



S.S. Carefree Times

Winter Mailout 2003



THE OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION
OF THE
SOCIETY OF STRANDERS
AND
THE ASSOCIATION OF
CAROLINA SHAG CLUBS



*The Best
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Story on page 26

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S.O.S. Carefree Times Upcoming Deadlines

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Ad/Copy Deadline</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Spring Safari '03	March 17	April 18
Summer Mailout '03	May 23	June 27
Fall Migration '03	August 1	September 5
Winter Mailout '03	November 14	December 15

Hello All!

It's Good to be Back!

It is good sitting here writing this article. Usually, it is quite a chore to do these writings each time the paper is published, but this time I realize how lucky and fortunate that I am to be able to write this article.

The Fall Migration was a great success. I want to thank each and every one of you for your participation and support of SOS. The weather was very nice, and the "street parties" were very successful. Sunday Jam, and Fun Monday were great afternoons. It just doesn't get any better than this. The rest of the week for me was not so good. My feet and ankles were swollen, and my motor would not get much above idle Friday morning found me in the ER of Grand Strand Hospital. They put me up in a very nice room with all of the high tech gadgets that you

ever want to see. They beeped, buzzed, squeezed, measured, timed and even the bed would weigh you. I must say that this was a little scary for me at the time. With a lot of prayers, and some good medical staff, I was doing well with my new pacemaker by Monday, and had lost 22 pounds of fluid over night. So I apologize to you for skipping out early. I will work hard to make it up to you in the spring. I do want to thank all who sent cards, e-mails, and phone calls. These things can really brighten your day.

There are a couple of new things that you need to know about your SOS membership cards. They are good for the Mid Winter Party, Spring Safari, Fall Migration, and the SOS Beach Party, which will be held the last weekend of October. This will become an annual event



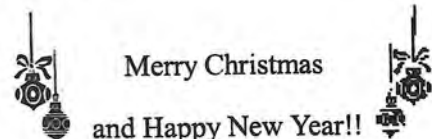
Ron and Peggy Whisenant

called the SOS Beach Party. This gives you four (4) events per year for your membership. The 2003 Mid Winter party will recognize your 2002, 2003 SOS membership, or your current shag club membership cards.

The new 2003 SOS membership cards are available for Christmas presents. Easy shopping for a most coveted gift. You can buy on line, or over the phone with your credit card. What better gift can you give to a shagging friend? Remember, you can give the SOS membership as birthday presents and anniversary gifts as well.

In closing, I want to wish each of you, and your families a joyous holiday season. If you are traveling, please drive carefully, and please do not drink and drive. I wish for you the merriest and a safe holiday season.

Remember to support your local shag club, your SOS, and the SOS clubs that partner with us to host the absolute best adult party in the world.



Sincerely,

-Ron Whisenant

2003 Special Dates

Mid-Winter
January 17-19

Greenville, SC
Carefree Times Deadline
May 23

ACSC/SOS
Winter Workshop
February 21-23
Greenville, NC

Junior SOS
July

SOS Spring Safari
April 25 - May 3
Carefree Times Deadline
March 17

SOS Fall Migration
September 12-21
Carefree Times Deadline
August 1

ACSC/SOS
Summer Workshop
July 11-13

Heritage Festival &
SOS Beach Party
October 24-26



Murl and Cindy Augustine

Hi friends. Over the last four years I have experienced the passing of many of my friends. This has caused me to stop and think about life and the short time we have to live it. The biggest thing I think about is how do I want to spend the rest of my life. Duh, I want to have fun and enjoy my family and friends.

The Passing of Many Friends Gives Cause for Thought

So try doing things that make your friends and family happy. Remember it only takes one person to destroy a party, a family, or a shag club. Don't be that person.

S.O.S. is alive and well and it looks like we will have an even bigger and better year next year. Hopefully more S.O.S. sponsored events and another day of fun with bands on Sunday. My plans are to back off traveling the road next year DJing and visit the different districts with Judy Vick and an S.O.S. officer

to answer any questions you may have about the A.C.S.C. and S.O.S. We want your input also. Remember these are your organizations.

I hope you have been informed by now, but if not you can attend Mid Winter with your local shag club card or your S.O.S. card.

Here's Wishing You a Happy and Safe Holiday Season

-Murl Augustine



Hector & Carolyn Phifer

Hello to Everyone,

As I think back over the history of SOS, I often reflect upon our journey. Some of you may be new members of this great organization and know nothing of our journey; many know a little, and others believe what they hear.

To set the record straight, this SOS gathering has grown from a two four-day weekend to two ten-day weeks, plus a Mid-Winter weekend. At first there was only one club where a few hundred members met



Where We Are and... Where We're Going

to dance and reminisce. Now, we have seven strong clubs, each with its own unique atmosphere, and we're over 10,000 members strong.

We have come a long way, and both the SOS board and the ACSC officers work very hard to continue to grow and to offer our members more and more for their money. This past October, we teamed with the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce and held a special weekend with bands on Friday and Saturday nights and a great Saturday with all types of vendors in the street. In October of 2003,

there will be seven bands playing in seven clubs for the two nights. Admission to the seven participating clubs will be your SOS card.

As you can see, we are constantly striving to give you more for your money and to make your SOS card more valuable. As SOS and the ACSC continue to grow, you will realize more value to your SOS membership.

Have fun this Mid-Winter, and I'll see you there.

-Hector Phifer



News from the Association of Beach and Shag Club DeeJays

By Steve Baker



SEASON'S GREETING'S!

The Association of Beach and Shag club DJ's hope each of you had a wonderful and joyous holiday season. It's the time of year we reflect on family and friends and count our blessings. This past year has been a sad one for our members in that we lost Karen Wells and Kaye Burrage, two of our members wives. Charlie Byrd, long-time club and radio DJ from eastern NC passed away also. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season.

Well, what's next for our group? The 12th annual DJ THROWDOWN at DUCK'S is approaching fast. The dates for this year's party will be FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 2, 2003. The party kicks off Thursday night with the EMBERS and the SHAKERS. The doors open at 8 PM, cover will be \$10.00/person at the door. The rest of the weekend is free to everyone, that's right it's FREE! There will be 40 plus DJ's playing for you throughout the weekend. Free food will be served at 1 PM each day. There will be a grand prize

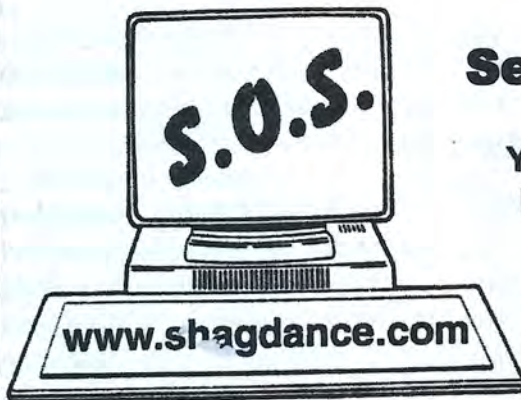
given away on Saturday night at midnight. For more information email me at SBAKER4@nc.rr.com or call Duck's @ 843-249-3858. MARK YOUR CALENDERS NOW!

If we can help your shag club in any way, please feel free to contact me or one of our members. Maybe you just want to know the name of a song you heard someone playing. Our gang is always ready to help.

See you at the beach

-Steve Baker

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_____ **More Basics Plus - Vol. 2** - Variations of basics such as whip, pivot and boogie walk.

_____ **Basic Variations** - Variations of the basic step to be done by the man and woman.

_____ **Lead/Follow** - Lead-able moves and patterns.

_____ **Male Lead** - Steps for the men.

_____ **Female Footwork** - Steps for the ladies.

_____ **Mirror Patterns and Male Lead - Tape 1** - Steps for the men; plus patterns to be done together.

Ordered

_____ **Mirror Patterns - Tape 2** - More patterns to be done together.

_____ **Workshop Notebook Vol. 1** - Lead/follow, basic variation and mirror patterns taught at various workshops across the country.

_____ **Workshop Notebook Vol. 2** - More workshop patterns.

_____ **Carolina Shag Footwork (for West Coast) - Vol 1** Shag footwork in the West Coast Style.

_____ **Carolina Shag Footwork (for West Coast) - Vol 2** More shag footwork for *West Coast Swing*.

_____ **Best of Charlie and Jackie** - A collection of interviews and championship dances with Charlie and Jackie.

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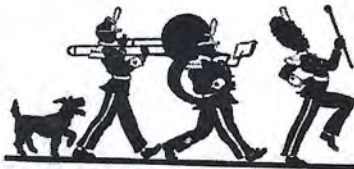
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Parade Talk

Wow! Where did the year go? It's already time to start another!

Well, so be it! In terms of the parade and SOS Spring Safari, I have some wonderful and exciting news. Last January, I contacted CBS News Sunday Morning Show and talked with the producer of the show, which airs each Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:30, and is hosted by Charles Osgood.

The format of this show is to feature towns and cities, the arts, the music, the dance, and events across the USA. I explained to the producer (a woman) about our music, the shag, SOS in general, and the two ten day

events, Fun Monday, and, of course, the parade. I told her that I thought all of this would be of national interest and was certainly within the format of the show. Well, she agreed and was immediately interested and asked for more information. I have since sent her packets on two separate occasions, consisting of newspaper articles, magazines, 3 parade videos, copies of the *Carefree Times*, schedules of events, our club roster, and everything I could think of that would be of interest. After numerous phone calls back and forth (she even gave me her private numbers straight to her desk) I am told there is a 90% chance that there

will be a film crew here at the Spring Safari to do filming for a segment on the show, which would include the parade. I have been told to call her six weeks ahead of time so that she can get organized. Believe you me, she will hear from me before then, even then, and after then! This is a great opportunity for the whole nation to be exposed to our music, our dance, and our life-style.

Folks, I am very excited about this, but I must tell you that I cannot guarantee you that this will actually happen. I'm only reporting to you what I have done, have been trying to do, and what CBS has told me. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

In any event, we WILL have another wonderful parade, so get your club involved in some way...and who knows...you may be seen on national TV!

-Don David
SOS Parade Chairman

DOWN MEMORY LANE

By Johnny Hammond

Dance Generation Waves



In the summer of 1950, when I was about 12 years old, my constant companions and I rode Our bicycles almost daily from *Pendleton* to *Boscobel Lake*. We would arrive around 10:30 and stay til about 5:30 PM. This was the number one place for summer fun.

The juke box was plugged in as soon as they opened and, usually, had some plays left from the night before. Even when it didn't, it played continuously and, with the outside speakers, you could hear the music on the other side of the lake. This "box" was loaded with all the latest R&B and the dance floor saw quite a bit of action from the female sun worshippers and the local cool cats who were there to party and chase the bronzed goddesses.

My buddies and I would sit in the windows and watch the guys make their moves. I witnessed some incredible ones...on and off the floor. These guys were between 20 and 30, the sharpest dressers, drove the coolest "rag tops," and ALWAYS had the best looking girls. They were our heroes.

They would have belonged to the "First Wave" of shaggers, even though they called it fast dancing.

They say Beach Music is 50 years old and I guess it's true. Being the lucky devil I've always been, I'm happy to say I've been here for most of it. Yet, it was years before I would call this great music "Beach."

Sometime ago, someone broke down our music and dance into generations and called them "Waves."

I thought this was an appropriate term now that we call it "Beach Music." I think these Waves applied mostly to the Carolina beaches and not the Florida and Virginia beaches so many of our shaggers frequent today.

It must have been high tide when the Waves started because they are strong and long. The first Wave began after WWII and lasted 'til Hurricane Haze; in November of '54. This was the period when jump blues and rhythm-n-blues was at its best. I mean, some of the best ever was written and produced and appeared on juke boxes in Caucasian clubs and beaches in the great Southeast. This is when the "beach cat" population evolved... the dancers, fighters, beach employees, and the beach bums...all blending into a new sub-culture. The first ever to contain about every walk of life who came together to form a life-style and brotherhood that would expand beyond a 50 year period. The common bond for this fantastic happening was the love of the music we all find so special.

The second wave started with the re-build after Hazel and the opening of the World Famous "Pad" at Ocean Drive, USA, July 4, 1955. This Wave lasted through 1961. During this period, the newcomers were dubbed Second Generation...mainly because they were dancing the same style of

dance to the same R&B music as the First. (Hey, if it ain't broke...don't fix it!) Also, during this time, the followers grew and the music of the *Clovers*, *Drifters*, *Ruth Brown*, *Joe Turner*, *The Midnighters* and *The Dominos* became even stronger than it was during the First Wave. Not only was it played at the beaches, it had spread inland to the many resort lakes of the Carolinas. This was also when we had the rise of live bands. Man, I'm telling ya, those cats stayed busier than a flea on a short-haired dog.

Our favorite places to hang were *Boscobel Lake*, *Bill's Landing* at Broadway Lake and "*Ma*" *Jackson's* on the Clemson Highway. During Waves One and Two, the radio was a very important part of our life. It was more than just entertainment, it was a lifeline. We were R&B junkies waiting for our nightly fix.

The Third Wave began in 1962 and lasted until 1970. This is the Wave to which most of today's shaggers belong. Naturally! This is the Baby Boomer Generation.

I don't know who received the credit but, during this period, the term "Beach Music" was created and "Fast Dancing" became the "Shag." Groups such as the *Tams*, *Catalinas*, and *Embers* were really hot. We also had those Motown groups such as *The Impressions*, *Marvellettes*, and *The Temptations*. This was the Wave that was al-

Continued on page 30

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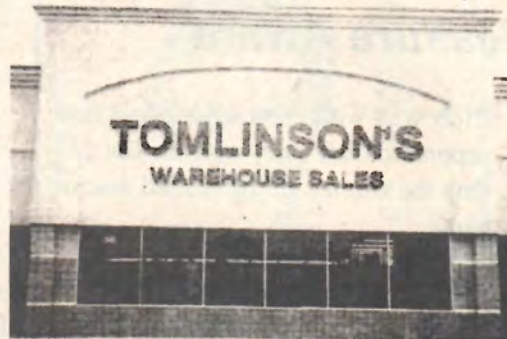
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2nd Annual Showcase Your Talent

2002 Crowd Pleasure Award

Once again, everyone in attendance was treated to some great entertainment. The variety of talent included the *Hill Billy Buddies* and the *Boobie Babies*, from O.D. Shag Club; *Tribute to the Temptations*, from the Sanford/Chatham Shag Club; *Tommy Beacham* portraying Michael Jackson, from the Charlotte Shag Club; *Jimmy Wooten* singing, and I mean singing *For Your Precious Love*, from the Winston Salem Shag Club; *Cathy McDaniel* with a group of dancers doing a new line dance learned during the Line Dance Workshop, from ShagAtlanta Shag Club; and O.D. Shag Club's *Cathy Fitzsimmons* with a rendition of *When A Man Loves A Woman*. Was that Cathy or was it Bette?

The Showcase Your Talent was started because the response for the Line Dance Competition dropped and the Enhancement Committee wanted to continue to offer some type of entertainment for the end of the Fall SOS. As a trial to see how well this would be accepted by SOSers, simplicity seemed to be the best answer to start this new venue. "Crowd Pleaser" was decided upon as the best way to determine the winner of the Talent Competition, which meant the Shag Club who received the most applause would determine the winner. There were many varieties of talent present during the 2002 event. There was singing, dancing, imitations, and jokes. Everyone who participated had talent, however, support from your shag club helped determine the winner, and the Sanford/Chatham Shag

Club was well represented and had supported their entry which made this club the winner for the second year in a row.

After the competition, there were many comments, such as: 1) Some were more talented than others; 2) We needed to judge on talent rather than crowd pleaser; 3) If we offer a talent review, then judging should be based on the true talent; 4) In place of competition, make the event a talent review and have judges in place. As chairperson for this event, I value each and every opinion and ask that you send your suggestions to me to review for the 2003 event. Please state whether or not you would like to see this event continue and how you would like to see the judging done, or would you like to see the line dancing come back, or add this to the line up of entertainment for another day. Also, would earlier in the week be better, or later in the day on Saturday. This event is planned for you, and we need your input to make it more enjoyable for everyone. Please send your comments or suggestions to: Carol Worrell, P.O. Box 771, Whiteville, NC 28472.

Congratulations again to the 2002 Crowd Pleaser Winner, Sanford/Chatham Shag Club, for their tribute to the Temptations, and to everyone who came out and supported this event. A big thanks to the Spanish Galleon staff for allowing this event to take place in their club.

-Carol-Marshall-Worrell
Enhancement Committee



Fat Harold

By Verna Eller
Boone Shag Club

*AT HAROLD, a man of greatness
and charm,*

*An abundance of caring.
That's who you are.*

*A gift from Heaven, an angel you are.
You've given us a haven
To be who we really are.*

*When we head for the beach,
We leave our stress behind.
We're here at FAT HAROLD'S
just to have a good time.*

*Laughter is in abundance.
Friends galore.
A happy reunion
For all who come from afar.
Ten days of shagging,
Oh, where do we go?
FAT HAROLD'S,
that's the only place we know.*

*We spend the week shagging
and having so much fun.
It's FAT HAROLD'S,
From dusk until d-a-w-n.*

*Ten days pass so quickly,
'It's time to go home.
We've made lots of memories
To carry home.*

*Six months until we make the trip.
SOS and FAT HAROLD'S,
That's conducive
To shagging and having a good trip*

*We begin counting the days
until we're there -
No other place in the world
Is quite like FAT HAROLD'S.*

Our kind of place.

A True Shagging Icon

By Annie Jernigan Henry

Marie Fisher, ShagAtlanta, is S.O.S.' newest icon, a cherished award for a cherished member of the shag world. Marie has been involved with shag in Atlanta since 1982 when she joined the Atlanta Beach Club. When the North Atlanta Beach Club was spawned in 1985, she and husband Rick were members of both clubs, and she served as secretary-treasurer of the North Atlanta Beach Club in 1987.

Just to name a few of her accomplishments in ShagAtlanta, Marie was:

- Instrumental in the unification of the Atlanta Beach Club and the North Atlanta Beach Club in 1988, and served on the Merger Committee;
- President of ShagAtlanta in 1990, 1991 and 1992;
- Elected to ShagAtlanta's Wall of Fame (Preservation Hall) in 1993 to honor her outstanding accomplishments;
- Co-chair of the Housing Committee for the 1996 Olympics Shag Dance Exhibition;
- Co-President in 2001.

Marie currently holds the office of Parliamentarian and serves as a member of the Executive Commit-



August 12, 1945 - December 3, 2002

tee, lending her many years of leadership expertise to guide the club.

Marie has a lights-on, high-beam smile for everyone she meets and greets. She is a true ambassador for ShagAtlanta and has always set a high standard for others to follow. While other members have come and gone in the club, Marie has remained constant and enthusiastic—she is an “active” member in the truest sense of the word. She has the ability to induce cooperation and harmonious understanding with her tactfulness and quick wit, and has rarely missed a club meeting since the club's inception. Marie has always led by example and she genuinely cares about others.

Outside ShagAtlanta, Marie has not often missed an S.O.S. event in North Myrtle Beach—if she ever does, you can bet it has something to do with one of her children. She has graciously served on A.C.S.C. nominating committees; she helped rewrite the Association Bylaws as a member of that committee, and also served on S.O.S. Bylaws committee. Marie assisted with the formation of Junior S.O.S. working with M...

Robinette.

In summary, Marie Fisher has made significant contributions to ShagAtlanta, A.C.S.C. and S.O.S., and is the epitome of the ideal icon recipient. She has remarkable spirit and courage which is now serving her in her fight against cancer. She has never given up in her insistently continuous love for ShagAtlanta and she won't give up now. Her shag friends have rallied around her and are trying to give back some of what they have received from Marie all these years.

*One SONG can spark a moment
One FLOWER can wake the dream
One TREE can start a forest
One BIRD can herald spring
One SMILE begins a friendship
One HANDCLASP lifts a soul
One STAR can guide a ship at sea
One WORD can frame the goal
One VOTE can change a nation
One SUNBEAM lights a room
One CANDLE wipes out darkness
One LAUGH will conquer gloom
One STEP must start each journey
One WORD must start a prayer
One HOPE will raise our spirits
One TOUCH can show you care
One VOICE can speak with wisdom
One HEART can know what is true
One LIFE can make a difference
Author Unknown*

Marie's life has made a difference to ShagAtlanta, the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs, S.O.S., her family and friends. Recently, her name was etched in wet concrete on Main Street in North Myrtle Beach—but Marie's spirit is indelibly etched in the hearts of those who know and love her.

Special to The Carefree Times

Before I forget...

by Charles 'One Lung' Blackwell

During the late forties and early fifties there was seldom a weekend when a major Black Band was not playing somewhere in the Carolinas. There was usually a major vocalist with those bands but many times the real stars of the dance were a handful of local Black jitterbugs whose many, varied and intricate steps were quickly absorbed by the White jitterbugs observing from the balconies.

Yes, segregation was in full bloom at the Armory in Charlotte, Textile Hall in Greenville and the Township Auditorium in Columbia. Although we Whites were relegated to do our dancing at these Black venues in the aisles, corridors and where ever we found a space, level or not; we still communicated with the Black dancers below whom we had become familiar with.

Just as happened at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion juke box in those days, when a particular couple of extra-good dancers started, the floor cleared and formed a fairly tight circle around the featured dancers. More often than not, these circles of excitement at the Black dancers were located so that we Whites got a very good view of the happenings.

I don't know as much about the other places mentioned as I do about the Charlotte Armory, but we in the balcony there would yell encouragement to our Black friends and if the dance was on a Friday night, many times we would arrange to meet them the next day at Tanners on the square.

For you youngsters, Tanners was a sandwich shop which sold only the best, fresh, regular sandwiches and

hot dogs, and they mixed their own fresh fruit drinks as well. They gave away little packages of nuts which usually ended up being fed to the pigeons around the square.

The most unique facet of Tanners was the fact that there were no seats or stools. There was the long ordering and serving counter and a series of waste-high, elongated tables located throughout the shop. Everybody stood and they served members of all ethnic backgrounds. I would venture to say that Tanners in Charlotte was truly the first of southern eateries to integrate; and it did so without fanfare, demonstrations or arrests. It happened naturally, as it should have. Today, when Black historians are climbing over each other to preserve the counters and stools where the first sit-in protests were held in Greensboro, Rock Hill and Columbia, they would do well to remember the original Tanners on the square and the Black and White Carolina dancers who did it first and who did it right.

Charlotte author Harry Golden called the Tanner's phenomenon "Vertical Integration" in his ONLY IN AMERICA.

Our "Shag Dance", as we know it today, is an amalgamation of steps and moves adopted from all forms of swing-type dances, as well as some steps and moves which were created by some unique dancers; but where ever one sees exceptional "shaggin'" today, there is a very good chance that one will be witnessing some remnants of the steps and moves Whites adopted from Blacks at the big Black dances during the middle of the last century.

Dance

Dance is the movement of the human body in a rhythmic way. Dance serves many functions in human society. It is an art form, a social activity, a type of communication, and a form of recreation. People can dance by themselves, in couples, or in large groups. The dance can be spontaneous or performed in established movements. It can tell a story, explore an emotion, or serve as a form of self-expression. Many people dance as a career, but anyone can dance simply by moving in rhythm.

Dance is among the oldest human art forms. Dancing extends beyond the human species itself. For example, many animals perform complex dances during courtship.

Dance differs from other kinds of rhythmic movement, such as dribbling a basketball, because in dance the movement itself is the goal of the activity. Music usually accompanies dance, providing the rhythm, tempo, and mood for the movements.

In modern societies, many people enjoy dancing simply for entertainment. Each generation creates new dances as an expression of its own sense of life and fun. For example, rock dancing arose about 1960 with the popularity of rock music. This type of dance was created primarily by and for young people. Rock dances such as the twist did not require partners to touch each other while they danced. The dancing was free-spirited and individual, allowing each dancer to create his or her own steps spontaneously. Rock dancing stressed pure emotion underscored by the strong beat of the music.

Source: Internet
: www.aolsvc.worldbook.aol.com/wbol/wbAuth.jsp/wbArticle.jsp



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PAVERS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY POPULAR WITH VISITORS TO THE AREA, INCLUDING SHAG CLUBS AND SHAGGERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES WITH MAIN STREET'S DESIGNATION AS "THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE SHAG" AND THE ANNUAL SOS EVENTS, THOUSANDS OF SHAGGERS HAVE ALREADY PURCHASED PAVERS.

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2002 Event Planning Calendar 2003

December 2002 17 Christmas Party, Newport News 28 Gastonia Party 28 Shelby Mock New Years Party 31 New Years Eve Party, Cornelius 31 New Year's Eve, Rocky Mt, NC 31 Pawley Island New Years Party	January 2003 3-5 Islander Winter Classic, Hilton Head SC 11 Gastonia Party 30-Feb 1 Electric Storm Party	February 2003 14-15 Gastonia Chicken Pickin' 21-23 ACSC/SOS Winter Work Shop, Greenville, NC
March 2003 27-30 Smoky Mt Boogie, Gatlinburg	April 2003 25-May 3 SOS Spring Safari, NMB 	May 2003



- 2002 -

Dec. 17: Colonial Shag Club Christmas Party in Newport News, VA. Hosted by Colonial Shag Club. Location: Mitty's Night Club in Newport News, VA. Cost: Free for CSC members, \$5 for non-members. First annual Christmas party and first anniversary of the club. Hotel: Omni Newport News 757-873-6664. Contact: Cindy Goree 757-478-1600 or email cindygoree@williamewood.com.

Dec. 28: December Party in Gastonia, NC. Hosted by Gaston Shaggers. Location: Gastonia VFW, Gastonia, NC. Tickets: \$4.00 - members; \$6.00 - non-members. 8:00 - midnight: DJ Gene Hensley. Contact: Tommy Almond 704-227-0197 or email gastonshaggers@aol.com or go to <http://hometown.aol.com/gastonshaggers>.

Dec. 28: Mock New Years Eve Party in Shelby, NC. Hosted by Shelby

Shag Club. Location: Shelby VFW on Sumter Street across from city park. Cost: \$4.00 members, \$6.00 guests. Mock New Years Eve Party complete with Champagne toast, party favors and continental breakfast. DJ: Dick Hamrick. Contact: Diane Shytle 704-867-2627 shytle4@bellsouth.net.

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party in Cornelius, NC. Hosted by Twister's Shag Club. Location: Cornelius American Legion Building. Cost: \$20. DJ Judy Collins. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, setups and softdrinks provided. Champagne toast at midnight. Bring your own adult beverages or cooler. Only 120 tickets will be sold. Visit <http://www.goshagging.com> for more information.

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party in Rock Hill, SC. Hosted by Rock Hill Area Shag Club. Location: Midtown Sundries, Dave Lyle Blvd, Rock Hill, SC. Cost: No Cover. 9:00 pm - 2:00 am. Specials on food/drinks all night

long. DJ: Club dj. Contact: Carol Frazier 803-329-5334 cmathisen@cetlink.net.

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party in Pawley's Island, SC. Hosted by South Strand Shag Club. Location: Tara Ballroom in the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort. Cost: \$45.00 per person. Time: 8:00 pm - 1:00 pm. DJ's: Randy Jennings and Dennis Murphy. Hors d'oeuvres, dinner buffet, desserts, and a cash bar. Hotel: Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort (suites available at a reduced price) - 843-237-3000. Contact: Deborah Mangan 843-546-4301 or email dm4301@sccoast.net.

- 2003 -

Jan 3-5: Island Winter Classic VIII in Hilton Head Island, SC. Hosted by Hilton Head Island Carolina Shag Club in Hilton Head Island, SC. Cost: \$45/person till Dec.1, then \$50. Location and Hotel: Crowne

Plaza, 1-800-334-1881. DJs: Gary Bass, Terry Ellis, Jim Bowers. Free shag workshop with Annette Johnson, Dwight Langley & Joan English. Kick-off party Thursday night in the Lounge. Midnight breakfast Fri., Dinner Sat & Breakfast buffet before Sunday departure. Contact: Brian Murphy or Pat Hodgson, 843-671-2905 or email peacheshhi@aol.com.

Jan 11: January Party in Gastonia, NC. Hosted by Gaston Shaggers' Shag Club. Cost: \$4.00 members; \$6.00 non-members. Location: Gastonia VFW. 8:pm - midnight. DJ: Bobby Bennett. Party contact: Tommy Almond; 704-827-0197; gastonshaggers@aol.com. For more info, go to <http://hometown.aol.com/gastonshaggers>.

Jan 17-20: Mid-Winter in North Myrtle Beach

Jan 31-Feb 1: Electric Storm in Clemson, SC. Hosted by Electric City Shag Club. Location: Ramada Inn, Clemson, SC. Tickets: \$35 prior to 12/15/02; \$45 after that date. Tickets held at registration. Hotel: Ramada Inn, 864-654-7501. Contact: Joe Shipman or Ladelle Holcombe, 864-287-4392 or email jaks48@hotmail.com

Feb 14-15: 15th Annual Chicken Pickin' in Mooresville, NC. Hosted by Lake Norman Shag Club. Location: Mooresville Skating Rink. Tickets \$25 by 2/5/03; \$30 at door. DJ's Tootie Brown, Gene Hensley, and Eddie Teeter. Friday night, Free pour 7-9 pm Hospitality Suite, Holiday Inn (I77-Exit 28), Saturday 3 pm till midnight at skating rink. Shag workshop Saturday 2:00 pm at skating rink with Sonny and Judy Carver. Silent auction and 50/50. Free Shuttles to motels. Ask for special shag rate at all hotels. Hotel: Fairfield Inn (Exit 36 Mooresville, NC) 704-663-6100; other hotels I77 -

Exit 36), Super 8 (704-662-6188), Sleep Inn (704-799-7070); I77-Exit 28, Holiday Inn (704-892-9120), Best Western (704-896-0660). Lake Norman Shag Club will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary at the place it all started. Contact: Tree Sherrill, 704-660-0293, Eddie Teeter 704-892-0421 or go to <http://www.lakenormanshagclub.com>.

Feb 21 - 23: PUTTIN' ON THE GLITZ - ACSC Winter Workshop 2003 in Greenville, NC. Hosted by Eastern North Carolina Shag Club. Location: Greenville, NC. Tickets: \$50 each postmarked before 1/1/2003 or \$60 after. Hotel: Hilton 252-355-5000. Contacts: Fred Tetterton 252-707-2877, fred.tetterton@dsm.com, and Kathy Harrington 252-757-3536, pondpalace@cox.net. More details will be provided as the event gets closer!

March 27-30: Smoky Mountain Boogie V in Gatlinburg, TN. Hosted by Smoky Mountain Shaggers. Location: Gatlinburg, TN. Tickets: \$35 till December 31, then \$45. Only 800 tickets available. Hotel: Party Headquarters Glenstone Lodge, 1-800-362-9522. Flyer available online at <http://www.americanbopassociation.com/smoky.jpg>. Contact: Bill Hughes, 865-947-0494 or email metaltiger@mindspring.com

April 25-May 3: SOS Spring Safari in North Myrtle Beach.

July 11-13: ACSC/SOS Summer Workshop in Greenville, SC.

August 21-24: Beach Boogie 2003 in Clearwater Beach, FL. Hosted by Tampa Bay Beach Boppers. Location: Clearwater Beach Hilton. Cost: \$35.00 before July 18, 2003, \$40.00 after, \$20.00 Daily tickets. Boogie Sunset Party and great hospitalities.

Free Workshops on Friday & Saturday. Gospel Hour - Sunday afternoon. Hotel: Clearwater Beach Hilton 1-800-753-3954. Contacts: B.J. Miller 813-948-4005 bjanemil@aol.com or Joyce Lucas - 813-915-9577 tpacoffeegirl@aol.com .

August 29-Sept 1: Labor Day Dance Party IV in Daytona Beach, FL. Hosted by Daytona Beach Shag Club. Location: Hilton, Oceanfront Resort. Cost: \$35.00 before Aug 10, \$40.00 after, \$20.00 day ticket. Free workshops Sat, Sun & Mon. - Sam West, Grayson Smith, Joan English, Mark Traynor, Debbie Dillow, Kathy Daniels, Kelly & Shirley Cordell. DJs: Larry Jones, Edee Dickinson, Butch Berrey - The Carolina Boogie Man. 40 Hours of open floor dancing. Hotel: Hilton, Oceanfront Resort 1-800-525-7350. Party Contact: Frank Anderson, 386-290-8934 or email shaggn@bellsouth.net.

Sept 12-21: SOS Fall Migration in North Myrtle Beach.

Attention Shag Clubs...

Don't see your club's event listed?

The Carefree Times gets its event information from the Official Web Site for the S.O.S. and A.C.S.C., located at: www.shagdance.com

...And, S.O.S. gets that information from you. Please insure that you submit your club's information on a timely basis. It is, after all, free advertising!







In Memory of Barbara Stephens

3/26/36 - 8/17/02



Here's to You Barb.....

Lynda and I were just leaving our home in Statesville, NC, Friday afternoon for my niece's wedding in Fredricksburg, Virginia, when we received the call from her sister Lynn. Barbara had been rushed back to the hospital and this time things did not look good. The family was summoned. We arrived at the hospital at approximately 7 pm and, along with Jackie, Lynda's mother, entered Barbara's room, where her husband of over 43 years, John ("Bo" to the family) stood beside her. Soon we were joined by her son Johnny and his wife Rachel. Her daughter Marci arrived later that evening, having flown in from Kentucky.

I held Barbara's hand for a moment and tried to say something appropriate, but just could not find the right words. I finally said "How you doing little girl?", and she gave that smile we've all seen so often and said..."I've been better." And indeed she had. She died the next morning, Saturday the 17th at about 5am.....very peacefully.

On hearing the news early that morning I decided to be at my nieces wedding that evening. I could be back the next day after Barbara's arrangements had been finalized.

It was about 6am as I passed

the sign saying Sunset Beach as a traveled north on Highway 17 towards Wilmington. The sun had not yet shown itself, but the morning sky was shades of pink and orange reflecting off high scattered clouds in the distance. There was a light ground fog over the marshy areas. It was a beautiful morning.

I turned by radio to 94.9 "The Surf". I was surprised to hear such great beach music at that hour in the morning. It seemed like every song they played, I could remember having danced to with Barbara. I have to admit, the tunes got to me. That's when the memories started creeping in, and that is when I decided to share my thoughts with the readers of "SOS Care Free Times" as a tribute to Barbara. I had 7 hours up and 7 hours back to reflect on Barb.

I first met Barb at The Pad in 1989. It was also the first time I met Lynda, her niece, and now my wife. After meeting and dancing with Lynda, she introduced me to Barbara, and I danced with her as well... for the first time. We would dance many times after that.

After knowing and loving Barbara after all these years, I could write volumes on what she has meant to her family, and the positive impact she has had in their lives. But that is not what this is about. This publication is about and for Shaggers. It's a wonderful medium for us to feature and remember those of us that have gone on. This is about the Barbara that was so loved and admired by her shagging friends.

When I was a young teenager, as so many of you, I would go to the beach as often as I could.....summers, spring break, etc. I can remember going to *The Pad*, *The Pavilion*, and *Sonny's* at Cherry Grove. It was at these places that I first heard the music and saw the dance. I was a face in the crowd, marveling at the girls that

were older than me, doing the Shag. The rhythm and the images those girls put in my mind never left me. They are still there today. One of those pretty young girls could have been Barbara.

Most of us have probably seen the movie "Shag"...certainly never a contender for an Oscar, but about the roots of the Shag nevertheless. If you saw the movie you will remember the young girls getting into their convertible and striking out for the beach.....to Shag. One of those young women could have also been Barbara. As a young lady she was forever, and many times without the consent of her parents, traveling to the beach or closest club where the Blue and Shagging were the featured attraction.

She was a regular in places like *Whitelake*, *the Pavilion*, *Sonny* and many others. Places where the only air stirring came from an ocean breeze, or an electric fan. Where the music screamed from an old jukebox in the corner spinning 45's, not a LP in a booth. Where the "powder room" was such that many women would not set foot in it today. And if dancing with a sweaty partner offended you...you were in the wrong place. This is the way the Shag began.

Along the way she met and became lifelong friends to other kids drawn to the same lights, rhythm and dance, many of which became legends in this circle. Names synonymous with the Shag. Many of them have gone on. Many are still here. The list of those departing continues to grow in ever increasing numbers.

Ever since my early days of seeing the "Barbara's" at the beach... I was hooked, as were so many other young men of that time. In my opinion, it is the women of Barbara's era that is the reason for the Shag's popularity today. If you've been around for

Continued next page

awhile, you know the women I'm talking about. Names, faces, and dance styles, come to your mind as you read this. Because you see guys...no matter how fancy or busy we get with our footwork, it's the subtle yet sultry moves of the female form in perfect step with their partner, no matter what his skill level, that propelled the dance to where it is today....which started with the women of Barbara's time. It's even true today as the young girl shaggers have taken those moves to new heights. They are still the attraction, just as in Barbara's day.

Barbara and John moved to the beach about ten years ago from Fayetteville, to be "in heaven" as they called it. They moved here to be among their shagging friends, and at a place that brought them so much joy over the years. A few years later, they were both inducted into "The Living Legends". It's very fitting that Barb's life would come to an end here.

I danced with Barbara at Johnny and Rachel's wedding this past May. By that time her condition had worsened and made her weak. We had to leave the dance floor before the song ended, I knew it was the last time I would dance with her. She left this world as gracefully as she lived in it. Her life touched so many...evident by all the friendships she created over the span of her life. Whose to know what God has planned for us when we enter this world. We can only hope that when we go, we can leave behind family and friends where there was a mutual love born out of the sharing of good times which created wonderful memories that will last forever. Barbara accomplished that.

So I say....Here's to you Barb.

*Ginger Rogers
did everything
Fred Astaire did,
except she did it backwards
and in High Heels!*

A Tribute to Sheila Bodie- What a Gal!

By Milton Nowell, Jr

I felt compelled to write about Sheila Bodie, because I wanted all those who did not know her to have a glimpse of what they missed. I wanted all those who did not know her or did not spend any time with her to feel a little of what we are feeling now that she is gone- loss, hurt, sadness, and a little of the great joy and fortune we felt of having her in our lives. Sheila recently lost her gallant and courageous fight with cancer, an antagonist that knows no quarter, yet knew it was in a fight for her life from the minute it arrived. But more on that later.

Sheila Bodie was an energetic, quick-witted, smart, happy, gentle, lovely, and loving, woman from Columbia, South Carolina, who just happened to spend her quality time with Norfleet Jones for many of these recent years. She was one of the best female dancers ever, and you only had to know that by either dancing with her one time, or watching her dance with anyone else. Sheila was a glider and a juker, and could do either at any time, no matter the music. She was very elegant and refined to a smooth song, and could glide like a swan on a lake as if it was an effortless exercise from the heart. Then, when a rockin' old blues tune came on, she could jump out there go, and all everyone would do was watch her, including her partner. Hence the name given to her by Norfleet, "showdog". Sheila danced on the guy's foot, having learned from guys at an early age, but she never changed, and if you didn't know it, you couldn't tell. Even if you did know, it was hard to tell, because she was just that good.

Sheila was elected this year to the Shaggers Hall of Fame and was inducted on October 12, 2002. She couldn't attend due to her illness, but sent a wonderful message read by Norfleet about her appreciation for the

honor, and how much she loved the dance. Yet it was the Hall of Fame and all of us who were honored, but her induction, and presence in our lives. She always brought something special when she showed up anywhere, because she was special.

When she became sick over the past two years, she still would come out when she could and enjoy everyone and the music as much as she was able. She fought her disease with radiation and medicine, with determination and grit that marked her personality, with hope and prayer, and never complained or said, "why me?" She was an exercise in meeting adversity head on, with the belief that she would win, and always with the dignity that I hope I will have in some small measure in my life at some point. Her fight is a lesson for us all in how to take life's most tragic part and make it dignified and acceptable.

The loss of Sheila Bodie is something that we, those who knew her and were close to her, will never get over. When you lose a valuable part of your life such as this, there will always be a void. The only consolation it that we did get to spend good times, quality times, fun times, memorable times, and everlasting times with her. She lit up the room as no other, that I can remember, and all beer joints, dance halls, and clubs will be dimmer now that she is not there to illuminate them. Times will never be the same, and the unfortunate thing about life, is they never are after such as this. Sheila, while you are up there waiting for us, you might want to avoid that Shad Alberty guy, but you have our permission to dance with Harry Driver, Bunk Leach, and Charlie Boone. On second thought, go ahead and dance with Shad, and you might as well save us a place at your table. It's our favorite.

Judy and Jeannie Did Atlanta

Grand National Dance Championship in Atlanta, Ga., May 2002

Judy and Jeannie need no introduction at Ocean Drive nor ATLANTA now. Judy Collins, of Judy's House of Oldies is also a D.J. Jeannie, well it is very difficult to describe this lady.

During the past two or three years I have learned more about Jeannie. Yes, all good stuff. It runs in the family. Her mother, sister and husband are very special individuals.

You all knew Rufus and though he has moved to his beautiful home up above us, he watches over his family daily and is mighty proud of them, I know. There is no doubt in my mind that his little Jeannie shocks him from time to time. Jeannie and Judy could easily be a comedy team. Well, actually they are, they just don't get paid for the pleasure and laughter they create for those around them.

During a recent road trip from North Myrtle Beach to Atlanta the two, happy go lucky, sparkling ladies had some unforgettable experiences. Let's talk about food. That is the last item we all load into the car when we are about to take a trip. The food is packaged and placed for easy accessibility that is within an arm's reach. Well for some anyway. The girls will have to explain this little episode to you so you can appreciate it first hand.

Following the trip from NMB to Atlanta came check-in and move-in. This in itself is a story to behold. Judy, being the music vendor and a D.J., had her room pre-assigned to her and sister Jeanne was her guest and sales rep. When the bellman escorted them to their room a sign on the door said "Governor's Suite".

Jeannie was so excited she could not open the suite with the plastic key so she decided to just take advantage of being treated like royalty and asked the bellman to please open the door for them. Their expressive descriptions, voice tones

and comments were hilarious. We tried to recapture the expression at the door for your viewing pleasure in the photos included with this article. A tough (fun) job but somebody had to do it.

The girls were sure this was an error and that soon they would be moved to another room. But, guess what, this was not an error but certainly a lucky break however, please note that by the time they left Jeannie had renamed the suite. It was now referred to as the Governor's Palace. Actually the renaming took place soon after they arrived and checked into their room.

The room was gorgeous. A PALACE fit for a Governor and in this case, two governesses. They are without a doubt a "class act". Besides all the music and videos that are sold at Judy's House of Oldies, Judy is a fabulous DJ.

Back to the room situation... Jeannie's husband, Wayne was going to join the ladies in a day or two and would you believe this beautiful suite had only one king bed. This was fine for the ladies, but what about when Wayne joined them????????????????

Yes, Judy gave of her bed, moved to the "den", and Wayne moved in with his wife. Poor Wayne. Ha ha ha ha. Two lovely, beautiful, humorous women. It doesn't get any better than that, does it Wayne?

You have to picture this: Judy, DJ and owner/operator of Judy's House of Oldies in this lovely, first class Governor's Suite sleeping on the sofa while Wayne and Jeannie enjoyed the Governor's plush bedroom with a king size bed, a bathroom fit for a king and queen. I hope you enjoy this little story as much as I enjoyed hear-



ing their story first hand and sharing in their humor about this entire episode.

By the way, we all had a wonderful time at the Grand National Dance Championships in Atlanta, hosted by Jackie McGee and Charlie Womble. If you have never been, give it a try. A fabulous, fun weekend with dancers who are indescribable. Dance competitions, open dancing and you can actually dance all night if you so desire. Some nights (or mornings) we dance until 5:00 am. or 6: am. A fun party with entertainment Las Vegas style. Attend and see for yourself.

Thanks to Judy and Jeannie for being the special ladies and friends that they are to so many of us. And personally, thank you for sharing these humorous moments with me.

Stop by Judy's House of Oldies and ask Judy or Jeannie to tell you this story. A live production is even better than a written story.

-Betty Ladwig

With the consent of Judy and Jeannie



2002 Junior Gospel Hour

..was an enlightening closure to this 10th annual event.

By Betty Ladwig

Breakfast sandwiches, pastries, juice, and coffee were provided courtesy of the O.D. Shag Club. Following the breakfast we witnessed "Results of Miracles" when Robbie, Beverly, Nancy Lee and Carol shared their testimonies with us at Fat Harold's Beach Club. If you were there, I know you will agree that the testimonies were touching and heart warming.

Robbie was on his way home from a Christian Concert when an automobile accident occurred. He was in a coma for three months, not expected to survive. As time passed it was determined that if he did survive, he would be brain dead. DID YOU SEE HIM LAST YEAR, AND DID YOU SEE HIM SUNDAY THE 21ST OF JULY AT THE GOSPEL HOUR? YES, HE LIVES AND IS A TRUE WALKING MIRACLE. He ministers and shares his miracle with the world and reminds us all that we need to renew our connection with God.

Beverly shared with us her personal testimony and the blessing bestowed upon Earl. Earl's blessing was different, as most blessings vary from person to person. When a voice box is removed you have to learn to talk all over again. Earl returned to his room after surgery wearing a big smile, as he was blessed with the ability to speak by use of the appropriate apparatus without having to learn all over again how to talk.

Nancy was diagnosed with

breast cancer and was scheduled for surgery for a double mastectomy. Her father and mother met with her the night prior to surgery. As the three held hands in her hotel room that night her father prayed. During the prayer an electrical shock was passed from her father's arm to his hand, to her hand, and to the place in her chest where the cancer lived. They chose to postpone surgery for one day and when the medical team proceeded with the surgery there was no cancer.

Nancy Lee Mitchell is the mother of the tornado victim, Beth Mitchell, who died four years ago in a NC tornado. Nancy Lee, Beth, and Onyx their dog were traveling in their automobile when the tornado swept them off the road and into a building. Beth did not survive the crash; Nancy Lee required surgery for her head injuries and Onyx survived without injury. Beth and Brad Kinard had just weeks before won 1st place in the Novice Division of the Nationals.

Mrs. Carol Jenkins shared a few words with us also. Her son Chuck and daughter Christy danced in the Junior Division of the Nationals but have now aged out. Carol has spent many years and many, many hours coordinating various events for the Juniors. Her beliefs, much like many of ours, include that being in a beach club, cocktail lounge or tavern does not make us bad. Whether you are in Fat Harold's, Ducks or any



Rob Robinson

other club, know that many of your dance friends, regardless of age or level of dance accomplishments, are Christians. You can be a friend, save a life, lead another to the Lord, in many ways.

We're not asking for a show of hands or embarrassment but I'm sure each of us reviewed our personal relationships with God and prayed silently reaffirming our faith and reconnecting with God. Love and prayers to each of you, as we ask God to bless the United States of American, one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.



Turning the Tables



Blowing Bubbles and Other Stuff...



Mike Lewis

Our beach and shag “world” provides a sanctuary, kind of a Walden Pond for us, to shelter us, albeit for just a moment here and there, from 2002 and all it means. It can be a real back to nature experience, if you see nature as that soothing place which is Fat Harold’s, Ducks, or your favorite “spa” or resort on an otherwise weather-laden afternoon or evening—anytime. The music, the dance, the friends, all those other folks (many of whom can be friendly whether they know you or not), perhaps a beverage, even a smoke (no chaws, please) can all smooth your work-ruffled feathers, ease away, just for a while, those thoughts about money, fame, your weight, your hair (or lack thereof), your sometimes droopyprospect(s)—whatever ails your mind. So step on in.

Our “places,” which vary in every way imaginable, are just this.

No more. I encourage you to use them. Step on in and be a part of the answer. Shake a hand, make a friend, dance, have a cool one, listen to the music. Stop and smell the beer joint....

2002 is really complicated, and getting tougher. Every day Roseanne Roseannadanna’s words ring true—“It’s always something.” Your beach and shag “spots,” in your hometown, at Ocean Drive, in Pittsburgh or Cincinnati or Jacksonville—wherever you support them and allow them to flourish—offer you a “bubble.” Shelter from the “stuff.”

I know they are beer joints or hotel bars or VFW halls your shag club has rented for one night to make do when you don’t have a “home club” to go to where you are. But you know the wonderful thing about bubbles? They still give you all this if you let them. For a little while,

you can be whatever you need to be to relax and escape from 2002—just for a while. Your house payment will be there still, as will that extra 20 pounds, that idiot son-in-law, your ex, your boss, that lemon car, whatever ails you. But not while you shag a bit, listen to a tune or two, swap stories about falling off the sidewalk at SOS or picking up Vanna White’s better looking girlfriend THAT night. Not for just a while...

Every stroll through your mind has to go somewhere, doesn’t it? Come to SOS, visit the beach, support your local shag and beach events and clubs and go see others when you can—when you need a bubble. The only way to “blow” bubbles in this cautionary tale is to not do this. I trust you will.

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Harold Beaver County,

by Mike Townsend

Yes, I knew Harold Beaver, and gladly so. If asked to describe him in only a few words, I don't think Harold would mind if I said of him, in the youthful vernacular of the day, he was a way cool guy. His closest friends will find better words and ways to speak of him, yet I can't let this time pass without recording some of my own memories.

Harold had a peaceful presence about himself, yet I never once doubted that underneath the outward sense of calm was a powerful, yet unobtrusive, passion for music; the kind of music that brought movement to all within its sound. Harold will long be remembered for his passion. His music made us feel graceful, like a swan moving across a summer-still pond.

There was nothing fancy or pretentious about him. His effortless smile was as automatic as his big rising hand. That was his patented, standard way of saying hello, and farewell, to one and all. Some years ago I noticed that each time I neared wherever he was, that hand seemed to involuntarily go up with fingers spread wide, palm out, as if to say 'how.' On one occasion I watched from a distance for several minutes. His smile unfolded and that big hand went up in the identical way each time a new face neared the DJ booth. That's the way Harold was: genuine to one and all. And he never changed, even near the end, when he clearly suffered both emotionally and physically. Still, even knowing his time would soon be coming to an end, as he surely did, that smile and hand wave remained as automatic as he was sincere.

During this past fall SOS I learned that Harold probably didn't have long to live, so I went to the Boulevard Grille to see and hear him play. I saw Helen and at once I wanted to dance with her, squarely in front of the DJ booth, so that Harold could watch. Before, during, and after that dance I glanced to see the expression on his face. Somehow I wanted him to know that she would be taken care of - that she would be okay. I also wanted to let him know how much I appreciated the dignified way he carried himself. When that dance was over I hugged Helen, smiled and waved at Harold. Dancing with his life-partner, in full view, to his music, just seemed the most appropriate way to let him know how elevated we all felt for having known him for as long as we did.

Some of us never have to prove who or what we are. That's how I'll remember Harold Beaver. He just was. A good guy. Way cool!

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A Picture is Worth One Thousand Words

The Best Dancing Picture Ever

By Phil Sawyer

If an ordinary picture is worth a thousand words, then this one is worth a million. Perhaps the finest snapshot, and that is what it was, ever taken of two people dancing, this picture is almost beyond description.

The picture was snapped somewhere around the mid-1930's. No one today knows exactly when. From a collection owned by Clint Graydon, a leading Columbia, SC attorney, it is one of many he has from that era. By the mid 30's, there was some light at the end of the tunnel of the depression, and World War II, although very much in the making in Europe, was not yet on the front pages. There was enough money for a little pleasure, and there was not yet the scourge of the big war.



The picture was taken in Big Sam's. Big Sam's was a black night club on Park Street in Columbia that has been carved out of an old Jewish Synagogue. One of the highlights of an evening at Big Sam's was dancing the Big Apple. The Big Apple, a sort of circular line dance in which two "show outs" move to the middle, put on their "stuff," and move back into the circle. Another couple takes the center. Today, we would probably call it a circle jerk.

The Big Apple and Big Sam's became so popular in Columbia that students from the University of South Carolina began to frequent the place. In the 30's, of course, they were restricted to the balcony, but it didn't take long for one or two of the

better dancers of the group to break with the long established separation tradition to slip down onto the floor.

By the latter part of the 30's, the group of Columbia dancers who had taken to the Big Apple were invited to perform at a theater in New York City, and the rest is history. The dance craze swept the country, The big band Swing Era was just beginning, the music of the day came from the likes of Benny Goodman, Harry James, Gene Krupa, and the Dorsey Brothers. From the Big Apple came the Little Apple, Jitterbug, East and West Coast Swing, The Lindy Hop, and several other styles. Grouped together, they were simply, "fast dancing." The Shag, as we know it today, evolved.

The building which was Big Sam's is in Columbia today on

Hampton Street, one block west of Main Street, and has been awarded National Historic Place status. If you are ever in Columbia and have an interest in the origins of our dance, you need to visit this shrine.

But, I digress. I started this to write about The Picture. What a picture! Instead of just a cursory look, let us examine it closely.

Notice first of all the expressions of pure joy and happiness in the faces of the dancers. His eyes are almost closed in pure bliss. His grip of her hand and on her waist are text book. He is a suspenders man (I would notice that). His trousers with two inch cuffs look as though they have just come out of the cleaners. His shoes are spit shined. She has playfully taken his hat and put it on her head.

Her socks and shoes tell you that she is a woman who takes pleasure in her life. Their feet meet in what could be the beginning of a perfect pivot.

If you look too fast, you will miss the Nehi (remember Nehi Orange and Grape Sodas?), and you can bet that I did not miss the Budweiser sign in the same style that it is used today. Somethings never go out.

No one that I know alive today has any idea who these two wonderful dancers are. If they are still alive, they should be well into their 90's. If we could find them, what a tale they could tell us. We never will. That's our loss.



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In My World

Sometimes I think that I live in another world, a world traveled by few, if any others because...

In my world, each person has good in them, even if buried deep down inside them.

In my world, Love is not just a want or a need, it is formed with the heart.

In my world, trust is something you would never regret giving away.

In my world, behind every bad thing that happens there is, believe it or not, a good reason.

In my world, no one puts themselves first, everyone puts the needs of others before their own.

In my world, giving is the best gift.

Maybe my world is unrealistic to others, but it is the only world I have ever known. I believe in people and I trust in the word of love. Love is a word given only when it has real meaning. You can never suffer from a broken heart in my world, because love is only given away when it is true and real. There is a saying, *"Every Cloud Had a Silver Lining."*

In my world that is very true. Sharing your thoughts with others is giving a part of yourself. It is considered a real blessing.

In my world, falling in love is an eternity.

In my world, you believe in others just as you believe in yourself. In my world, you are able

to see beyond a person's past and you look towards a better tomorrow for them.

In my world, everyone understands each others weaknesses.

In my world, faith gets you through everything in time.

In my world, falling in love is never taken for granted.

Maybe my world seems unreal to you, and is only imagination.

Maybe my world exists to protect my feelings. I am not sure, but if

everyone would leave their world and come into my world, the whole world would be a better place. Our

fondest dreams can be reality and someone will always be there when

we are frightened. Words will not

only be words, our hopes would be at our fingertips, and not only will

our faith in God be stronger, but our faith in each other will be stronger.

-Author Unknown

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Shagging Marines

By Bill and Bev Clinard

When the Korean War was gearing up in 1950, the 82nd Airborne from Ft. Bragg invaded our dance clubs in High Point, *Blackjacks*, *BGI*, and the *High Point City Lake Pavilion*, looking for women and roughhousing. They found the roughhousing, if you get my drift.

At the same time, a couple of dancing Camp Lejeune marines from High Point were invading Carolina Beach. My brother, Zack Clinard, and Gene "Turkey" Martin were serving 3-year enlistments as official dancers in the beach clubs. (Or so it seemed!) Zack had a 1947 Ford Sedan that learned its way back to Lejeune, because some nights neither could remember who drove back. I got the Ford after serving a 2-year Army draft while Zack sailed two Mediterranean tours. Thanks, Zack.

They practiced the fast dance between bunk beds in the barracks, and they were so dedicated that the sissy cat calls didn't stop them. But they did become the toughest Marines in their company, defending their masculinity, if you get my drift.

"Turkey" created a back tuck walk while holding on to the upper bunks. When coming out of a full pivot, his right spin with kick back followed by the back walk was dynamite. Using his training in the Marines, "Turkey" wound up owning a Remington-Rand franchise. One reason he married Arlene was her fantastic collection of fast dance records. As President of the local Jaycees, he changed High Point forever by leading the victory for ABC stores. Thanks, "Turkey!"

Zack danced through High Point College, became controller for a big oil distributor and an environmental specialist. He retired early to escape the endless environmental reports that he swears depleted several forests to make the required paper forms! His photo now hangs on the "Wall Of Fame" started at *Thursty's* in Greensboro, but then moved to the *Big-E* in High Point, because through those years he joined Gene Petty, Rufus Wactor, George Smothers, and Bobby Goins, among others, to keep Beach music and the dance alive in the Winston-Salem area. Thanks, Zack.

In the early 80's, Zack told me about a twice a year event called SOS. He gave me a music tape that started with *Bring Out the Boogie in Me* and ended with *Besame Mucho*. From home to office, I just had to play that tape! Heard it four times a day! Loved *When you move like that, when you groove like that, you make me want to climb down out of my tree*. Thanks, Zack.

I finally climbed down out of my tree on Sunday afternoon in the Spring of '86. Met the gang at *Crazy Zack's* where they pointed out Jackie McGee. I went over and asked her for my first dance in years. For some reason the gang marveled at this, so I said, "If I am back in this dance, why not start at the top?" By the end of the session with all the great dancing, I was really intimidated by Jackie and others, but I haven't missed an SOS since! One of these years I'm going to muster up the courage to ask Jackie again. Maybe a fast dancing tough ex-Marine can help me.

Down Memory Lane

Continued from page 8

most the last Wave, The ugly monster of war was about to pounce. The third Wavers couldn't plan on going to the beach when school was out. The draft was very real and, if you weren't married or a full-time student, you were gone. This shortage of shaggers, plus the British invasion, had an impact on the world of Shag that was unequalled to anything we had ever known. The dance and the music held on and we survived...the flower children, the hippies and the "free love" of the "Hell, no, we won't go. Make Love not War" group.

The fourth Wave was from 1970 through 1979. This was the Wave that almost pulled us under. It was the weakest period we had experienced. There were practically no young shaggers and most of the older ones were busy with careers and family. The British invasion was fading but Disco was on the rise. The Shag seemed to be dying a horrid death and those of us who insisted they take those old records off the shelf and let us Shag were labeled, "out of touch">

Finally, in 1977, *The Embers* recorded, *I Love Beach Music*, and people stopped, looked, and listened. The Fifth Wave can easily be dubbed, "The Comeback Kid" This Wave began in 1980 and can be summed up by simply saying, S.O.S....the Tidal Wave of all Waves...and, yes, "*It Will Stand*."

As for the Sixth Wave...What Do You Think???

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the Electric City Shag Club's April 1996, newsletter, *Shag 'N Tales*.

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