

S.O.S.[®] Carefree Times

WINTER 1993

**Where will you be in '93
In your favorite shag town by the sea?
So will others, ten thousand or so
And most of them, you're apt to know.**

That's right, around ten thousand of the finest people in the whole world will sing, sun, sip, and slide their cares away in Ocean Drive during the Spring Safari and Fall Migration in 1993. We don't want you to miss one minute of the finest adult parties in the world. We have prepared this special renewal issue of Carefree Times to let you know all there is to know about the upcoming events, and to make it easier than an eight count basic for you to send in your renewal.

Simply use the enclosed envelope, send us a check, and we'll have your membership cards back to you in a couple of weeks. Remember, processing membership is something we can do with ease in January,

February and March, but in April we will have hundreds to process each day, so it'll take a little more time. Renew early, and just sit back and dream about those unforgettable days on the strand.

What are we going to do for you? Everything you have come to expect from an S.O.S. event, and a little more. We'll have several surprises to make the experience even more exciting than in the past years. Remember, read this issue carefully so you'll know what to expect, make your accommodation reservations early, get with your friends, and come on down. We'll be waiting for you with a "bluehand Bud."

Photos by Bill Kelly





Photos by Bill Kelly

Tell It, Brother and Sister, Tell It

Share Your S.O.S. Experience

Carefree Times is always interested in sharing with all of our members your unique experiences and anecdotes during S.O.S., or your years on the beach in days gone by. We want pictures, stories, jokes, anything that you think might be interesting to other stranders. We are especially interested in pictures and stories from the late 1940s and early 1950s. We are also interested in articles, posters, signs, or anything of historic importance to beach and shagging. Please call Phil Sawyer, 803-782-7582 to discuss anything you might have of interest.



Photos by Rich Harris

S.O.S. Carefree Times

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SOS - Box 4688 - Columbia, SC 29204

BOILERPLATE

Editor's Note: This little column will be repeated in each issue of Carefree Times pretty much as it is presented here. These are simply the basic issues of S.O.S. which are designed to increase the pleasure of the week-end for all stranders. They are repeated both for newcomers for information, and for old timers as a reminder.

1. S.O.S. Membership cards **WILL NOT, REPEAT WILL NOT** be replaced at the beach during an S.O.S. event for any reason. This includes lost cards, forgotten cards, stolen cards, concavity cards or whatever. No one at S.O.S. Headquarters is authorized by the Board to issue a replacement card. Please do not request anyone at Headquarters to do so.
2. There is a \$5.00 charge to replace lost cards by mail prior to S.O.S. events.
3. S.O.S. membership cards are not transferable.
4. There will be a \$15.00 charge for all returned checks.
5. S.O.S. cards must be visible, above the waist, at all times in participating S.O.S. clubs.
6. Glasses, cans, drinks, or bottles cannot be carried into any club. This is against S.C. law and will be enforced in all participating clubs.
7. Accepting membership in S.O.S. constitutes agreement to respect and comply with all ordinances of the City of North Myrtle Beach.
8. Official S.O.S. Membership Cards are sold only at S.O.S. Headquarters and the participating clubs. **MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE NEVER SOLD ON THE STREETS OR AT LOCAL PARTIES.** Counterfeit cards will be confiscated and replacement cards will not be issued.
9. S.O.S. will pay a \$200.00 reward and lifetime membership to anyone who presents evidence which convicts a person or persons for selling counterfeit cards.
10. To receive S.O.S. discounts from participating merchants and restaurants, your S.O.S. card must be presented before you order.

3000 Miles From The Ocean

Charlie and Jackie soar to second for the biggest win of their life in the U.S. Open Swing Dance Championship

by Phil Sawyer

Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee won second place in the Classic Division of the United States Open Swing Dance Championships at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California on November 29th. In a show-stopping performance that exploded the West Coast Swing Dancers to their feet for a standing ovation on several occasions, the perennial SPA champions elevated Shag to its highest place ever in national competition.

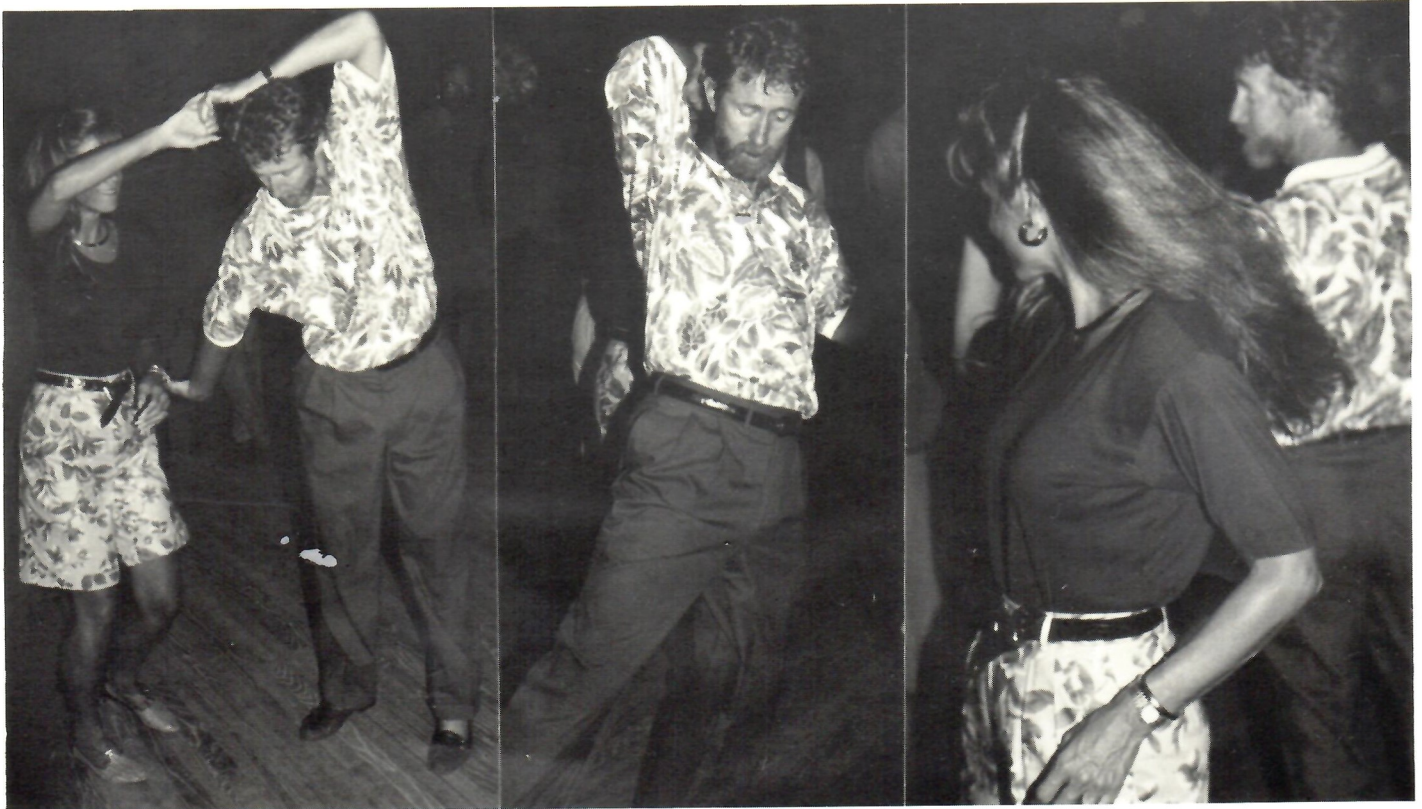
Competing before a crowd more accustomed to high heels and sequined gowns, or body hugging spandex, Charlie and Jackie achieved what many considered to be impossible. West Coast Swing Dancing is related to, yet oceans apart from shagging. Swing accents the female in a faster, sexier dance that features vertical moves, "hand dancing," lifts and throws, vigorous head movements swaying the hair,

and costumes. The dancers used ballroom space roughly equivalent to two first downs.

In West Coast Swing Dance competition, there are three primary divisions: Showcase, Classic, and Cabaret. Each division has structured rules governing required and prohibited steps, lifts, supports, and movements. In addition there are contest for Masters (Seniors) and Young Americans, (Juniors), and Jack and Jill (Mixed Doubles).

West Coast Swing Champions are studio oriented, closely tied to recognized teachers, and are dedicated professionals. They are great dancers, but they are not cool.

The event was a Jack Bridges Production. Jack, and his wife Mary Ann produce many championship events in the West and Midwest. They are great at what they do, and the contest was better organized than any I have



Photos by Rich Harris

experienced. Kenny Wetzal, DJ and Emcee, was recently honored by "Dance Action" magazine as the top DJ in the country.

While the production centered about the competition, there was over 16 hours of general dancing scheduled among the events. After each contest, the floors in the ballroom quickly filled with hundreds of couples with a wide variety of styles. Most were quite good at the dance, but at the end of each record, they quickly repaired to their tables.

The entire crowd of over 2000 was ably served by two small, hotel portable stand up

bars, each manned by a lone, somewhat bored, and far from overworked bartender. West coast Swingers are more interested in the contest than the party. This was no S.O.S.

Jackie and Charlie had the support of a group of shaggers from the Association and S.O.S. The promoters and dancers gave us a truly royal reception, were friendly, and interested in our dance and parties. We'll be seeing some of them at S.O.S.

And one other interesting thing—during the week-end, we had a small earthquake.



Photos by Bill Kelly

GTS

(Good Time Shaggers) at SOS - 1992 Fall Migration

*"I didn't come to fall in love.
I just came to dance."*

The 1992 Fall Migration was unusual for Jacque and me because we usually arrive on Wednesday and leave on Sunday. This year Jacque was taking a course to become recertified as a Registered Nurse, after spending the last twenty years as a mother to our two sons, and she could not leave on Wednesday. Well, I tried to act like I understood, but she could sense my longing to be at SOS, especially since my bags had been packed for a month. After talking to a number of our friends whose husbands let their wives go early, she reluctantly said I could go early without her. As soon as I felt that she really meant it, I left Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. and arrived at Ocean Drive at 12 midnight. I didn't even stop at the condo first. I cruised down Main Street, found a parking place, and headed for Ducks where to my surprise Duane and Betty Jean Bruch and Emmaday Seymour, the other charter members of the Good Time Shaggers with whom we were staying, were sitting on the bench out front. They were really surprised to see me and I was glad I didn't have to search every shag club to find them to get a key to the Seymour's condo. We closed down Ducks that night shagging the night away.

The next two days were full of sunning on the beach and shagging as much as I wanted. Although many people come to SOS "looking for love" and SOS had its first wedding at the Fall Migration, many others share the common bond of "I didn't come to fall in love. I just came to dance." Betty Heeseman, Jane Bongardt, and Vickie Eller from Charlotte; B. J. Clay and Suzee Jones from Atlanta; and Susan, Kathy, and Kathleen were great dancing partners who love to dance and chaperoned me.

One of the real treats of this SOS was to hear John Murphy, the "Bush Man," make his debut as a DJ at Crazy's Zack's. Crazy Zack's was the best kept secret at SOS this year because it was never too crowded to dance and you could actually feel the air conditioning. John will play only what he calls "blue gum blues" music, which is the original shag music. He refuses to play the "bubble gum" beach music or the country and western beach music, which meant that we heard some really good music that was different from most of the other clubs.



*Charter Members Good Time Shaggers
1992 SOS Fall Migration*

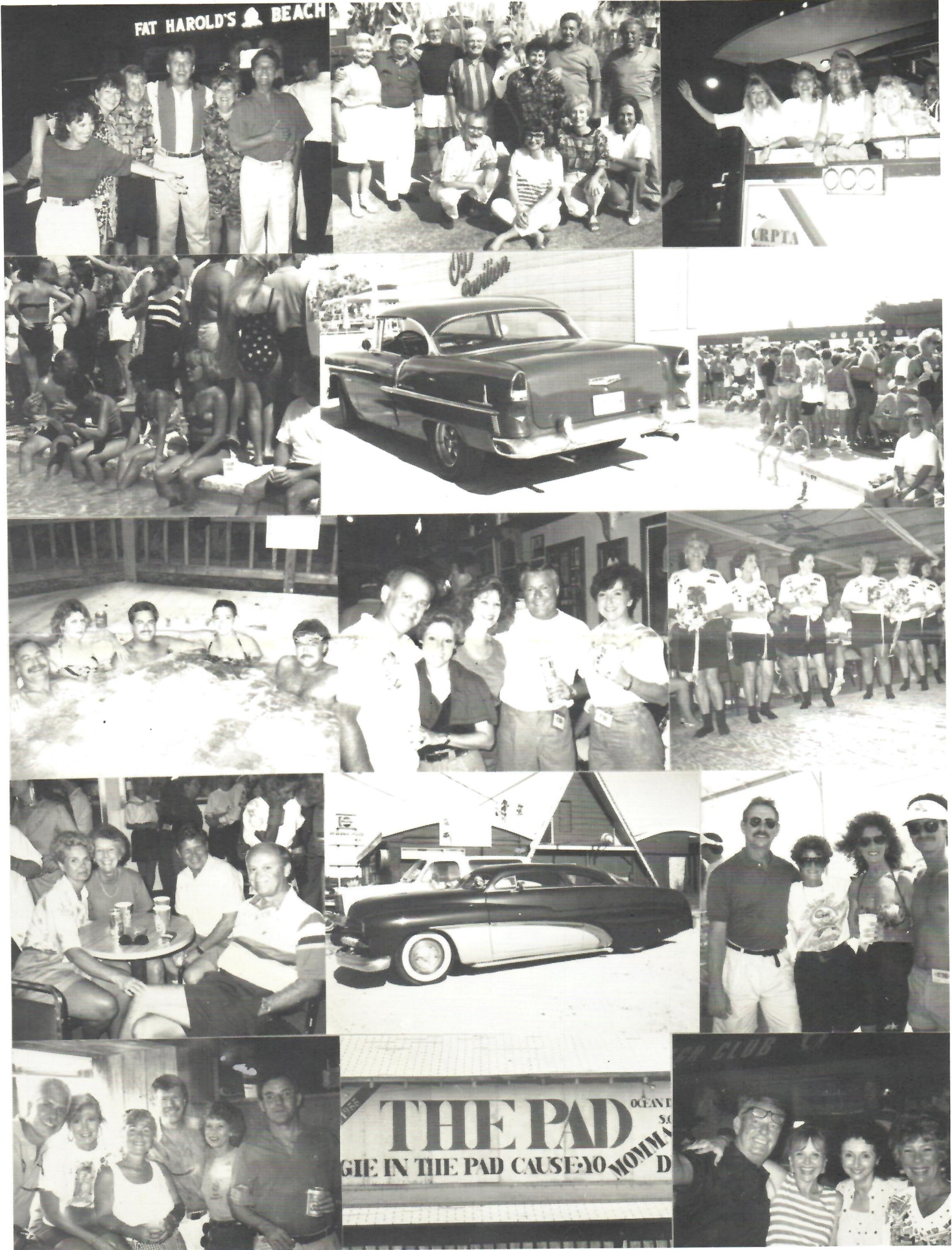
Photo by Rich Harris

Friday finally got there and Bill Seymour flew down in his airplane while Jacque drove down later with Barbara Peterson and Denice Embree. Last year Jacque and I tried the afternoon dancing schedule going out about 3:00 p.m. and stopping about 9:30 p.m., eating supper, and then getting a good night's sleep. This year, I was on the late night routine and never left the dance floor before 2:00 a.m. It takes at least three days to change my schedule from an "early to bed and early to rise" schedule to a late night and late morning sleeping schedule.

SOS is really an unbelievable event. If you can call shagging a sport, then we have spectators, amateur shaggers, and dance contest shaggers including professional shaggers. In what other sport do you find the celebrities or the professionals partying with the spectators and the amateurs. It is really neat to see legends, such as Shad and Brenda Alberty, and professionals, such as Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee, partying with us amateur shaggers and having a good time. Charlie and Jackie gave an impromptu show at Ducks and I had my camera ready. As I backed up into the crowd, I said, "Excuse me, I have just got to get a picture of Jackie." One of the ladies looked me squarely in the eye and said, "What about Charlie?" With tongue firmly in cheek, I said, "Who is Charlie?" I thought she was going to have a fit right there. It really says something about these National Shag Dance champions that Charlie later graciously danced with an amateur shagger lady who took my last article to heart and actually got up the nerve to ask him to dance based on the unspoken rule that no one refuses anyone a dance at SOS. He made her day and gave her a story to talk about for a long time. Now if I can just get up the nerve to ask Jackie McGee to dance.

As for learning steps, Jacque and I saw Jim from Statesville and Jeannie from Salisbury doing a great walking belly roll, so we introduced ourselves to these complete strangers, told them we really liked the way they did that step, and asked them to show us how. They thought we were crazy, but then they showed us how. It was really fun and that is another part of what SOS is all about, sharing the fun of the shag.

Rich Harris, GTS President



Photos by Bill Kelly



"Jitterbug Magazine"

All you know or need to know
about Swing, Jitterbug, Shag

There is a new slick, fact filled magazine for the entire nation of swing dancers. *Jitterbug* which is published by FanFlair Enterprises and edited by Cay Cannon of Laguna Beach, California is now into its third issue which will be available in January.

Jitterbug will include articles, pictures, and information of shag events in each issue. Thus, shag will receive the national attention of all swing dancers. It is a fun thing, full of fantastic stories, pictures, and persona. No serious dancer will be without it.

Jitterbug is published four times a year and subscriptions are available at \$25.00 per year from *Jitterbug*, 1330 La Mirada, Laguna Beach, CA 92651, phone 714-494-5086. S.O.S. has a limited number of sample issues for shaggers who are seriously interested. Send your request, along with \$1.00 for postage, to S.O.S., P.O. Box 4688, Columbia, SC 29204, or call Phil at 803-782-7582. Available as long as sample issues last.

Spring Safari
April 21-25, 1993

Fall Migration
September 15-19, 1993

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