "lead/follow" just like it should be in any other dance.

The heat in the room was unbearable that particular evening; but after attending so many hot S.O.S.'s, you learn to endure anything when you truly want to dance. Even the heat was not going to bring this party to an end until the wee hours of the morning, and most hung in there until the music stopped playing.

This was just a taste of what was to come during the next few days. We all knew it was going to get even better.

The rest of the dancers began to arrive early on Friday. By lunchtime, most had checked in and were ready to socialize, go to workshops and meetings, or just relax.

There was a great hospitality party hosted by the ShagAtlanta group, and it was wonderful. These are a great group of people to get to know if you haven't already become acquainted with them. The remainder of early evening was spent resting and getting ready for another night of dancing and competition.

Competition is not for everyone, but here the competition is so varied that it is more entertainment than anything else. This event showcases the most talented dancers and performers in the country.

The Cabaret Division, which is one of my favorites (if I could say I have a favorite), is much like attending a Broadway show. Many of these competitors have performed on the Broadway stages in the past and many will in the future.

There were spotlight dances throughout the event, which featured some of the most beautiful dancing you could see anywhere.



Ellen Taylor

Barry Durand and Lisa Austin's performances were indescribable. One of the most memorable was when they were joined by two very young dancers in a rendition of *Butterfly Kisses*. If you have never heard the song, you must get a copy.

How can I mention exhibitions without mentioning Tom Cochran's top hat performance and the exciting dances of Michael and Mari Keim? You would have had to be there. I believe someone told me that Tom had an audition for a part in a Broadway show when he returned to New York. I hope he got it.

The junior shag and swing dancers are always phenomenal and just seem to get better and better every year. They are so exciting to watch, and they bring an energy and excitement to the dance that I will not even attempt to describe. Each year these divisions produce more talent than the year before and become two of the most competitive divisions there are.

These are a great group of young people who interact with each other so beautifully. Many of them keep in touch and have become good friends. Don't be surprised if you hear that many of them were at the Junior S.O.S.

They are doing what so many of us say is our motto: "Our goal is to preserve the shag." They are sharing this dance with these other young

(Continued on Pg. 14)

The S.O.S. Grand National Dance Championship was held on May 21 - 25 in Atlanta, Georgia at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel. Here are the results in the three shagging divisions of the competition and the scholarship award winners.

### 1998 Grand National Masters Division Winners



**First Place Winners**  
John and Pee Wee Teel, Raleigh, NC



**Second Place Winners**  
Norfleet Jones and Sheila Bodie  
N. Myrtle Beach, SC and Columbia, SC

**Third Place Winners**  
Bob Myrick and Ellen Taylor  
Durham, NC and Edisto Beach, SC

### 1998 Grand National Carolina Classic Division Winners



**First Place Winners**  
Sam West and Sarah West  
Hamlet, NC



**Second Place** — Brad Kinard and Jennifer Beaver, Clinton, SC & Statesville, NC

**Third Place** — William Green and Angie Powell, Greenville, NC & Los Angeles, CA

**Fourth Place** — Rod Hagar and Shea Carver, Cornelius, SC & Mt. Holly, NC

**Fifth Place** — Jimmy and Cameron Caruso, Charleston, SC

**Sixth Place** — Bill and Brenda Barber  
Surfside, SC

# 1998 Grand National Junior Shag Division Winners



**First Place Winners**  
Norman Aldredge and Lisa Melton  
Fayetteville, NC and Wilmington, NC

**Second Place Winners -**  
Grayson Smith and Jessica McAlhany  
Marion, SC and Mt. Pleasant, SC

**Third Place Winners**  
Michael Norris and LeAnn Best  
Tarboro, NC and Clinton, NC

## 1998 Sandy Coley Scholarship Award Winner



**Nikki Kontoulas**  
shown with benefactors, Jim Coley  
and daughter, and Wendy Shore

## 1998 Dewey Kennedy Scholarship Award Winner



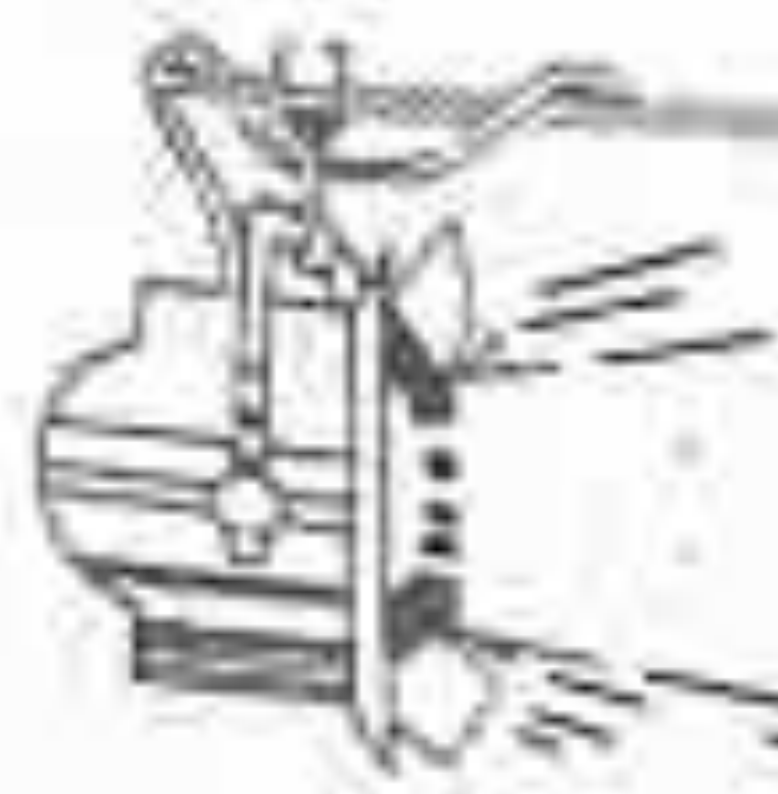
**LeAnn Best, Clinton, NC**  
shown with benefactor Norfleet Jones  
with Jackie McGee

## The 1998 S.O.S. Grand Nationals Deejays

Butch Metgalf, High Point, NC  
Terry Ellis, Wilmington, NC

Tom Hamrick, Atlanta, GA  
Judy Collins, N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Larry Edwards, Atlanta, GA  
John Festa, New York, NY



Spotlight on the ...

## Richmond Shag Club



by Steve Booth

*It all starts like this: You decide that you want to learn a certain dance endemic to the Southeast—especially the beach areas—called the shag. A friend tells you she's heard you can take free lessons at a place called Razzles.*

*As a bonus, you can meet some new faces. So you get your nerve together and walk in on a Thursday night at 7:00, take the first lesson, and you're invited to return on Tuesdays at 8:00.*

*At this point, you see people shagging to old and new R&B and beach music and that they are members of the Richmond Shag Club, part of a larger subculture of dancing and partying you never knew existed. Following, then, is a history of the Richmond Shag Club.*

During April 1984, S.O.S., Earl Robinson (Richmond bopper extraordinaire), Gene "Swink" Laughter (Richmond, ex-OD lifeguard, S.O.S. founder), and Fran Bingley (co-founder of the Virginia Beach Shag Club, precursor Tidewater Shag Club) were chatting at one of the OD clubs about the growing "critical mass" of boppers and neophyte shaggers converging in the same clubs in Richmond.

The idea was batted around about starting a shag club in Richmond. The conversation continued at Fall '84 S.O.S.

In 1985 Earl began talking to friend and DJ's Lounge club owner Angelo Miliotis about a home base for such a club. At first skeptical, Angelo agreed to give a night to this faithful group. With the motivation and leadership of Earl and the patronage of Angelo, the core of this growing group of emerging shaggers formed the Board of Directors of the Richmond Shag Club on November 5, 1986.

Our first president was Trudy Bass; Angelo was the vice-president; Shirley Gough, secretary; Pat Henson, treasurer; Lois Loving, assistant secretary; and at-large Board members Earl Robinson, Ralph Harris,

David Rackley, Margaret Elam, and Ron Anderson. These people were the founders of the Richmond Shag Club.

Trudy Bass arranged for non-profit incorporation of the club as well as drawing up our charter. Meanwhile, Earl Robinson and Pat Henson assumed the role of co-chairs of the Dance Committee.

Rapidly developing and perfecting basic shag techniques, as taught by Jackie McGee and Charlie Womble, Pat and Earl became the first instructors for the RSC. Most of the best shaggers in Richmond—including Larry and Shirley Jones, our resident pro shaggers—were taught by Pat and Earl. Sunday afternoon lessons were instantly popular and fueled the rapid early growth of RSC.

Many of our traditions began in 1987, the first full year of our existence: the club charity (Camp Kemo, then permanently Camp Fantastic), free weekly beginner lessons, and the use of DJ's Lounge as our home base.

The driving force of solid R&B music and the appeal of the shag lifestyle resulted in a phenomenal membership increase. The vision and labors of the founders and early members of the RSC should not be forgotten or underestimated. Among the new arrivals were Norris and Irma Cross, who figured prominently, as we will later find out, in elevating the profile of the RSC.

Our first official deejay was Blay Holland, who worked the pitched-speed turntables until 1989. The year 1987 also saw our acceptance into the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs; at that time, we were the northernmost club.

The popularity of the club resulted in continued membership gains, to the point that the RSC now

had two nights at DJ's. Shagging styles were becoming dominant over bop (but not, however, to its exclusion!), and S.O.S. style music was taking over beach music as the rhythmic force from the deejay cage.

As the RSC became immersed in shag culture, plans were discussed in early 1989 to throw a weekend, replete with ACSC-style free pour, guest pro dancers, and out-of-town guest deejays. With membership at 600, it was time for the RSC to come of age.

Irma Cross took over organizing and staging our first party, the RSC Birthday Bash, in October 1989. It was a howling success, and Irma continued organizing these parties through 1993. This truly integrated the RSC into the ACSC circuit.

Len Thompson, 1988's president, guided the club through its second year of strong growth, helping to establish the RSC as a major social force in Richmond's nightlife among serious boppers, developing shaggers, and fast dancers, as well as people who simply enjoyed the authentic R&B music and the cordial atmosphere pervading the whole scene.

Pat Henson, meanwhile, was taking her job of Dance Committee co-chair seriously, bringing in such top pedagogues as Susie Beaver, Judy Duke, and Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee to Richmond for workshops and lessons.

Founding Board member Shirley Gough took over the presidency in 1989, while Cliff Merritt began his first stint as club deejay. A blues and R&B fanatic, Cliff helped establish true shag/S.O.S. style music within the club. Shirley's early involvement in ACSC activities, as well as the growing popularity of our fall Birthday Bash throwdowns, solidified RSC's position as the northern

anchor for the ACSC. Meanwhile, the S.O.S. phenomenon was creating a Mecca for Richmond shaggers; the network was being established with our brothers and sisters in the great Southeast.

The year 1991 brought a change in deejays for the club. Cliff Merritt had taken the slot at Visions Beach Club. Norris Cross, who had been working with Cliff with increasing frequency in the deejay cage, took over this critical position on short notice.

He was also voted in as president. Rapidly assembling a solid collection of shag and blues music, Norris was reelected for a second term in 1992 and continued as club deejay through October 1994, when the club moved with Angelo (and sons Sam and Spyl) to our current home, Razzles.

The initial burst of growth during the first two years of the club's existence leveled through '92, and the club was running smoothly with Pat and Earl providing continuity in instruction, Irma Cross fine tuning the Bash, and Shirley Gough as the liaison with the ACSC and S.O.S. Of course, Angelo continued as our accommodating host.

The year 1993 was a transitional one for our club. While we still had deejays for beginner dance lessons and our incomparable music, membership fell sharply. Part of the problem was security concerns in the area of DJ's, and part of it was cyclical as the newness wore off.

A solid core of shaggers and boppers continued to enjoy and promote shagging and its lifestyle. By this time the Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame had been established, and the RSC touted three members: Earl Robinson, Pat Henson (original American Bandstand bopper!), and Shirley Gough, who had reassumed presidency in 1993.

By 1993 the level of expertise in pure Carolina shag within the club had risen substantially—enough, in fact, to spawn competitive dancers. Larry and Shirley Jones had been

dancing together since 1991. In '92 they had begun teaching privately as well as group lessons. About midway through '93, they made the commitment to go competitive with the Competitive Shaggers Association (CSA).

Larry assumed the presidency of RSC in 1994, with Shirley being elected vice-president. In spite of their hectic dancing schedule, Larry, with the support of a new and energetic board, decided to reverse the declining attendance and membership of the club. As the new co-chairs of the Dance Committee, Larry and Shirley took over lessons, providing a smooth segue from Earl and Pat.

The board approved aggressive print and radio advertising. Membership had bottomed out at 271 during 1993, but a new enthusiasm took hold. New leadership was bringing in large dance classes; the anticipated move to Razzles at Governor's Inn brought a sigh of relief.

The interclub competition at Club Image in Rocky Mount, NC (the first Shagger's Cup) in 1994 created a fresh attitude. This competition begat the RSC's ad hoc dance team: The Pistoleros, who stunned the Carolina clubs' teams with precision and esprit de corps.

Membership and spirits began soaring again as the RSC board began planning its new annual party, the Shag Splash, an August affair held at DJ's Lounge with guest dancers and top ABSC deejays. The success of this event set us up for the transition to Razzles and a change of club night to Tuesdays. Angelo brought Cliff Merritt back in as club deejay.

With record attendance at the Christmas banquet, the Shagger's Cup victory, the induction of our Billy Faris into the Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame, and the Shag Splash under our belts, the RSC was poised for a sustained rally in '95.

Continuity of leadership under Larry Jones and a virtually intact board made for a strong year in

1995. Growing dance classes, a terrific and safe venue, the loyalty of Angelo, Sam, and Spyl, and holding onto the Shagger's Cup made for an exciting year.

The Joneses maintained a high profile (and grueling schedule) with CSA dancing, rapidly approaching Novice (middle) level. The Pistoleros again swept away the Shagger's Cup with a large RSC contingent on hand at Club Image.

The Shag Splash made its 1995 appearance at the Petersburg Ramada with a 1200-square-foot RSC-built dance floor and Judy Duke as guest star. We grand slammed '95 with a membership count of 589 and Angelo's finest Christmas banquet yet!

The year 1996 ushered in a new president, Dewain Hammond, and a new board. Dance classes continued on Wednesday nights for beginners and Tuesday nights for intermediates. Members of the Dance Committee taught on a rotating schedule.

By now, the RSC was completely integrated into ACSC activities through massive (and fanatical) attendance at S.O.S., ACSC leadership through Shirley Gough and the Joneses, interclub competitions, and Earl Robinson and Bev Jones' entry into CSA competition.

As early as '94, we had "aided and abetted" a contingent of Northern Virginia Shaggers—with their fearless leader Rick Hendrix—in getting established as a club and with the ACSC. They have been some of our most loyal supporters in return.

While the club did not have a Shag Splash event in '96, October saw the Acorn Ball party, complete with Big Otis' Saturday Night Fish Fry. Support from our Northern Virginia Shag Club friends helped make for a memorable evening.

For the third consecutive year, The Pistoleros took the Shagger's Cup and another interclub trophy at the Club Faces Open Shag Classic in Dunn, NC. Earl and Bev advanced

(Continued on Pg. 26)

## It Might Happen at S.O.S.

by Doug Honeycutt

Unusual situations frequently occur at S.O.S. If one spends any length of time at S.O.S., one might experience some incidents or occurrences similar to these:

➤ One might see several hundred mostly over-40 adults packed into a room that was constructed to comfortably hold about 75 people and having the time of their lives.

➤ One might see the prettiest 21-year-old shagger on the beach dancing with a 92-year-old elder statesman of shag.

➤ One might notice that the club deejays have the music volume 20 decibels above the normal threshold of pain.

➤ One might be so anxious to get to the beach that he was willing to sleep in the "kathouse" until his motel room was ready.

➤ One's bar bill might migrate far into three digits.

➤ A once sociable dance floor might turn into a war zone.

➤ One's eyes might burn badly from a combination of cigarette smoke and lack of sleep.

➤ The alcohol buzz one might have had might begin to disappear and a hangover headache might develop which might be in addition to the three other headaches one might have cultivated earlier in the week and had yet to cure.

➤ The Arcade dust might completely cover one's loafers and be halfway up to the knees of one's new trousers.

➤ One might hear the *Charleston* at least 22 times in four days.

➤ Someone might provide a large container of specially prepared, very potent fruit and store it in an easily accessible location.

➤ A drunk you don't know might spill beer on you twice in less than 15 minutes.

➤ One's left big toe might be painfully throbbing because some Sumo wrestling, non-shagging female stepped on it.

➤ One might not be able to hear the attractive lady who is talking because one might be surrounded by 35 otherwise sane adults who are screaming something about a big top hat and going South while pointing to the North, East and West.

➤ A fellow shagger might spray his normally black hair red as a joke.

➤ One's bruised feet and ankles might be swollen from alcohol.

➤ A slim blonde who might be one's wife might be wearing a much-too-big black tophat and dancing on a table top. Hopefully, the hat might be big enough to cover most of her face so that only 60 or 70 people will recognize her. (When her daughter and son-in-law hear about this escapade they might quit their jobs, sell their house and move to Wyoming under assumed names!)

➤ One's sister-in-law might join one's wife dancing on the table.

➤ The bar manager might threaten to evict one's whole crowd from the establishment unless the two women get off the furniture.

➤ One might need to go the bathroom only to find seven people already waiting in line, and the women might have already commandeered the outside port-a-john.

... More on Pg. 15

## Ellen Taylor reflects on GNDC

(Continued from Pg. 9)

people, who are carrying it back to their hometowns and teaching it to others.

Isn't this what it is all about? We have a great group of young people, who conduct themselves in such a wonderful manner, that we can be

assured that the future of this dance is in good hands.

I can't end without mentioning the Masters Division. This year there were eight couples who danced. Many of them were Hall of Fame members, which pleased Charlie and Jackie immensely. They have a great respect for this group—not because they are Hall of Fame members themselves, but because they know these dancers bring to the floor the history of the dance.

To quote Charlie, "More of you need to participate in the future events and take part in this opportunity to let others see your style of dance." There are only three placements in this division for awards, but there are no losers when you have pleased your partner and the crowd.

There is much involved in putting on an event like this for it to be a success. It takes people who are truly dedicated to the dance. Charlie and Jackie have surrounded themselves with people who are willing to give their time to make the event a success. Each year it gets better and more exciting—if that is possible—and with them in charge, it is.

Saying goodbye is never easy; but as Wendy and I left for the airport, we knew that between now and next year we would see some of these same friends at another event. There are other times, other events, other dances—but the S.O.S. Grand Nationals is the grandest of them all.

God bless you all and keep you safely in the palms of His hands. And if He is willing, I hope to see all of you in Atlanta on Memorial Day weekend, 1999.

Ellen is very active in the dance world, traveling to various shag and string events. She enjoys teaching the dance and travels around the country holding workshops and private lessons. She has been a member of the Shaggers Hall of Fame since 1986 and has also been recognized as a member of Living Legends and the National Living Legends of Dance. One of the most coveted awards received by Ellen was the first Shell Award, presented at the S.O.S. Grand National Dance Competition for "Favorite Female S.O.S. Partner."

# The Fun Part of Summer

—by Phil Sawyer



As far as I'm concerned, the fun part of summer ends—comes to a screeching halt—on the day after July 4th.

You beerily (sic) have the time to digest Independence Day barbecue and the only really good slice of watermelon of the year when you suddenly realize that there are two long months left before the home football opener and that first really pleasant, crisp fall morning.

Two months—that's 60 days that will be filled with little more than "widely scattered afternoon and evening thunder showers with temperatures near the century mark. The humidity will hover around that of a well working sauna. Chances of rain will be 20%, and the evening lows will be in the upper 70s."

I don't even know why the television stations don't just put their weather people on leave without pay for the rest of the summer. The message never changes.

August is the name we give to the light-year between July 4th and Labor Day. Gardens dry up. Fire ants, mosquitoes, and gnats are ubiquitous. Pick up anything in the yard and you will have a handful of those firey little devils that somehow know how to bite at the exact same time. Stand in one place for over five seconds and you'll be covered with those microscopic red social insects

that can cause even a Baptist missionary to strip in public.

Go out for a leisurely walk after supper, and after less than two blocks, you don't even have to ask! You just walk back to air conditioned comfort. There isn't an indoor shag joint in five states with enough cooling, insulation, and exhaust to cool the dancers.

Along about this time, your mind goes back to those magnificent old wooden beach pavilions with the dance floor on the oceanfront with four sides formed with upper walls that could be raised and lowered. Now, that was a truly air conditioned shag place.

Visit the zoo during "dog days" and you'll wonder which is the higher form of life—animals or humans? While us gifted Homo Sapiens with IQs well over 100 stand in the blistering summer sun like mad dogs and Englishmen, the animals, with a lot of instinct but IQs possibly in the 50 range, hunker under ledges, rocks, pools, and in their air conditioned dens. Who indeed is the smarter and brighter?

Even our avid golfers, ones like Nick Mathis, Burns Harris, Norman Holiday, and Bill Mell who get up at the unheard of hour of 6:30 am to tee off at 8 am find that it is already over 90° by the third hole and all the ice has melted off the beer.

Throw a pool party on a Saturday afternoon and sure enough, the only four inches of rain for the entire month will come just moments after you set up the goodies on the pool-side buffet.

Jagged lightening bolts that resemble the top of a sardine can opened with a dull knife will streak from the darkened sky as your fleeing guests dash for cover, inventing more new dance steps than Shad Alberty ever taught. Your guests will enjoy the delectables in the two-car garage among the lawnmowers, step

ladders, and sacks of cow manure.

Oh sure, there are some redeeming features of these deadly dull days. There is, of course, the Gee-chee Blast. But just the mention of this long-awaited annual event to anyone whose application and check was returned without tickets is enough to send the temperature up another 10°.

There are half a dozen other good parties throughout the Association, but the longing in the hearts of shaggers everywhere is for tailgating, the toss of the coin, and the second weekend in September.

## It Might Happen at S.O.S.

- One might see the barefoot president of a well-known shag club doing a line dance while trying to redress herself.
- One might meet an otherwise attractive young woman in the bar who has few, if any, teeth.
- One might not eat anything but burgers and fries for three days.
- A male nine-time national shag dance champion might magically cure a female dancer's injured knee so she can do a multi-minute belly roll with him.
- A lounge's outside bartender might have band aids on three of her fingers to cover wounds from opening multitudes of pop-tops.
- One might get to ride on a parade float that wins first prize in the S.O.S. parade competition.
- Last, but certainly not least, one might have a heck of a good time!

Praise be to the shagging gods. I can't wait until September when one might be at S.O.S. for ten days, instead of four. I can't help but wonder what might happen in that length of time!

Doug Honeycutt is a member of the Twister's Shag Club.

19



28

...Let the fun begin !!!



(Best Shag Theme) 1st Place: Twister's Shag Club



(Most Original) 1st Place: Charlotte/Boppers Shag Clubs & Beach Music Cafe Combined



(Best Marching Troop) 1st Place: Northern Va Shag Club



...Eat your heart out, Daytona Beach !



Not all floats were created equal...



The Shag Bear rides again !





# Event Planning Calendar

JULY 1998	AUGUST 1998	SEPTEMBER 1998
24-25 Boogie and Bogey, So. Pines, NC 24-26 Shag Blast, Fayetteville, NC 24-26 Shag Blast, New Bern, NC	1 Junior Shag Contest, Greenville, SC 1-2 Southern Exposure, Clearwater, FL 5-9 Beale Street Boogie, Memphis, TN 12-16 Back to the Beach, Jacksonville, FL 14-16 Geechee Blast, Charleston, SC 17 Chicken Pickin', Gastonia, NC 21-22 Beach Music Festival, Jekyll Isl., GA 21-23 SPA/CSA Contest, Dunn, NC 22 Reject Party, Statesville, NC 22 Meet Me in Middle, Anderson, SC 27-29 Boogie By the Bay, Tampa, FL 28-30 Shag Sizzle, Wilson, NC 29 Summer Jackpot, So. Pines, NC	4-6 SPA/CSA Contest, N. Myrtle Bch., SC 18-27 Fall Migration, N. Myrtle Beach, SC
OCTOBER 1998	NOVEMBER 1998	DECEMBER 1998
2-3 MESS Fall Bash, Johnson City, TN 10-11 SPA/CSA Contest, Charlotte, NC 16-17 Shag-A-Rama, Panama City, FL 16-18 DJ Hall of Fame Weekend, NMB, SC 16-18 Shag Tracks, Chattanooga, TN 23-24 Slip, Slide & Shag, Greenwood, SC 23-25 SPA/CSA Contest, Immo, SC 28-1 Orange Squeeze, Daytona Beach, FL 29-1 Beach Bash, Virginia Beach, VA 31 Shag-O-Ween, Greenville, NC	6-8 Fall Cyclone, Mooresville, NC 6-8 SPA/CSA Contest, Atlantic Bch., NC 9-13 Beach Music Cruise (800) 852-7773 11-15 Move Across the River, Ft. Mitchell, KY 13-15 SPA/CSA Contest, Wilmington, NC 20-21 SPA/CSA Contest, Fayetteville, NC 21 Shaggin' Gobbler, Concord, NC 27-29 Ducks Thanksgiving Mixed Dbls., NMB	4-6 Atlanta Christmas Party, GA  <b>JANUARY 1999</b> 14-17 Mid-Winter Classic, N. Myrtle Bch., SC

## Upcoming Event Details


**JULY**

- 24-25 **BOOGIE AND BOGEY IN THE PINES** at the Southern Pines Country Club. Accommodations: Holiday Inn on US1, rates \$52 (800) 262-5737. Tickets \$25. Info: Roger (910) 695-4872.
- 24-26 **EASTERN CAROLINA SHAG BLAST** at the Holiday Inn (Exit 49 off I95) in Fayetteville, NC. Rates \$59 (1-4 persons), (910) 323-1600. Weekend ticket \$35; day tickets available. Info: Martha McNally (919) 833-5875.
- 24-26 **TWIN RIVERS SHAG BLAST** in New Bern, NC. Rooms: (919) 638-3585. Tickets \$40; \$45 after July 1. Info: (919) 527-2346.

**AUGUST**

- 5-9 **BEALE STREET SUMMER BOOGIE** in Memphis, TN. Accommodations: Peabody Hotel (901) 528-1800. Tickets \$35. Info: Jane Egan (901) 755-1269.
- 12-16 **8th ANNUAL BACK TO THE BEACH** at the Hilton Hotel in Jacksonville, FL. Rates \$69 (1-4 persons), (800) 445-8667, tickets \$30/\$35 after 7/31. Info: (904) 388-2383.
- 14-16 **GEECHEE BLAST** at the Omar Shrine Temple in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Lodging: Days Inn, \$58, (803) 881-1800; Red Roof Inn, \$60, (800) 843-7663. Tickets \$35. Info: Judy (803) 821-7120.
- 21-22 **BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL WEEKEND** in Jekyll Island, GA. Featuring Paul Revere and the Raiders, the Tams, the Swinging Medallions. Tickets \$7/\$10 at show. Info: (800) 841-6586.

- AUG**
- 22 **MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE** at the Portman Shoals Marina Yacht Club in Anderson, SC. Accommodations: Jamison Inn (800) 528-3768. Tickets \$25. Info: Elaine (864) 292-8132.
- 27-29 **BOOGIE BY THE BAY** at the St. Pete Hilton in St. Petersburg, FL. Rates \$77 (1-4 persons), (800) 944-5500. Tickets \$25; \$30 after Aug. 1. Info: Nan (813) 264-5817.
- SEPT**
- 18-27 **S.O.S. FALL MIGRATION** in North Myrtle Beach, SC. S.O.S. membership (application can be found on the back cover of this issue) includes free admission to six lounges, lots of free food, free tram service, discounts at area businesses, etc. Info: (888) 767-3113.
- OCTOBER**
- 16-17 **SHAG-A-RAMA** at the Howard Johnsons in Panama City, FL (800) 224-GULF. Tickets \$30; \$35 after Sept. 1.
- 29-1 **ORANGE SQUEEZE** at the Ramada Resort Oceanfront in Daytona Beach, FL. Rates start at \$46 (1-4 persons), (800) 654-8218. Tickets \$30; \$35 after Sept. 30. Info: John O'Dell (407) 977-6209.
- 29-1 **1998 SHAG HAWAIIAN BEACH BASH** at the Cavalier Hotel at the Oceanfront in Virginia Beach, VA. Rates \$59 (1-2 persons), (800) 446-8199. Tickets \$55; \$65 after Aug. 31. Info: Lee (757) 638-0619.
- 31 **4th ANNUAL SHAG-O-WEEN** at the Hilton Hotel in Greenville, NC. Rates \$65 (919) 355-5000. Tickets \$20.
- NOV**
- 6-8 **8th ANNUAL FALL CYCLONE** in Mooresville, NC. Info: (704) 882-1061.
- 9-13 **4th ANNUAL BEACH MUSIC CRUISE** aboard the Norwegian Majesty. Double occupancy rates from \$349 plus port charges and gratuities. Featuring the Fabulous Embers and Coastline Band. Info: Stuart (800) 852-7773.
- 11-15 **MOVE ACROSS THE RIVER** at the Drawbridge Estate in Ft. Mitchell, KY. Rates \$65 (1-4 persons), (800) 354-9793. Tickets \$20; \$25 after Oct. 12. Info: Paul (513) 489-4983.

### S.O.S. Five-year Plan Dates

1998	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

Your club's party or event can be listed in this column at no charge.

The deadline for submissions to the next *Carefree Times* mail-out issue is October 19.

Send info to:  
 Michael Payne  
 7528 Arlington Expy. #806  
 Jacksonville, FL 32211  
 (904) 724-9024

# MOVING?

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. A photocopy is okay.

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#### NEW ADDRESS — effective \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

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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



Hot Fun in the Summertime necessarily includes many days and nights of shagging. Whether it be at Ocean Drive, Virginia or Carolina Beach, in the Florida sunshine, or somewhere in the clubs, hotels, Moose lodges, etc. that we haunt to dance, you just have to keep on doing it no matter what level the mercury reaches.

This summer, members of The Association of Beach and Shag Club DeeJays are hard at work playing music everywhere S.O.S.'ers live and vacation. Many are involved in annual shag club "big" weekends or single-day parties.

It's also a favorite time of year for our members to take part in a number of charitable activities. Each year our organization's leadership reaches out to member clubs in the ACSC to ask about our involvement with you in such events.

Right now, we are working with the Cape Fear Shag Club and ROCKITS (Beach and Shag Music in Wilmington, North Carolina) to help with such an event on Sunday, August 2, 1998. All these elements will band together to present a day and evening of dancing, great food, and a dozen member deejays to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

We are also planning other similar events for Special Olympics (in November, at Southern Pines, Pinehurst, North Carolina) and other charities (Virginia Beach, in November, also).

Can we help your club do some community service/charity function? You know the drill!

Contact me or any officer or board member of our organization. I can be reached at Box 1111, Carrboro, NC 27510. My phone number is (919) 942-4498. My e-mail address is beachdj@email.unc.edu.

Let's talk about how our organization can help yours, since we are both a part of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. It's a small part of our continuing effort to give something back to those people and places that have supported the shag, the music, and the lifestyle through the years.

The third full weekend in October this year marks our DeeJay Hall of Fame celebration and inductions at Fat Harold's Beach Club—a free weekend featuring present, future, and hopeful deejays from all over the shag world.

Fat Harold's provides us the location to showcase our talents; they throw a lavish feed each day; and they generally do everything a club could possibly do to insure that we show you a great, free time.

Mark your calendars now for October 16-18, 1998. You'll be rested up from Fall Migration and ready to head back to OD to practice those new steps!

Call me for further information or for any question on what we do, how we do it, deejay recommendations, phone numbers or addresses, etc. — Mike Lewis

## Recommended Shag DeeJays

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## 1998 S.O.S. Grand National Dance Championship Final Results



### •Carolina Masters Division•

- 1st John and Peewee Teel  
2nd Norfleet Jones & Sheila Bodie  
3rd Bob Myrick & Ellen Taylor

### •Carolina Classic Division•

- 1st Sam West & Sarah West  
2nd Brad Kinnard & Jennifer Beaver  
3rd William Green & Angie Powell  
4th Rod Hagar & Shea Carver  
5th Jimmy and Cameron Caruso  
6th Bill and Brenda Barber

### •Junior Shag Division•

- 1st Norman Aldredge & Leslie Melton  
2nd Grayson Smith & Jessica McAlhaney  
3rd Michael Norris & LeAnn Best

### •Jack & Jill•

- 1st Geoffery Burdick & Karen Flowers  
2nd Tim Brown & Lori Reninger  
3rd Wesley Boz & Kim Leftwich  
4th George Hamerick & Mary Reilly  
5th Richard Ware & Laura Jones  
6th Scotty Murphy & Kerry Frost  
7th Bill K. & Lisa Kleitz

### •Cabaret Division•

- 1st David Howland & Vivienne Ransey  
2nd Barry Durand & Lisa Austin  
3rd Tom Cochran (Solo)

### •Swing Classic Division•

- 1st Brent and Kellese Key  
2nd Michael Norris & Debbie Ramsey Boz  
3rd Bill Cameron & Blake Hobby  
4th Parker Dearborn & Kate Berardino  
5th Steve Neeren & Deborah Szekeley  
6th Jeff Hill & Jill Barton

### •Junior Swing Division•

- 1st Matt Auclair & Meagan McKeegan  
2nd Will Yearly & Danielle Griffin  
3rd Shiloh Warren & Tatiana Mollman

### •Strictly Swing Division•

- 1st Ramiro Gonzalez & Sylvia Sykes  
2nd Robert Cordoba & Deborah Szekeley  
3rd John Lindo & Ginger Pickerel  
4th Michael Norris & Katie Berardino  
5th John Festa & Debbie Ramsey Boz  
6th Sam West & Beata Howe

### •Team Division•

- 1st National Shag Team      2nd Affirmative Action      3rd Carolina Shag Team



## Down Memory Lane

by Johnny Hammond

I've heard so many people, including shag club members, say they thought they had to be a member of a shag club to attend S.O.S. As most of us know, that isn't true.

I think I can clear up some of the confusion that exists about shag clubs and the Society of Stranders (S.O.S.). In a sense, these two organizations are synonymous, but in the beginning they were about as similar as the bop and the shag. The music (the most important thing) and the dance (the most important off-spring) are the major links.

I strongly feel the widespread development of shag clubs throughout the Great Southeast and beyond is one of the biggest and best happenings to take place in the last 15 years.

The last club to join our ranks is located in Rhode Island. This is an occurrence I never thought I'd live to see. Well, we kept it a secret as long as we could. All I can say is, "Welcome!"

I'll bet—if the truth was known—that the shag is the reason so many northerners are moving into this region. Yeah, that's gotta be it.

The shag clubs eat, sleep, and dance the shag. They're always trying to improve and perfect our state dance and always trying to learn a new step to broaden their scope. If they have a mate or regular partner, it's on to the mirror steps.

Yes, Teddy Bear, it's lessons, lessons, lessons and dance, dance, dance! This is truly a dedicated crew with a common bond. It makes no difference who you are or what you do—you're family. And, just like family, most clubs have some bickering, petty jealousies, passing the

back, and refusing to get involved in any way.

On shag night most of the ladies don their finest shagging attire along with their newest shagging shoes. Most of the men look "as usual" except for their sockless loafers and maybe their gold shag shoes worn on a chain around their neck. A couple of the real hard shaggers may even have their "shag rag" in their back pocket.

Sometimes it's hard to spot new shag club members from someone who just walked in off the street. That's why I've always been in favor of name tags or wearing your club shirt. If you don't have either of these items, I urge you to get them.

Belonging to a shag club is much more than just shaggin'. It's a social club with many fun events taking place almost on a monthly basis. Yes, it's true! Hosting these get-togethers are a bunch of fine, fun-lovin' folks. One of the things I like most about having so many sister clubs is that every weekend there's a blowout somewhere near you, regardless of where you are in the Southeast.

Now, you'll find that shaggers at S.O.S. are out and about at high noon. They are dressed for some high-stepping action in starched shirts, creased pants, shined shoes, hair in place, and makeup just right. They drink beer or maybe a little wine cooler. Some just drink water. They're getting younger. They're the shag club elite, and they know their steps. They say it's their dance.

The original intention of the Society of Stranders was to be a gathering of the guys and gals—the beach bums from the late '40s and '50s—for a "one more time" reunion.



Johnny Hammond

Most of the guys were lifeguards, bingo callers, etc. The gals were college students who worked at places such as Mammy's Kitchen. The beach bums were kids who came to the beach with just enough money to live good for a week and, through wit and the art of improvising, figured out a way to survive for a month.

These were the original stranders. They were beach lovers and lovers of the beach, and they only temporarily associated with the tourists. They depended on each other and no one else. Even with limited funds, whatever was needed would be produced, usually through group effort.

A true strander loves the beach—the sand, cookouts, sippin' suds in the sun, watching the sea, ... and yeah, that, too. Loved those long walks on the beach and viewing that beautiful moon streaking across the breaking waves that lapped gently at the beach ... Sorry! Getting carried away again!

The raw survival instinct of a true strander is unbelievable. I mean, he can produce a small washtub of P.J. by starting with a mere quart of 190 proof grain alcohol and just improvising from there. Oh, Mama—it was so fine!

Throw in some of Sloppy Joe's world famous foot-long hot dogs ... remember a yard a day will keep malnutrition away. Add some fries and pork skins. Man, it just don't get any better. And all this was before sundown. Sundown was the time

(Continued on Pg. 26)

# THE MAGIC DRAGON



*"Puff the Magic Dragon" is probably one of the best-known folk songs in the world. But is it really, as many people believe, about drugs? Here's the answer, from "Behind the Hits"*

Lenny Lipton's first year of college wasn't easy. Not because he was homesick—he was glad to finally be out of Brooklyn—but because he was having a hard time getting used to being on his own.

There were so many things to think about: girls, money, a career. Growing up obviously wasn't going to be easy. Lipton secretly began to miss his childhood.

The fall of 1958 and winter of 1959 passed. So did Lipton, who managed to survive at Cornell in spite of his emotional turmoil. And then one evening in the spring of 1959, a few days after his 19th birthday, Lipton made one of the most important decisions of his life. He decided to go to the library.

He was supposed to have dinner that night with a friend who lived off-campus, but it was still early. So Lipton wandered over to the library in the Cornell Student Union. He searched the shelves until he found a volume of poems by Ogden Nash, then pulled it from the shelves and retired to a chair with it.

Lenny was struck by a simple rhyme about the "Really-o Truly-o Dragon." In fact, he was inspired by it. "If Ogden Nash can write that kind of stuff, so can I," he thought.

Lipton returned the book, left the library, and headed for his friend's house. As he walked down the hill that led from Cornell into the town of Ithaca, he thought of Ogden Nash's dragon. And then he thought of his own dragon.

As he approached his friend's house, Lipton incorporated his dragon into a little poem about a subject that was never far from his mind in those days—the end of childhood.

When Lipton got to 343 State Street, he knocked on the door. No answer. Apparently neither his friend nor his friend's roommate, Peter Yarrow, was home. But Lipton wanted to get this poem onto paper, so he went inside anyway.

He headed straight for a typewriter—which happened to be Yarrow's—sat down, and began typing as fast as he could. In three minutes, he typed out his poem; then he got up and left.



He didn't bother taking *Puff the Magic Dragon* with him. He didn't care—he'd gotten it out of his system. He just left it sitting in the typewriter.

Folk music was popular at Cornell in the late '50s, and Peter Yarrow was a big man in the folk scene. Although he was still an undergraduate, he taught a class on folk music, performed, and often organized concerts.

As Lipton tells it, Yarrow returned home that night, found the poem sitting in his typewriter, and wrote a melody for it. Eventually, Yarrow became part of Peter, Paul, and Mary, and they included the song about "Puff" in their act.

Years went by, and Lipton forgot all about his three-minute poem until a friend from Cornell happened to mention that he'd seen

Peter Yarrow perform "Puff" with his new group. Yarrow had told him that Lipton had written it. Was it true?

Suddenly, Lipton's little poem came back to him.

In the world of rock 'n' roll, one inevitably runs into stories about unscrupulous operators, who've stolen songs from their rightful owners. So it's nice to be able to write about a case in which an honest man went out of his way to find a writer.

That's what happened here. When it began to look as if "Puff" was really going to be worth something, Peter Yarrow tracked Lenny Lipton down to let him know about it. And he's always listed Lipton as co-writer—even when Lipton didn't remember having invented the world's most popular dragon.

For years people have speculated about the meaning of "Puff," but Lenny is quite clear about what was on his mind when he wrote it: "Loss of innocence and having to face an adult world," he says. "It's surely not about drugs. I can tell you that at Cornell in 1959, no one smoked grass."

None of the "suggestive" names were thought out—they just popped into his head as he was walking along that night. "I find the fact that people interpret it as a drug song annoying," he says. "It would be insidious to propagandize about drugs in a song for little kids. I think it's a very sentimental tune."

*Puff the Magic Dragon* has had remarkable success for a poem that took three minutes to write. As a song, it reached #2 on the national charts in 1963; and in the '70s it became the basis of a continuing series of children's cartoons.

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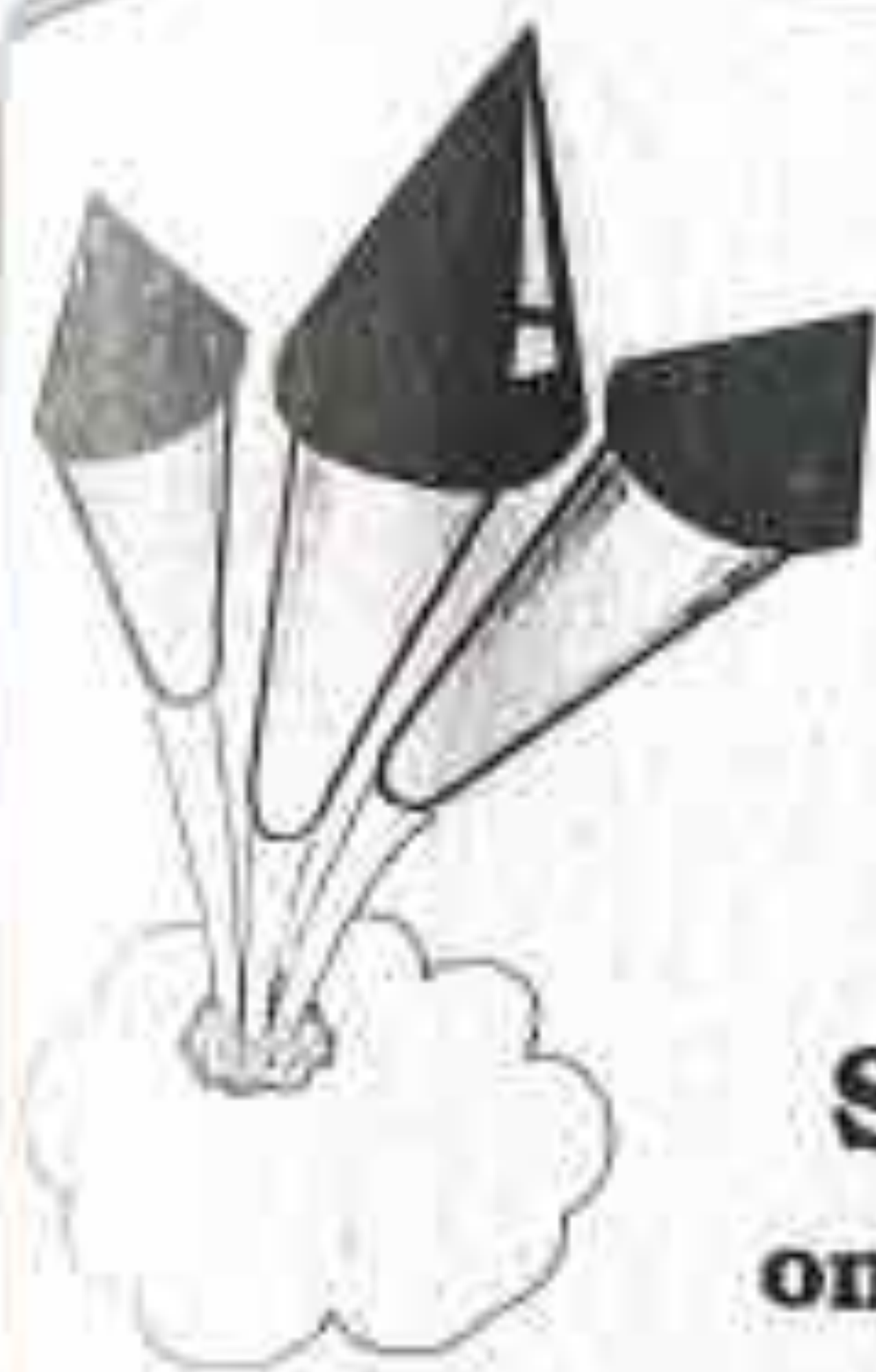
1. All applications must be in by August 15, 1998.
2. Contest to be held during SOS on Monday, Sept. 21, 1998 on Main St., Hillside End.
3. No one of the male species will be turned down!
4. Swinsuite competition only; shoes are not required, however they are recommended.
5. You must be willing to show off your best features in a somewhat tasteful way.
6. You must be of sound mind and as sound a body as

possible, and be able to stand the excitement and possible popularity surge which may follow your reign as our beauty queen.

7. This beauty pageant is for the enjoyment of those attending S.O.S. and is for fun only. Please do not let any of the other "girls" competing for this title intimidate you. Hold you head up high, put your sholders back and your chest out when you stroll down the walkway, and know that any mother would be proud to have a son like you!

**Send Applications to: Judy Major, 4151 Hickory Lane, Ladson, SC 29456 (803) 821-7120**





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## Spotlight (Cont'd from Pg. 13)

rapidly to Novice in the CSA through two back-to-back first place showings in '96. Earl also triumphed over throat cancer and continues to teach and coach.

Larry and Shirley became the first Virginia couple to make the final cut at the Nationals at Studebaker's in Myrtle Beach. The first year they competed in the Nationals ('95) they made the cut to go back in March. The second year ('96) they made the final cut to dance on Saturday night and came in second. This year they made the final cut and placed third.

These artistic accomplishments reflect the strong foundation provided by the founding members of our club, both at the organizational and instructional levels. Sure, shagging's fun, but it's also an art from which deserves preservation and promulgation.

Our tenth anniversary year in 1997 has been presided over by Tom Varney and an enthusiastic and talented board. Our traditions of Tuesday night at Razzles and Thursday night lessons remain in place. One of our oldest traditions, the annual summer golf tournament, is stronger than ever. Headed by Mary Ellen Anderson and a devoted committee, this event remains the top income producer for Camp Fantastic within the club.

Larry and Shirley Jones graduated to the final frontier within the CSA: Pro Division! We celebrated

our 10th with the Decade of Dance weekend at the Tedesco's Steven Kent Conference Center—an unqualified success. We're sending the Pistoleros back to Club Faces in Dunn for the Second Annual Open Shag Classic.

We still dream of the establishment of a Juniors Program, for therein lies a truly strong future for our dance. There is ample guidance and talent within our ranks to teach—we just need the kids! Our contributions to Camp Fantastic have totaled \$50,000+. The opportunity for personal advancement is abundant within the ACSC and our lifestyle.

In short, members of RSC mingle with some of the friendliest and most cordial people in the great Southeast and avail themselves of an array of activities unparalleled in any other party circuitry.

*Reprinted from the RSC's newsletter, "Rhythm & News" Sept./Oct. 1997 (in edited version for copyfitting purposes).*

## THE (SHAGGING) INFORMATION AGE

*(Continued from Pg. 3)*

other web browser, you can change your settings or preferences to make the shagdance site the first thing you see when you log onto the Internet. Or you can "bookmark" the site for quick access. Complete instructions on how to do this can be found on one of the shagdance pages.

The shagdance site publicizes association shag clubs, their events, SOS, and other items related to our organizations for free.

The site also offers individuals and businesses a unique opportunity to advertise themselves, their products, and their services to an enormous group of individuals. (Over 16,000 visitors have browsed the site in its first ten months of operation.) Our web site visitors are constantly asking us to recommend a product, service, or vendor. Contact us today

and find out what advertising on shagdance can do for you or your business.

The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs and The Society of Stranders are pleased to be able to offer everyone free, easy access to shag-related information via our toll free phone number and our web site with no obligation, no questions, and no headaches.

More new and exciting features will be available soon through both sources. So make the most of our hassle-free services ... and remember to SHAG-4-FUN!

*Mike Rink is past president of the Twister's Shag Club, Chairman of the Fall Cyclone Party, currently Vice-Chairman of the ACSC (nominated for Chairman—election to be held 7/21/98), member of the Association of Beach and Shag Club D/ers, and serves as Webmaster for [www.shagdance.com](http://www.shagdance.com).*

## Down Memory Lane

*(Continued from Pg. 22)*

liquor stores closed in S.C. in the Golden Days.

Then, and only then, as the clock passed dark thirty, did a true blue strander present his plan of attack. After all, plans were being made all day long. First, don your cat clothes and shined penny loafers. Second, seek out that place we all knew had the coldest beer and hottest beach bunnies. Third, find the rhythm and blues that had the strongest back beat and let the good times roll.

It was fast dancing at its finest and belly rubbin' at its best. In those days, we didn't know we were stranders. All we knew was that we were different and we were home ... it was called The Pad.

So just remember, you can be a shagger without being a strander; but you can't be a strander without being a shagger ... (What did he say?)

*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," June 1998.*

**ATTENTION DANCE CLUBS:** Your club can be featured in an upcoming issue. Send submissions to:  
**Michael Payne, Editor**  
**S.O.S. Carefree Times**  
**7528 Arlington Expy. #806**  
**Jacksonville, FL 32211**  
**Email: [Soscftimes@aol.com](mailto:Soscftimes@aol.com)**

## Women speak in Estrogen; Men listen in Testosterone

*If you're not convinced that women are from Venus and men are from Mars, then here's some food for thought ...*

—Compiled by Marilyn Hesse

**MATURITY:** Women mature much faster than men. Most 17-year old females can function as adults. Most 17-year old males are still trading baseball cards and giving each other wedgies after gym class.

**BATHROOMS:** A man has six items in his bathroom — a toothbrush, toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of Dial soap, and a towel from a Holiday Inn. The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 437. A man would not be able to identify most of these items.

**RESTROOMS:** Men use restrooms for purely biological reasons. Women use restrooms as social lounges. Men in a restroom will never speak a word to each other. Never in the history of the world has a man excused himself from a restaurant table by saying, "Hey, Tom, I was just about to take a leak. Do you want to join me?"

**GROCERIES:** A woman makes a list of things she needs and then goes out to the store and buys those things. A man waits until the only items left in his fridge are half a lime and a beer. Then he goes grocery shopping. He buys everything that looks good. By the time he reaches the checkout counter, his cart is packed higher than the Clampett's car on Beverly Hillbillies. Of course, this will not stop him from going to the 10-items-or-less lane.

**WEDDINGS:** When reminiscing about weddings, women talk about the ceremony. Men talk about the bachelor party.

**CATS:** Women love cats. Men say they love cats; but when women aren't looking, they kick cats.

**OFFSPRING:** Ah, children. A woman know all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and soccer games and romances and best friends and favorite foods and secret fears and hopes and dreams. A man is vaguely aware of some short people living in the house.

**SEX:** Women prefer 30-40 minutes of foreplay. Men prefer 30-40 seconds of foreplay. Men consider driving back to her place as part of the foreplay.

**LAUNDRY:** Women do laundry every couple of days. A man will wear every article of clothing he owns, including his surgical pants that were hip about eight years ago before he will do his laundry.

**HANDWRITING:** Men do not decorate their penmanship. They just chicken scratch. Women use scented, colored stationary and dot their "i's" with circles and hearts. Even when she's dumping you, she'll put a smiley face at the end of the note.

**CAMERAS:** Men take photography very seriously. They'll shell out \$4000 for state-of-the-art equipment, build darkrooms, and take photography classes. Women purchase Kodak Instamatics. They always end up taking better pictures.

**MENOPAUSE:** When a woman reaches menopause, she goes through a variety of complicated emotional, psychological, and biological changes. The nature and degree of these changes varies with the individual. Menopause in a man provokes a uniform reaction—he buys aviator glasses, a snazzy French cap, leather driving gloves, and goes shopping for a Porsche.

**TIME:** When a woman says she'll be ready to go out in five more minutes, she's using the same meaning of time as when a man says the football game's just got five minutes left.

**GARAGES:** Women use garages to park their cars and store their lawnmowers. Men use garages for many other things. They hang license plates in garages, they watch TV in garages, and they build useless, lopsided benches in garages.

**LOCKER ROOMS:** In the locker room men talk about three things: money, football, and women. They exaggerate about money; they don't know football nearly as well as they think they do; and they fabricate stories about women. Women talk about one thing in the locker room—sex (and they never lie).

### And more for women only ...

Q: What is that insensitive bit at the base of the penis called?

A: The man.

Q: Why is psychoanalysis quicker for men than for women?

A: When it's time to go back to childhood, he's already there.

Q: Why do so many women fake orgasms?

A: Because so many men fake foreplay.

Q: How can you tell the difference between a man's real gifts and their guilt gifts?

A: The guilt gifts are nicer.

Q: Why are women so bad at mathematics?

A: Because men keep telling them that this (make gap with thumb and forefinger) is 9 inches.

Q: What's the difference between a bar and a clitoris?

A: Most men have no trouble finding a bar.

... More on Pg. 28

## More for women only ...

- Q: What do you call a handcuffed man?  
A: Trustworthy.
- Q: Why are men like commercials?  
A: You can't believe a word they say.
- Q: What's a man's definition of a romantic evening?  
A: Sex.
- Q: What is the only time a man thinks about a candlelight dinner?  
A: When the power goes off.
- Q: What do you call a man with 99% of his brain missing?  
A: Castrated.
- Q: What's the difference between a man and E.T.?  
A: E.T. phoned home.
- Q: What do most men think Mutual Orgasm is?  
A: An insurance company.

## Now, something for the men ...

### Theme songs for the Viagra commercials

While Pfizer has had a lot of great press regarding the launch of Viagra, the new male impotency medication, its marketing department has been working vigorously to develop its advertising campaign to augment its sales once all the PR has died down.

While going through potential commercials, they realized that such an important medication needed a theme song to help its long-term identity.

Here are a few of the top suggestions that came up at that meeting:

- 1) *I Am a Rock* — Paul Simon
- 2) *Suddenly* — B. Ocean
- 3) *A Hard Day's Night* — The Beatles
- 4) *Can't Buy Me Love* (now you can) — The Beatles

- 5) *Do That To Me One More Time* — Captain and Tenille
- 6) *Everlasting Love* — The Bee Gees
- 7) *Longer* — Dan Fogelberg
- 8) *No Ordinary Love* — Sade
- 9) *Love Takes Time* (about an hour wait, according to Pfizer) — Mariah Carey
- 10) *The Things We Do For Love* — 10CC
- 11) *Help Me Make It Through the Night*
- 12) *We've Only Just Begun* — Paul Williams
- 13) *When I'm 64* — The Beatles
- 14) *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* — Cindy Lauper

Source (pgs. 27 & 28): *The Internet*. Forwarded by Audrey Gardner, Connie Danahoe, and others. Compiled by Marilyn Hesse, "Carefree Times" staff member.

## It Used To Be That ...

A computer was something on TV  
From a science fiction show.  
A window was something you hated to clean  
And ram was the cousin of a goal.

Meg was the name of my girlfriend,  
A gig was something you did on stage for money.  
Now they all mean different things  
And that really mega bytes.

An application was for employment,  
A program was a TV show,  
A cursor used profanity,  
A keyboard was a piano.

Memory was something that you lost with age,  
A CD was a bank account,  
And if you had a 3-1/2" floppy,  
You hoped nobody found out.

Compress was something you did to the garbage,  
Not something you did to a file,  
And if you unzipped anything in public  
You'd be in jail for a while.

Log on was adding wood to the fire,  
Hard drive was a long trip on the road,  
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived,  
And a backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife,  
Paste you did with glue,  
A web was a spider's home,  
And a virus was the flu.

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper  
And the memory in my head.  
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash,  
But when it happens, they wish they were dead.

— Emmy Hodges



# A Good Deejay

—by Peggy Casin

During the years I've been going to S.O.S., the number of shag deejays has grown tremendously. I can't imagine where they are all coming from, but there are definitely some good ones out there. After so many years, I know by watching and listening that it takes a special person to be able to do this type job. Yes, I said job.

Most people just assume it's fairly simple to just stand in a deejay booth and play music. I've gotten to know several deejays personally within our club and from other area clubs. Let me tell you, I wouldn't want to have to get up in front of an easy/fun crowd much less a hard/tough crowd and play music. It's not easy.

Deejays work hard getting us the music we love. They spend a lot of money and often aren't paid very much for their efforts. All we have to do is show up, enjoy the sounds, dance, and have fun.

From what I understand, an empty dance floor is "Deejay Hell". A deejay doesn't just start playing music and have the floor fill up with dancers. A deejay has to work at finding the right combination of music to fit the crowd he's playing for to get people moving. Whether it be a line dance, a fast song, or the smoothie approach, it all has to come together. If it doesn't, we have a nervous deejay on our hands and more conversation than dancing among the crowd.

Finding the right combination and keeping the pace is tough. It can mentally wear the best deejay out by the end of the night. But when it works, the deejay can have as much fun as the rest of the crowd!

As you pick your favorite deejays, you are likely to follow them to wherever they play during the year. They are apt to get to know you and your favorite songs. There are a few

deejays that know what I want to hear when they see me walk into a club. By the end of the night, I will hear those songs, and they know I appreciate it.

I used to get upset when I walked up to a deejay—my favorites included—and requested my favorite song. Then I would have to walk back up to the same deejay later and ask, "Where is my song?"

I now know and understand that they have a plan of what songs they are going to play, when to change the tempo, when they might throw in a line dance, etc. If I am patient, he/she will play my favorite shag tune at the right time in their plan.

Deejays are not only wonderful people—they can be fun people! At this S.O.S., I witnessed a humorous situation between two fellow deejays at the O.D. Arcade. One deejay that I know says he will rarely ever walk up to another deejay and request a song, because he thinks the other deejay may assume the request is not sincere.

This deejay was playing at the Arcade when another deejay walked up to him and said he was requesting a song for an attractive woman sitting at the table at the far end of the room. The deejay who was playing took the opportunity to satisfy the lady's early afternoon request and also play a huge joke on the deejay who requested the song for her.

He stepped to the mike and said something like, "I can understand why a deejay would send someone else to the booth to request a song, but this is the first time I have seen a deejay simply request a song and claim he was doing it for someone else. So I am just going to play his request. I just hope Murl never hears that I played this song in the Arcade." With that, he started *Under the Boardwalk*.



Every respectable shagger knows that you don't request songs like *Under the Boardwalk*, *Miss Grace*, *California Girls*, etc., in the middle of a big shag party, much less an S.O.S. So when the announcement was made, the deejay who had requested this song was ready to crawl under a table. Everyone in the Arcade was laughing. I broke up when one of the wives sitting at our table asked her husband to dance. That made things even funnier.

Seriously, a deejay will honor your requests whether upbeat, a smoothie, your favorite line dance song, etc. Late the first Sunday night of S.O.S., a couple of us walked into a club where the deejay was playing mostly smoothie-type music. I, for one, prefer the upbeat tunes. Since my dance partner also preferred to dance to something upbeat, a request was made.

The deejay soon started an upbeat tune, and we hit the floor. When the song ended, another one began that was even better. This process was repeated again and again. The deejay just kept smiling as we tried to walk off the floor but couldn't.

Yep, the deejay aimed to please that night. Fifteen fast songs later, my fast feet were killing me. My partner and I, dead tired, walked off the floor. But we were happy shaggers that night. Again, a deejay did what they are all famous for—making everyone happy!

I want to thank all deejays personally for all the hard work they put into this S.O.S. I can say that this was my favorite S.O.S., thanks to each and every one of you!

*Peggy Casin is a member of the Twister's Shag Club and is a regular contributing editor to "The Carefree Times."*

*A good deejay isn't hard to find—see "Turning the Tables" on Pg. 20.*



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