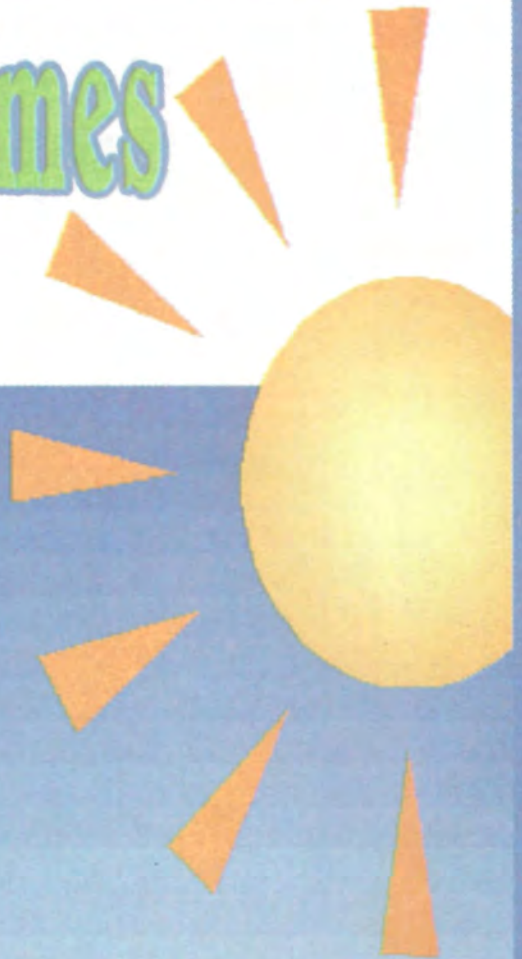


# S.O.S. Carefree Times

## Summer 2011



Fat Harold's

Spanish Galleon

O.D. Arcade

Duck's

Pirate's Cove

**SOS**  
Road to  
Paradise

*Handwritten signature*



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# GOOD NEWS

## Concerning Our Company Store



**GRAND OPENING**



It is with great pleasure that we can report to you that our Company Store has undergone a complete transformation inside and out. Outside is a new paint scheme- tan accented in black with new black roof shingles, and a new Company Store roof sign. As you walk down the sidewalk towards the store you begin to hear beach and shag music coming from speakers underneath the roof overhang. When you open the door to the inside you are greeted by newly painted walls in a soft yellow, new glass shelving, and display racks. Music is again coming to you from overhead speakers. Dr. Phil Sawyer's portrait now has a place of prominence and is highlighted by a soft ceiling floodlight. And yes Ladies, we now have a well appointed dressing room for you to use when trying on our new merchandise. Your shag club logos are displayed all around the interior walls at ceiling height. There are also pictures and things of importance displayed in various locations. As of this writing we are researching the possibility of having a digital monitor located in the front window. This monitor will display the DJ schedules at the various SOS clubs, the many discounts offered to SOS cardholders by local merchants, and any other pertinent information for shaggers. We hope you will take advantage of this new source of information.

On Saturday September 17th (first Sat. of Fall Migration) we are going to have a re-grand opening with ribbon cutting at 10:00AM. 94.9TheSurf will be broadcasting live from the Company Store from 10AM until 1PM. We ask that you drop by and check out your new facilities, register for free prizes and give-aways, and perhaps talk live on the radio with Surf DJ Ted Bell. This is shaping up to be an exciting event with more surprises to come. What a wonderful way to kick off 2011 Fall Migration!!

**SOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



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## S.O.S. President Ron Whisenant

Hello Everyone! I hope you are having a good summer. It seems very busy for me. Spring Safari was so long ago it seems. If you were there, you know what I mean. It was cooler, and right in the middle of tax season. You know what that means.

You had to pay your taxes before coming to Spring Safari, or after you went home. Bad timing for the Spring Safari, when Easter comes late in the month of April. We won't be affected by the situation again until the year 2014. Maybe taxes will be abolished by then.

On a brighter note, the weather for Spring Safari was really great. A little cooler than normal, because it being earlier in the month. We did suffer a few threats of severe thunderstorms and tornados in the surrounding counties, and states. However, we were never directly threatened while we were enjoying Spring Safari. The day of the parade, there was a tornado on the ground on the other side of Horry county, while the parade was going on. Thankfully, it bypassed us and the parade went off without a hitch. As usual, another great production by parade chairman Don David, and his staff.

The Summer Workshop will be in Augusta Georgia, the second weekend in July. The CSRA shag club will host the event. It is shaping up as a great weekend for a party down in the southern state of Jawga, ya'll. I know it will be a rocking good weekend. Hope you can come and join in on all of the festivities and fun. If you need details, go to shagdance.com, or CSRA's website.

SOS is working and planning an event for to take place on the last Saturday of Fall Migration. The date is September 24, 2011. We will orchestrate the largest group of shaggers dancing at the same time, for a five minute duration, in a controlled arena to establish a new record, for the Guinness Book of World Records. We anticipate this accomplishment with as many as two thousand shaggers, dancing our state dance, the shag. You must be able to dance for five minutes to be in the record attempt area. You will hear more on this event, as our plans unfold. Ask your shag club president how you can become part of this historical event.

I hope to see each and everyone of you at the Fall Migration. It is going to another great event. Fun Sunday bands, Fun Mondays lineup will be a great day in the street, along with setting a new world record for dancing on the last Saturday. Make your plans to attend and enjoy Fall Migration 2011.

# Ron

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## SOS Board Chairperson Helen Still

Hello all,

Once again Spring SOS was just about as perfect as it could be. We had great weather, the clubs were packed and everybody seemed to be having a great time. The last Saturday of SOS the weather man

called for rain, but thank goodness we had a beautiful day – perfect for the parade. For once I got to watch almost all of the parade and it was absolutely fabulous. Our thanks to the parade committee for all they do to make this not only work but run as smooth as it possibly can.

The SOS Board of Directors and the ACSC Officers were able to meet many of the public safety and fire officers during Spring SOS by serving them lunch. These men and women are the folks who help us during the parade and Fun Sunday and Fun Monday. Actually these folks are always available to help us any time we are in NMB. What a wonderful and dedicated group of men and women.

I hope everyone is planning to attend the workshop in Augusta, GA. July 8-10th. We hope you will join us and enjoy a fun filled weekend. Please look at [www.shagdance.com](http://www.shagdance.com) for the flyer. (I just couldn't let this opportunity slip by without plugging the workshop, now could I?)

If we thought we were busy during Spring SOS we will REALLY be busy during Fall Migration. We have lots in store for everyone. The Enhancement Committee is hard at work preparing for Fun Sunday and Fun Monday. AND plans are a work in progress, as of this time, for the Guinness World Record for the most shag dancers dancing. This will be a monumental event and there is still much to be determined. Anne Henry is chairing that committee and she will be periodically updating you all on this event.

The summer has really started off with HOT weather. Y'all might want to think about having your thermostat set at 78, which is the best temperature (per the electric companies) to save money and energy. There always seems to be a battle at our house, I turn it up and Rodney turns it down. The amount of the bill always tells who won the battle.

There are so many shag club parties during the summer. Remember that you can always go to [shagdance.com](http://shagdance.com) and check out each club's website or look at the party information. You can literally go to a shag club party every weekend. It is so good to see shag clubs support each other by attend various parties.

This shag lifestyle is a wonderful thing. It has brought us in contact with so many fantastic people that we can now call our friends. We thank you for the support you offer to our board and officers. The SOS Organization is a group of shaggers and music lovers who have become a family of friends. If you're lucky enough to be a shagger, you're lucky enough.

Have a wonderful summer, enjoy your family and please be safe.

# Helen





**ACSC Chairman  
Ken Akin**

Spring SOS has come and gone and good times were had by all. The clubs were crowded all week and Mother Nature only frowned a couple of times. Most of all we had, NO RAIN ON THE PARADE, only a little WIND. Our resident weather forecaster Dwayne Baggott predicted no rain until after the parade. Our well organized Parade Chairman, Don David has always said--- it never rains on the parade. As I made my way to the Saturday morning ACSC meeting I was all a little apprehensive about the outcome of the weather but it did not take long for the sun to make a welcomed appearance. The parade has always been a way for the ACSC clubs participating members to coordinate and work together in choosing their decoration theme and then displaying their talents on the day of the parade. The 2011 parade was the parade of all parades! For the list of winners in each category of the parade visit the shagdance.com website under Site Info, Site Map.

When you return to NMB for SOS Fall Migration, it will be quite obvious that the SOS Company Store will have undergone a greatly improved facelift. The outside of the building will have a new paint scheme and a new SOS sign on the roof. The interior of the store will be completely renovated and stocked with lots of new merchandise. A welcomed addition to the store will be a changing room and more space for displaying merchandise. Please visit the SOS Company Store and purchase your FALL MIGRATION tee shirt and browse through the remodeled store.

I am really excited about the 2011 Association of Carolina Shag Clubs Summer Workshop in Augusta, Georgia on July 8-10, 2011. The CSRA Shag Club, my home club, is hosting the workshop and the club has planned a terrific weekend which includes accommodations at the downtown Augusta Marriott Hotel and Suites, a walking track beside the Savannah River (so bring those walking shoes), excellent DJ's, super shag dance instructors, vendors, dance exhibitions, split pot, hospitality room opening at 4:00 P.M. on Friday and continues through the weekend with an enthusiastic group of club hosts (the CSRA club and the Coalition Clubs from North Carolina and Virginia), pool party with Murl spinning the tunes, good food and many restaurants and other sites to visit within walking distance of the hotel and ending with hospitality on Sunday morning as you leave to head back home. One ACSC club president has already informed me that thirty club members will be attending the Summer Workshop. This is encouraging to know that this many club members are supporting our association with their presence at the workshop.

For the workshop meeting on Saturday morning, John Reynolds (ACSC Vice Chairman) is coordinating with three ACSC clubs who have hosted workshops to enlighten the board of advisors on the many aspects of organizing and hosting a workshop. Any club that might have plans to bid for a workshop would certainly benefit from having the club president and other interested club members attend this meeting. Who knows---there might be multiple clubs bidding on future workshops. The information on workshop dates and location are on shagdance.com website.

Jr. SOS will be July 12 - 18, 2011 in North Myrtle Beach. Make an effort to support the juniors because we all know they are the future preservers of the Shag. Jr. SOS attendance has grown every year and has over 500 juniors already registered for this year. Jr. SOS week would be a perfect time to have a family vacation and include your children and grandchildren. The junior shag organizations need financial support and volunteers, and remember to donate shag shoes, new or slightly used, to the Ellen Taylor Foundation for Junior Shaggers - Shag Shoe Program. I have donated shoes to this program and have experienced the appreciation from the juniors receiving these shoes.

See you soon!

*Ken*



**S.O.S.  
Janet Harrold**

The thought passed our minds that the Spring parade might be rained out but being optimistic the floats were assembled, convertibles full, and the life guard stands were standing awaiting the beginning of the parade which turned out to be another great day...wind and all!! The judges Cecil Chandler/WPDE, Bill Norman/WNMB, Judy Collins/Judy's House of Oldies, and myself had the most difficult job (in our minds) of voting for the best in each category. I think in the end everybody has so much fun and everyone puts lots of hard work and heart in their entry...they were just happy it didn't rain on the parade.

As you can feel that it is going to be a "long, hot summer" BUT by Fall Migration the weather will cool down and the clubs will be ready for all of us. If this is your first time to attend SOS you can purchase your tickets at our NEW SOS Company Store (which is located next door to the OD Arcade on Ocean Blvd) and all the SOS clubs...Fat Harolds, Ducks, Pirates Cove, OD Café/Spanish Galleon, and OD Arcade and Lounge. As you read through this issue of the Carefree Times please note the events, motel accommodations, advertiser's discounts that are planned for the Fall. Please NOTE that many sponsors and advertisers offer discounts during each SOS and some throughout the entire year... PLEASE patronize them during SOS or anytime you visit the beach.

Thank all for continuing to send photos, articles and advertisements. A new section in each issue will be dedicated as a "blast from the past" so send any photos that would be appropriate for that section.

Have a wonderful summer, keep cool, and will see you in the Fall..and keep smiling!!!

*Janet*





## SOS Parade Chairman Don David

**PARADE TALK!** WHEW! That was indeed a close one! Weather conditions had gotten progressively worse on Friday as the day went on. I would have bet anyone on Friday night that there would be no parade on Saturday. Then our weather prognosticator, SOS President Ron Whisenant, called me about 10:30PM Friday evening and told me we had a window of opportunity, but we needed to move the time up 1 hour. Wow! That would be a problem getting the word out. So David Galloway, one of my parade assistants, and I divided up the clubs and went and asked the DJ's to make the announcements, which they graciously did. And it worked! Everyone made it on time, or almost did. Diane DeVaughn Stokes, co-owner along with her husband Chuck, of Stages Video called me about 10:30AM Saturday morning to confirm to me that they would be arriving at the staging area around 11:30AM to start interviewing the different clubs for our annual parade DVD. OH NO! I had forgotten to call her about the time change. Had she not called me I would have been in deep dodo. But being the professionals that they are they were able to get there before 11:00AM, did the interviews, videoed the parade, and later the awards ceremony at Harold's. Thank you Diane! I just hope we don't have to repeat that scenario. We'll remember this as "the parade that almost wasn't!" And the winners are:

- BEST CLUB VEHICLE:** 1st. Place- Lake Norman Shag Club  
2nd. Place- Beach Shaggers of Birmingham
- BEST SHAGGIN' TROOP:** 1st. Place- OD Shag Club  
2nd. Place- Camden Lugoff Area Shag Society
- MOST ORIGINAL THEME:** 1st. Place- Bass Lake Area Shag Club  
2nd. Place- Rock Hill Shag Club  
3rd. Place- Orangeburg Shag Club
- BEST SHAG THEME:** 1st. Place- Burlington Shag Club (Surprise!!)  
2nd. Place- Monroe Shag Club  
3rd. Place- Greater Triad Shag Club

I'd like to thank all of you for your continued support of our parade, both the folks who enter each year and those of you who watch from the streets. Without both entities the parade would cease to exist. Thanks!

*Don*



## ABCDJ'S President Steve Baker

Happy Summer! Summertime and the living is easy! Kind of reminds me of a song! The Abscdj's hope everyone is enjoying some vacation time, spending time with their loved ones. Donna and I are spending as much time as we can with Alivia. I would have never thought I could be wrapped, well I am!

The Association of Beach and Shag Club DJ's was formed in Atlantic Beach, NC in 1991 at Boogie on the Beach by a few DJ's who had the foresight to bring together like minded individuals to share and enjoy the music we so love. This past March we put on the single largest party at OD, DJ THROWDOWN, it was our 20th party and boy was it a party! Just ask those who attended.

Our group is always just a phone call or an email away from playing your shag club event. Email me @ sbaker4@nc.rr.com or give me a call @ 919 676 2159.

Many of our DJ's will be working Jr SOS. We are a proud sponsor of this fine event and I look forward to seeing each of you there. This party just keeps getting bigger and bigger each year.

Ok Alivia is wanting to sit in my lap, so I had better go, see you at the beach!

*Steve*



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### SHAG & SMILE

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Hope to see all your smiling faces during Summer Workshop and Fall Migration



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Check out the all the photo's on the SOS website [www.shagdance.com](http://www.shagdance.com)

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

FALL MIGRATION

# 2011

# YES, OH YES! IT'S S.O.S.

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**THE EMBERS**

THU SEPT 15

**THE ENTERTAINERS**

FRI SEPT 16

**CRAIG WOOLARD**

SAT SEPT 17

**LEGENDS OF BEACH MUSIC**

TUE SEPT 20

**CRAIG WOOLARD**

WED SEPT 21

**THE HOLIDAY BAND**

THU SEPT 22

**JIM QUICK & COASTLINE**

FRI SEPT 23

**THE TIM CLARK BAND**

SAT SEPT 24

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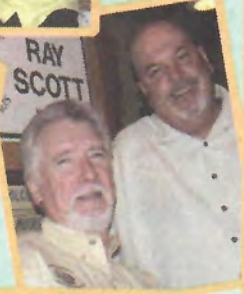
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Main Street; 202 Main Street, North Myrtle Beach • FREE • 6:30-8:30pm

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Jim Quick & Coastline  
Too Much Sylvia

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Blues/Beach  
Top 40 Hits

## SOUNDS OF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Enjoy an evening with family and friends listening to live music, picnicking, and playing in the safe and fun environment of beautiful McLean Park. Bring a beach chair, blanket, food, and non-alcoholic beverages. The North Strand Optimist Club will provide food and drinks for sale.

McLean Park; 93 Oak Drive, North Myrtle Beach • FREE • 7:00-9:00pm

July 15	Atlantic Groove	Beach
Aug 19	Andrew Thielen	Big Band
Sept 16	Fantastic Shakers	Beach



## MOVIES AT MCLEAN

Spend Friday evening watching a movie under the stars. All moves shown are G or PG rated and are subject to change depending upon availability. Movies will begin 15 minutes after sunset. Bring a beach chair, blanket, and grab popcorn and a drink from the North Strand Optimist Club.

Open to all ages • McLean Park, 93 Oak Drive • FREE

July 8	approx. 8:45pm	Yogi Bear	PG
Aug 12	approx. 8:20pm	Tangled	PG
Sept 9	approx. 7:45pm	Gnomeo & Juliet	G
Oct 14	approx. 7:15pm	Rango	PG



## IRISH ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

September 24th, 10am-4pm – Live music, cooking competitions, local restaurants, arts and crafts, and a children's area are just a few events at the Irish Italian International Festival of North Myrtle Beach, ensuring that you will have a good time. Live music ranging from accordions, bagpipes, street performers, and national artists will keep the cultural blend of this festival vibrant all day.



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FRISEPT2 AND SATSEPT10



THE CAROLINA BREAKERS  
SATSEPT3



CRAIG WOOLARD  
WEDSEPT7



THE TIM CLARK BAND  
THUSEPT8



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FRISEPT9

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# UPDATE ON GUINNESS RECORD EVENT

Anne Henry, SOS Guinness Coordinator

After a recent meeting with the City Manager and other representatives of the City of North Myrtle Beach to discuss the specifics of

holding the Guinness Record event on Main Street and the difficulties expected with being able to create the "restricted" area required by Guinness rules, the City offered us an unbelievable venue--the City's new Aquatic and Fitness Center, located in the City Complex just off U.S. 17. The designated area within the Center is utilized as a gymnasium, with two side-by-side regulation basketball courts. The area is air-conditioned, and eliminates the issue of inclement

weather. There is one entrance which can be completely controlled, also in accordance with Guinness directives. There is an excellent floor, much better than sand or asphalt.



Ron Whisenant, Anne Henry, Ken Akin & Helen Still

The date will be Saturday, September 24, 2011, as previously reported—the time of the actual dance will be sometime between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. The City is closing the Fitness Center to the public at 4:00 p.m. and we will not be able to gain entry until then. In addition to all the other advantages of this location, there is a limited access walking track above the gymnasium which will accommodate the individuals who will be in attendance to certify the event, the videographer, photographers, DJ and equipment, news media, and any others whose presence is required by Guinness. A tent will be set up outside to quickly collect the tickets to process participants, divide them into groups of 50, add a supervisor, and usher them into the venue (the groups of 50 and the "supervisor" are both mandated by Guinness). (Had the event been held on Main Street, the same time frame listed above would be observed because of an Italian-American Festival that is being held on Main Street, just West of Hillside. The Festival does not end until approximately 4:00 p.m.) No smoking, eating, or drinking will be allowed inside the Center.

SOS will provide transportation to take participants to the City complex, and will begin sometime around 3:00 p.m. (This also means that you won't have to give up your prized parking space near the Clubs.) Parking spaces are available at the Complex, but certainly not enough to accommodate every car. The safety of participants who may have been indulging in adult beverages is of the highest concern. If vehicles are driven to the event, please consider a designated driver. After the event, transportation will again be provided for the return to Main Street.

It is hoped that all of the shag clubs in the Association will want to donate \$100 to the SOS Charitable Foundation to have its Club's name inscribed on the back of the commemorative tee shirt. It is imperative that this be done in a timely manner in order to have the shirts printed in time for Fall SOS. The shirts will be sold at The Company Store throughout the week and it is hoped that, while not required, participants will want to wear the shirt while dancing in the event. After a determined cut-off date for sponsorship for the tee shirt, space on the shirts will then be offered to businesses and individuals.

Shag clubs have been asked to respond with the number of participants expected from their club. This is an estimate only, one which will enable us to determine the distribution of the tickets at the Summer Workshop in Augusta. Ticket price remains at \$5, a tax deductible donation to the SOS Charitable Foundation.





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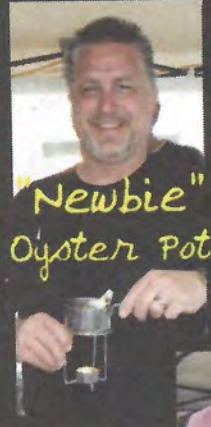
**A Shagger Forever &  
A True Local**



Past President's Party



"Newbie"  
Oyster Pot



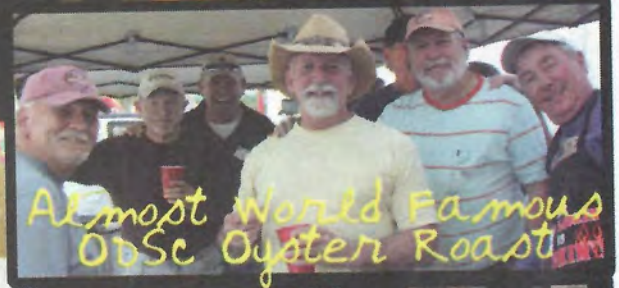
SOS Brunch



Annual chili cook-Off



Almost World Famous  
ODSc Oyster Roast



Pirate Party



Mr. ODSc  
Pageant



St. Patrick's Day Parade



Beach  
Party  
Entertainment



ODSc Loves the SOS PARADE

2011

2010



President

OD Shag club - Shaggin' Fun & Friendship



# Spring Break revisited 50 years later - My First SOS

Howie Thompson

In the late 50's , 60's and 70's we all made our annual trips in March and early April to Fort Lauderdale, or whatever town we chose in Florida. The purpose? Why it was the allure of wet t-shirt contests, beer that flowed from fountains, drunken toga parties that lasted for 3 days, and of course , sex , drugs and rock n roll. Not necessarily in that order. We were on the road from college towns all over the country to party.

In Myrtle Beach, there were a group of young men and women who worked on the beaches as life guards, in the stores as stock boys and sales personnel, and who developed a love for a brand new dance called "The Shag." Started by a group of young men in the 50's and fostered by the groups of Shag Clubs all over the South Eastern United States, this dance phenomenon seems to have given birth to a sub culture of men and women who "just wanna have fun" , as Cindy Lauper so aptly sang in the 80's.

My name is Howie Thompson (AKA the new guy with Linda Cox). I met Linda a while back and she has been my tour guide through the S.O.S. experience.. As I made my way from The Pavilion to the Arcade, then up main street to Pirates Cove, Ducks and then of course ending up at Fat Harold's, one thing became perfectly clear. This is one hell of a party. We "baby boomers" really know how to party.

I found out all about 94.9 "The Surf" and how D.J's come to play here from as far away as Winston Salem and as close as Ocean Drive, Myrtle Beach. I have seen and heard every band from Craig Woolard to Jim Quick, The Holliday band to the Breakers and the one band that stands out as my favorite is The Mark Roberts Band.

Mark's voice has a range that can make you think you are listening to Steven Perry from Journey one moment and a ballad singer the next. His sound rocks and his band appeals to a multi cultural group of people. Mark's talents are obvious, but it's his approach to his music and his ability to handle adversity and sincerely connect with his fans that sets him apart. He is an active sponsor for Camp Chemo, and is the only leader of a band that I saw come out and greet everyone at his concert. Through my research for this article I have found out that the Mark Roberts Band is about to (as the young folks say) "blow up."

The clubs rock and the Dj's led by Paul Craver and Jay Nelms from N. Myrtle Beach, and Jim Wayne from Greensboro are the straws that stir the drinks. These three keep the feet moving and the thirsts building. But it's "The Emperor", Paul Craver who keeps Ducks rockin' and rollin' steppin' and shaggin until a band is ready to take over. And when that band takes the stage, there is never a one who lets a set go by without paying homage to the "Golden Pipes" of Paul as he takes the stage to everyone's delight and sings a few songs for the crowd. And then there is Jim Allen who somehow shows up at every event with his trusty camera and takes pictures of everyone and posts them on a website for all to enjoy.

As a first time S.O.S'er I am sold, I am all in. As a "Yankee", as someone who has lived here for 6 years in an oblivious state of being, as an old party animal from the 60's who had the distinct privilege (along with 499,000 others) to attend the biggest party ever, and as someone who has found a new life and a new love right here in my own backyard? I leave you with the immortal words of George Carlan who starred in Bill and Teds Excellent adventure.

"Always be excellent to one another, Party on Dudes?"

You can contact or find out more about the author, Howie Thompson at [ncoachhta@hotmail.com](mailto:ncoachhta@hotmail.com) , or visit his website at [howiethompsononline.com](http://howiethompsononline.com)

# FUN SUNDAY

September 18, 2011

1:00pm to 5:00pm

1st Ave., Beside The DD Arcade



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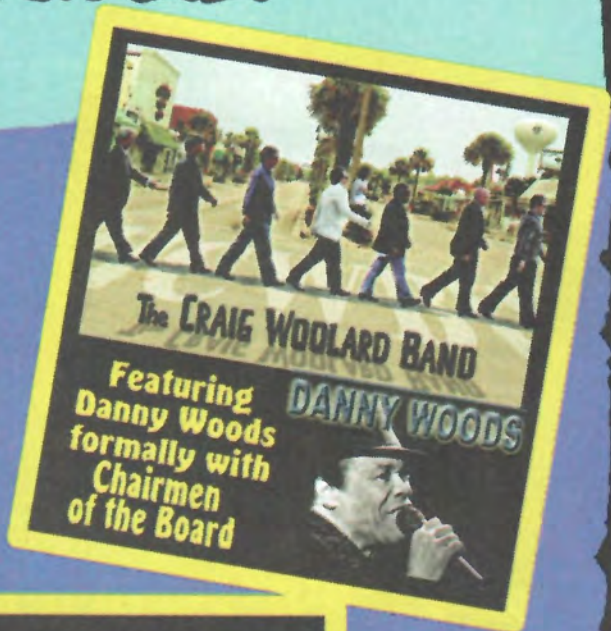
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# FUN MONDAY

September 19, 2011

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



## SOS Fun Monday Drawing

1st Ticket Drawn \$7,500  
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3rd Ticket Drawn \$1,000

4th Ticket Drawn \$500  
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# SOS CLASS OF 2011



**BFF'S**



**MOST LIKELY TO GET MARRIED!**



**FRIENDLIEST**



**MOST LIKELY TO SEE A MIRACLE**



**MOST LIKELY TO SHAG WITH ALL THE GIRLS AT SOS**



**HAPPIEST**



**MOST LIKELY TO KEEP ON SHAGGIN'**



**MOST TALENTED**



**MOST LIKELY TO NEED SOMEONE TO LEAN ON**



**BEST SMILE & COOK**



**MOST LIKELY TO BE AN EMPEROR**



**DAY DREAMER**



**BEST DRESSED**



**FUNNIEST**



**MOST ATHLETIC**



**BEST LOOKIN'**



**MOST LIKELY TO GIVE SHAG LESSONS**



# Shag-A-Rama 2011



Five Days and Nights of Serious Shagging in Panama City Beach, FL

October 11-15, 2011

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Ellen Taylor



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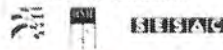
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- Tuesday**
- Sunset Beach Party and Evening "Beach Music Oldies Party" at the "Hangout" (giant beach pavilion)
- Wednesday**
- Beach Party and Afternoon and Evening Dancing at the Hangout



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[johnsally@charter.net](mailto:johnsally@charter.net)

Through the National Line Dance Assn  
Business is licensed by:



## Thursday, Friday and Saturday

### Hospitality Room - Friday Lunch - Saturday Dinner

- Thursday**
- Free Basic Shag Lessons
  - Outside Dancing at the Hangout in the Afternoon and Evening
- Friday and Saturday**
- Free Shag Workshops -- Ellen Taylor
  - Outside Dancing at the Hangout in the Afternoon and Evening
  - Inside Dancing in the Smoke Free Ballroom from 7 p.m. until Midnight

**Only 550 Tickets will be sold!**

**The Beach Shaggers of Birmingham** [www.beachshaggers.com](http://www.beachshaggers.com)

## Dancin' in Heaven - Percy Thornton

Susan P. Britt



Percy Thornton was a charter member of SASS in 1989 after the Lee-Harnett shag club dissolved. He was a Shag Master and taught lessons in Johnston County, Harnett County, Lee County, Moore County and Richmond County. He is the only "Honorary Life Member" of SASS to date, and this honor was bestowed upon him in the mid-nineties because of his dedication to the shag and his support of our club by the many members he brought to us through the dance. Percy taught hundreds of people how to shag and became heavily involved in the area shag clubs after his stint working in the Arthur Murray studio in Raleigh.

He was a competitive shagger in the early days and was well known in the shaggin' circuit and one of the movers and shakers of the dance in the 80's and 90's. Percy had many friends and we all considered him a part of our extended family. He always gave of his time and talents to help the shag clubs in any way he could, whether teaching line dances, cooking (he was a great chef), giving exhibitions, creating wonderful entertainment and always willing to help you with shag steps, over and over again, if you hadn't quite mastered them at lessons. He and his twin brother, Thad, could really put on a show at club fund raisers and if you weren't involved in the shag during their time, you missed a wonderful treat. Cowboy boots and all!

We, who knew Percy well, are saddened by his passing but rejoice in having known him and calling him friend. Remember, he always loved his "cocktails" and I wish he was here to have one with us!

Rest in Peace, Percy, when you aren't dancing in Heaven.

Love,

Your shaggin' buddies left behind



# Legends Association Honors Inductees

Jan Morris

Harold Bessent of Fat Harold's Beach Club again accomplished bringing together the loosely connected Living Legends "beach family" that has especially supported the "O.D." and Grand Strand area beach lifestyle, music and businesses through the developing and on-going years of its storied history. It was a night of re-connection, of living up to the fact of being older, without being "old", and living up to our reputation of being the "oldest teenagers" in this place we call "paradise". Many remember a simpler life, a golden age where we as teens were valued for the first time just for yourself, not where you came from or who your parents were, or were not. It was a happy place to escape for awhile, energizing, and relaxing, returning whenever opportunity arose. Visitors often comment in their own way, feeling the "positive vibes" that have been left here for another to feel... It was our legacy. The same difficult life events have happened to this group as with any other group. What they have learned is that it is not what happens to you in this life, it is how you respond to them. We have lost 207 deceased Legends since the association was started in the early 1980's, yet they are with us on the walls of Harold's Club as we meet again, "living in our hearts and minds".

Present at the Invitational event was someone very dear to all our hearts... The "Fat Man" himself, returning after a bout with some health problems who received a roaring ovation! Also present were about 350 members, nominees and their guests. The main purpose of the party is to get this group of beach lover survivors throughout the past decades together while they can still enjoy the camaraderie. Once a member has identified a nominee through meeting criteria and their ballot, that person will be invited to the annual event and stay on the nomination list until they have attained the votes, decline the nomination, or debase. Only since 2006 have we been able to invite our nominees to the get together. We encourage their participation annually. Nominees that hesitate to attend unless they get the vote that year are missing the point, as well as a great party! The important part is being a validated nominee. At some point, they will go up on Harold's wall, but as we like to remind them, if they keep waiting, it may be as an honored deceased member!

The Arlin Strader trio played to a packed house, entertaining during the food, social hours and dancing Friday evening, featuring Ray Malach on keyboard, Dean Carbonne on vibes and Arlin on drums, followed later by D.J. Judy Collins. Inductions were held Saturday, first honoring nine nominees who deceased since our last event, and bringing them into the membership, their names engraved on the special Commemorative plaque. They were: Sheila Burris, Sandy Croom, Libby Owens Lanie Rowland, Debbie Johnson, Hubert Anderson, Jimmy Reid, Harvey Graham, Hewer Richardson. Friends and family were present to stand in for them while a specially selected poem was presented also remembering the ten members we have lost since our last gathering.

Inductions of those accumulating votes over years are in a special category of consistently getting votes but just missing the cut on a given year; typically the real "Oldie-Goldies" that don't show up as often and who current younger members missed knowing well. Harold reviews the nomination list periodically and weighs not only current number of votes from members, but also how many years they have been voted on, accumulating their votes. These eight inductees are: Jay Drake, Horace "Horse" Wilson, Dickey James, Jay Nelms, Billie McIntire, Susie White Visor and sister June White Carter, and Betty Grier Whisonant.





**Female Inductees:** Carol Leckie, Maria Dean, Lulu Quick Rigsby, Debbie Rickard, Ellen Stringfellow Taquino, Leslie Cohen, JoAnn Mitchell Ervin, Linda Wheeler  
**Male Inductees:** Billy Waldrep, Jeppy McDowell, R.E. Evan Palmer, Phil "Burr" Beam, Scurry Hazel, Dicky Lambert, Bill Rice, Frank Brantley

The party continued into the night after photos were made of the 2011 inductees. Photographers Jack Thompson, a Legend himself and pictorial historian of the Myrtle Beach area was present to take the group pictures, as well as Monty Lee, also a nominee, who captured shots throughout Friday and Saturday and placed some on Facebook. Contact Jan Morris for a 2011 group picture or a photo CD. Any funds collected will be deposited towards next years party. The group picture in this news article was taken, compliments of Jack Thompson. If anyone is looking for old or historical pictures of early Myrtle Beach, O.D. and Grand Strand area, Jack Thompson is the person to see.

**Photos by: Monty Lee**



# ACSC WORKSHOPS

By Phil Sawyer and Foster McKinney

Have you ever attended a good old Southern Baptist church revival? You know, one in which the congregation is so totally taken by the Holy Spirit that when the invitation is given all of the pews are emptied; followers slowly march down the aisles in droves to "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" as it rewinds over and over again until the very last handshake of dedication and rededication is taken by the pastor. They somehow always seem to strike up campfire warmth pulling you inward with calm and togetherness which religiously stick with you; at least for a while anyway. You settle in with direction and focus. Purpose is no longer clouded by everyday "ups" and "downs." Temptation hides in the bushes for a while and patiently waits for enthusiasm and zeal to lower their shields before striking again. Strength to uphold cannot be sustained without dedication followed by constant rededication. Left unguarded, apathy and attrition will take their toll. One by one the strong become weak and exposed. The common bond that unites begins to separate. Strength in numbers gradually subtracts down to mediocrity, and eventually to immateriality. Without rededication, dedication is merely transitory.



Have you ever thought of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs' (ACSC) workshops as being akin to a revival? Sure, why not? Basically, that's exactly what they are, or should be. We balk at the inconvenience and squawk over the cost, yet when we finally get there and sit down in the pew, we can't help but to jump right into the thick of it when the music cranks up and the festivities begin. Many have questioned the necessity of having the ACSC workshops. They contend that the short meetings during SOS and Midwinter are a gracious plenty. They scratch their heads and wonder, with damn good reasoning and logic, just exactly why does the Winter Workshop follow so closely behind Midwinter, and just exactly whose brilliant idea

was it to arrange it so? And if that's not perplexing enough, has common sense danced its last dance with the winter and summer workshops so closely followed-up with yet another meeting, at both the Spring Safari and Fall Migration? Why don't we just shortcut it? Who cares if we trod a path through the plush green lawn and kill the grass?

To shed light on this, you must go all the way back to the very beginnings when the ACSC was just getting underway. You have to remember that the ACSC was founded totally independent of SOS--both with commonality, yet each with very different goals and objectives. This was a time when the only meetings that the ACSC conducted were the workshops. The workshops were actually set up strictly as meetings with no dance party. In fact, the latter was actually discouraged. But naturally, when a large congregation of shaggers gathered under one roof instinct could not be held back--fingers started popping and feet began shuffling. So the dance party was later added.

The workshops were initially conceived with the notion that they would indeed be informative conferences aimed at indoctrinating newly-elected local shag club officers providing comparative notes for them to reassess their club's progress as they, themselves, mature in their leadership roles. They would be given opportunities to look for weakness or glaring omissions facing their clubs as they struggle to maintain continuity, and to adapt with growth and change.





They could find guidance and share ideas on how to fix whatever they may see as broken, or simply be exposed to ways that just might serve to improve the overall shapes of things. The workshops could help them to reignite their members' interest in their club's goals and objectives, especially those critical for survival. But somehow over the years coming with the acquisition of SOS and the rapid expansion of membership all of this gradually fell by the wayside to some extent. In the old days, each workshop opened with a session coined "presidents pride," whereby each local shag club president was given an opportunity to share its upcoming events or boast about some achievements that swell them with pride. As the ACSC grew in

size, this was later pushed to the end of the meeting and culled to include only events slated to take place before the next scheduled meeting. We seemed to have fallen into a lull, to where everyone just wanted to get the meetings over with and grab a beer. Not to say that anyone was at fault, but to say that the focus unconsciously shifted over time. Conducting business gained emphasis, and trumped the notions of indoctrination and sharing of ideas. Competition by member clubs to host workshops slowly began to wane. The sermon was no longer preached--it was transcribed into a white book, to be looked up and studied on your own. The workshops seemed to be cropping up haphazardly, according to the lay of the land. But thankfully, over the past half-decade, we are now seeing a steady progression back to their roots; but not entirely--a workshop without a dance party, to put it bluntly, just ain't worth showing up for. It's like leaving the church choir out of Sunday morning services, with nothing to sing about. Now, the sermon is once again preached while the choir harmoniously and gleefully sings in background.

If you sit back and study on it for a while, you begin to realize that SOS and Midwinter are where spoken words are discussed and written; workshops are where written words are read aloud and comprehended; but home is where comprehended words are heeded and acted upon. Words that lead to action logically spread



through this chain of events; they bear witness to what we believe to be a good thing; they spark the rededication that fuels the preservation of our dance and our way of life that will sustain them through the coming decades, centuries, and maybe even millennia. Isn't that a big part of what we are all about? Their timing in conjunction with SOS was not a careful plan that took into consideration practicality, economy nor

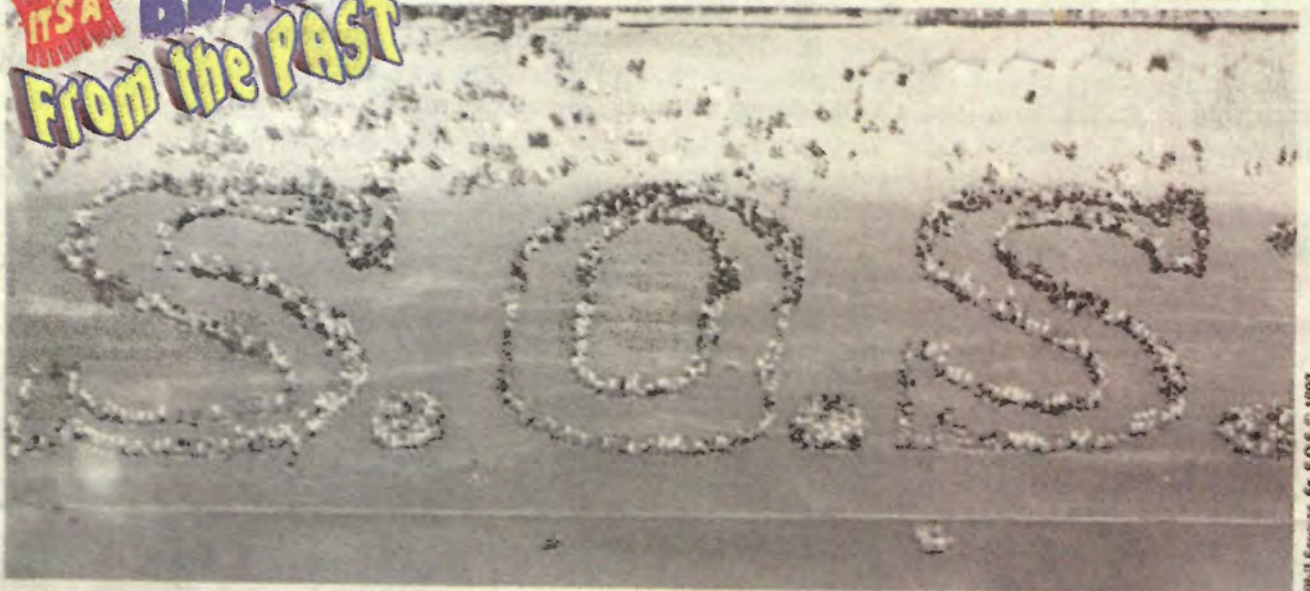


efficiency, but rather a sequencing of events analogous to snowflakes that randomly drifted into place as they fell. However, their resultant juxtaposition has successfully worked for the past twenty-one plus years. It is now ingrained into tradition and turning back tradition is difficult, sometimes impossible. Figuratively speaking, cutting them out entirely could likely eviscerate the ACSC's heart right out of its chest causing its blood flow to constrict to an inevitable halt. Short cut it? Hell no! The workshops help keep the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs a united body, working strong, willing and able. Who knows, maybe the ACSC may someday even see fit to throw in a Midsummer Classic as good measure, keeping the words spreading and the blood flowing.

# S.O.S.<sup>®</sup> Carefree Times

SUMMER 1992

IT'S A  
BLAST  
FROM THE PAST



Phil Sawyer, Sr. S.O.S. © 1992

## S.O.S. ALIVE



Photos by Bill Kelly

S.O.S. came alive Saturday morning during the Spring Safari. More than two thousand stranders gathered at noon in front of the O.D. Cafe to take part in an extraordinary event—a living S.O.S.

Artist Richard Patterson patiently awaited the ebbing of the tide so that the preliminary drawing could be etched into the sand. Confusion reigned as to which was the first "S," and the pilot and plane which had been reserved for over a month failed to show up.

However, with Bruce Littlejohn directing from the roof of the Cafe, and Phil Sawyer, Jr. scrambling to rent a sightseeing plane, it all came together. The crowds who gathered to make the letters entertained themselves with stadium like cheers of "Esse" "Ohhhhh" "Essssss" "PERIOD," and doing the Wave.

Everyone had a great time, and with this experience, we now know a little more about what we're doing. We'll do another one next Spring.

*Over Two Thousand Strandlers Spell It Out*

# IT'S A BLAST From the PAST



# Goodbye Ole' Friends - Water Dog & Gum

Written Thursday, April 21, 2011 by Carl Smith

This is an especially sad day for me, I have two friends about to lose their battle with life. One old friend, Skipper "Water Dog" Hough who I have known since our early days on the beach back in the late 50's or early 60's is dying in a hospital in Charleston, S.C. I had lost contact with "Water Dog" over the years but was able to reunite with him when he assisted another friend, Wayne "Waco" Williams throw a party at Lake Murray several years ago. Even though we had lost contact for over thirty years, it only seemed like 30 days. We reminisced about old times and had one hell of a time. We did not stay in close contact since then but the few times we did get together were great. "Water Dog" will always be one of the legends and true characters of the old beach and I will miss him. While writing this piece, I just found out that "Water Dog" passed away at 2:00 a.m. this morning. Goodbye my friend. My prayers are with you, Mikey.



The other dear friend is Charles "Gum" Gurley whose life is quickly being drained from him at Duke Hospital in Durham, N.C. I first met Charles at some dance contest in Eastern North Carolina, I believe it was in Greenville back in the late 70's or early 80's. I was sitting at a table with another cherished friend, Bobby Griffin who is having his own serious health problems that I am very concerned about, and "Gum" was dancing. During this period of time, about all the "dancers" in the contest were Shad Alberty clones. I remember Bobby and I commenting at the time about how refreshing it was to see someone with the old Eastern North Carolina style on the dance floor. It was obvious Charles had been

influenced by the likes of Steve Rouse, "Fat Man" Flowers and other great Eastern North Carolina dancers. After that first meeting, Charles and I found out we had a lot in common, we both spent a lot of our youth at the beach, he at Atlantic Beach in N. C. and me at O.D. and Cherry Grove in S. C. We both learned to dance at a young age, we loved the old DNM, we both enjoyed our alcohol (he his brown whisky and me my beer) and we both loved to dance with the ladies.

Shortly thereafter, I moved to Columbia. Charles traveled Columbia with his job and when he would come to town he would stay with me and we would go out partying. Charles, Mickey Weeks and myself started the "Annual Event", which lasted for thirteen years and Charles did not miss a single one. He was always the life of the party and kept everyone laughing.

The "Annual Event" finally ran it's course and in the mean time, Charles and Kathy Jane bought "The Nest" at Ocean Drive. Some of the best parties you could ever imagine were held at "The Nest". I used to hate when the party would end and everyone would go to the club, I always felt the parties at "The Nest" were much more fun than we ever had at Duck's or Duck's Too.

Charles became disabled but that did not break his spirit. With all they have gone through over these past years Charles and Kathy kept their spirits high and were always fun to be around. Our last gathering together of a few good friends at Charles and Kathy's house in Clayton will be something I will always remember.

When you leave us Charles, you will be joining some of our other old friends, too many to mention, give them my regards. I know you will soon be done with all the pain and agony that you have had to endure all these years and for that, I am happy. I love you Charles and my life will not be the same without you.

My thoughts and prayers are with the families of "Water Dog" and "Gum", especially Kathy Jane who has been Charles's wife, lover, confidant and friend, caretaker and "SAINT". We all love you Kathy and just remember you will always have Charles in your heart. You have my undying love and respect for the way you have taken care of Charles.

My eyes are full of tears and I can hardly see what I am writing so I'm going to end this now. I apologize for any misspelled words, I did the best I could.

Over these past 66 years, I have lost many friends and it is to the point that I have more friends gone or about to go than I have alive. Those of you left, take care of yourself, damnit !!

**Carl Smith**

NOTE: Charles Gurley passed away around 4:30 p.m. this afternoon!!!

# GRAND STRAND RESORTS



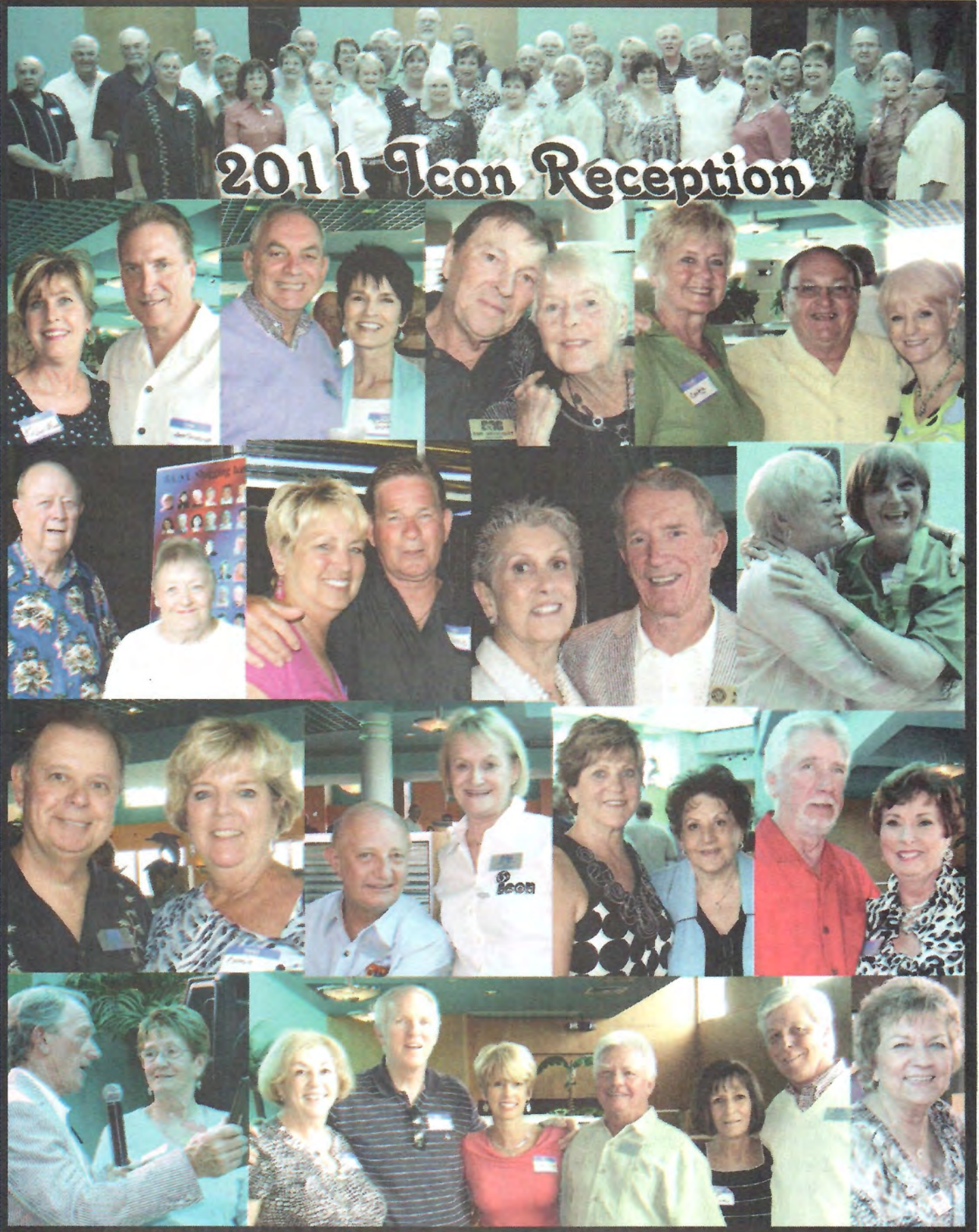
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July 13-15 • Summer Workshop  
September 14-23 • Fall Migration

## 2013

January 18-20 • Mid-Winter  
February 22-24 • Winter Workshop  
April 12-21 • Spring Safari  
July 12-14 • Summer Workshop  
September 13-22 • Fall Migration

## 2014

January 17-19 • Mid-Winter  
February 21-23 • Winter Workshop  
April 4-13 • Spring Safari  
July 11-13 • Summer Workshop  
September 12-21 • Fall Migration



## ON THE ROAD WITH MARY

Mary Gregory

Have you ever been to a quaint little place called the General Store and bought some SHAG? Well we have; on March 20, 2011 in Pittsboro, NC home of Chatham Area Shag Association. We were invited by Steve, the President of CASA to come to their monthly social. This club was having a great time and we met so many friends from Sanford, Burlington, and Raleigh and even had two SOS board members to show up and join in the fun. The DJs were spinning great tunes and the General Store atmosphere was wonderful. What a great place to have a Shag Social. The dance floor was big and very nice to shag on. Everyone in the club done such a great job making us and everyone feel so welcome. It was

so much fun and you could feel this club's love for the Dance, the Music and the Lifestyle. Thanks again for inviting us to your Social! We had a lot of fun.

Then on March 26th, we traveled to Sanford, NC to visit the Sanford Area Shagging Society at their 22nd. Annual Dance and Golf Tournament. We met so many of our friends from surrounding clubs, who came to support this club in raising money for the "Make a Wish Foundation" and other local charities. The DJ, Larry Calhoun was spinning great tunes all night long. There was great food and a large silent auction for everyone to enjoy. There was a very special treat by members of SASS who put on a Disco skit that we all really enjoyed. Due to the hard work and dedication from all of the members of this club, the money that they raised will and has touched many lives. They have raised over \$300,000 in the last several years. This is quite an accomplishment. Great job, SASS! We were proud to be there and be a part of your event.



# Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall of Fame

The Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall Of Fame held it's annual inductee announcement party and mixed doubles contest June 11, 2011 at Lynn's Dance Club in Charlotte, N.C.

The purpose of the Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall of Fame is to recognize individuals who have made positive contributions to the shag; it's music and the atmosphere in which it is cultivated and enjoyed.

## *The 2011 Inductees*

### Female Inductees

Helen Beaver  
I'Ans Goad  
Nancy Mangum  
Mary Robinette

### Male Inductees

George Ennis  
Butch Evans  
Allan Ewing  
Ron Whisenant

### Honorary

Tom Wicker

### Posthumous

Bobby Smith

### Youngbloods

Sydney Kale Rham  
Jeff Hargett

I would like to say thank you to all the shag lovers that attended the inductee announcement party. Tom Bare has remodeled Lynn's Dance Club and added new air conditioners that kept us cool. Patty McIlroy and T. K. Robinette were co-chairs for the food committee and the spread was magnificent. Thank you to all the people that brought the delicious food.

Jason Cagle and Fast Eddie Thompson played great boogie woogie music and we had ten couples that danced in the mixed doubles contest.

## *Mixed Doubles Results*

### Male

1st place: Brad Kinard  
2nd place: Tom Bare  
3rd place: Brent Hall

### Female

1st place: Ashley Ellington Hall  
2nd place: Paige Jones Payne  
3rd place: Vivian Shoup McFarland

The Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall Of Fame and Lynn's Dance Club invite you to join us on November 19, 2011 for the Induction Party honoring these deserving dancers.

We hope you can be with us.

**Johnny Church, President, Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall of Fame**

## Association of Carolina Shag Clubs Officers



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