

SOS Carefree Times

2013 Summer Issue





S.O.S. President Ron Whisenant

Hello Everyone! It has been a great spring for SOS. The 2013 Spring Safari will go down in the history books as the largest Spring Safari, ever. The IRS, cooler than normal temperatures, can't stop a good show. Numbers prove that we have a solid organization, with a well tuned agenda for good times in shag land. I

hope you were part of the festivities, and witnessed the best parade in the southeast. The last Saturday of SOS was parade for the ninety six shag clubs that make up the ACSC. They were all out in their array to have a good time, and to entertain the parade watchers along the route. Don David said that the sixteen floats were the most ever in our parade. Another first. Wow!

Summer is upon us. Time to enjoy the outdoors, the pool, lake, and other forms of interest the summer months bring. Vacations certainly have priority, but there are many shag club parties to enjoy during the summer. Take advantage of these great parties, and help to support those clubs. Also, take an interest in your shag club, and support them by being an active part of the fabric of the club. If you participate, you will get much more from your membership. It is one of those enjoyable fringe benefits of belonging.

I am sure that I will see some of you at the beach, or some at the shag club parties. Maybe in Atlanta for the Summer Workshop, and party. I am staying very busy and active. I am doing well. I am healing from the loss of my sweet, beautiful, and wonderful Peggy. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your condolences and well wishes. Although each event I attend without her is an emotional time in the beginning, it gets easier with your loving friendship. I used the Spring Safari as my launch pad to move on in life without her, but always with her in my heart and soul. She was a great part of me, and will never be forgotten. She was, and is, the queen of SOS! Thank you for loving her, and for loving me. Life is good, and worth living! Lets dance through this life, and hope that we can dance together in the hereafter.

With much love and adoration for your friendship,

Ron

The Club and Officer information provided in the SOS Carefree Times is to be used for shag related information between shag clubs, in order to promote our dance, lifestyle, and music. This information is NOT to be used for personal or business solicitation for products or services.



SOS Board Chairperson Helen Still

Spring SOS proved to be the busiest yet for us! It seems that there was something cropping up every day, but we got everything handled and all was well. We had a GREAT Spring Safari.

We did have some weather issues and on the last Friday night we really had a storm. But I think we were all thankful that that storm came and went, because on Saturday morning the sun came out and it was a beautiful day for a parade. I can tell you we were pretty worried and had our rain gear ready. I think it's true that God loves shaggers.

The SOS Board and officers and the ACSC officers had so much fun on the SOS float with City Manager Mike Mahaney and Mayor Marilyn Hatley. I think they enjoyed seeing all the people along the parade route and were quite taken with our crowd. It was absolutely awesome! The energy that comes from the people along the route and the excitement and energy from everyone in the parade was something else. Again, it was fabulous! We appreciate Don David and his committee for all the hard work in organizing the parade and managing such a monumental task. We also appreciate the clubs who put together the floats, walking troops, etc. for the parade. I don't know how you do it, but it gets better every year and it's because of your efforts. Thank you.

Once again, during Spring Safari, your SOS Board/officers and the ACSC Officers served lunch to the city employees in appreciation of their support of SOS and all that we do while we are in NMB. The City is so helpful to us during SOS and we certainly appreciate each and every employee.

Our SOS partner clubs did an awesome job for us during SOS. All the clubs had great music and people on the dance floor. It is good to see our SOS family when we walk from club to club. We thank the partner clubs and their owners for their support. We appreciate you supporting them during SOS events and when you are down at the beach.

We are really looking forward to the summer workshop, July 12 - 14th. ShagAtlanta has been working very hard to ensure we all have a wonderful time. I am very excited about this workshop and hope you are to. Hope to see you at there.

The week after the workshop we will have Junior SOS, July 16 - 21 at the O.D. Resort. If you have children or grandchildren this will be a good time to introduce them to the shag. We are taking our 3 1/2 year old and our 16 year old granddaughters again this year. We were thrilled last year when our little Megyn, listening to Sam West, did exactly what he was instructing them to do. She did a turn... I couldn't have been more thrilled. I sure hope she gets the shag bug like her Mimi. It will be an exciting time and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Hope you all have a happy and safe summer. Enjoy your family time and take advantage of the various shag club parties when you can. Remember www.shagdance.com has all the party and contact information on the website for your convenience.

Thank you for your support of SOS. We value your partnership. We are better and stronger together.

Helen



ACSC Chairman Ken Akin

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer with family vacations and relaxing activities.

Spring SOS was another wonderful experience and in the near future we all will be staying at North Myrtle Beach a week before SOS to prepare and the week after to recover! My SOS week was certainly busy! During the week, I made many new shagging friends and visited as many shag club parties that I could fit into my schedule while taking care of business. If you see me on the streets at North Myrtle Beach looking lost and looking at a piece of paper—that would be my schedule—and I am checking to see if I have visited every event on my list. The SOS Parade—what can I say—another winner! Don David certainly has a way of making sure it does not rain on the parade. I am amazed at the originality of the floats and how much time and effort goes into preparing for the Saturday event. Congratulations to the category winners and thanks to all the participants.

Since Spring SOS, I have been traveling almost every weekend. While attending Bike Week in North Myrtle Beach, I had the opportunity to attend the inductions of the LIVING LEGENDS at Fat Harold's Beach Club. All of the inductees were very deserving of this award and continue to be dedicated to the preservation of the shag lifestyle that we all love.

During the last weekend in May, I had the opportunity to be with the Palmetto Shag Club at their very enjoyable Southern Comfort. Their party was at the Embassy Suites, the host hotel when the Palmetto Shag Club hosts the February 2014 ACSC Winter Workshop. I had a tour of the accommodations at the Embassy Suites, which has a beautiful atrium area, large hospitality suite and a spacious ballroom. The Embassy Suites is located near downtown Columbia. Early reservations will guarantee a room at the host hotel.

The week of July 15 will be Junior SOS and I have made plans to attend with our granddaughter who has attended previous years. She has been practicing her shag steps and is anxious about learning more during that week. If you have not had the opportunity to see any of the junior dancers—be prepared—they are very talented. Thanks to all the parents and grandparents who support these young dancers by planning vacations at North Myrtle Beach during this week. Also, my appreciation goes out to all those associated with Junior SOS who volunteer time and funds and spend long hours organizing and supervising the morning to late night activities and lessons. In order that our shag dance continues to exist, we must support the organizations that support our juniors. The Ellen Taylor Foundation has contributed in many ways to assist these young dancers and continues to have donated shag shoes available for juniors. As we all know, our juniors need their dance shoes replaced quite often. If you have new or slightly used shoes to donate—bring them with you to Junior SOS. Volunteers are always there to help distribute the donated shoes.

On July 11-14, 2013, ShagAtlanta will be our hosts for the ACSC Summer Workshop at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center in Atlanta, Georgia. "Puttin' on the Glitz" is the theme of the workshop that begins on Thursday with the Early Bird Party. Lester, President of ShagAtlanta, and his committee have planned a full schedule of events, which includes

many activities and lots of time to dance. Atlanta is a wonderful place to visit and lots of excellent restaurants and shopping (ladies—pack your shag shoes and your charge cards).

I certainly appreciated everyone's response to my email concerning the HOFF/SOS Al Cain Memorial Golf Tournament. As a Director of the HOFF organization, I personally know how this organization helps those in need. Thanks!

See you in Atlanta!

Ken



ACSC Vice President Robin Morley

Summertime's calling me rings clear at NMB and our local shag clubs. It's that time of year where we are all traveling, visiting, dancing and socializing. Shaggers are certainly known for having fun promoting our dance, music and lifestyle.

If you are traveling please check www.shagdance.com and visit a local shag club in that area if you have the opportunity. The calendars are full of parties, bands, golf tournaments and charity events sponsored by local shag clubs.

Junior SOS will be held July 16-21 at the Ocean Drive Beach and Golf Resort. If you are in NMB please drop in and show your support for our juniors or even perhaps share this spectacular event with your children or grandchildren. Please visit the website www.juniorshaggers.com. We all know that this is an important ingredient of the future of the Carolina Shag.

SOS will be here before you know it and NMB will be our heaven for ten days. Fun Sunday/Fun Monday is always a great time to share with our friends. Please purchase Fun Monday raffle tickets to help support this event and the Caring for Kids Foundation. Let's all make this one of the best!!!

The ACSC Summer Workshop will be hosted by ShagAtlanta July 11-14th. This will be a fun and informative event. A big thanks to ShagAtlanta for hosting this event. I did have the opportunity to attend the 2013 Grand Nationals in Atlanta this year. If you have never been to this event, I highly recommend that you go next year. I came away from the GNDC with a much better understanding of how fantastic our culture of Shag relates to other dances. We are truly some of the kindest, warmest, most caring people anywhere. This trip also helped me to realize how important the infusion of youth into our dance will be in the near future. As the Baby Boomers move through the stages of life that have brought so much success to our dance, so too will our dance need to draw the 22 to 40 year old dancers into our lifestyle. This I feel strongly will be one of our top missions in the upcoming years.

It is truly a pleasure and privilege to serve as ACSC Vice Chairman. Enjoy your summer!!! Be safe in your travels and I will see you soon.

Robin



S.O.S. Member Dwayne Baggett

S.O.S FUN SUNDAY & FUN MONDAY

Read all about it!! The Enhancement Committee has been planning these two fun filled days for a year now. The plans have been set, the bands have been picked, the FUN times are ready to begin.

The next thing is up to YOU!!! To keep your SOS membership card cost low, SOS/ACSC does not fund these two days of fun. That is up to the people that are out in the street enjoying the concert. Yes this concert is free and open to the public but the entertainers would like to be paid to entertain you. Most people don't work for free. I know I don't and neither do you. The stage and the porta-potties need to be paid for. We have an electrical generator that the stage connects to, to provide the power for the entertainers. There is an enormous amount of expenses to provide this GREAT entertainment to you. We do not charge admission to come and listen to these entertainers but everyone of them has to be paid that day and some require a deposit before hand. As we know MONEY is what makes the world go 'round. As you read this the Enhancement Committee has already dispersed Fun Monday tickets to all of the shag clubs in the ACSC. Check with the Shag Club in your area to get your Fun Monday tickets BEFORE you come to SOS Fall Migration. Ticket sales are in full force. Now the rest is up to YOU!! These Fun Monday tickets are ONLY 2 for \$20. Now where in the world can you go and get GREAT entertainment for only \$20. If you go to the House of Blues, Walnut Creek in Raleigh or any other like venue you will pay more for the same entertainment. You are here in the Mecca of Shag surrounded by your friends or soon to be friends. It just doesn't get any better than this. If you are down here for the SOS events you are not too poor to buy one or two or more tickets to help pay for this great entertainment. \$10 for 2 days of entertainment is ONLY \$5 per day. The entertainment is about 5 hours for each day so that lowers the cost to about \$1 per hour of fun. WHAT A BARGAIN!!!!!!

It pains me to walk through the crowd on these 2 days selling tickets to people that are sitting in the chairs or standing in the street tapping their feet, swaying to the music really enjoying the music and ask them if they would like to buy a ticket to help support this event and they say "No thank you". That is like a slap in the face to the Enhancement Committee. It is like you are telling them, "I am here to take what you are offering but I don't want to help keep it going for next year." The city of North Myrtle Beach puts on a free concerts but even those are paid for by the taxes collected by the city. SOS/ACSC does not make a dime off of these two days. If there is any profit left over a certain percentage of the money is given to a local charity called "Caring for Kids" the left over portion is giving to the "SOS Charitable Foundation" which then turns around and gives that money to other charities that need the money. ALL OF THE PROFITS ARE GIVEN TO A CHARITY. So please if someone comes up to you and ask you to buy a Fun Monday ticket, show them your ticket stub or buy one. If no one comes up to you look for the big yellow tent. The ladies under the tent will be glad to sell you ALL the tickets you want. Remember that your ticket stub is placed in a drum and 5 tickets are pulled out. You have a chance to win one of five prizes. \$7,500, \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. I guarantee you if you don't buy a ticket you will not win a dime. The old saying is "You can't win if you ain't in"

Thank you to all of the people that buy tickets every year. YOU are what makes these events such a success!! Remember to ask for the special 2 for \$20!!

Dwayne Baggett



S.O.S. Janet Harrold

As I write this, today is the first "official" day of summer! So far the weather has been great which brings the tourists to Ocean Drive in full force. September 13, 2013, being the first day of SOS Fall Migration will kick off the fall season in Ocean

Drive. All the SOS clubs will be ready for everyone with great bands, dee jays, great food, and adult beverages to get you off your bum and on the floor. You can purchase your SOS membership cards at Fat Harold's Beach Club, Ducks Beach Club, Pirates Cove, OD Arcade & Lounge, Judy's House of Oldies, OD Café/Spanish Galleon, and prior to SOS from the SOS website....www.shagdance.com.

Please check your Carefree Times in the Fall for the sponsors and advertisers that offer discount for all SOS member cardholders....some offer discounts year around. PLEASE patronize these advertisers anytime you come to OD...they are responsible for keeping this publication for your enjoyment.

Have a wonderful summer, keep cool, and see you in the Fall. Remember to keep smiling you may show up in the next Carefree Times.

Janet

Fat Harold Honored

by: Janet Harrold

2013 SPRING SAFARI.... Harold Bessent was presented the SOS Chairman's Award. This award was presented for his lifetime of dedication and support of the SOS Organization, the music, our State Dance - The Shag, and promoting our shagging lifestyle through his efforts.



Harold wanted to say, "Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for this award. I wouldn't have it if it were not for all of my loyal and trusted customers throughout the years".

Harold has always had a place for all to shag since prior to SOS, and thankfully he has continued to have a place in Ocean Drive for everyone's enjoyment. I want to say "thank you, Harold, from the bottom of my heart" ...and I am sure I speak for all

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*Without the help of everyone who contributed,
this paper would still be just another newsletter.
Thank You!!*

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SOS Photographer Vickie Harrison

vickharrsc@aol.com 843-503-9542

I hope you are enjoying the photos on the SOS website. There are approx. 40,000 photos now and we are adding more after each SOS Event. Check out the album "Blast from the Past" for those ole' memories. Have a great summer and hope to see your smiling face at the ACSC Summer Workshop.

www.shagdance.com



SOS Facebook Group Shaggers Home for Social Networking

Our SOS Facebook page now has 2,865 members and want it to keep growing. The SOS schedules, updates, photos and events are posted to the page as I receive them. We want to encourage your **shag clubs** to post their upcoming events. Please do not post an individual advertisement, we limit advertising on the facebook page to the participating SOS clubs which is OD Arcade, Fat Harolds, Pirates Cove, Ducks and OD Resort. To join, search the name **SOS - Society of Stranders** and simply click "Join". Hope to see you on facebook and the dance floor, *Vickie*



Because we mail out your CAREFREE TIMES via BULKMAIL, if you move and don't tell us or if your application was incomplete, you will not receive your mail out **SOS CAREFREE TIMES** issues.

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**WHOSE FEET
ARE THESE???**

BY: LINDA DEAN

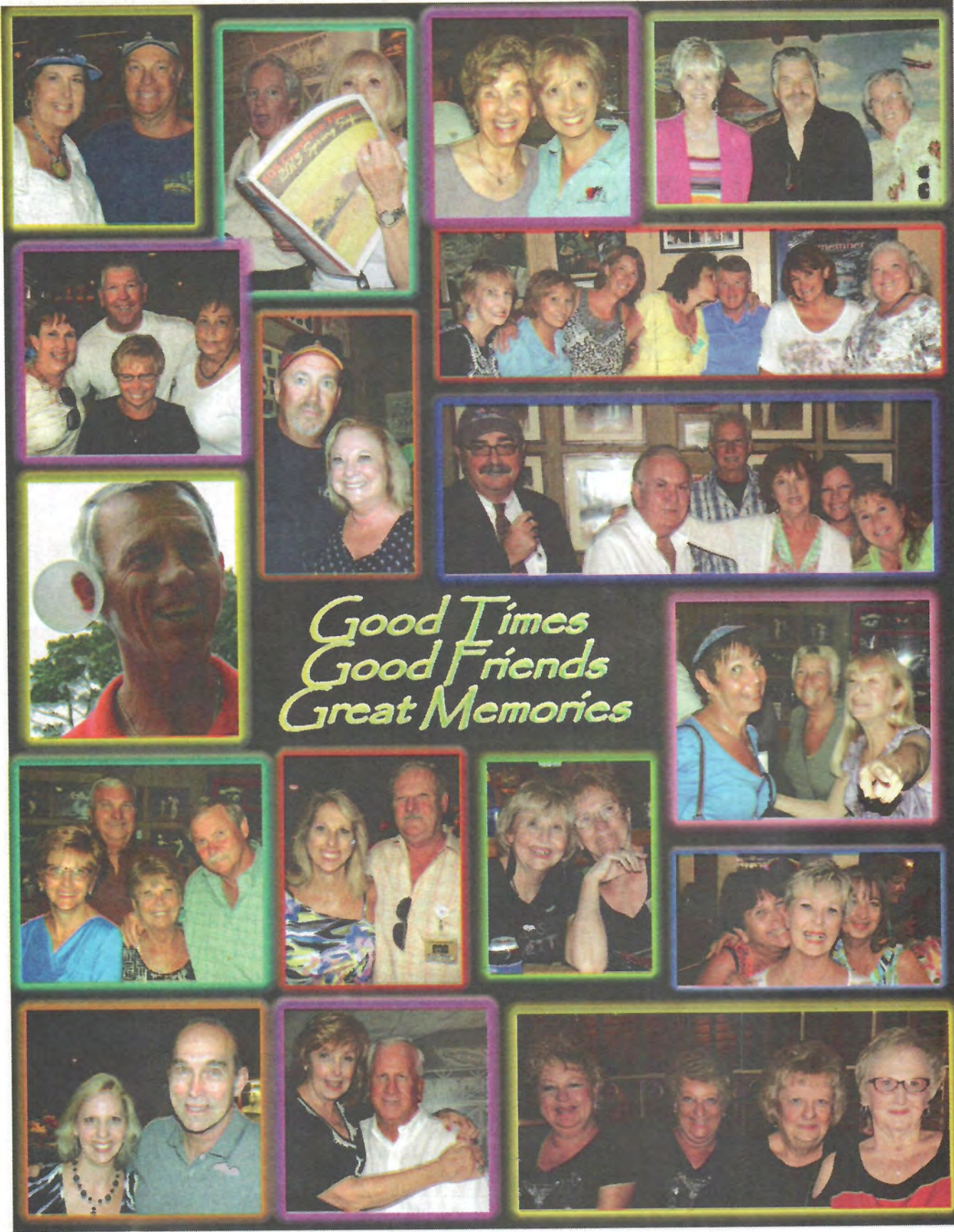
His family called them "Little Man" shoes!!! Who knew that a FIRST pair of shag shoes would make such an impression on a fairly new shagger.... So much so, that he is hooked on shagging.... and LOVES his shoes!!!! (And, it's OK that one tassel is missing... his granddad thought he might could fix it.)

And this new shagger would not remove his socks, no matter what he was told about "socks." So.... he danced the week away at Jr. SOS in his black NIKE socks with his new, used shag shoes.

Used, you say????? Yes, these shoes came from Ellen Taylor's "Used Shoe" program for Jr. Shaggers. At Jr. SOS, kids may get their first shag shoes free. Later, they can trade them in for another pair.

YOU can help this cause by dropping off your used shag shoes at The Company Store in Ocean Drive OR at The Shoe Center on Hywy 17.

This little shagger is 9-year old **Ethan Stiller**. Grandson of Statesville Shag Club members Linda and Jim Dean.



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Good Friends
Great Memories*



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- Tue. - Early Bird Sunset Beach Party with Appetizers and Drinks Evening Dancing at the Hangout Pavilion
- Wed. - Breakfast Beach Party & Hanging out on the Beach Afternoon & Evening Dancing at the Hangout Pavilion
- Thur. - Afternoon & Evening Dancing at the Hangout Pavilion
- Fri. - Lunch, Afternoon & Evening Dancing at the Hangout Pavilion Evening Dancing in the Ballroom
- Sat. - Afternoon & Evening Dancing at the Hangout Pavilion Dinner, Evening Dancing in the Ballroom

DEE JAYS

Billy Waldrep
Jim Agee
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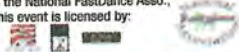
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Condo Rentals: Efficiencies	109
1 BR	139
2 BR	159

Through the National FastDance Asso., this event is licensed by:



Registrations received by June 9 will be put in a drawing to be held at our DJ Showdown (June 22) for two individual free registrations. You do not have to be present to win. Winners will be notified and refunded their \$70.00. TICKETS- \$70 thru June 9; \$75 June 10 thru Sept. 10; \$80 after Sept. 10.

Upon registration, ticket holders are granted Associate Memberships in the Beach Shaggers of Birmingham, Inc. for 2013.

Name	No. Rec.	#Tickets
_____	_____	_____
Email _____	Phone _____	
Name _____	Phone _____	
Email _____	Phone _____	
Club Affiliation _____	Check # _____	
Amount Enclosed _____	Check # _____	

Make checks payable to Beach Shaggers of Birmingham and mail to P.O. Box 102062, Irondale AL 35210
Tickets are non-refundable, but are transferable. Must be 21 or older.
If additional names, put names and email address on the back.



RHASC 5th Annual Fundraiser for The Hall of Fame Foundation

Rock Hill Area Shag Club was excited to present our 5th annual fundraiser for The Hall of Fame Foundation on Saturday, May 18th! It was our second VEGAS NIGHT to raise funds for the Foundation that our club holds very near and dear to our hearts. Rock Hill has chosen the Hall of Fame Foundation as it's 'charity of choice' and extends all our fundraiser efforts for HOFF donations. We were honored this year to have Jeff Burdick and Steve Blalock join us for the fun night! They showcased a dance and joined right in on all the fun and excitement of the evening. 'Celebrations' at the Ramada Inn was transformed into a Vegas Casino, complete with lights and 'bling', good food and good friends. Led by Tommy & Gail Davis, our club obtained sponsorships from local businesses that were

supportive enough to sponsor a roulette table, a craps table, and two black jack tables. Our members collected and donated some wonderful items for a silent auction and Fred Carrico was our auctioneer for a live auction of all sorts. We were happy to raise over \$5000 for HOFF to add to an earlier amount of \$1000 given in honor of Peggy Whisenant. RHASC is so proud to be able to support the Hall of Fame Foundation in any way that we can. Mark your calendars for the 3rd Saturday in May 2014 to come to Rock Hill and enjoy this fun-filled event! Phil Long, President Rock Hill Area Shag Club

Beautiful Villas for Rent

Since we are shaggers, we would like to offer a great deal in early spring, fall, and winter to other shaggers to rent one or all of our 3 beautiful and spacious 8bedr./7ba. villas in North Myrtle Beach (Cherry Grove). For \$1800.00 each, you can stay a long weekend (3-6 days). That price is ALL INCLUSIVE, i.e. all fees, taxes, departure cleaning, and linens. That comes out to \$225/couple for nearly a week. The close to 4,000 sq.ft. villas are perfect for 8 couples. Two of our villas have an inside adjoining door that connects living room to living room, perfect for 16 couples or a club. Rent all three (third one steps away) and have 24 bedrooms close together. These villas are second row and right on the shuttle line to Ocean Drive and all the clubs. Enjoy marsh views with awesome sunsets from the balconies of two of the villas, and sunrise ocean views from the other villa and then relax in the pool or hot tub.

Call anytime or email to request links to our 55 photo gallery of each villa.

Sandy Hoffman

919-619-1506

mrtarheel@nc.rr.com



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

2015

January 16-19
Mid-Winter
February 20-22
Winter Workshop
April 17-26
Spring Safari
July 10-12
Summer Workshop
September 18-27
Fall Migration

2016

January - 14-17
Mid-Winter
February 19-21 Winter
Workshop
April 15-24
Spring Safari
July 8-10
Summer Workshop
September 16-25
Fall Migration

On the Road with Mary

I got plucked at the Chicken Pickin' party hosted by the Lake Norman Shag Club at the OD Arcade in North Myrtle Beach. Wow, what a great weekend party. So many nice shaggers all in one place. This unique party was loaded with tons of fun with great food and atmosphere. We had heard a lot about this party over the years, so our friends, Doris and Doug and ourselves decided to go see what all the fuss was about. And were we surprised! The great music and hospitality that was hosted by their members was like none other than we have ever attended. Hats off to this fun loving club who done such a wonderful job of ensuring everyone a great time. They had lots of great DJs, dance instructions and a Silent Auction which was out of this world. Of course there was a special appearance by the famous Chicken and Frog, hmmm I wonder who they were? This is a party you don't want to miss.

Until we meet again, you might see us at your party, Mary Gregory





SOS 2013



There IS History in North Myrtle Beach

by: Jenean Neilsen Todd, director photographer: Monty Lee

North Myrtle Beach Area Historical Museum opened on April 7, 2013, after eight years of planning, collecting, and fabricating. The first exhibit, *Snapshots of Our Community*, features a collection of local memorabilia and photographs donated by year-round and seasonal residents.

Shag dancing and Beach Music are woven into the fabric of North Myrtle Beach. The Museum showcases lots of memories... a t-shirt from Richard Nixon's Beach Party... a satin jacket from Fat Jack's... a black bandana from Fat Harold' Last Hurrah... the lighted sign from The Pad... and Ellen Taylor's revered quilt made of Shag-event t-shirts.

The community of Shaggers contributed in many ways. Artifacts came from a variety of sources, including Selene Graham; Michael Browne; Jeff Chaney; Russ Yates; Pat Folds; Mimi Cunningham; Becky and Bill Rice; and Janet Harrold. Becky Stowe allowed the Museum to use her dancers on the Penny Press machine. Page Jones Payne; Dwayne Baggett; Paula Sue Truesdale; Marie Taylor; Betty Ladwig; and Ken Todd volunteered countless hours. Frankie and Buddy Whaley fabricated a double-sided oak case so that visitors can view both sides of Ellen's quilt. Fat Harold provided the Museum's first monetary donation. More recently, SOS Charitable Foundation and OD Shag Club contributed funds as well.

The Museum's newest artifacts will be unpacked during Junior SOS. We'll open the time capsule prepared by Junior SOS attendees in 1998. The great REVEAL takes place on Saturday, July 20, at 12.30pm. I hope to have the items displayed for Fall Migration.

Relive memories and make some new ones at North Myrtle Beach Area Historical Museum. The Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10am until 4pm. Admission: adult \$5; senior \$4; youth (5-17) \$3. Memberships are available. The History and More Museum Store includes items from North Myrtle Beach and Little River.





Shag Club SOS Parties



North Myrtle Beach Parks & Recreation presents...

MOVIES @ McLEAN

Spend a Friday evening watching a movie under the stars. All movies shown are G or PG rated and subject to change depending on availability. Movies will begin 15 minutes after sunset. Bring the family, your beach chairs or blankets, and grab popcorn and a drink from the North Myrtle Beach Lions Club.

A special thanks to Horry County Parks and Recreation for partnering on Movies @ McLean.

**ALL MOVIES WILL BE SHOWN AT
McLean Park - 93 Oak Drive, NMB**

Friday, **JULY 12, 2013 @ 8:45 pm**
Escape From Planet Earth (PG)

Friday, **AUGUST 9, 2013 @ 8:30 pm**
Here Comes the Boom (PG)

Friday, **SEPTEMBER 13, 2013 @ 7:40 pm**
Brave (PG)

Friday, **OCTOBER 11, 2013 @ 7:00 pm**
Frankenweenie (PG)



IRISH ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

September 28th, 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.

Sponsored by



FREE SUMMER CONCERTS



3 LOCATIONS

MAIN STREET - 202 Main Street • **MCLEAN PARK** - 93 Oak Drive
HORSESHOE - 11 S. Ocean Blvd, NMB

Thursday, **JULY 4**, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (Main Street)

The Caribbean Chillers (Jimmy Buffet Tribute)

Friday, **JULY 5**, 7–9 PM (Horseshoe)

Steve Craig Band (Beach, Motown, R&B, Oldies)

Thursday, **JULY 11**, 7–9 PM (Horseshoe)

Big Time Party Band (Beach)

Thursday, **JULY 18**, 7–9 PM (Horseshoe)

The Castaways (Beach)

Friday, **JULY 19**, 7–9 PM (McLean Park)

The Nacho Mama Band (Variety Beach Band)

Thursday, **JULY 25**, 7–9 PM (Horseshoe)

Carolina Coast Band (Beach)

Thursday, **AUGUST 1**, 7–9 PM (Main Street)

The Tim Clark Band (Variety Party Band)

Thursday, **AUGUST 8**, 7–9 PM (Horseshoe)

Carolina Soul Band (Motown/Beach)

Thursday, **AUGUST 15**, 7–9 PM (Horseshoe)

Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot (Beach/Soul)

Friday, **AUGUST 16**, 7–9 PM (McLean Park)

The Pam Taylor Band (Blues Band)

Thursday, **AUGUST 22**, 7–9 PM (Horseshoe)

Craig Woolard Band (Beach)

Thursday, **AUGUST 29**, 7–9 PM (Main Street)

Dickens (Variety Party Band)

Thursday, **SEPTEMBER 5**, 7–9 PM (Main Street)

Six Stylez (Top 40 Hits)

Thursday, **SEPTEMBER 12**, 7–9 PM (Horseshoe)

Hip Pocket (Party/Variety)

Thursday, **SEPTEMBER 19**, 7–9 PM (Horseshoe)

The Attractions (Beach)

Friday, **SEPTEMBER 20**, 7–9 PM (McLean Park)

The Fantastic Shakers (Beach Band)



Day of Event Weather Information Call (843) 280-5570, Ext 1 for Updates
North Myrtle Beach Parks and Rec | 843.280.5584 | <http://Parks.nmb.us>

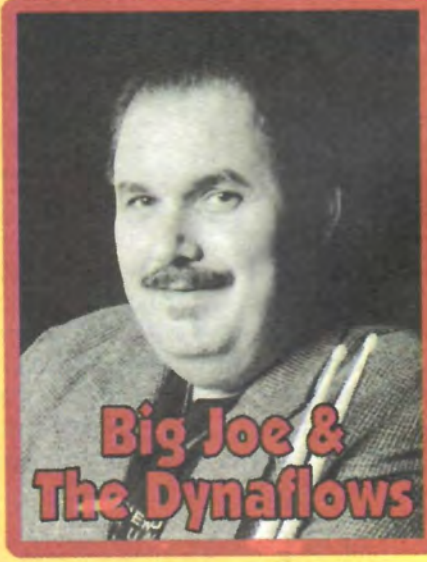
FUN MONDAY

September 16, 2013

12 PM TO 5:30 PM Main Street OD



The Craig Woolard Band



SOS FUN MONDAY DRAWING

1st Ticket Drawn	\$7,500	4th Ticket Drawn	\$500
2nd Ticket Drawn	\$2,000	5th Ticket Drawn	\$250
3rd Ticket Drawn	\$1,000		

NO COOLERS PERMITTED

FUN SUNDAY

September 15, 2013

1 PM TO 5 PM

1st Avenue, Beside the OD Arcade



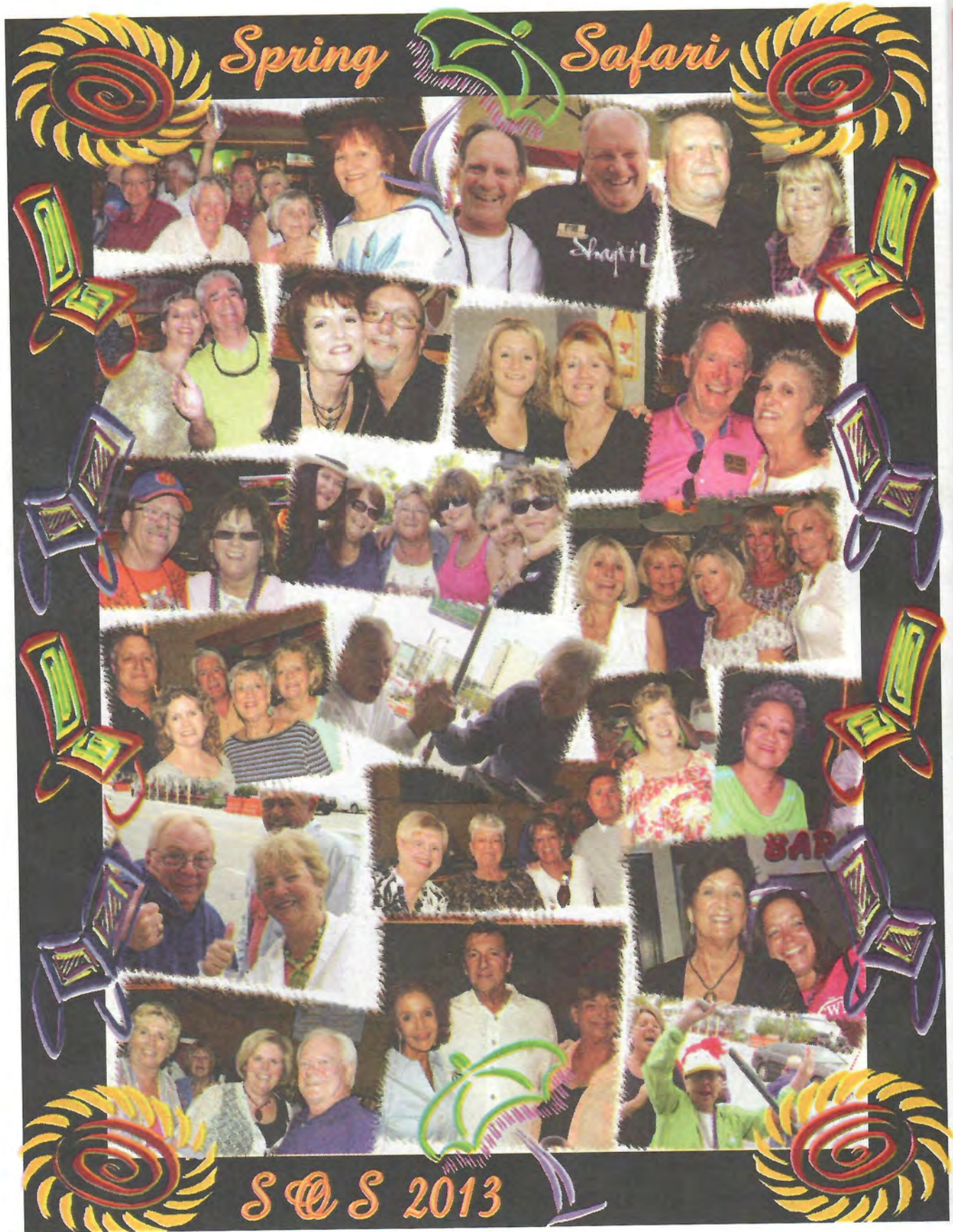
*Come be a part
of the Best Party
Weekend of the Year*

SPONSORS FOR FUN SUNDAY & FUN MONDAY

The Shoe Center

NO COOLERS PERMITTED

Spring Safari



SOS 2013

IT'S A BEACH

From the Past



Pat Jacks



The Beaver Boys



Billy



Tom and Betty

PROCLAMATION

'80

- WHEREAS, The Grand Strand and "O.D." have always been synonymous with sand in your shoes, and
- WHEREAS, Beach Music only sounds good with the roar of the ocean nearby, and
- WHEREAS, The "Shag" is the Official Dance of the Beach, and
- WHEREAS, The City of North Myrtle Beach has been the home of Beach Bums for many years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, JOSEPH J. SALEEBY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11-16, 1980 AS "S.O.S. (SOCIETY OF STRANDERS WEEK)", IN NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, and I further urge all Citizens of the City to respect the "Bald and the Gray Reunion", and recognize the proper place that the Beach has in the memories of visitors and residents to our area.

Joseph J. Saleeby
 JOSEPH J. SALEEBY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

John Smithson
 JOHN SMITHSON, CITY CLERK



(SEAL)



Let the Good Times Roll!



Just like the old days



Bill tells a joke!



Apparition at F.J.S.

2013

SOS Parade



FIRST SOS 1980

Society of Stranders

By Clyde & Karen Hollar

We are not quite sure when we first heard about a reunion for folks who worked or danced at the Beach, but it was probably around 1979 and more than likely on WRDX Radio in Salisbury, N.C.—the now famous D.J. John Hook was working hard to bring people back to the fold after the 70's Disco crap—so anything pertaining to the Beach or its music could usually be found on their Station.

We are not sure of a lot of things about 1980 since it was 32 years ago- Wow I was only 36 and Karen was 34----but I do remember this----We were some of the youngest couple's there. Think about it—if you worked or danced at the Beach in 1940 and you were say 18 years old and just out of High School, in 1980 you are in your late 50's. Today these same people are in their 80's and still Shagging.

Being younger made no difference; this was a reunion of old friends and making new friends.

We heard so many great stories about how things were before 1954 when Hazel came ashore and changed the whole area-Like Sonny's Pavilion built in 1949 at Cherry Grove, just up the road from O.D.—taken down again by Hugo in 1989.

Roberts Pavilion was a big wooden structure at O.D. in the early 50s, it was the place to dance and we heard many stories from the very people who worked there, it too was taken down by Hurricane Hazel.

Places where people danced were only part of the story—the legends of the early Shag—or Jitter-bug were often talked about. People like Chicken Hicks—Harry Driver-Lacey Moore- Louie Madden-Big George -Charlie Boone and a host of others.

OK, enough of the history lesson.

Here is our version of Fall Migration 1980:

It was a warm and sunny day in September as Karen folded our clothes in a bag that could be stored in the trunk of the MG with all the tools and parts—taken special care to leave space for a couple pairs of loafers—a cooler that rode at Karen's feet in the foot well, and a good supply of Beach Music tapes.-

Now days we take a 4-door Buick with enough clothes to open a Good Will Store—any way, the trip to Ocean Drive was uneventful with no overheating or parts falling off the MG.

Heck, with the radio turned up you wouldn't hear it anyway.

We had made our reservation early for the Oak Tree Inn (home of the first S.O.S) and were glad we did, because it was Sold Out.

Since free Draft Beer was flowing all weekend, you did not want to drive.

They brought in this big truck with a long row of taps and when it was empty, they would bring in another.

No one went thirsty that whole weekend.

R&B music could be heard playing just about all the time day or night-and people would dance everywhere.

We saw people boogie walking all the way to the elevator.

During the day a lot of people would go up the Beach to the old Spanish Galleon and soak up some sun while a DJ, with speakers as big as a car, played music by Big Jo Turner-John Lee Hooker-Shakin Stevens-Big Jo Maher-Al Green-The Dominoes-Rockin Louie-and many more.

All the clubs were open this weekend-Fat Jack's seemed to be THE place, because each evening about 10 pm, this couple dressed in 1940 attire strolled in and showed everyone what jitterbugging was all about-they had the whole floor and used every inch of it.

By Saturday night the party was beginning to take on a life of its own—I don't think some folks ever found their room- because they never got off the elevator—someone would put a pillow under their head and just let them ride

We had no idea we were a witness to the beginning of something so special to so many shaggers.

After attending the next three or four Fall Migration's we kind of moved on to other things. Then about 10 years ago one of the guys (Jimmy Dean) in a Car Club I belong to came in wearing a S.O.S. Tee Shirt. Well old memories were relived and now we are the old folks at Ocean Drive, still shagging to the same songs that were played 32 years ago.

In closing I would like to mention a High School classmate of mine who went on to teach school at the Beach, has lived her whole adult life at Cherry Grove, inducted into the Shaggers Hall of Fame in 2008 —Carol Leckie- Living what most of us only dreamed about. You go girl.

Harmonica John

By: Foster McKinney, SOS Treasurer

The character Clark Kent is outwardly known by comic book enthusiasts, television viewers and movie buffs alike as the fictional man of steel Superman in disguise. To the fictional citizens of Metropolis and to his fictional coworkers at the Daily Planet, he is inwardly known only as mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent, who cannot coax enough nerve to stand-up to his own shadow. But when danger lurks he becomes metamorphic Clark Kent. He quickly ducks into the nearest closet, or dashes out-of-sight around the nearest corner, whichever happens to be handy, and within seconds emerges from his cocoon as Superman. He sheds his mild-mannered façade and unfolds himself colorfully clad in that unmistakable caped superhero getup with the bright red "S" boldly stamped right in the center of his massive chest. It commands the sort of shock and awe that emphatically lets frightened bystanders know "good will always triumph over evil." Clark Kent's transformation into Superman is a dichotomy between what the audience on the outside is directed to know about him, and what the fictional characters within the plot would never fathom of him in their wildest dreams. He is the flip of a protagonist with two sides; two faces. Just like a coin spinning on its axis, a lot of us bilaterally balance two sides with surprising proficiency, knowing all too well that proficiency demands constant sacrifice, and sacrifice will not happen without love for our other side. Usually, we're clued a little as to what's coming down the tracks from the other side of someone we really think we know. But occasionally, some of our unlikely mild-mannered cohorts modestly harbor inward talent unbeknownst to us the entire time we know them. They blindside us when it mysteriously bursts out of a closet, or suddenly appears from around a corner; out of nowhere. Talent enabling them to pull off stunning spectacles that leave us simply dumbfounded. After our jaws drop for a spell, we push them back into place and demand to know, "Just where in the hell did that come from?"

Over this past year, I have been fortunate enough to become acquainted with one such seemingly unlikely mild-mannered cohort. Although not really mild-mannered in the sense of a Clark Kent, fellow shagger and friend John Carpenter, past president of Sandy Beach Shag Club located in Morganton, North Carolina, carries the straight-laced, no-nonsense temperament of some sort of numbers cruncher, or maybe even a banker or lawyer, but one, nevertheless, blessed with a charismatically pleasing personality. He can easily be stereotyped as a staunch conservative. But he carries in his pocket an edge that brings out his urge to leap out-of-bounds to his other side--wide open to creativity and improvisation. It transforms him into a Superman of sorts placing him into a virtual creative state, unattached to the stereotypical strings of a puppet performing the expected from his rigid, unyielding analytical side. Here he can leap over tall buildings with a single bound, be faster than a speeding bullet and more powerful than a locomotive. No, what he carries in his pocket is not a weapon, nor a wonder pill; not even a can of whoop ass. It's a simple blues harp--a harmonica that can tilt his equilibrium away from straight-lace and no-nonsense, and whisk him into a musical abyss where anything goes. No matter how rock-bottom, hardcore Delta bluesy it gets, he can beautifully wail it out on his harmonica, at his pleasure.



I was introduced to John's analytical side when I first met him at the 2012 ACSC Winter Workshop in Hilton Head. I was making a presentation on the topic of tax-exempt status for local shag clubs. During my presentation, John shared some information he had gathered through contact with an IRS representative that I, along with many of my fellow CPA colleagues, was totally unaware of. Afterwards, I asked him to do further research and join me in a follow-up presentation at the Summer Workshop in Jacksonville. John did not hesitate to say, "Yes." We collaborated

many times by email and over the phone, giving me an opportunity to get to know him much better. We later discovered that we both have a mutual friend, Cooper Bryan, who worked with John in Columbia, South Carolina, for over two decades. Cooper and I grew up in Greenwood, South Carolina, and played music together in a musical group, or garage band, during junior high school. I can't remember the name of the band, but we had a great time and learned a lot together. Cooper played lead guitar, while I played bass guitar. John indicated that he and Cooper occasionally enjoyed holding jam sessions together. I asked him what instrument he played. He replied, "Harmonica. I play harmonica." I was cautiously skeptical. Thinking of John Carpenter playing harmonica struck me as oddly out of character, just as it did when I first learned that film actor and director Clint Eastwood plays jazz piano; odd but true. I dismissed it as amateur stuff and thought, "Well maybe he can play a few harmonica standards like *Home on the Range* or *Red River Valley*," and quickly put that little tidbit about my new friend in the back of my mind. John prepared for, and pulled off, a stunning presentation at the Summer Workshop delivering, pro-bono I might add, services worthy of a New York lawyer charging Broadway rates--a side of him far removed from the perception of someone who would take up playing the harmonica as a hobby.

I was later introduced to John's creative side when it was unveiled live and onstage during this past Spring Safari leaving me probing, "Just where in the hell did that come from?" There he stood center stage alongside The Rick Strickland Band in front of hundreds of adoring fans in one of the large ballrooms of the Avista Hotel where they annually host The Rick Strickland Band's Fan Appreciation Night. He looked like "The Boss," Bruce Springsteen, standing up there onstage. Then it leaped out--an absolutely impressive three or four-song stretch featuring John on harmonica. I was so engrossed that I can't even remember exactly how many songs he actually played, but I was pumped enough to listen to a hundred more. I promise you these were not just standards where a harmonica merely tags along as a passenger; these were upbeat rock 'n roll, gutsy rhythm-and-blues tunes driven by a harmonica. It all seemed surreal, but it wasn't. It was real; live and onstage, in the flesh and flipped to the creative side. I'll never forget it. It was like seeing former President George H. W. Bush's pit bull political consultant and strategist, the late "Boogie Man" Lee Atwater, sidetracked from mud-slinging and lighting up the stage with his electric blues guitar; holding his own alongside his friend and fellow blues guitarist the incomparable B.B. King.



John took up the harmonica when he was around sixteen while playing drums in a high school rock 'n roll band. The band's lead guitar player had a girlfriend who played harmonica. During down times when the band was relaxing, they would often break out their acoustic guitars and begin jamming. She would join right in with her harmonica. He was fascinated and asked her to teach him how to play. John said, "She got me started and I never looked back. I have had many teachers, and learned even more on the Internet where they have all kinds of lessons and videos you can watch with every technique imaginable." He ended up playing drums for about twenty years while hanging on to his passion for playing harmonica far longer. When asked about his progression into an

accomplished harmonica player, John responded, "I have been fortunate to play with a number of beach music bands, and having played now for forty-six years has helped immensely."

It seems to me that over those forty-six years, John Carpenter has minted his analytical and creative talents into one piece like a silver dollar engraved with two equal but opposite sides. Flip it to "heads" and it bears a preppy image of him sporting a pair of two-tone "glide-with-stride" shag shoes, complemented by a pair of top-dollar seersucker trousers held up with a genuine alligator belt and topped off with a tailor-made shirt draped in stiff starch with its tail neatly tucked. Flip it to "tails" and it conjures up an image of him sitting on an old, worn-out third-generation settee, which once graced the makeshift parlor of a three-room shack in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, but now has found its way outside to its front porch. Just picture him in the moment; sitting out there on that porch, playing his blues harp and ruminating over the trickle of sights and sounds moseying through an open gate to a plot still planted with seeds from the same hard times that sprouted the blues. No matter which side of John comes up in a coin toss, we're a winner. For now, let's just leave him flipped to "tails" and enjoy the musical forte of his creative side. We'll succinctly dub it "Harmonica John."

Happy Birthday

Fat Harold 80

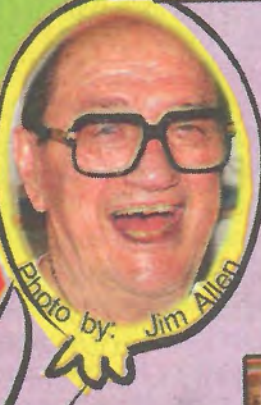


Photo by: Jim Allen



Photos by: Monty Lee





OD Arcade Spring PRO Contest



SOS Thank You Luncheon for NMB Employees





SOS Parade 2013

Parade Talk



It happened again! We got by, but only by the skin of our teeth. Nineteen years with only one day of continuous rain, our 10th parade. Pretty good record I would say. We can only hope it continues. But as Dr. Phil always says, "It'll never rain on our parade." That has profound meaning! This parade was our largest ever, somewhat over a thousand participants. It's getting rather hectic at the staging area.

As you can imagine I didn't get much sleep that Friday night. I kept checking the radar on my Iphone about every hour and a half. It wasn't until about 8AM Saturday morning that I began to see a ray of hope. And now you know the rest of the story..... The deserving winners are:

BEST CLUB VEHICLES:

2nd Place- Choo Choo Shag Club
1st Place- Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall of Fame

MOST ORIGINAL:

3rd Place-Palmetto Shag Club
2nd Place-Lake Norman Shag Club
3rd Place-Sandy Beach Shag Club

BEST SHAGGING TROOP:

2nd Place- Society of Brunswick Shaggers
1st Place- OD Shag Club

BEST SHAG THEME:

3rd Place-Eno Beach Shag Club
2nd Place-Competitive Shaggers Association
1st Place-Burlington Shag Club

Congratulations to all of the above clubs! Some are winners for the first time, some for the second and third times, and some for even more. But the most important thing is that they all did compete. The parade is to SOS Spring Safari what Fun Monday is to SOS Fall Migration.

OK. We've now had 19 years to practice and get ready for our upcoming 20th year anniversary! I expect every club to be represented in some way. Maybe some of the smaller clubs can combine with other clubs, and that's ok, it's been done before.

Someone suggested that we call it 'The Reunion Parade', meaning a reunion of all the clubs who have participated in the past. I like that. Another suggestion was that a club could go back and revisit a theme that it used in the past, and expand on it and make it better. That's good too. I'm open to any and all suggestions. This is your parade, so tell me what you want and I'll try to make it happen.

In any event just think what it will mean for a club to win first, second, or even third place in one of the 4 categories in the 20th Annual SOS Spring Safari Parade!! There will be only one, and those bragging rights will last a long long time. The names of the winning clubs will be listed on a very nice plaque that will be hung in a place of prominence in the SOS Company Store for posterity. The names of all the participating clubs will also be listed.

I know a number of clubs that already have plans in the works. I hope your club is among them.....

Don David, Your SOS Parade Chairman



PARTY - Before the Parade!

GASTON SHAGGERS, INC.
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Sandra Schwartz Memorial Classic

Thirsty's 2

By: Linda Reeder Photographer: Max Madrin

Many have said they only made "one" Sandra Schwartz and how true is that statement. No one will ever fill her shoes and boy could she dance in those shoes! If you ever met Sandra, you had to love her . . . she was so vivacious and was bigger than life. When her family asked us last year if we would like to host an event in her honor at Thirsty's 2, we were thrilled! So, along with her sister, Barbara and her daughter, Robin, we held our first "Sandra Schwartz Memorial Classic" in 2012 and again this year on May 4, 2013.

The night's events included a mixed doubles contest where the contestants were limited to 10 couples. The winners were: Second Place, Mary Lynn Myrick and Adam Sheppard; First Place, Kristal Taylor and Kyler Byrum. Tommy Hamrick played all that "good" music and the dance floor stayed full.

Another event that evening was the presentation of the Golden Shoe Award. This was an idea of Sandra's in 1993 when her contest was held at Fat Harold's. She said the recipient is "someone who loves the music and dance but doesn't contribute a thing!" What do you think she really meant? The award winners for 1994 - 1996 were Al Underwood, Thurston Reeder and John Breeden. Sandra couldn't remember who got the award the first year! At the Classic event last year, the Golden Shoe Award winner was Pug Wallace and this year's honoree was Steve Dean.

There were many silent and live auction items that raised a large amount for the charity. Everyone at Thirsty's 2 was proud to contribute \$3500 to the Hall of Fame Foundation - another great event.

To those who loved Sandra, we have a void now, especially in the Ocean Drive, Charlotte and Greensboro areas. To her many friends . . . cherish the memories!



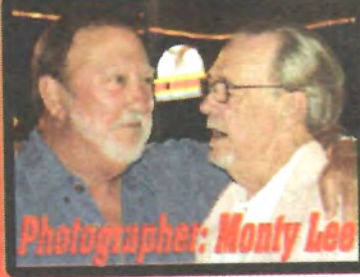
**Sandra Schwartz
Memorial
Shag
Contest**

Contest Winners:

1st Place: Kristal Taylor Kyler Byrum	Judges: Brenda Alberty Glenda Johnson Danny Bean Sam McIntosh	2nd Place: Mary Lynn Myrick Adam Sheppard
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Winner of the Gold Shoe Award: Steve Dean

LIVING LEGEND AWARD
MAY 2013



Photographer: Monty Lee



The Sand Flea
LIVING LEGEND ASSOCIATION

The Living Legends Association Honors Inductees

By: Jan Morris

Harold Bessent and staff at Fat Harold's Beach Club welcomed a large group of members, nominees and their guests, personalities and characters and individuals making up the loosely connected "beach family" that has bonded through the years of the earlier days at this beach area known as "OD" and the Grand Strand. The weekend included Friday's get-together, food and much conversation, with Ray Malach trio playing, compliments of Bayles Mack and a member. DJ Tommy Hamrick from Atlanta was the dee jay for the Living Legends group and did his usual wonderful job keeping everyone dancing. The inductions were presented Saturday evening with all but a few inductees attending to accept their plaque while their bio was read to introduce them and let folks know their favorite memories at Ocean Drive. Congratulations to all, and thank you to all friends and family who came to stand in for the respective deceased inductees. They left us too soon!!



Inductees- Men

Paul Harrison
Ernie Mumford
Carl "Capers" Smith
Herb White
Ernest "Ernie" Burris
Bill Templeton
Tommy "Bones" Hussey
Ralph "Go-Boy" Harrelson
"Rusty" Jones
"Sid" Pruitt
Bruce Fitzsimmons
Lynn Stephenson

Inductees- Woman

Jennifer Sykes Hickman
Vickie Gilreath Harrison
Cathy Carraway Fitzsimmons
Susan Harrell
Debbie Coleman
Susie Griffin
Barbara Kannon Kiger
Judy Davis
Barbara Richardson Ennis
Mary Templeton
Marianne Harvin
Cathy Kelly
Ann Sigmon

Deceased Nominees

Inducted Posthumously:

Murray Elliott
"Big Red" Byron
Gwynne Jeffords
John Lewis
Joe Martin
Chuck Mayers
Billy Scott
Ricky Taylor
Sue Sill Turner
Harry "Rat-Bait" Stokes
Kay Sykes
Steve Wheeler



In the Sack with Money

by: Jim Money

Dedicated to the Preservation of
"The Shag," "Beach Music" & "Legend Stories"



In my life as a shag dancer and writing articles I have been asked what I think made the shag and beach music so popular and now a lifestyle for so many of us. Well, I don't claim to know the only reasons, but I think there are about 7 reasons for that phenomena. (1) Great dancers, (2) Colorful personalities (3) Good instructors (4) Danceable music (5) Parents passing down the shag to their children (6) Radio station and DJ support (7) Club owners and managers that continued to cater to us and our music. Proof of this is the thousands that come to OD several times a year to shag and party.

Over the years, I have known, run with, partied with and been friends with all of the people in this article, and for simplicity I will call them our "Legends of the Shag".

As a teenager at Atlantic Beach, NC, I ran with Doug Perry, who I consider to one of the best dancers of all time, and certainly the most intuitive dancer ever. Doug is not only a lifelong friend, but an American hero and a brother Marine as we served in the USMC together. Doug retired as a Major and a Purple Heart recipient and you can't be a more honored American than that! Congratulations Doug, and thanks for your service to our dance and our Country, Semper Fi.

Shad Alberty was at Atlantic Beach for a couple of Summers and the three of us danced throughout the Carolinas. Shad was by far the most respected instructor of the shag and has taught and inspired more shaggers than any other person I know. RIP Shad, we appreciate you more every day.

When we went to OD and the Pad, Harry Driver was the showman and entertainer and he commanded everyones attention. Harry was not only a good dancer, but a very funny guy with a great sense of humor and infectious personality. I might add he was always a very sharp dresser and kind to everyone he

met. RIP Harry, we will hold you in our hearts forever.

Jo Jo Putnam was generally at Carolina Beach or OD, and if you know Jo Jo then you know the story that he came to OD with \$1.36 in his pocket and stayed for 3 years. Jo Jo was by far the funniest and most creative dancer with his rubber-legged movements and continuous smile. I always loved that step-over the hands move. Thanks for the laughs Jo Jo.

Lacy Moore was the first smooth shaggin "big man" that I remember. Lacy traveled everywhere and anywhere beach music and shaggin was going on and his patented move of feeling his partners "behind" as she passed him is still copied today (by me), but not always. RIP Lacy, I think of you often.

Rick Hubbard is the man with the greatest vision of the future of our dance. His ideas of The Shaggers Hall of Fame, Living Legends of the Shag, and the World Line Dance Championship is indicative of his genius. Rick managed the Sand Flea in Greenville, SC, for many years and did hiis best to keep the shag alive during the dark days of shag when disco and the hustle was popular. I might add that his girlfriend Pricilla was his advocate and helper. RIP in Pricilla, we all miss you.

Gene Laughtner, the founder of SOS, has to be at the top in perpetuation of the shag and fun times. His creation of SOS, first held in 1980, is the most important venture in our culture and we owe him our gratitude forever. Thank you very much Gene, get well and come back to enjoy SOS soon.

Radio stations like 94.9 The Surf and DJ's like Ted Bell have been very important to the shag lifestyle. Ted has been playing our music longer than any DJ I know. Keep it going Ted. Another DJ that has to be recognized is Gary Bass. Gary is the head DJ at Fat Harolds. In the early 80's Gary was in Jacksonville,

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FL, and he let 50 women take his clothes off for charity. In front of 300 + dancers, all the way down to this "tightie whities". Somewhere there are photos of his "Bass-ass" and if I had one of them I would have attached it to this article. Gary has promoted the shag and beach music for over 50 years. Thanks Gary, keep playing our music and singing sometimes as well.

Club owners and managers have played a major roll in keeping the shag alive and popular. Norfleet Jones, manager of Ducks for many years is a huge factor of Ducks success and the shag. Norfleet always made sure to meet and greet his guests, whether he knew them or not, or if they were dancers or not, Norfleet made them welcome. Also Norfleet owned a shag club in Rocky Mount, NC, to keep the shag alive in the dark days. Thanks Fleet, your efforts are noticed and appreciated. I have to mention Alan and Diane Shelor, part owners of Memories Beach Club, in Atlantic Beach, NC, who were the activists that created the Atlantic Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame, where so many of our legendary shaggers started out, including yours truly. Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't pay special honor to

Harold Bessent. I couldn't begin to write enough about his contributions. Thanks Harold from the bottom of my heart.

Let's give a shout out to all the ACSC members that sponsor great parties, and keep our juniors interested and shaggin. Finally, thanks to the people of the SOS Carefree Times that makes it possible for me to tell you these stories. Special thanks to Jan Harrold for all your hard work and support of this column.

Now to my selection of "colorful personalities". I apologize for only writing about one today, as there are so many, so very many, but I am limited to one for this article. The guy that stands out in my mind is Billy "Red Ryder" Carlise, of Kinston, NC. When Doug Perry and I went to Kinston to party we would sometimes end up at Reds Drive-In Hamburgers. Now, picture this, it's July, hot, humid, not a hint of a breeze blowing, muggy to the extent you would sweat just standing still. Up in the front glass, standing over the grill, cooking hamburgers and hot dogs was Red Ryder Carlise. Singing along with the

music, dancing, spinning around, drinking that beer he hid under the grill. Big beads of sweat dropping off his forehead down onto the hamburgers cooking on the grill. Yep! That's what I said, sweat and beer, mixing with the burgers and dogs! Red told me once that the kids loved his burgers so much that he sold more hamburgers than MacDonalds. I have never read where sweat and beer enhanced the taste of burgers and hot dogs, but Billy swore it did. Maybe MacDonalds copied his idea, who knows. Billy was a dancer, drinker, hell raiser and a fighter. He promoted the shag, beach music and party life. If a fight broke out and it got too close to him, Billy would pull off his weejuns and grip them like a slap-jack and smack the guy in the head with that hard leather heeled weejun. Can you imagine getting slapped in the head with a hard heeled weejun? Well, many a country boy that came to town on the weekend to get drunk and fight still has a heel-shaped mark on his head from Red Ryders weejuns. I don't know if Billy is alive today, but if he has passed, (RIP), I can assure you he is cooking hamburgers, sweating, laughing, dancing, singing, drinking beer and slapping someone across the head with a weejun, also I bet you a dollar it is hot (as hell) wherever he is. I'm still gonna pass on his burgers and for good measure, I'll pass on his hot dogs as well.

So now you know my version of how the shag has remained so popular and the dancers, instructors, colorful people, club owners / managers and DJ's and visionaries that contributed to make it all happen for us to enjoy today.

I especially want to thank the women of the shag. You have to understand that for each of those "kings of shag" that "peacock danced" themselves into shag history, had a very dedicated female dancer as his partner. She was always calm and patient, maintaining the basic, letting his star shine, when all the while she knew, "she could out-step him anytime she wanted". Yes, you women are the backbone and the life-blood of the shag, and actually the most important segment of keeping the shag alive and well. I commend you for your dedication and how you denied yourself for so many years. So dance on, and thanks to all of you for your contributions to the dance and the lifestyle we all love and cherish. LONG LIVE THE SHAG! Salute!



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For Fun & Fitness, Keep on Shagging

by: Lorrie DeFrank

Age 65 checklist:

- Apply for Medicare.
- Collect Social Security.
- Put on my dance shoes and get out there on the floor.

For the past dozen years, most of my social life has revolved around the Carolina Shag. A 50-something friend once told me he didn't want to go to shag dances. "Too many old people," he said. All right, I admit, you see a lot of gray heads there. I'll concede that a majority of the dancers are older than 60. But look at them—out there living it up ... and getting down.

Then there's my 72-year-old shagger friend who looks like she's 52. She pointed to her temple when explaining why she dances: "It activates your brain, keeps it young. You have to learn steps and remember them. Not to mention the physical benefits."

Scientific studies back her up, such as the study of amateur dancers published in the journal *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience* in July 2010. Titled "Superior Sensory, Motor and Cognitive Performance in Elderly Individuals with Multi-Year Dancing Activities," it concluded that dance, in addition to physical activity, combines emotions, social interaction, sensory stimulation, motor coordination and music, thereby creating enriched environmental conditions for human individuals. Maintaining a regular schedule of dancing into old age can preserve cognitive, motor and perceptual abilities and prevent them from degradation.

Another friend pointed out that the complexity of the Carolina Shag footwork makes it more beneficial than many other dances.

The official dance of North and South Carolina, the shag goes back at least seven decades, when dancers shuffled their feet on sandy floors in beachside pavilions to black rhythm and blues jukebox music they couldn't hear on the radio. Many oldtimers are still spinning and boogie walking well into their 70s and 80s.

Ask shaggers what they like best about Carolina Shag and it's a good bet you'll hear "camaraderie." Shag is a way of life where friendships form fast, hugs are plentiful and etiquette dictates that anyone may ask anyone to dance.

Jacksonville's First Coast Shag Club members offered the following reasons for shagging in their senior years:

- Great exercise and it keeps you young.
- It's an accomplishment; it's not easy to learn how to shag.
- Good brain exercise and excellent muscle memory.
- Keeps us young at heart. We're only old in our minds.
- Socializing with friends.
- Going to SOS to meet 1,000 of our closest friends.

Ah, SOS!

Known simply by the acronym for Society of Stranders, the corporation that started it nearly 35 years ago, SOS is when thousands of shaggers converge on North Myrtle Beach, SC, three times a year. Many haven't missed one SOS, dancing day and night at the Ocean Drive Pavilion and at clubs with names such as Fat Harold's Ducks, Pirate's Cove, OD Arcade and Spanish Galleon—embracing the shag culture and defying age with every pivot, turn and sugar foot. SOS is often called spring break for adults. What a fun way to stay young!



*Freelance writer
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