

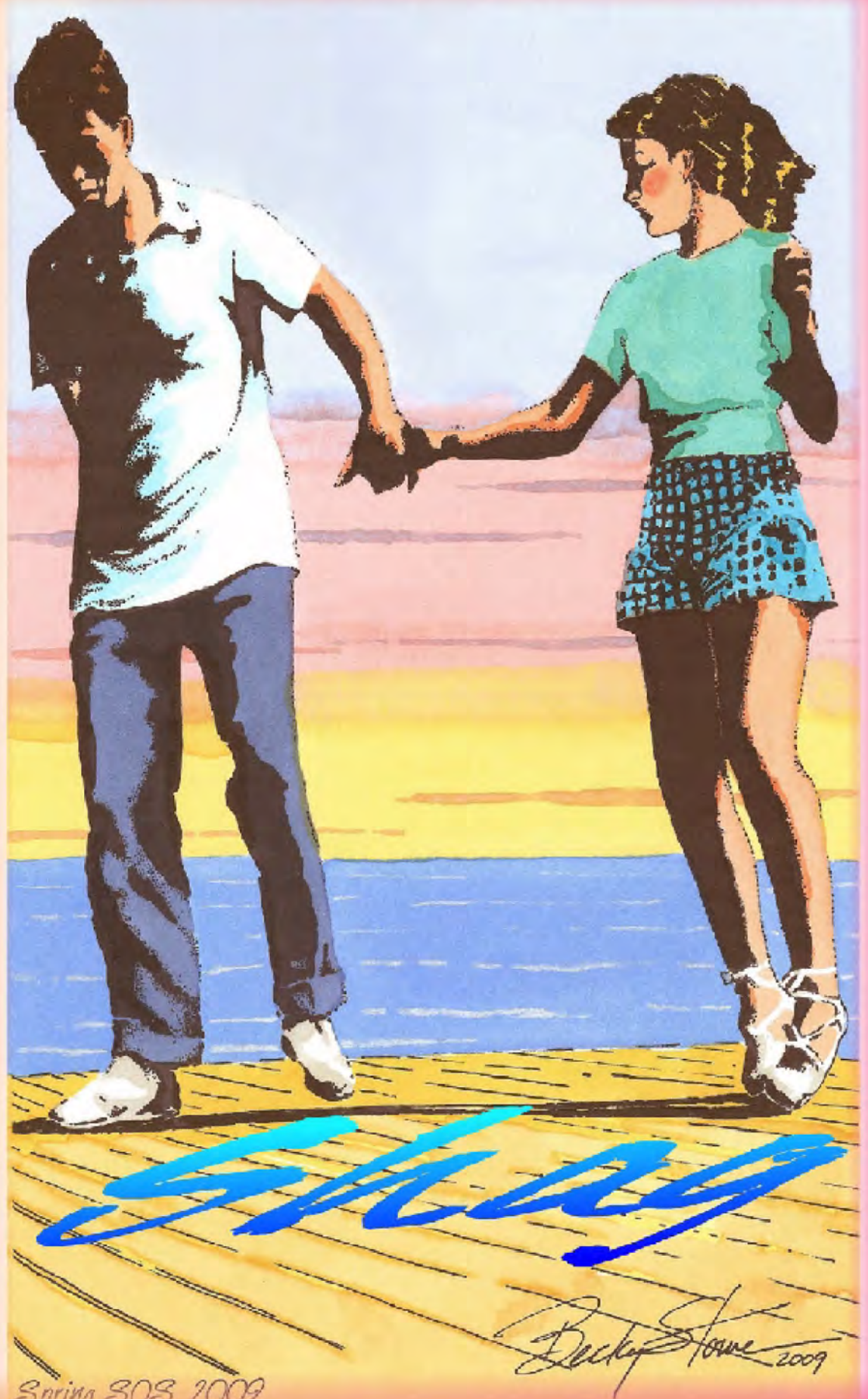
# SOS Carefree Times

## 2009 Spring Safari

Celebrating 25 Years!  
South Carolina's State  
Dance since 1984!

20th Year  
ACSC acquired SOS

15th Year  
SOS Parade



Spring SOS 2009



## SOS Charitable Foundation - Donation to ROTC



Allen Henry, Treasurer of the Society of Stranders Charitable Foundation presented a check for \$3,000 to Senior Chief Keith Moore, Naval Science instructor at North Myrtle Beach High School to complete the fund necessary to send the Naval Junior ROTC cadets to Washington for the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. Also participating were members of the S.O.S. Board of Directors, Chairman Hector Phifer, Chairman Judy Vick, members of the S.O.S. Foundation Phil Sawyer, Foster McKinney, Bobby Brook, and Chief William Cain of the High School. Members of the JNROTC Booster Club looked on with great appreciation for the contribution which helped make the trip possible.

## A ROUND OF APPLAUSE, PLEASE...



Carolyn, Janice, Miss Chick, Anne, Glenda, Carolyn, Kevin, Paula Sue, Cindy, Peggy, Mary (inserted: Rodney, Teri, Bet)

I just want to acknowledge the brave and patient women and men who are truly the backbone and unsung heroes of ACSC/SOS, those who remain in the background--the patient wives, husbands, and significant others who are there to support their mates in every endeavor, act as a sounding board when things don't go well (or when they do), wait on the sidelines while meetings last for hours, and smile and support their mates while politics, problems, and praise (yes, believe it or not, sometimes folks stop them to thank them for all they do) continue as usual.

As a former Executive Secretary of S.O.S., I know the hard work and dedication put in by the Board members and their tireless efforts to make things run smoothly when the vast majority of shaggers show up in North Myrtle Beach and expect everything to run like a piece of well-oiled machinery. These men and women spend countless hours on the phone, sitting at the computer reading and answering the e-mails that come in, "putting out fires," and preparing endless reports. We know them—we see their pictures in the *Carefree Times*, and see them in the clubs wearing their name badges. But . . . let me take a moment to introduce to you the unsung heroes.

Since I am now working the "other side of the street," so to speak, as a Board wife, I know first hand the dedication of these women and men. Peggy Whisenant, wife of Ron Whisenant, and one of a kind—spends hour upon hour at workshops entertaining drop-in guests with never a thought for herself. Dr. Phil (who always says he "married up") is complemented by the inimitable Miss Chick, who is a star in her own right. Carolyn Phifer is Hector's wife--need I say more? Maybe, God bless you, Carolyn. The new kid on the block is talented and hard working Mary Gregory, Ronnie's wife. There's stylish Janice Akin, Ken's wife; classy Bet Barrineau, wife of Judge Tom; shoe-lover Glenda Brown (Sonny); nurse and saintly Cindy Augustine who watches over Murl; and significant others Paula Sue (Dwayne Baggett) and Carolyn (Don David). Paula Sue is there when Dwayne "has another idea," and Carolyn is Don's able assistant for the parade. Then, of course, there's Teri, Mrs. "Checkbook" McKinney, Foster's better-half. Our gentlemen and manly men of the group are Kevin Harrell and Rodney Still. They watch over us when we are left to our own devices in local pubs when meetings run late, and attempting to "herd" us when we're out shopping and everyone wants to go in a different direction.

We keep in touch with all those who have been a part of our group at one time or another and we miss them terribly when they leave us. We are truly blessed to be a part of this group, and supporting the "masterminds."

Anne Henry, "Bookkeeper" Allen Henry's wife

## ON THE ROAD With Mary...

Ronnie and I went to Parkersburg, WV to visit Family for the Holidays. We had the opportunity to visit the "Mid Ohio Valley Shaggers" located at the American Legion in Parkersburg, WV. When we arrived, we were warmly greeted by several members along with the President, Randy Kinsolving, and Tim Miller, both DJ's. This Club was very friendly and they were having a great time mingling and dancing to the tunes of DJ Randy Kinsolving. They graciously went up to my sister, Reba and invited her to come out to their club any time.

It was great to see members helping members to learn new steps and we were honored when they asked us to show them one of our steps. They even had cup cakes with Christmas Lights as decorations on top of them, which I might add were delicious! This is a really great club and if you are ever in the area or just want a road trip going through the Mountains, you should visit this club on a Thursday night.

Thanks to the members of the Mid Ohio Valley Shag Club, Ronnie, Reba and myself had a great time.

See you at the Beach!

Mary G.



## Shag dancers flock to Charlotte for Hall of Fame inductions

Over 250 attended the third annual induction party of the Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall of Fame. The party was held at Lynn's in Charlotte on Saturday, November 29. The always entertaining, Randy Rowland was MC for the event. Music was played by local DJ Jason Cagle and Tom Hamrick from Atlanta. Charlotte area shaggers inducted were: Patty McIlroy, Mary Blanton, Brenda Clark, Jo Carol Burris, Buddy Nunn, John Church, Dickie Adkins and Phil McDaniel. The Honorary award went to Ron Arey, DJ from Salisbury. Posthumous recognition of Maureen Funderburk was accepted by family members Glenn, Brandy and Tommy Funderburk. The "Young Blood" a new category was added in 2008 to include people between the ages of 21-50 who participated in the junior shag program, are still involved and live within a 50 mile radius of Charlotte for 5 years. Those inducted were Rod Hager and Jennifer Beaver Sogluizzo for their love of the dance and many years of participation. The Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall of Fame was founded in the spring of 2006 by David & Olivia McManus, Phil & Helen Beam, Tommy & Susan Funderburk, Glenda Johnson, Bill Young and Joanne Johnson. The purpose of the non profit organization is to recognize those people, 50 years old and older, living within a 50 mile radius of Charlotte, who have made positive contributions to shag dancing, it's music and the atmosphere in which it is enjoyed. Those inducted in 2006 were the board members, along with: Diane Hold, Jane Bongardt, Jackie Duncan, Sandy McDaniel, Judy & Sonny Carver, Randy Rowland, Ham McGarity, Ernest Burris, Clyde Waller and Chris Beachley. Posthumous recognition went to the family of "Smiley" Foster. In 2007: Bobbie Barnhardt, Carol Church, Jane Jacobs, Shelia McGarity, Audrey Rich, Viola Gettys, AV Franklin, Wayne Christenbury, Tom Bare and Dewitt Hinson. Posthumous recognition went to the family of Don Reid. Special honorary members are: Sandra Schwartz Adams, Brenda Alberty, Berkley & Faye Altman, Lynn Armstrong, H Lee Brown, "Weezie" Carr, Donnie Christenbury, Bill & Sharli Drew, Lynda Carole Flynn, "Freck" & Sylvia Greene, Bud & Dottie Hunt, Glenda Johnson, Joanne Johnson, Lamar Johnson, Ron Joyce, Cindy Mangum, Sandra Marshall, Kim Maynard, Babs McIntosh, Janet Morris, Sam McIntosh, Mike Osborne, Joan Owen, Doug Perry, Domer & Carole Reeves, Buzz Sayer, Judy Tucker, Arnie Webb, Bill & Kay Young, Betty "Ziggy" Zeigler. Deceased members are Shad Alberty and Louise Fidel.

North Carolina recognizes the shag as one of the State Dances.

by: Helen Beam



## National Shag Dance Championships

Saturday night at the National Shag Dance Championships was another tremendous display of shagging at its best from second graders, Eva Wellman and Koltan Ellis to the new Masters Champions, Hall of Famers, Doug Perry and Susan Neal. Non-dancing highlights included from the beginning a fantastic version of "God Bless America" by Tim Lane to the awarding of a \$5,000.00 "Beth Mitchell Memorial Scholarship" to incoming William and Mary freshman and former 3 time Junior I Champion,

Justin Poston from Chesapeake, Virginia. The Overall Champions were former five time overall winners, Michael and Le Ann Norris of Columbia. Couples from seven states competed in the three day event. The culmination of the three nights of tough judging resulted in the following placements:

### Overall Winners

MICHAEL AND LE ANN NORRIS



### Professional Division

MICHAEL AND LE ANN NORRIS

### Non-Professional Division

CASEY LITAKER AND BRANDI COLLINS

### Masters Division

DOUG PERRY AND SUSAN NEAL

### Seniors Division

GENE POPE AND NANCY KEEN-POPE

### Junior I Division

JEREMY WEBB AND KAYLA GRAINGER

### Junior II Division

BRENNAR GOREE AND AUTUMN JONES

### Overall Juniors Winners

BRENNAR GOREE AND AUTUMN JONES

The contest was sponsored by Kathryn and Eddie Monsour – Junior Divisions, Shaggers Hall of Fame – Masters Division, Bruce and Camille Morgan – Seniors Division, WMBF – Professional Division, South Atlantic Bank – Non-Professional Division and The Myrtle Beach Herald – The 2009 National Shag Dance Championships Dance Team.





# SOS Paradise





# The Central South Carolina Shaggers Wall of Fame Page 1

Carol Aldous  
President, Central South Carolina  
Shaggers Wall of Fame

All of us have ways of recognizing those who have contributed to preserving our dance, the shag. In the middle of our state is one of those organizations – the Central South Carolina Shaggers Wall of Fame.

I have taken parts of the history, as Phil Sawyer remembers, and expanded on it here to summarize how the “Wall of Fame” has evolved.

Our Wall of Fame began in 1989 with DJ Woody Windham’s idea to honor some of the best known “regulars” at Beau’s which was THE place to be in Columbia. Beau’s was in the Carolina Inn on Assembly Street and was the hot spot at that time. Mitch Barkoot was the first “inductee” in 1989. He was roasted by his friends and honored with a spotlight dance. Pictures were made and hung on the walls at the club. In the beginning, Woody chose the members, but as the group grew, they began to get together to chose the next person. Members have been inducted as individuals and as couples.

When Beau’s closed, we moved our pictures to The Shag Club in the Holiday Inn on Assembly Street. The group was growing. Nick Mathis was the first president. Things were still kind of unorganized until an ad hoc committee consisting of Gene Brantley, Julie Trent, C. J. (Bell) Bigger, and Phil Sawyer began working on the by-laws and the rest is history.

Next, we moved to Weejun’s. Our pictures were on the wall

around the dance floor and when Weejun’s moved a few doors down, the Wall of Fame was the first thing you saw when you came in the door! We had a place to honor our members and hold our induction ceremonies, which in most cases, were an opportunity to tell some really interesting stories about each other!

Weejun’s closed, we moved to Crackerjacks, the Ramada Inn, Loafers, Legends and The Plantation. Needless to say, we are without a home for our pictures at present, but we are still a cohesive group who continues to honor our own. We induct 4 people each year and are 102 strong.

Inductees are eligible to nominate one man and one woman upon their election to the Wall of Fame. Members are able to nominate again when an individual they have nominated is elected as a new inductee. Members in good standing vote and elect new members. In order to be selected to the Central South Carolina Shaggers Wall of Fame, an individual must have distinguished themselves in the shag community for a minimum of three years in one or more of the following categories:

Distinguished service as an officer or committee chairman of one of the area shag clubs

Regular attendance and participation in area shag lounges

Regular attendance and participation in Association of Carolina Shag Club local club weekends and SOS events

Distinguished service as a teacher, judge, or competitor in local, area or national shag competition.

Our current members are (in order of induction):

Ruth Barkoot  
Julie Trent  
C.J. (Bell) Bigger  
Phil & Chick Sawyer  
Carroll Yongue  
Marilyn (Haithcock) Burrage  
Woody & Jean Windham

Nick Mathis  
Wanda (Holliday) Yow  
Red Brewington  
Sonny & Barbara McGill  
Nancy Davis  
Nell Beasley  
Dalton Stokes  
Judy Rodes  
Bubber Snow  
Jack “Spider” & Tessie Neeley  
Dan Humphries  
Bill & Lois Mell  
David & Rita Pardue  
Doris Green  
Marie Taylor  
Mack Windham  
Jean Armstrong  
Gene Brantley  
Burns Harris  
Pam (Harris) Barton  
Lynda Carole Flynn  
Elton Johnson  
John Stewart  
Don & Sandra Bryant  
Jane (White) Henson  
Mike Pace  
Judy (Waites) Mathis  
Steve & Joye Marsha  
Dick & Linda Terry  
Freida & David Dudley  
Butch and Brenda Davidson  
Jerry & Sylvia Greene  
Margaret Ballington  
Jean & Doug Charlton  
Laura & Rodney Williams  
Robert & Felicia Howle  
Norman Barkoot  
Billy & Jeannie Pack  
Doug Brown  
Libbie Jones  
Jackie Houston  
Jo Jo Putnam  
Ann Humphries  
Tommie Brant  
Carol Aldous  
Carlton & Ann Fussell  
Kay Freeman  
Donnie Way  
David Adams  
Karen Way  
King & Alana Holmes  
Mike & Pat Robinson  
Albert & Kathy Khalil  
Carolyn & T.J. Hiott

Janice Outz  
Rick Aldous  
Rick Shackelford  
Patty Wheeler  
Phyllis Tiller  
Louis Outz  
Pete & Sharon Reynolds

Those members we have lost over the years continue to be a part of our organization and we miss them all very much. They are: Mitch Barkoot, Norman Holliday, Robin Craig, Eddie “EZ” Zomerfeld, Sheila Bodie, Fuzzy Simon, Bobby Green, Larry Taylor, Helen & James “Hop” Hopkins, Ralph Becknell, Carolyn Stevenson, Jim Bradford, and Carole Jones, who is one of our newest members, elected posthumously this past year.

Thank goodness we have so many young shaggers who continue to preserve and promote our wonderful dance. With their help, the shag will go on!

I haven’t been a member of the Wall of Fame very long, compared to most, but I feel so honored to be a part of such a wonderful group of people. Shaggers are a different breed, as most of us know. Even though a lot of us are older, and don’t go out as much as we used to, we love the dance and we share a common bond. Just look at all of us when we hit the beach for SOS, for example, we spend our first day hugging and visiting with all our old friends we haven’t seen in awhile! and the party begins. It’s hard to describe to anyone who isn’t a part of it – in fact, I really can’t make anyone understand who doesn’t do what we do – but it’s something I wouldn’t ever want to give up! We love the lifestyle and the friends we make, but most of all, we love the dance.



# 2009 SHAGGERS HALL OF FAME March 21, 2009



## 2009 Female Inductees:

Donnie Hodnett  
Durham, NC  
Krystie McDonald  
N. Myrtle Beach, SC  
Jennifer Wattenbarger  
N. Myrtle Beach, SC  
Olivia McManus  
Charlotte, NC



Bill Hussey, Earl Robinson, Jennifer Wattenbarger, Olivia McManus,  
Ronnie Shue, Andy Grooms (not pictured) Donnie Hodnett & Krystie McDonald

## 2009 Male Inductees:

Andy Grooms  
Charleston, SC  
Bill Hussey  
N. Myrtle Beach, SC  
Ronnie Shue  
Charlotte, NC  
Earl Robinson  
Richmond, VA



The meeting for nominating the future inductees and voting on the 2009 new inductees began @ 1:00 PM at the OD Resort. The Executive Board, Selection Committee, and the 2008 Hall of Fame Inductees were given a list from which they discussed the people they felt met the criteria for selection into the Hall of Fame. As always it was difficult for everyone to make a final decision as everyone on the list is qualified for this honor. But, unfortunately, each person can only choose (4) female and (4) male.

Many comments were that all definitely as "southern ladies and gentlemen", were involved in all aspects of the shag world including competition, attended and supported shag events, are great dancers with big smiles, and most of all love the dance and music, and has been a life style throughout the years... as it has been for all of us.

While the Executive Committee were tallying the votes, the sixteen attendees that voted were given an opportunity to nominate one male and one female to be added to the Hall of Fame nomination list.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM and everyone leaving the meeting was looking forward to the evening to hear who had been inducted, which was announced that night at the OD Cafe at 10:00 PM. The Hall of Fame Induction will take place Saturday,

October 10, 2009 @ 9:00 PM in the OD Cafe for friends and family to attend to support their peers and family. The next time you are in Ocean Drive visit the OD Resort and read the interesting bios of all the Inductees that are displayed in the hotel.

The Keepers of the Dance meeting was held prior to the Hall of Fame Meeting. The Keepers of the Dance will also be inducted the night of the Shaggers Hall of Fame Induction, Saturday, October 10, 2009. The 2009 Keepers Inductees are Jason Cagle, Charlotte, NC and Krystal Taylor, High Point, NC. The Keepers of the Dance are now displayed at Ducks Beach Club.

**HALL OF FAME OFFICERS:** Chick Hedrick, CEO Sam McIntosh, President Wanda Holliday-Yow - Secretary



*A Grocery cart,  
a golf cart and  
a hand truck...*

By Becky Stowe

This is what it took to move Beach Memories up the street to its new home. Sounds easy, right? Wrong! I started packing the frame shop supplies and the storage closets during fall SOS when we weren't real busy. We needed to be out October 1st. That gave us only nine days after fall SOS to move! It seemed impossible.

But with the help of my employees, Jean Bunting and Penny Bangle, Penny's daughter Melanie, my husband Milford, his son John and "adopted son" Jason Lewis, we did it! However not everyone was able to help everyday.

One day we needed some strong guys to lift some heavy fixtures. So Melanie took off to the "Shark's Tooth" bar in Little River where she rounded up a couple willing fisherman. They weren't real big guys but you have to be really strong to pull in those nets on a fishing boat so I knew they could handle my big antique cabinet. I went ahead to the new store to wait for them. They came up the sidewalk pushing that

cabinet on a dolly so fast and in a flash went right on by the store! I ran after them and stopped them just past Ducks. I wondered how far they would have gone if I hadn't stopped them!

Another funny thing was watching Melanie back up the golf cart and trailer to the back doors to load up. After about 50 zillion times she got pretty good at it!

We used a grocery cart to move a lot of things up the sidewalk. Have you ever noticed how grocery store carts in up in the strangest places? There's always one or two in the back parking lot. Anyway I'll bet we were a sight. We probably looked like a parade or a convention of homeless people pushing their only belongings in a grocery cart up the street.

Finally all was moved. The new store was a mess with things piled up like pyramids in the middle of the floor. One rainy morning I came in and looked at the piles, turned around and went back home. I came back later after a good cry and started digging in. A good cry helps sometimes!

I'm still trying to get the store in shape and still haven't unpacked everything. However I was able to get the CFT's cover and print ready by the deadline which I'm sure made Janet, the CFT's editor faint!

Speaking of the cover, this painting is special to me because of shag legend Billy Jeffers. Billy and I visited on numerous occasions when he came to visit me at Beach Memories. I miss you Billy. It is also special because this year marks the 25 anniversary of Shag becoming South Carolina's state dance!

Beach Memories is having its 20th anniversary this year too. I once said I would retire from the retail business after 20 years! But as long as you SOS'ers will have me, I'll continue a little while longer. But there's one thing I won't do and that's MOVE AGAIN!





Thank you Harvey and Selene for all you do for Carolina Beach Music as well as for all of us...for treating us more like family than employees!  
With love,  
"The Surf Team"



## HOW IT STARTS...

Mike Marr

Reluctantly he takes out his wallet and pays for a six week class. He has after all survived things worse than this.

Once all the details are worked out the teachers call everyone to the dance floor. He takes a big gulp of his frosty beverage and trudges onto the floor. His spouse is already making friends with all the ladies and explaining how difficult it was to get him there. To his chagrin they are all looking at him and he hangs his head. He takes his place with the other men and notices that their heads are drooped, too.

The male teacher takes charge immediately and puts the women on one side and the men on the other. He then explains that shag is a male dance and the females are only there to make the men look good. Yeah, right, like anyone would ever believe that. He takes his partner by the hand does a simple step or two while counting incessantly, one and two, three and four, five six. "This," he says is the basic shag step."

Our average Joe watches as they do a male turn, a female turn and a start. Doesn't look too hard, he might be able to do this after all. The teacher tells them that at the end of the classes everyone will all be able to do these steps as well as a pivot. They, then, demonstrate the pivot, the trail behind, the belly roll and several other fancy steps. The difficulty factor moved up a notch and Joe realizes that he has to get away. He will stay this first night but there is no way he is ever going to do the sugar foot. He steps in unison with all the other men and sees that the guy next to him is having a hard time getting his feet to do right. After several repetitions he leans over and tells him that he has step back on the five-six. The other guy tries again and thanks him, getting it right this time.

By the end of the first night, he is doing the basic and the female turn. He is beginning to feel pretty good about his abilities, he is better than most of the other men. He also becomes aware that even some of the women are having problems with the turns. This, he decides, is a piece of cake and then the teacher turns on the music. "You've got to be kidding," he says, "We have to do this on beat?"

When the fifth night of lessons rolls around, he is yelling at his spouse to hurry he wants to get there in time to practice before the floor gets crowded. He has made friends with all the other men and explains to them how he uses a Frisbee to practice his pivot. Each of them has ideas that they are willing to share with him, also. He is now the first one on the floor and is constantly bugging the teachers to show him something new.

Two years later, Joe has joined the local shag club and is looking forward to his first SOS. He has every DVD available is pushing his spouse to enter a shag contest. The two of them have never gotten along better in their lives.

These are the rules that Joe now lives by:

- 1.) Dance every chance you get, someday your feet may not let you.
- 2.) Dance with someone better than you, you just might learn something.
- 3.) Dance as if no one is looking, they're probably not.
- 4.) When in doubt, pivot, it always looks good.
- 5.) Thank your shag teachers every time you see them, without them you would still be sitting on the couch.
- 6.) Request at least one song from the Dj, it makes feel appreciated.
- 7.) And lastly, lift a toast to all those who spend their free time keeping our state dance alive.

When a couple enters the world of shag, it is usually as a diversion from the doldrums of everyday life. Normally the wife or female partner learns about shag lessons being offered at a local club, church or other civic gathering place and suggest to her spouse that this might be something they could do together. It usually starts with a phrase like, "Remember how much fun we had when we were dating? We used to go dancing all the time." This is the male's cue that something he is not going to enjoy is about to enter his safe and peaceful domain. He cannot tell her that the only reason he danced back then was to advance his chances with her. Now that he has her the thought of dancing never enters his mind.

After much hemming and hawing the average Joe finally agrees to go with her and see what this shag thing is all about. He finds himself in a bar, not bad so far, and orders a cold adult beverage to loosen his inhibition. He takes a hard look at the shag teachers expecting to find a dominant woman and an effeminate man dressed in frilly clothes that he wouldn't be caught dead wearing and is surprised to see a very attractive lady and a guy who is not much different than he. He looks around at the other couples and notices that most of the men seem to have the same hangdog attitude that he has. How did he ever get roped into this?



# 25 Years of "SHAG" SC State Dance

Bubber Snow

Twenty five years ago seems like a long time, but one fourth of a century sounds a lot longer. From 1977 to 1984 was like being in a different



Bubber Snow, Libba Blanding,  
Mike McMillan & Guest,

world. I attended the University of South Carolina in 1947 and maybe I was fantasizing in thinking of being a pre-law major. To put it bluntly, I

danced my way out of USC and transferred to Clemson College and received a BS degree in Agronomy. A couple of years in the military would bring me back to Hemingway, SC and I began my career as a tobacco farmer.

I met my wife on Ocean Drive in 1956. We were married in 1957 in New York City at The Little Church around the Corner. We have three children and four grands.



Sal Marino, Gov. Richard Riley, Bubber Snow

From 1957 to 1977 seemed like a blur. The worst part then was the social aspect, which included party shagging and party bridge, with lessons in the Cha-Cha. No one in Hemingway danced in time or knew anything about bridge. I liked to think I excelled in both. I learned to play Whisk in the thirties before The Goren's reinvented



Kathryn Tilghman, David Grice, Gov. Riley, Harold Bessent & Bubber Snow

the game and called it Contract Bridge.

In 1977, I decided to get into politics. My father had served one term in the thirties and three terms in the fifties and was elected to S.C. Public Service Commission, which he continued to serve until his retirement.

My political service began the second week in January 1977. Disco was the popular dance in Columbia then, and the most frequented club was called "Smugglers". It was at the end of the session, and I was invited by a young female lobbyist to go to a private club called "Wits End". This was a quaint and cozy place to come and have a drink and get away from the noise and smoky disco crowd. Wits had no D.J. but a jukebox and a small area to dance. I discovered two songs on the jukebox that was my beat. Natalie Cole's "This will be my Everlasting Love" and Bradford and Bell's "Johnny Dollard". The young lobbyist asked if I could shag. My thoughts went back to the Carolina days in the forties and the Clemson days in the fifties.

We got on the floor and it was delightful. She could do the basic and a half pivot. Later I learned that Columbia had two more private clubs, Fanny's and Fanny Teague's. It was at Fanny's that I ran into some of my old beach friends.

JoJo Putnam and Vickie were teaching the juniors and Norman and Wanda Holliday were teaching the adults. Phil Sawyer and Hop Hopkins and I were at USC the same time. Friends of the New Columbia Shag Club were Nick Mathis, Mith Barkoot and Bill Holler. Bill's daughter Betsy, who was sixteen, was the best young dancer I had seen at this time.

JoJo and I go back to the late forties. Someone in Greenville told Jo if he wanted to fast dance to go see Bubber and Sissie

dance at the old Lafayette Pavilion at Pawley's Island. Jo told me every time he sees me, that changed his life.



Mitch Barkoot, JoJo Putnam, Vicky Putnam, Gov. Riley, Chick Sawyer, Phil Sawyer, Bubber Snow

Serving 18 years in the SC House gave me a dance vacation from January to June. From '77 till '93, I was out of politics for six years and then was reelected for four more years.

I conferred with all mentioned friends and all were in agreement that making The Shag the State dance would be good for the dance and better for the state.

If you are familiar with our Legislative Manual, you will see we have a lot of symbols. The two I take pride in are making the shag the official State dance and beach music the official popular music



Charles Stafford, Bernie Baum, Wallace Greer, Gov. Riley, JoJo Putnam and Bubber Snow

of the State.

April 3, 1984 was the day we picked for Governor Richard Riley to sign the Act into State law. The hour was 4:00 pm where those who had come

for the signing (note pictures) could walk across Assembly Street and go into "Beau's" at the Carolina Inn. As soon as the Governor signed the Act, I rushed over to the Inn to meet Harry Driver, Charlie Boone and Harold Bessant. Time began to move and the crowd got larger and larger. Woody Windham was the D.J. and the club had a live band. Woody and the band alternated sets, and the music and dancing lasted into the early morning hours. What a Celebration!

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## Atlantic Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame



Something very special took place at Memories Beach Club in Atlantic Beach, N.C. on February 27-28, 2009. The annual Hall of Fame induction and reunion party went off without a hitch. Memories had been sold at the first of the year to a new group of shag lovers and they had plans not only to continue with this event but to make it a little more special and a little bit different. The Atlantic Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame started in 1999 and has 160 members including the inductees for 2009. Shaggers from Florida, Virginia and both Carolinas were on hand to enjoy the evening. Music was provided all weekend by AB Shaggers HOF members Bill Moore, Eddie Smith and Bill Harper. At every corner of the new "smoke free" club there were conversations of days of yesteryear. There was laughing and talking about the good old times remembering the days at the clubs like the Pavilion, Ducks (that's N.C. Ducks folks) the Embers Club, the Jolly Knave, the Barnacle, Courtney's, Rays, Mary Lou's and Memories Beach and Shag club. Earlier in the day the HOF induction committee Norfleet Jones, Ruby Vick Viverette, Rosemary McCullen, Milton Nowell, Bill Young and Chairman Bill Harper met to discuss some new guidelines, criteria and improvements that will preserve our HOF organization for many years to come.

Mayor Trace Cooper opened the ceremony with a welcoming statement and what the HOF meant to him personally, his father Buddy Cooper and grandfather A. B. Cooper Sr. are both in the HOF. Then a ribbon cutting took place with all the Memories Board of Directors, HOF Nominating Committee, Mayor and Town Councilmen. The microphone was turned over to Master of Ceremonies John Moore (WSFL-107.9 fm) and color commentator George Summerlin. I had asked both of them to keep the ceremony moving rapidly and to be held to 30-40 minutes. These two should have been on television as entertaining as they were. Thanks John and George. The ceremony began and the inductees were Shirley McDonald Holmes, Mike and Susan Moran, Rhett Honeycutt, James A. Parker, Keats Sparrow, Pete Allen and Robert E. Lee. They were presented with their Hall of Fame certificates and had their names placed on the 2009 plaque on our Hall of Fame wall. Bill Harper was awarded the first Atlantic Beach Shaggers Lifetime Achievement Award from Memories President Donnie Hinson. The award read: To Bill Harper for your devotion and dedication to beach music and keeping the Shag Dance alive and well. Your efforts during the past 32 years will continue to inspire dancers, Hall of Famers, and Junior Shaggers for many years to come. The Board of Directors extends appreciation and gratitude for your contribution to the ABSHOF and your commitment to the dance loved by many. The evening closed with a Final Dance by all the Hall of Famers in attendance in memory of all the Hall of Famers that have passed on to that great "shag floor in the sky." All their names were recognized and each one has their picture on our new deceased wall; "Memories Live Forever".

### Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Bill Harper

On February 28, 2009, Bill Harper was presented with the first annual Atlantic Beach Shaggers Lifetime Achievement Award for his devoted efforts in keeping beach music and the shag dance alive and well. Born and raised in Rocky Mount, NC, Bill spent summers working at the Atlantic Beach Pavilion, quickly becoming a fan of beach music and shag dancing. After serving three years in the Army, one of those in Vietnam, he returned to NC to graduate from East Carolina University. From 1978 to 1997, Bill was the owner of The Jolly Knave, a well-known shag club in Atlantic Beach, NC. The day Bill sold The Knave, he and a group of shag enthusiasts purchased and renovated Mary Lou's Beach Club, which became Memories Beach and Shag Club in Atlantic Beach. Bill is a lifetime member of the Association of Beach and Shag Club DJs. Through his 32 years of DJ'ing, he has played in various shag clubs, has participated in DJ Throwdowns, and can now be found DJ'ing regularly at Ducks during SOS and Mid-Winter. Bill is a long-standing member of the Atlantic Beach Shag Club and the Twin Rivers Shag Club and was inducted into the Atlantic Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame in 1999. He currently chairs the Hall of Fame (HOF) committee, DJs for each annual HOF ceremony, and, along with Memories, has co-sponsored welcoming cocktail socials for the HOF events. Bill's contributions to the shag world include monetary donations to the Ellen Taylor Foundation for Junior Shaggers and the Junior Shag Association. He was the first to donate funds to Mrs. Ellen Taylor a few years ago, and has since contributed thousands of dollars towards the promotion and preservation of beach music and the shag dance itself. Bill believes that without the efforts of older shaggers to educate, encourage, and provide opportunities to the younger shaggers, the dance loved by so many could disappear. Although Bill plans to continue DJ'ing for many years to come, he recently retired from his 32-year tenure as a shag club owner, a milestone surpassed only by Fat Harold.

**Congratulations, Bill, on your well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award!**





# Helping the Juniors One party at a time!

The Carolina Shag Club has been trying to start a Junior shag program in Greenville, SC this past year. Each of our four Junior workshops was a success - teaching over 100 juniors how to shag. Some fell in love with the dance and keep coming back to learn more - some came because their parents/grandparents made them - but they still left with a smile on their face.

With advice and support from the Junior Shag Association and the Ellen Taylor Foundation for Junior Shaggers, our program will hopefully continue to be successful. Our shag club members have sponsored and helped during each workshop. Along with their help, Junior shaggers Kalin, Brady and Kolten Ellis and Eva Wellmon from Gaffney came to the workshops. These Juniors helped us teach the workshops and danced for the young participants - showing them that shagging wasn't just for the older generation!

Our members fell in love with these kids. We appreciate their hard work, their love for the dance and the respect they show us as adults. During the first workshop this past summer, we did a "dancing for dollars" and raised around \$400 to help them fund their trip to compete in California in November. When we found out they were traveling to New York



in June to compete, we invited them to dance again for dollars at our "Re-Up Party" in February where around \$600 was raised!

We're not a large shag club - right now we're at 180 members. But we - and you - can support these Juniors and their interest in the dance - by sponsoring your own event or through the Ellen Taylor Foundation for Junior Shaggers fund raising drive that will be starting this year.

Please make the effort to preserve "Our Past...Their Future!" It's well worth your time!

## Beach DeeJay Hall of Fame

The Beach DeeJay Hall of Fame was founded in 1987 and consists of regular and honorary categories. It is physically located at Fat Harold's Beach Club in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. The next time you enter Fat Harold's, look to the left and you will see the Hall of Famer's plaques for both categories with their photographs. The criteria for nomination to either category can be found on the Association of Beach and Shag Club DeeJays' web site ([www.abscdj.com](http://www.abscdj.com)).

There are 36 members in the Regular DeeJay Hall of Fame and 26 Honorary Hall of Fame members. These numbers reflect the two new Regular Hall members and three new Honorary Hall members inducted this year.

Once a year, the living regular Hall of Fame members vote to elect one or more members to the regular and honorary Hall of Fame. Inductions are then held at Fat Harold's Beach Club during the annual DeeJay Throwdown.

This year the new Regular Hall of Fame inductees were Tootie Brown from North Myrtle Beach and Norman Mills from Abbeville, SC. Both of these men played great music for over twenty years in the Mooresville, NC before relocating to their current homes.

The Honorary Hall of Fame inductees this year were the Band of Oz, Charlie Brown from WPCM 920 AM in Burlington, N.C. and the legendary John R from WLAC radio in Nashville, TN.

Please remember to take a look at the Beach DeeJay Hall of Fame during your next visit to North Myrtle Beach and Fat Harold's Beach Club. These are the guys and gals who have kept the music alive for your dancing and listening enjoyment!

by: Larry Edwards



Tootie Brown



Norman Mills





# Grandkids Can Boogie Too!



Here we are. Getting ready for 10 fun filled days at Spring Migration 2009. Did you know there is another migration of sorts held right here in Ocean Drive, July 15-19? It is Junior SOS. This event has been going on since 1992. The first venue was Smiley's (Groucho's) in Charlotte, NC, moving to N. Myrtle Beach in 1995. In the last several years I am proud to report that there has been an explosion in membership! In 2008 we had over 650 join and we are anticipating 1000 members in '09. Ages range from 3 to 20. The older attendees are great ambassadors for the newer ones. The schedule is jam-packed so there is never a dull moment. For a \$10 annual membership the kids get free workshops for all levels - beginner through advanced. We're even considering a thirty minute "tiny tots" workshop for those little ones whose attention span is limited. There are free T shirts, welcome packets, beach activities, contests, pizza parties, hot dog parties and gospel brunch..WHEW! I don't know about you but I'm already excited thinking about all the fun. As always, the clubs here at Ocean Drive go out of their way to make this an incredible week for the kids. Those clubs are Ducks, Harolds, OD Arcade, Boulevard Grill and the OD Resort. Thanks to them for the support. "The Surf" 94.9 also conducts a tour of their studio for the kids. I emailed some of the young people who have attended Jr. SOS and asked them to give us some insight on this event. A few were gracious enough to reply.



**CASEY COOPER:** Casey is 17 years old from Summerville, SC. He is in the 11th grade at Summerville High School. He attended Jr.SOS for the first time in 2004 after his Aunt Renee Jones and cousin Autumn Jones told him about it. Once he arrived at the beach, he found "everyone very inviting and welcoming for new people." I asked him if he had any funny or embarrassing moments at Jr. SOS. Casey talked about the time he was in a handicapped mixed doubles contest. "I had to keep a beach ball between my legs and wear a snorkel mask which made dancing very difficult but more fun. I tripped and fell over my partner while we were dancing!" Knowing Casey, I'm sure he got right back up and continued to dance. He has a great time each year hanging out with old friends, meeting new ones and of course dancing. Casey also says it's the most fun thing his family does all summer.

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**KODY BROWN:** Kody is 16 years old and in the 11th grade at Sumter High School, SC. After hearing about Jr. SOS at a shag party, Kody went to the Jr. SOS website and made plans to attend in 2007. He remarked that this event is the greatest he has ever participated in! He also signed up to be one of the Jr. DJ's during the "Family Time" at OD Resort each evening from 6-8. He did an awesome job! One of the best things Kody enjoyed about Jr. SOS is meeting new friends, seeing old friends and dancing with all the professionals. To quote Kody "I was 15 years old when I went to my first Jr. SOS and I plan to go until I'm way older than 21. I encourage anyone of any age who reads this to go to the next Jr. SOS whether you can shag or not because if you can't, you will learn and I promise, you will have a great time!"

**PAGE 2 OF ARTICLE**



**CODY EDWARDS:** Cody is a 16 year old from Summerville, SC and in the 10th grade at Summerville High School. Cody's grandparents took Cody and his brother Austin to Jr. SOS in 2006. They wanted to introduce them to the dance they love. The week was full of meeting new people from all over, taking the workshops, some days taking the same class several times if it was offered and in general just having a good time. Cody said that this week has brought all his family and grandparents closer together, having lots of laughs and fun. He also said the best thing about Jr. SOS is "I get to see friends that I only see once a year, making new friends, lots of dancing and oh yes...it's at the beach"!! "At Jr. SOS I learned how to do the basic steps of Shag which resulted in me getting involved in competitive dancing. I started competing 6 mo. after Jr. SOS at the Shad Alberty in Charlotte. I met my dance partner Chase Forrester at Jr. SOS. I continue with lessons and going to competitions and other events hoping to improve on the dance I love." Cody was also one of the Jr. DJ;s in 2008.

As you can see Junior SOS means as much to these kids as our SOS means to us. Making memories and friends..what more could we ask for!! So now you know that.. **"GRANDKIDS CAN BOOGIE TOO!"** If you or your group are looking at ways to give to a good cause either through your time or monetary contributions, go to our website [www.juniorshaggers.com](http://www.juniorshaggers.com). There are applications for Jr. SOS membership and sponsorships. Lots of other information such as schedules for Jr. SOS and workshops are also located on the website.

**Don't forget: JUNIOR SOS JULY 15-19, 2009**

by: Sally Edwards





# ACSC Icons

## Peggy Cavin

### Twister's Shag Club



It takes many dedicated people to keep any social organization operating, especially one as active as Twister's Shag Club. Peggy Cavin is one of the people that has been instrumental in the

success of Twister's. She is a charter member of the club and was part of the group that helped form the club in 1991. While some people may be more vocal than Peggy, she just quietly takes care of whatever needs to be done.

A strong club requires strong leadership. Peggy has provided strong leadership by holding the following offices:

**Vice President – 1995, 1998, 2004**  
**Secretary – 1991, 1992, 1997, 2003**  
**Treasurer – 2004**

Peggy has also served as chairperson for the following committees:

**Social Committee – 1993**  
**Telephone Committee – 1994, 2000**  
**Membership Committee – 1995**  
**Fall Cyclone Signs and Decoration Committee – 1991-2008**  
**Nominating Committee – multiple times**

Twister's requires members to serve on two committees each year. Peggy has fulfilled this requirement every year since the club was formed. Peggy has also been the recipient of the Twister's Shag Club Model Member of the Month Award.

Twister's promotes the music and the dance by public demonstrations, providing shag lessons, distributing a monthly newsletter and supporting junior shaggers.

To help prepare Peggy's nomination letter, we reviewed the past four years of our club's newsletter. We found documentation of Peggy's involvement in the following events. If we had taken time to review all the newsletters since the formation of the club, the list would have been multiplied many times over.

### Recent Shag Demonstrations

- Mountain Island School
- Park View School
- Senior Health and Fitness Day

- North Mecklenburg County District Girl Scouts
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Denver Days Annual Fall Festival (multiple years)

Peggy has helped teach shag lessons for the club over the years *without receiving personal compensation*. During the time Peggy was not teaching lessons, she has consistently been there to help with registration, partner with students, provide extra help to students, and help with the graduation celebrations. Shag lessons are also the primary way we entice new members to join our club. The membership applications we have received listing Peggy as a sponsor are too numerous to count.

Our shag club's newsletter is distributed to our members, other clubs in the association and our shag lesson students. This is one of the ways we promote our club and keep others updated of our many activities. Most every monthly newsletter has at least one article submitted by Peggy. In fact, she has written over 100 articles for our newsletter over the years, many of which have been reprinted in the Carefree Times. Peggy also helps with typing, proofreading and preparing our newsletters for mailing.

Twister's Shag Club is a big supporter of junior shaggers and the Junior Shag Association (JSA). Peggy has helped with our efforts to raise money for the juniors. She is a long-time adult member/sponsor of the JSA and has attended many of the Junior SOS events at North Myrtle Beach. She has also helped photograph and document those events.

In addition to all of the official duties Peggy has performed over the years, some of her biggest contributions to the club are never recognized and never documented. She is always there to help out anywhere she is needed. If a party chairperson doesn't make it to an event to set up the facility, Peggy helps with set up. If the clean up committee disappears before the task is completed, Peggy cleans up. If half and half tickets aren't selling at a party, Peggy helps with tickets. One article in our newsletter even described Peggy helping sell half and half tickets at a party held by a shag club she was visiting!

Peggy Cavin's contributions to Twister's Shag Club are numerous. In short, if something needs to be done for our shag club, Peggy just does it.

Twister's Shag Club members are grateful for Peggy's contributions to our club, our dance and our music.

## Gail Davis



Gail Davis is the ultimate "icon". Gail and her husband, Tommy, fell in love with the shag when they visited "The Pad" at Ocean Drive while on summer vaca-

tion back in 1980. You could say "they got the fever". They came home to Rock Hill and found a couple by the name of Shad & Brenda Alberty, teaching shag lessons in Charlotte. They were hooked. One night, while out dancing, they come to meet Ron & Peggy Whisenant, who told them about a new club they had started called the Rock Hill Area Shag Club. Gail loved the idea of sharing her love for the shag with others.

Gail is such an important part of our shag club and the entire shag community. She has served on the board of our club as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer (her current position), and social director. Some of these offices, she has held numerous times over the past (27) years. In the past, our club's annual party was the "spring fling". There was always entertainment at this event, which was a major production that was performed by our club members. Gail was instrumental in the planning of this event and a major performer. She is always one of the first to volunteer to help with any event and one of the last to leave after helping with the clean up. When it comes to putting a float together for the parade, Gail is right in the thick of the work, with drill in one hand and paint brush in the other.

Gail & Tommy have taught shag in our community since 1983. For over 13 years, they taught over 300+ kids, 7th. – 10th graders, once a month at Junior Assembly. Many of those kids are now shagging adults. Not only is Gail still teaching classes, but she is always willing to show anyone a move she knows. At every dance, you can count on someone asking her to show them a step. She is always happy to do so. During the years, Gail & Tommy would dance in local contests in Charlotte and Rock Hill, when they met a group of shaggers called CSA. Gail loved the excitement and the competition.

A few years back, Gail had to slow down a bit due to a heart attack, which occurred while shagging. Even though, she had to slow down for awhile, she continued to work in the club by producing our monthly newsletter and setting up our website. Gail has slowly, but surely worked her way back to health through the love and prayers of her friends. You know that shagging is in a person's heart and soul when you see them, during such physically tough times, still get on the floor and dance, if only for a few bars of a song. That's just Gail. It is a treat to watch Gail dance. She is always so graceful and dances with such delight. The love for the dance always shows on her face.



## Chris Jestes



It is with great honor and joy that I accept an Association of Carolina Shag Clubs' Icon award. For years I have been a dedicated member of the Fayetteville Area Shag Association. It has been my pleasure to share my time and hard work to help make our club fun and successful. I have taken

roles in guiding our club's direction by spending three years as an officer. Each year I volunteer to work on club committees to make sure that FASA functions smoothly. I have done my fair share to ensure that the club has enough money to operate from year to year. Assisting the club in its business and guidance has not been my only contribution to FASA and the dance we love. Making sure that others get the chance to learn about the shag and providing an arena for dancers to exhibit their skill has become one of my passions. I thoroughly enjoy finding ways to entertain my friends and fellow shaggers. I have not been content to apply my energy to FASA alone. For several years I have extended my assistance and skills to the greater shag community. In short, I have tried to repay the joy that I get from the shag by offering a part of myself back to the shag community.

A number of years ago I was asked if I had been enjoying my membership in FASA. I quickly answered yes. I was told that was great, but if I thought being a member was fun then I was going to love being an officer. I must have enjoyed being an officer as much as I was jokingly told I would, because I stayed on the board for three years. In that time I served as the Sergeant at Arms, Vice-president, and finally the President. During my terms of office I consistently worked to make sure that FASA would be strong and enduring, but I also wanted everyone to have a good time. While serving as President I always made the rounds of the room at every party. I saw it as my duty to greet each member present and introduce myself to any guests. I liked to call it "presidenting". Just as I enjoyed being an officer I also enjoyed getting others involved in the governance of the club. I have told many new members that the best way to meet new friends and feel at home was to volunteer for committees and to hold office.

I have pitched in to help handle the tasks that keep a shag club running by volunteering to serve on committees. For seven years I have served as the club's webmaster. I author the club's website to make sure that all of our members are kept up to date on club meetings, parties, news, and special events. A few years ago we lost our long-time home at an area bar. It was a terrible loss to us not only because the location was perfect for our group, but also because the walls of the night club were decorated with the plaques of the many people who have been inducted into the Fayetteville Area Shagger's Hall of Fame. Our Hall of Fame had to be dismantled

and sent into storage. We could no longer honor our inductees. I meticulously recreated all of the inductee's awards electronically to keep them from being lost. I also took the information and used it to create a web space for our Hall of Fame. I have used my work with computers to help support the club in other ways as well. For several years I have maintained and repaired the FASA computer to keep our automated phone tree up and running. In the last few years, the computer has been located at my house. I continue the work on our system and my wife and I have assumed the duties of our phone tree committee. Additionally, I help out with desktop publishing for our dance club. I routinely create the documents, spreadsheets, databases, and presentations that we need. I even used my computer skills to design our club a nice new logo with a pair of silhouette dancers and a catchy motto.

I have always enjoyed a good party, but at the same time been aware that someone must pay the piper (or DeeJay) if you're going to dance. To make sure the party goes on, I have included myself in FASA's fundraisers. For many years I have helped plan and organize the club's largest money maker, the Reverse Raffle. Through this event alone most of the club's operating expenses have been made. I took a fundraising job that few others wish to touch. I offered to be the person who sought out sponsors for our annual dance contest. Scrounging up the sponsors for the dance contest was not my only part in that event. I also organized the contests, designed and printed up the flyers and advertisements, coordinated with the bar owner where we held the event, and served as the liaison to the Competitive Shagger's Association. I even helped CSA run the computer to score the contests. I have taken part in a number of FASA firsts. I signed up to pour beer in the park all day during the Dogwood Festival to help generate cash for the club coffers. Who knew you could have so much fun with a beer tap! I also helped setup and plan our first experience with street vending during Fun Monday. It turned out to be a rewarding experience for our club members.

I have always enjoyed looking for club activities to help with. I have taken part in two of our award winning float entries in the Spring SOS parade. I have hosted FASA monthly parties twice a year for the past five years. I would have to say that I am sure that I have cleaned enough tables and emptied enough trash cans after parties to put most sanitation workers to shame. Each year at the club Christmas party I like to help line up a little special entertainment. It may be skits with elves, comic reindeer, Christmas poetry with a shag theme, or a slideshow of the year's events projected on a wall for all to see.

If we get the chance to talk, two things will quickly become clear. I feel a connection to shag's past and I want to make sure shag is in the future. To this end, I apply myself to many activities outside of our shag club. I was asked to join the SOS Enhancement Committee. In this group I serve as the Logistics Chairman for Fun Monday and Fun Sunday. I also contribute to SOS by writing poems and warping Christmas carols for the Care Free Times. You may remember my version of the T'was The Night Before a Shagging Christmas, I'm Dreaming of a White Sand Christmas, Shagging Time sung to the tune

of Jingle Bells, and SOS Memories. This past year I submitted Shadows on the Dance Floor. This latest poem was written to honor my long time mentor in shag society Eddie Monsour and one of my great friends, Mike Blanton, who was bravely battling Lou Gehrig's disease. Recently, I have taken over the responsibility of creating and managing the SOS/ACSC website. I admit that this is a huge responsibility, but the SOS members and ACSC clubs need a good tool that is managed by a shagger to serve their needs. I have also provided my skills to The Hall of Fame Foundation by creating and managing their website and writing articles about their organization's activities. Managing websites is not the only way I have assisted SOS and The Hall of Fame Foundation. For the past few years I have volunteered to help with the HOFF/SOS Golf Classic in Southern Pines.

There is nothing I love more than a good party. I will travel miles to find a friend, some music, and a dance floor. However, I do not like traveling alone. I have gathered a group of friends around me that I refer to as the FASA Road Show. The Road Show is a group of FASA members that organizes outings to other shag clubs and events on a regular basis. Our group makes monthly stops from Lumberton, to Dunn, to Sanford, to Ocean Drive, and points in between. The Road Show crowd makes up the core of FASA's leadership and provides a firm bond that helps make our club stronger. The spirit that the Road Show group has carried to other clubs has infected many from those clubs and has drawn them back to Fayetteville for our events.

I can't leave out the one thing that I love the most. I have become a fixture at our club's dance lessons. Each month I show up like clockwork. I have spent years practicing and learning new steps. After a few years, I stepped up and started working as a SCUD, Shag Class Utility Dancer. Now, I assist our dance instructors by helping out students when needed or filling in when they can't make regularly scheduled classes. I have also applied my computer skills to helping our dance class grow. I have created and printed up flyers and business cards about our club and our dance lessons. I pass these out around town to people that may have an interest in joining our organization. I have also facilitated getting our dance classes published in the Local newspapers. I have even taken my love of sharing our dance out into the community. My wife and I have done exhibition dances at local events. Once we even danced on the ice at a Fayetteville FireAntz hockey game on their beach night. My wife and I have also volunteered to give free shag lessons for a number of local organizations. We were even asked to shag in a church!

The shag has enriched my life too much to measure. I have truly become dedicated to the shag and the lifestyle that has grown from it. The dance fills up the free time of my wife and I and has led us to many wonderful friends. All of the work I have done was for the pleasure I get from being involved with such a wonderful bunch of people. The thought of a reward or even a thank you never entered my mind. I cannot express my gratitude enough for the recognition you have given me by selecting me as an Association of Carolina Shag Clubs' Icon. What an



## ACSC Icon

# John Harper



John Harper learned to fast dance in small-town Alabama as a “Panama City Bopper,” when he was 15 years old. He fast danced often in college and periodically during his adult life until one eventful day in September, 1989, when he experienced a life-changing event. He wandered into Fat Harold’s at The Pad and found what he had been seeking for more than 30 years—his second childhood!

John immediately became passionate about the Shag and everything associated with it. He was so smitten that he returned home with a burning desire to form a Shag club in the Birmingham area. After a flirtation with a newly formed Bop club, he began teaching Shag lessons in a community center without a female teaching partner. In late 1991, with the help of his students, other dancers who had learned to love Shag and its music, and the ShagAtlanta club, he organized the Beach Shaggers of Birmingham.

Once the new club was up and running, John tirelessly continued to teach and promote the Shag at several community centers in the greater Birmingham area. In 1996, he and other club members produced a How-to-Shag video, which is still used by the club today.

Throughout the years, John has served his club in numerous capacities, always willingly, enthusiastically, and in an exemplary fashion. He has been President, Vice President for Membership, Newsletter Editor, dance instructor, and a member of the Board of Directors, serving in some of these positions several times. John also used his attorney skills to write and update the club’s by-laws and later incorporate the club. He helped develop, and has served as both Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Beach Shaggers’ annual Shag-A-Rama, the biggest and best Shag party on the Gulf Coast. This hugely successful event is held each October in Panama City Beach, Florida at the latest incarnation of the legendary “Hangout,” THE outdoor dance pavilion of Deep South kids in the 50’s and 60’s.

Since his first encounter with the Shag in 1989, John’s devotion and passion for the Shag has never waned. He has attended nearly every S.O.S., including mid-Winters, driving more than 1,000 miles round trip each time. He has been a member of the ShagAtlanta club since 1989. He regularly supports other Shag clubs in Georgia and the Carolinas by attending their parties. He has been a most effective ambassador for his club

John has written many articles on the Shag for the S.O.S. Carefree Times and other, non-Shag publications, including his often republished article, “Shag: A Thing of Beauty and a Joy Forever.” He has been a member of the Beach Shaggers of Birmingham Hall of Fame since 1997. In 2006, John and his lovely wife, the former Sally Stevens, were inducted as a couple into the “National Living Legends of Dance” in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

John Harper is a great credit to the Beach Shaggers of Birmingham and the entire Shagging community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Dobbs, President, Beach Shaggers of Birmingham  
Rod Penuel, Past Pres, Beach Shaggers of Birmingham  
Susan Green, Past Sec Beach Shaggers of Birmingham  
Sharon Clark, Past Pres, ShagAtlanta



## Helen Still



"As President and charter member of Palmetto Shag Club it was my pleasure to nominate Helen Still as a recipient of the Icon Award. Our shag club has benefited immensely because of her efforts, her drive and dedication to excellence.

Helen has been an active member of PSC since 1996, and has served as President

and Vice President for two-year terms each. It is shared by many that she is a proven leader, motivator and an inspiration to others.

In 2007 Helen was presented the Palmetto Shag Club President's award for her outstanding service to the club, and to me and the board. She is certainly an asset to the shag community and many have benefited greatly from her hard work, experience and dedication throughout the years."...Novelene Powell, 2008 PSC President.

"Helen has been a Charter Member of the CSRA Shag since we were formed in 1986. She has served on the Board for several terms, and now serves as secretary. Last year Helen suggested that our club purchase a defibrillator and our membership voted unanimously to make this purchase. When she does something I can always count on it being done to the best of her ability, and believe me it is always first class. Currently as the Junior Shaggers Committee Chair, she has arranged for several of the Juniors to perform at our annual Shag Classic helping them raise money for their expense".....Buddy Keip, 2008 CSRA President.

"Helen has been one of the most dedicated and loyal supporters of the Shag that I have known during my 12-year friendship with her. Helen has given top-notch professional representation and support of the Shag through the various offices that she has held over the years in the Palmetto Shag Club, CSRA Shag Club and the SOS Board. She is truly a leader and a joy to work with."...Carolyn Cloe, CSRA Member

"Helen has always impressed me with her way of dealing with any situation to get the job done. She handles every situation with class and always takes time to make everyone feel special. She is always on hand to help and see that each event is the best that it can be."...Dot Smith, Member of PSC, Orangeburg, Charleston and Islander Shag Clubs.

"I am a member of PSC and have been a member of CSRA as well. I have worked with Helen on many committees and activities within the Palmetto Shag Club, and have seen first hand her contributions to our dance, her organizational skills and her ability to positively motivate and inspire others. When you find someone that works as hard as this lady does, have the experience to share with others and the desire to benefit the clubs she serves, you truly need to recognize that person."...Faye Rountree, PSC Member.

"I have known Helen for about 12 years and every since I have known her I have noticed how involved and how hard she works within the shag clubs she holds memberships in. I can't even imagine how many hours she works to benefit the shag clubs and does everything with class and grace, which is revealed in the end result of her efforts."....Tommy O'Brien, Member of PSC, Beaufort, CSRA and many other clubs.

"As an outsider looking in at what Helen Still has meant to the two shag clubs that I know she is a member of: I only wish every club had twenty or so just like her. Having held and currently holding elected positions in both PSC and CSRA, she is active in both clubs. Helen has all the attributes needed to be an Icon."....John Reynolds, President Beaufort Shag Club.



# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Beth Mitchell Invitational

## Beth Mitchell Memorial Charity Shag Invitational

Linda Reeder

The Beth Mitchell contest began in 2004 at Thirsty's 2 in Greensboro. This event developed from an idea Beth's parents, Nancy and Worth, had as a way to keep her memory alive. They had already set up a scholarship in her name to help someone associated with the shag community to continue their college education. Thus far, there have been nine students who have been beneficiaries of the Beth Mitchell scholarship fund.

Beth was born in Greensboro in 1972 but grew up in toneville. After graduating from UNCG, she became an elementary teacher but her true love was dancing. Over the years, she won contests in Atlantic Beach, Ocean Drive and Thirsty's in Greensboro. In early March of 1998, Beth and her partner, Brad Kinard, won the Non-Pro National Shag Championship. Tragically, on March 20, Beth lost her life in a tornado that demolished the town of toneville.

The 6th annual Beth Mitchell mixed doubles contest was held on February 28, 2009. This year the event was scheduled for one night with three divisions dancing which turned out a total of 26 couples. Over the years, the contest has had many outstanding dancers who performed before a crowd of spectators.

This year, the winners were:



### NON-PRO Division

1st – Lee Warren & Casey Litaker  
2nd – Carol Oakley & Larry Davis



### JRS. Division

1st – Krystal Bravo & Brennar Goree  
2nd – Kaylee Ellis & Sammy McClelland  
3rd – Mikayla Jones & Brady Ellis



### PRO/HALL of FAME Division

1st – Nikki Kontoulas & Jeff Hargett  
2nd – Mandy Holt & Rick Shoemaker

## Beth Mitchell Invitational continued

The amount raised this year was \$5,586.00 bringing the total contributed from the six contests to over \$47,000.00! Thirsty's 2 is proud to host this wonderful contest in Beth's name.







**SOS**  
**MID-WINTER**  
**2009**





The **Hall of Fame Foundation** is pleased to announce the appointment of **JASON CAGLE** from Charlotte, NC to our Board of Directors. We are sure that he will be an asset for our future commitments in *"Friends Helping Friends"*!



Roger Burris



Harrold Bessent



Marilyn Burrage



Sandra Bryant



Al Cain



Janet Harrold



Chick Hedrick



Eddie Monsour



Nick Mathis



Norfleet Jones



Janet Morris



Phil Sawyer



Ron Whisenant

For more information about us, visit our website at [www.halloffamefoundation.org](http://www.halloffamefoundation.org)

# FAT HAROLD'S BEACH CLUB 4TH ANNUAL Hall of Fame Foundation EXTRAVAGANZA

Thanks again to Harold Bessent, owner of Fat Harold's Beach Club, and one of the Hall of Fame Foundation Directors for another successful benefit for the Hall of Fame Foundation!!!

The day started at 1:00 PM, Sunday, February 15, 2009. The cover charge \$15.00 per person and worth every penny to all that attended. The floor was packed with people sitting at tables, which some tables had purchased prior to the event to get a great view of the entertainers performing to benefit the Foundation.

The entertainers were Donny & Susan Trexler, Gary Brown, Paul Craver, Mark Black, Gary Lowder, Craig Woolard Band, Tommy Black, Mark Roberts, Janet Sullivan, Calabash Flash, Greg Moseley, JD Cash, Tim Clark, and Richard Robertson... is that a fantastic show or what? All the entertainers made the day very special and were greatly appreciated for taking time out of their busy schedules for the charity event.



94.9 The Surf was there in full swing to show their support. Ray Scott, DJ for the Surf, was

Master of Ceremonies, and did his usual great job. Many thanks for their donation and support for the Hall of Fame Foundation.

The proceeds raised for the 4th year were approximately \$5,000.00. These monies donated will obviously go to "friends" that are experiencing hard times in their life. Please check out the website [www.halloffamefoundation.org](http://www.halloffamefoundation.org) for upcoming events and contact information for all the Directors. Thank you, Harold...we love you!!!

Janet Harrold  
Hall of Fame Foundation Director







Generations of the SHAG

BEACH CLUB

DRIVE WITH

CAROLINA



# A Man Named "Tiny" ... With A Heart As Big As The World

I'm writing this article as a very humble friend who only had the good fortune to know this man for a few years, & wishes he could have known him for many many more. But the 15 years or so that my wife, Debbie, & I knew him made us right good friends.

On July 17, 2008, the shag world & the folks of Ocean Drive lost a dear dear friend. His name was Richard Melton, but most knew him as "Tiny". But the good news is...the memories of his friendship & the fun times together will last forever.

I first came to know Tiny back in the mid-90s when they had the woman-less beauty contest on Fun Monday. For those who remember, those were some crazy contests. Tiny & I had both been "tricked" into signing up. Well, Tiny & I got to talkin' & jokin' at the first one...and things just went south from there. Ya know, sometimes you just meet people who you know you instantly like...and that's what happened there.

I think it was the second contest we were in together when a funny little situation happened. Some fella who was in the contest walked up & said, "I gotta go to the bathroom real bad! I been drinkin' all mornin' just to get drunk enough to be in this thang". I looked at Tiny & started laughing. Tiny said, "Well ole pal, you gotta problem. If you go to the men's room, you're gonna get beat up. If you go to the women's room, you're gonna get arrested".. We never knew for sure where he went. We didn't have to worry about it. We were crazy enough to be in that contest stone sober...well, almost. At least we didn't have to go to the bathroom. Oh, by the way, Tiny won that contest the 3rd or 4th year. I never did win it, & I never let him forget it either. We just had some fun times making people laugh.

The local NMB folks knew him in many different ways, but the shag folks probably got to know him when he worked the side door at the O.D. Arcade & Lounge during SOS. He had the responsibility to check for SOS cards, & handled that job extremely well. He was a wonderful ambassador for the club & for SOS at the door. When folks showed up who didn't have an SOS card, he had a very pleasant way of explaining the situation & what they could do to take care of it. He had a very uncanny way of knowing someone who was just trying to circumvent the system or really was just trying to find someone. It seemed that thousands of people knew him & he knew them too...even if they didn't know each others names.. It was like a reunion of sorts almost every time someone walked through the door. You locals know that he loved to sit on the beach under that tent with "the crowd" (and you know who you are). They just loved to laugh, watch, & have a good time. And they did. It was a tradition that will live as long as Ocean Drive lives.

I can't imagine anyone in the world not liking that ole rascal. Everywhere he went, he was welcomed. Everyone he knew just seemed to be brightened when they saw him coming or if they happened to see him in one of the clubs. We would cut up, laugh, tell jokes, & just have a good time.



The thing I admired about him the most was that he was always a gentleman. He treated the ladies with the utmost respect...and they admired him for that. And if you really got to know him well, you found out just how big a heart he had. If you were friends, by dang, you were best friends. He really wanted to know if you were ok or not. He worried about you if he didn't hear from you on a regular basis. Well, the feeling was mutual. Debbie & I live almost 400 miles from NMB; so we couldn't be face to face with the ole bird that often. If we didn't call in him in a week or so, he would call us & vice versa. This went on for a long time.

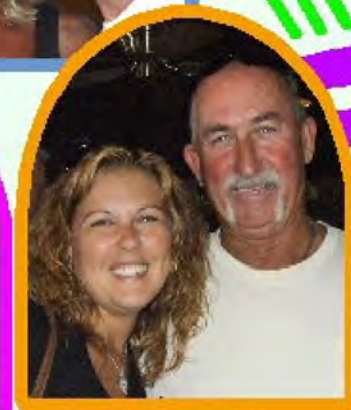
Last spring, Tiny started having some health issues & just couldn't seem to get past them. The medical community tried everything they knew to try, & nothing just seemed to work. Well last summer, we didn't hear from him for a couple weeks; so I called his cell phone. At the time, I didn't know for sure who I was talking to, but when they answered, I knew instantly that things weren't good. Just a He's gone, but the memories are forever. The one thing I'll always remember is when he hadn't seen someone in a while. He would shake hands, give 'em a hug, & say, "How ya doin' pal?"

Well "ole pal", we miss you a bunch, but we'll always have the memories. AND HERE'S TO YOU!!!!!! Please join The OD Arcade & Lounge Thursday, April 23rd @ 5pm for the dedication of Tiny's paver.

Your pals,  
Larry "Bigfish" & Debbie Calhoun,  
& your pals at O.D. Arcade & Lounge,  
& all your pals in the SOS world & the NMB area



# SOS Good Times





# IT'S A BLAST FROM THE PAST





# SHAGGING WITH THE STARZ DANVILLE SHAG CLUB



ACSC/SOS 2009  
WINTER WORKSHOP





## Must All Things Pass?



# The "Dr. Phil Huff Sawyer Educational Endowment Fund."

By Foster "Checkbook" McKinney, SOS Treasurer

By now you have been wisely told at some point in your life that "all things must pass" meaning that nothing is forever. Some deep-rooted believers feel that this idiom should be formally adopted as the "eighth law of the universe." Yes, very few things in life survive the ravages of time. Most tangibles will likely perish in one way or another, and intangibles, such as great deeds, can survive only if there is something set in place to constantly educate and remind us. Notable life-time achievements should be more than just footprints in the sand destined to erode. Such footprints yearn to be fossilized in stone for future edification and guidance to those who follow their path.

Nearly six years ago, Judy Vick, Chairwoman of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC), approached me and presented an idea that she had conceived to commemorate our own, Dr. Phil Sawyer. She was very excited and emotional over this idea and she was looking for my input, as SOS Treasurer, on the prospects of its financial feasibility. As she presented her idea, it took all of her will-power to hold back tears and to intermittently clear her throat and steady her quivering voice. She said, "You know, someday our organization will grow so large that people eventually will forget who Phil Sawyer is and what he has done to help make it what it is today." She went on to point out that it is incumbent upon us to keep his memory alive and to pass it down for future generations. The best way, she thought, of doing this was for us to establish an education scholarship in his honor at The University of South Carolina, his alma mater.

As I listened to her idea, a possible \$100,000 price tag immediately planted thoughts of dismissal in my mind. I began to think about operating in "red ink" and even "bright red ink." At the same time, I thought that this is truly a wonderful idea but it simply just *ain't gonna happen* financially. As much as I would like to see it come about, I just didn't think that it could muster enough support. Boy did I ever underestimate the resolve of Judy Vick as well the individual people who comprise the ACSC member clubs: one in particular, Tommy O'Brien, who became the endowment's largest individual contributor and headhunter. Judy's idea did in fact muster enough support. It became a reality within two years of its initial fund-raising appeal. Today, the "Dr. Phil Huff Sawyer Scholarship" is named and is now active. The endowment was established at the ACSC Winter Workshop held in Columbia, South Carolina during February 2006 with a \$5,000 gift from the ACSC and a \$20,000 gift from the SOS Charitable Foundation. Through subsequent fund raising efforts, it has accumulated a principal balance in excess of \$100,000 held by the University of South Carolina. This \$100,000 threshold qualified it as a "named" scholarship in honor of Dr. Sawyer. The University expected that, before the current economic crisis, the endowment will, on average, generate approximately \$5,000 annually in earnings which will be used to award partial scholarships within the USC School of Dance.

Basis for awarding the scholarships is promulgated upon considerations of a student's academic standing, financial need, and technical ability along with other similar qualifying attributes. Our organization has no involvement in award process. Even though there are no express restrictions or expectations toward awarding any part of the scholarship for a commitment to the "Carolina Shag," partial scholarships for the 2009 spring semester were awarded by the USC School of Dance to four dance students--two male and two female--so chosen as to enable them to learn the "Carolina Shag" as dance couples. USC dance instructor, Richard Durlach, a shagger from way-back-when, meets and instructs the couples weekly. Be cognizant that the endowment was not surreptitiously established with out-right intentions of turning "dance students" into "shaggers." This may have been a tantalizing fore-and-after thought, but it was never first and foremost. The endowment's primary objective is to commemorate Dr. Sawyer and, to this end, it was felt that the scholarship should be used where it is needed most. If the School of Dance sees a greater need in other genres of dance, then students awarded the scholarships are not expected to concentrate their efforts on the "Carolina Shag." They will understand the source and background of the scholarship and they will be grateful for the assistance.

This endowment will perpetuate the name of *Dr. Phil Huff Sawyer* for as long as the University of South Carolina remains in existence. *Go Gamecocks!* It will serve as our testament to the profound and positive impact that he has had upon our organization. It is up to us to keep his memory alive by effectively passing down its history--so much of which he has been a part of. To those of us who have had the pleasure of fraternizing and drinking "blue-hand Buds" with him, I say, "Keep these good times dear to your heart and indelibly entrenched in the furrows of your mind." To those of us who have not had this pleasure, but are scantily acquainted with him, I beckon, "When you next see him make it a point to stop and chat. You'll be glad you did." To those of us who have never heard of Dr. Phil Sawyer, I ask, "*Where have you been?*" Flames from the legacy of Dr. Phil Huff Sawyer may fizzle and dim as the decades pass us by, but we have made certain that they will never burn out!

Applications and criteria can be located online at: <http://www.cas.sc.edu/dance/Academics/scholarship.html>

Donations to the "Dr. Phil Huff Sawyer Educational Endowment Fund" are tax deductible and can be made payable as follows: SOS Charitable Foundation, Phil Sawyer Scholarship Fund, c/o Allen Henry, 3849 Habersham Forest Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32223

The SOS Charitable Foundation is a recognized IRC 501(c)(3) charitable organization which raises funds for this cause in addition to other charitable causes. Your donation, along with others, will be diligently and timely-receipted, recorded, earmarked and forwarded, by the Foundation to the University of South Carolina. You will receive acknowledgement of your donation by the SOS Charitable Foundation.

SOS Fun Monday is a fund-raising activity conducted by the SOS Charitable Foundation. It conducts a street concert during the SOS Fall Migration featuring live performances from well-known musical artists. This event raises funds from sponsorship and raffle-ticket sales. These funds, net of expenses, help contribute to the "Dr. Phil Huff Sawyer Educational Fund" as well as the North Myrtle Beach "Caring for Kids Fund" and other charitable benefits. Purchase of a raffle ticket will give you an opportunity both to win a cash prize and to indirectly contribute to the "Dr. Phil Huff Sawyer Educational Fund." By far, the largest fund-raising efforts have been from sponsorship of Fun Monday.

"S.O.S. will continue for years to come. Thousands of "yet to be" shaggers and stranders will come to love this event just as much as many of you, who weren't around in the early 40s, or people like me who were never a life guard or a "beach bum" in the late 40s or early 50s, have come to love it. S.O.S. is the personification of a way of life for which "a cold beer on a warm night with a hot date, and no plans for tomorrow, says it all." It will stand." – Dr. Phil Sawyer.



# Where did you sleep? Where did you eat?

Sarah Richardson

*Please enjoy some of my personal postcard and photograph collection. Today, they're an enjoyment to see and also a history lesson.*

## WHERE DID YOU STAY WHEN YOU CAME TO THE BEACH?

We always vacationed in Ocean Drive, renting beach cottages every summer. My favorite was the polka-dot house, with big colorful round circles, hence the name. The motels and hotels stuck in my memory the most, since they were the glamour of the beach, with their swimming pools and playgrounds.

Remember the important amenities, such as "open all year," "cross ventilated", "lobby with television", "private baths in all the rooms", "modern units", "dial telephones", "linens furnished", "piped in music" and "wall to wall carpet"? You would always look for the VACANCY sign. If it was on, you knew you had a place to stay. If you arrived at night, these signs were "beacons of the night".

## WHERE DID YOU EAT?

Besides going to Little River and being able to buy the catch of the day off a fishing boat, or driving to Calabash, it was special to walk to a restaurant on Main Street. "Home of Finer Food", "Serving Local Seafood" and "Homemade pies" were a treat..... THEY STILL ARE.

