



S.O.S.[®]



Carefree Times

19 Spring Safari 94



1955 **THE PAD** 1994



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Children's and Senior Citizens Menu
 Complete Seafood Menu
 Oysters and Clams on the Halfshell
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 Live Maine Lobster
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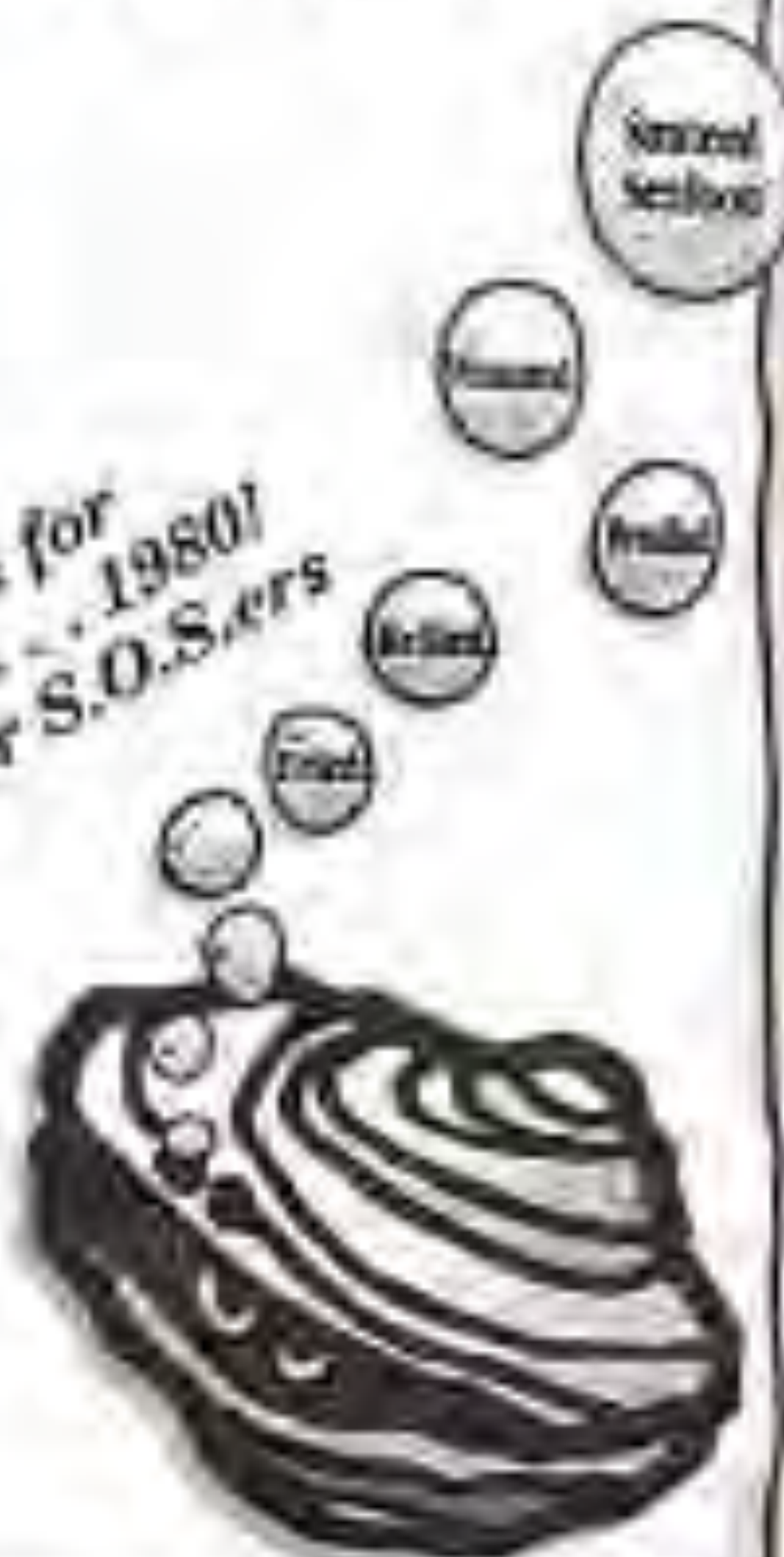
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Don't forget to visit "City Slickers" Western Wear inside Cowboys.

Live Entertainment

Free Dance Lessons every Wed. & Fri.

Special Admission Discount with S.O.S. card

COWBOYS NIGHTLIFE & STEAK HOUSE

11th Avenue South at Highway 17
 North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Ticket Info: 272-5448

Delbert McClinton
April 22, 1994

Doors open at 5 p.m.
 272-5448 for advance tickets





I was there at...



229 Main Street
 Ocean Drive Section
 N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
 (803) 249-3858



DUCKS FABULOUS FOURTEEN

Ric Shore
 Floyd Robertson
 Terry Bumgardner
 Ed Zamberfeld

Butch Metcalf
 Ron Arny
 Steve Baker

Gene Petty
 Sid Pruitt
 Joanne Johnson

Judy Collins
 Larry Edwards
 Ed Timberlake
 Tom Hamrick

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

| Sunday April 17 | Wednesday April 20 | Thursday April 21 | Friday April 22 | Saturday April 23 | Sunday April 24 | Monday April 25 |
|---|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Hors d'oeuvres 3 pm - 5 pm Free Pour Noon - 1 pm | Hors d'oeuvres 3 pm - 6 pm | Stag Workshop Jackie McGee Charlie Wormie 11 am | WRDX Live 7 pm - 10 pm | WRDX Live 7 pm - 10 pm | Hors d'oeuvres Noon - 3 pm Free Pour Noon - 1 pm WRDX Live 7 pm - 10 pm | WRDX Live 7 pm - 9 pm |

Johnston County Sizzle Juice
 Saturday, April 23, Noon - 1 pm

D.J. SCHEDULE

Ducks

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Friday, April 15 | 9 pm - close | Ric Shore |
| Saturday, April 16 | 9 pm - close | Ric Shore |
| Sunday, April 17 | 3 pm - 9 pm 9 pm - close | Butch Metcalf Gene Petty |
| Monday, April 18 | 12 Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Judy Collins Gene Petty Butch Metcalf |
| Tuesday, April 19 | Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Gene Petty Floyd Robertson Butch Metcalf |
| Wednesday, April 20 | 12 Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Ron Arny Sid Pruitt Larry Edwards |
| Thursday, April 21 | 12 Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Terry Bumgardner Ed Timberlake Sid Pruitt |
| Friday, April 22 | 12 Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Gene Petty Steve Baker Butch Metcalf |
| Saturday, April 23 | 12 Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Joanne Johnson Steve Baker Judy Collins |
| Sunday, April 24 | 12 Noon - 6 pm 6 pm - close | Butch Metcalf Gene Petty |

*Best burgers, fries, and
 bologna sandwiches
 anywhere!*

Ducks Too

| | |
|---|--|
| 3 pm - 9 pm 9 pm - close | Ed Timberlake Judy Collins |
| 12 Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Terry Bumgardner Floyd Robertson Steve Baker |
| 12 Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Joanne Johnson Ed Zamberfeld Judy Collins |
| 12 Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Tom Hamrick Judy Collins Sid Pruitt |
| 12 Noon - 5 pm 5 pm - 10 pm 10 pm - close | Ed Timberlake Sid Pruitt Butch Metcalf |
| 12 Noon - close | Sid Pruitt |



S.O.S. NEWS

MEMORIAL WEEKEND 1995

S.O.S. Grand National Swing/Shag Championship

Did you know . . .

that shag is only one of a large number of dances known as swing?
The "swing" family comprises many styles and forms of dancing, including Carolina shag, East Coast swing, West Coast swing, Texas path, waltz, fridy-top, imperial, jambou, and others. These dances vary in styling and tempo, but most utilize the same eight-count basic. Many of the styles patterns and much of the music can be interchanged among the various dances in this group. Even though the styling may be different among the dances, the people have many similarities—their love of dancing, their camaraderie with other dancers, and their love of any opportunity to dance and have a good time.

Did you know . . .

that shag—for years the South's best kept secret—is becoming widely and enthusiastically enjoyed nationally as well?
Until recent years, not too many people outside the southeast had ever heard of the Carolina shag—much less seen it performed. Since 1989, Charlie Wrenkle and Jackie McGee have traveled around the country showing the shag to swing competitors and dance enthusiasts. From the first swing competition day weekend in Oklahoma City in 1989, people were impressed with the unfamiliar swing dance, and word began to spread about tagging to all parts of the country.

Charlie and Jackie have competed in the Classic Division of the U.S. Open Swing Dance Championship (the highest and most prestigious of the swing competitions) since 1989, always finishing in the top ten and placing second in 1992. As a result of their skills and their sponsorship on behalf of shag, they were given the honors of being Dances Everywhere and have performed shag around the country. Wrenkle is shagging his best to great that they have been asked to conduct shag workshops and evaluations in California, Texas, New York, Washington, D.C., Colorado, Arizona, Missouri, Virginia, Illinois, Oklahoma, Washington state, and Wisconsin.

New Event

With the interest generated in shag among the swing community, the time is right to display the swifter popularity for which we are so famous and to try shagging and other swing dances from all over the country in a weekend of dancing, entertainment, and competition among the best swing and shag dancers anywhere.

S.O.S. is sponsoring just such a weekend beginning in 1995. Memorial weekend has been selected as the premiere time for the new S.O.S. Grand National Swing/Shag Dance Championship. The event will be an annual convention and will be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

S.O.S. Board Chairman Bob Wood says, "This is the first event of this sort that S.O.S. is sponsoring. We believe that the Championship weekend will become one of the most fun weekends of the year and that the competition will become one of the most prestigious in the country."

The weekend program is being designed for everyone—parents, competitors, workshop, and spectators. All events will be held conveniently at one hotel. There will be hospitality hours, workshops, competitions, and virtually non-stop dancing for three fun-filled days.

Contest Divisions

There will be several competitions emphasizing shag and swing dancing. Categories will include:

- Shag — age 21 and over
- Junior Shag — under 21 years of age
- Parents Division — parents co-dancing with a teen or
- Classic Division — all types of swing dancing: West Coast, fridy, waltz, etc.
- Showcase — high production swing dancing with live music and special events
- Cabaret — any type of dancing: swing, waltz or shag, can include ballroom, special novelty dancing with act, rva, show, or more dramatic special dancing can be used to make the dance more entertaining.
- Team Dancing — for synchronized dancing: two or more couples dance three complete numbers: good for shag club sponsored events.

Prizes will recognize the winners and subsiders with prizes.

General Dancing

Plenty of music all weekend—before, during, and after the competitions—will be provided for general dancing by everyone. There will be DJ's from the shag community for most of the general dancing periods.

Other Activities

There will be participation by various shag clubs in the form of sponsoring dance teams and funding hospitality services.

Vendor space will be provided for individuals or clubs to display and sell their jewelry, clothing, books, tables, and other dance-related items or to advertise their workshops and services.

The weekend will be packed with fun and excitement. So make your plans for a big Memorial weekend, May 25-28, 1995 and attend the Greatest S.O.S.

Grand National Swing/Shag Dance Championship. You will get to do a lot of dancing, see some great competitions and other entertainment, and meet a lot of interesting people from all over the country who love to dance. It will be a little like S.O.S.—celebratory weekends and that level dance competitions all rolled into one.

It promises to be a GRAND weekend!

If you would like more information about this new event or if you would like to volunteer as an individual or your shag club would like to volunteer to assist in the staging of these activities, please contact Linda Billflower at (404) 474-8890.

Special Spring Feature: See Giant S.O.S. Logo on the Beach

Want to see the largest S.O.S. logo ever? Then be sure to visit the beach area just in front of the Spanish Casino and O.D. Most on Saturday afternoon of Spring Safari.

At 11:00 a.m. a member of the Carolina Shag Club, picnic, smoker, lawn, coffee, and without question the greatest maker of mud pies on the East Coast will construct the S.O.S. logo on the beach, sunrise and later painting.

You won't see it's work to appreciate it. It takes more than a day to complete and then, with the next high tide, it is gone. It is the ultimate process because the product has such a short shelf life. This is one you have to see to believe. So stop by—you'll be glad you did. Be sure to bring your camera.

Question — Do you ever pass church members while you are working S.O.S.?

Would you be interested in a non-discriminatory service committee on the beach on Sunday morning during S.O.S.?

We would very much like to know what you think about this idea. If enough S.O.S. members are interested, we'll try to make it happen. Let us know.

Write P.O. Box 4088, Columbia, SC 29204 or call Phil Sawyer at (803) 762-7387.

Prayer Cost Goes to \$50

Amazing Shaggers: You have until the end of the month (April 30) to purchase your annual prayer for only \$45.50. After that the cost will be \$50.00, and the general public will be invited to participate.

Editor Thanks All Who Submitted Material for Publication in This Issue

Many thanks are owed our staff for material to be published in this Spring Safari edition of the Carefree Times, and we thank you very much. We received many excellent articles, photos, and pictures. Unfortunately, we ran out of space (even after adding two more pages).

However, we have already begun work on the brand new June edition of the Carefree Times so let us assure you that much of the material will appear in that issue. Look for it to arrive in your mailbox, and again, thanks to all!

From Our Readers . . .

Dear McChaff and Staff:

Just a note to credit you and your staff for the wonderful newspaper called the Carefree Times. I feel like I can speak on behalf of all the S.O.S.ers who visit South Myrtle Beach at least twice each year. The Carefree Times provides us with all the information we need with regard to S.O.S. The publication is not only a very responsible and factual swing website, it guides us to the most popular dance spots; it shows us where the best shops are located; it tells us when to buy our favorite shag music; it informs us of the events and facilities at many shag clubs; it entertains us with the greatest of shaggers—old and new; it lets us know who is in charge of our favorite shag clubs and happens (Duck, Hamilton, the Gullows, the Pad, Zickler, I keep us informed of all the growth and popularity of the S.O.S. sport. It's the best way just of making material as good as it possibly get!

My anxiety level reached a new high when I got close to the day issue of HMO in S.O.S. time. The first thing I look for is the Carefree Times. This publication is part of me for the duration of my visit. We all know that is the New Testament and the Old Testament, but I've been on the job for the Carefree Times in the South Carolina.

McChaff, I hope you and your staff never cease publishing the newspaper. There would be many less visits if you did! The paper is the Beach Bible, and it would be very difficult to not have it available. Keep up the good work and as I close now, I'm looking forward to S.O.S. Spring Safari and the Carefree Times.

Sincerely, — Sylvia Talaferra, The Beach Day Club, Daytona, SC

ADDITION: Thank you!

(Editor's comment: see From Our Readers, page 30)





S.O.S. Carefree Times
19 Spring Safari 94



Eno Beach Shag Club

P.O. Box 71366 • Durham, NC 27772

Membership 175
Home Pond: The Dance, Ocean Road
Meetings: 1st Thursday monthly
President: Patty Clark
Shag Lessons: Tuesday nights
Newsletter: "News From the Pond"

Coming Up:

Spring Fling
May 14, 1994

Christmas Gala
December 2, 1994

Annual Events:
Yard Sale, Silent Auction,
Shag Workshops, Dances,
Contests, Boat Trips, Spring
Fling, Golf Tournaments,
Progressive Dinner

Come to our Pond and party on Thursdays and
Saturdays from 9 until with member DJs Mike Tewell,
Raymond Rumber, and Van Wilkerson.



**Dillon County
Shag Club**

P.O. Box 924
Dillon, SC 29538

**Come Party
With Us!!!**

The Dillon County Shag Club sponsors a
dance the 3rd Friday of each month at
Twin Lakes Country Club in Dillon. Join
us to hear club DJ Roger Helcomb or a
guest DJ play your favorite tunes.

- PRESIDENT -
Don Simpson
803-847-5881
- VICE PRESIDENT -
Lory Ann
803-847-5876
- SECRETARY -
Lora Ann
803-847-5876
- TREASURER -
Ruthie Meadows
803-774-2778
- ASSISTANT AT LARGE -
Linda Day
812-421-5881



Dillon County Shag Club is a member of the American
Shag Dance Association and is dedicated to the preservation
and promotion of the Shag and Soca dances.



Nashville Shags!
Presents the First Annual

"Summer Sizzler"

June 30, July 1, 2, 3, 1994

Quality Inn • Executive Plaza • 821 Macomber Road, Nashville, TN

DJ'S FOR THE WEEKEND: Tommy Johnson, DJ Mal of Fame, Christie, NC,
Larry Hall, Birmingham, AL, Nashville Shags DJ's: Tim Laska, Roy Thompson,
Ed White, Tom Bush, Phil Cannon

LODGING RATES: \$44.00 per room, 1994 for a room. (Includes deluxe Continental Breakfast) For Reservations call Quality Inn, Executive Plaza, (615) 362-
2234. Ask for Nashville Shags! special rates! Rooms are booked with June 1, 1994

TICKET INFORMATION: \$20.00 for one weekend and June 2, \$25.00 after
June 1. One night tickets will be sold at the door only if space is available. Friday
night \$30.00; Saturday night \$15.00.

Make checks payable to Nashville Shags! and mail to: Nashville Shags!, ATTN
John Ferguson, P.O. Box 22367, Nashville, TN 37202. Tickets will be sold at the door.
If you would like to buy our t-shirts, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.



Beach Boppers of Orlando

presents
**The 5th Annual
Orange Squeeze**

November 2, 3, 4, and 5, 1994
at Daytona Beach, Florida

ORANGE SQUEEZE HEADQUARTERS: Howard Johnson's Convention Center,
600 North Atlantic Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL. 1-800-787-8871. ROOMS: Del \$44,
Del with tax \$49, suite \$65. (Be sure to say you saw us with the Orange Squeeze.)

Kick Off Party — November 2nd
Golf Tournament — November 4th

Featuring 4 members of the Beach Music DJ Hall of Fame:
Gary Bass, Mitch Metcalf, JoAnne Johnson, Gene Petty
and Jerry Hazzard from Orlando

TICKETS FOR THE 4 DAY EVENT: \$20 before Sep. 30; \$25 after Oct. 1.
For more information, call: John O'Dell 1-407-251-5714
8800 • P.O. Box 100517 • Altamonte Springs, FL 32716



LAKE HICKORY SHAG CLUB

P O BOX 1271
HICKORY NC 28603-1271
HOTLINE #704/323-3818

Shag every Friday night
VFW - HICKORY, NC

FOOTHILLS WINTER BOOGIE VIII

Friday through Saturday
February 3-5, 1995



VIRGINIA BEACH SHAG CLUB

ANNUAL BEACH BASH - PARK AND PARTY
CAVALIER HOTEL - OCEANFRONT

October 28, 29 and 30, 1994
June Start Party October 27, 1994 at 8:00 P.M.

Room rates from \$50.00
Call toll free 1-800-446-8199

FREE music, food all weekend, great music,
good times!
Dance in the oceanfront bathroom all weekend!
Over 5000 square feet of dance floor
\$50 FREE parking spaces

Write Va. Beach Shag Club
P.O. Box 3098, Va. Beach, VA 23454
for flyer and reservation form, or call
HOTLINE (804) 547-SHAG



THE SULLIVAN ISLAND SHAG CLUB

1994-1995

THE SULLIVAN ISLAND SHAG CLUB

1994-1995

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1994-1995

THE CHARLESTON SHAG CLUB

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

"GEECHEE BLAST 1994"

AUGUST 19, 20, 21, 1994

SAND DUNES CLUB

SULLIVAN ISLAND, S.C.





S.O.S. Carefree Times
19 Spring Safari 94



TAILS ARE GONNA WAG



... over the
**Largest and Longest
Park 'n Party Party
on the East Coast!**

**NOW
FOUR BIG
DAYS OF
PARTYING**

Plus Tours of Old St. Augustine, PGA Golf, and Deep Sea Fishing!

We recommend that you plan now for the
9th Annual

Boogie on the Riverwalk®

June 15-19, 1994



- Tour of major attractions in Old St. Augustine, Florida
- Play golf at the PGA Golf Course • Deep sea fishing
- Tickets are still only \$20.00 (\$25 after May 1, 1994)
- \$49 room rates • 4000 sq. ft. wood dance floor
- All in one room • Plenty of free food and drink
- Great D.J.'s, great dancers, friendly people, surprises
- Workshops: Shag with Charlie Wamble and Jackie McGee; Bop with Butch and Betty Berry; Swing (TBA)

Sponsored solely by the

JACKSONVILLE BEACH BOP ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Member Association of Carolina Shag Clubs and U.S. Swing Dance Council)



Our Red HOT D.J.'s Are:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Gary Bass N. Myrtle Beach, SC | Ronnie Gardner Va. Beach, VA / FL |
| Larry Huff Birmingham, AL | Herschel Maddox Jacksonville, FL |
| Dave Roby St. Mary's, GA | Norman Mills Lake Hickory, NC |



9th Annual Beach Music Dance Festival® Boogie on the Riverwalk® 14 - 19 June 1994

FLORIDA NO ONE BUY PASSES — TICKETS GOOD FOR ENTIRE FESTIVAL
\$20 each before 1 May 1994 \$25 each after 1 May 1994
No. of passes @ \$20 each _____ Total _____
No. of tickets @ \$25 each _____ Total _____
You will receive a ticket confirmation letter with your Hotel Reservation Card, which you will need to receive a room at the Marine Hotel. Cards will be waiting for you at the door. Make all checks payable to Beach Music Festival.
Mail to: P.O. Box 40352, Jacksonville, FL 32203-0352

PLEASE PRINT (Last Name)

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|--|--|
| Name: _____ | Address: _____ | City, State, Zip: _____ | Country: _____ | Phone: _____ | Age: _____ | Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
| Address: _____ | City, State, Zip: _____ | Country: _____ | Phone: _____ | Age: _____ | Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female | |



A Grand Old Lady Falls

The Pad
1955 - 1994

by Becky Stowe

February 28, 1994 dawned gray and dismal. The date marked the end of an era for those who loved the old Pad on Ocean Drive. Commemoration was in progress at 9:00 a.m. We arrived at about 9:30. The back lot was packed and waiting for the "grand old lady." The Harold danced the last dance on the old dance floor. My eyes got a little misty, but I think he danced with Carmie Brown, and then Elaine Thomas.

There were about 75-100 of us down past TV and newspaper crews. At about 9:55 two police officers entered the Pad to check for occupants. I wondered if they felt the spirit of Mr. Blankenship, Billy Motion, George Hall, and others.

The countdown began: 5-4-3-2-1. As the first blow was struck, a noise was heard from those of us paying our last respects. The "grand old lady" was old and tired, and she went down easily. Just as her legs, hands were becoming piles of rubble, the stars got very dark, and it poured down rain. Several of us, not wanting to leave, went over to the Pad of Gold lounge across the street. We played an hour or so, talking about experiences we'd had at the Pad.

My first time at the Pad was in 1960. I think it was 1960, a girlfriend of mine, Cissy (no need), and I walked to the Pad. Outside, Clara (we met a little she knew) had invited us to the "B-30" house behind

the Pad where he had his mother from Miami, HAC, was staying. That's where I met "Tom," a circle-limbed, freckle-faced fellow with a fantastic personality. He took me into the Pad.

It was crowded, but the music and dancing were great. Later that night we sat around with other friends in front of our cottage singing and talking. Cissy's friend "Zoot" played the game under an army blanket. That was his way of being embarrassed if he played the wrong third. Cissy and I kept in touch for a couple years. That was long time ago. I've heard that "Tom" (his real name is Tommy Davis) is a teacher in Cheshire, N.H. I understand "Zoot" was killed in Vietnam.

The beloved beach music continues to hold lots of memories for many people. Those who see my piece of the Pad always have a "fun" or "lol" as.

Milwaukee I was very fortunate to salvage the old dance floor and the original bar. After the demolition, many folks were seen rummaging through the pile of debris for a treasure.

Myrtle Beach had the Ocean Forest Motel. Ocean Drive had the Pad. Myrtle Beach has not forgotten their Ocean Forest Hotel, and we will not forget our grand old lady! The memories will remain in our hearts forever.



Monday, Feb. 28, 1994

Overnight break-in reported at gallery

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH — Beach Memories, a Miami Street art gallery on Ocean Drive, was broken into during the night Saturday or early Sunday morning, and several original works of art were stolen.

Police on routine patrol discovered the break in at about 7 a.m. Sunday. Entry was gained by driving a piece of cement block through a plate glass door, according to police.

Among the original paintings taken were several numbered paintings of The Pad, a '60s shaggers signpost, which was recently torn down. Uninsured pieces of The Pad were valued at about \$20 each.

Also taken were some framed prints, one of The Pad, valued at \$125 and higher, depending on the issue.

Several other objects were also stolen: paintings of sea shells, seashells, etc.; one pen and ink drawing of a yacht; 1937 Thunderbird; a TV/VCR remote control; a stereo; and several of Becker's & Chester's miscellaneous signs. According to Becker Street, they are still allowing some items that are missing.

Those signs, if you are offered one of Becky's art by someone other than Becky Stowe, report that you can go either back to the N. Myrtle Beach Police.

Beach Memories



Look for our logo on all our sportswear

Your Shagging Headquarters!

- Limited Edition Prints of Ocean Drive
- Unique Jewelry Including Austrian Crystal Shag Jewelry
- Men's Shirts Embroidered with Our Famous Shag Logo
- Gold Pendants including the Loefer Shoes
- Charlie and Jackie's Learn to Shag Videos
- Sequin Clothing and Applique
- Copyrighted S.O.S. Jewelry Designed by Becky Stowe — Official S.O.S. Artist in Residence

Owners: Milford Powell and Becky Stowe-Powell



209 Main Street
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

803-249-2495 • 803-249-7215 • Orders only: 1-800-745-7215



S.O.S. Carefree Times

19 Spring Safari 94



Greater Triad Shag Club

2104 Venable Street
Greensboro, NC 27407
Phone: (810) 855-6205

President: Allan Richardson

Thirsty's

Base Headquarters: 2104 Venable Street
Greensboro, NC 27407

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm

Shag Lessons: Thursday nights, 7:00-9:00 pm. Thirsty's

Party every Friday and Saturday nights at Thirsty's
with well-known DJ's.

Home of the "Hall of Fame Foundation Charity Mixed Doubles Contest"

Upcoming Event: Second Annual Bank Lunch Charity
Mixed Doubles Contest

July 29, 30, 31, 1994

For dancing pre-registration, call Vivian Strickland (910) 993-8808

THE CINCINNATI BOB CLUB'S SECOND ANNIYERBAGG PARTY WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 11, 12 & 13



D.L. & AGI WEST WESTERN TAPPALE
LTD & PETER BL, Cincinnati Ohio
\$40.00 Tappa (4 - 4 persons)
Reservation: Call (513) 753-4488
Dinner: The Cincinnati Bob Club

D.J.'s: DWYER BOYD Co. Marietta, GA
JONASKE 207685000 (Charlotte, NC)

GREAT HOSPITALITY ROOM
SATURDAY LUNCH INCLUDED

DANCE EXHIBITIONS AND WORKSHOPS:
SHAG WITH ST. LOUIS & JANA BROWN (Ohio Campus)
CINDY GARY & CHARLOTTE CHANEY GARY & PAM ADENRISTER St. Louis

TICKETS: \$200.00 per person (before 10/25/94) \$250.00 per person (after 10/25/94)

FOR RESERVATION CONTACT

Paul Strassburg, President of Bob Club, Secretary at 513/488-0287
Cincinnati Bob Club, P.O. Box 8552, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-0552

The Richmond Shag Club Presents Their 1st Annual Shag Splash

This will be one of the premier parties in the Association
Richmond area together the four things shaggers love the most:
**GREAT MUSIC, A LARGE DANCE FLOOR, THE BEST
FREE POUR, AND A POOL PARTY**

We have collected some of the hottest DJ's, such as Mike Lewis from
Cape Fear Hill, Roc Saulty from Va Beach, David Jones from the Outer
Banks, and your own Club Dale Norris Cross and Calvin Holman, plus
there will be **Workshops and Exhibitions by SCA Dancers**

The Party is August 12th, 13th & 14th

For More Information call Larry Jones at (804) 346-3473 or 45-1680
Party Schedule Only \$100.00 (Includes Bagging)

MOUNTAIN SHAG CLUB



ASHEVILLE, N.C.

Mountain Shag Club

P.O. Box 509
Asheville, NC 28802
HOTLINE: (704) 258-8006

Come be our guest
and have fun!

Wednesday: Encore's, Best
Western Central
Friday: Sadra's, Radisson Hotel

Home of the Mountain Beach Boogie July 22-24, 1994

\$50.00 per person
Greek Community Center • Shuttle service provided

Come to the mountains for cool mountain air
area's finest D.J.'s, large dance floor,
low drink prices, free pours, food, and fun!

Capital Area Shag Club



President: Johnny Baker
V. President: Steve Lawson
Secretary: George Lawson
Treasurer: Jackie Rodgers
Membership Sec: Lawrence Clark
Floor Chairperson: Debbie Whinn
Dancefloor: Mike May
Social Director: Steve Dyer and Martha McElroy



Come Join Us!

Capital Sunshine S.O.S. Pool Party
Tilghman's Oceanside Pool
Saturday, April 23, 11:00 a.m.
DJ Rental High

When in Raleigh — Capital Area Shag Club meets every 2nd and 4th Wednes-
day of each month at the Old Fellows Lodge on Six Forks Rd. Socials
are held every 4th Wednesday alternately at Red's and Leathers. CASC
sponsors the Winter Shag Blast at Atlantic Beach, NC in February
and is a co-host of the Eastern NC Shag Blast in Fayetteville in July.
We have various parties and functions throughout the year. For
CASC party info, call (919) 250-0632.

Carolina Shag Club

Greenville, S.C.

HOTLINE: (803) 822-5376

We meet at Beau's

at the Marriott on I-85 and Pelham Road

Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 - 11

Come shag with us!



ROANOKE VALLEY SHAG CLUB

P.O. BOX 20723
ROANOKE, VA 24018

Member of Association of Carolina Shag Clubs

Monthly Newsletter — "The SHAGGER"

Blindfolded Hit on Tuesday nights "Shag Night" Chastice Served &
Community Intersite; Easter Seal Society, Roanoke
Valley Good Neighbor Fund, Bradley Free Clinic
and others.

SWEET VIRGINIA BREEZE

Club dances feature the "Sweet Virginia Breeze" annual
"Big Road" and other good times. We look forward to seeing
our Shagging friends here in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.



Eastern Carolina Shag Blast

July 22-24
Fayetteville, NC

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Folly Beach Christmas Parade: A Shagger's Success

by Bruce Fitzsimmons, Islander Shag Club

The Century cruise visiting the city of Folly Beach's Annual Cliff Foe and Christmas Parade December 4th, were treated to a beautiful sunny and warm Saturday on the beach. A wide assortment of floats, bands, and local social groups comprised the Shag parade entries which assembled on the road from the guard shack on Little Oak Island to the foot of the Folly River Bridge. There were so many entries this year that one of the locals said it was the first time that they had seen a two-mile parade on a one-way road.

As the floats and participants crossed the Folly River and proceeded down Center Street, the crowds cheered with energetic approval for the numerous Christmas and island themes which were portrayed. The Islander Shag Club from James Island drew thunderous applause when their gaudy-decorated float passed in review before the judges' stand. The enthusiastic crowd gave instant recognition to the participants on the float as the Islanders waved and exchanged Christmas salutations with onlookers.

Not long after the throngs of spectators settled down from applauding the Islander's float, the crowd again came to their feet and roared with delight for the Folly Beach Shag's award-winning entry. Their float was preceded by a 3x5 foot club banner depicting a couple shagging on the seashore. The float

was decorated with a full-size pillow box on each corner, a small restaurant of leeks on one end, and gaily yellow balloons in the front section on the other end. It boasted a wooden dance floor on a gravelly dock and proudly displayed 12-foot "Merry Christmas" signs on each side. It glided smoothly down Center Street as the two shaggers propped for the appreciative onlookers. Cheers on the float threw candy cones to the overjoyed crowds of children and adults alike.

The parade turned east on Cooper, then south on Second and west on Kattie before proceeding back in the opposite direction on Center Street. As the Folly Beach Shag's float passed before the judges' stand for the victory lap, it was hailed to a hush and the first place blue ribbon was firmly attached to its side rail.

Filled with delight and proud to have outdone all of the other entries, the shag club members bowed with personal satisfaction. They were all in agreement that they had not been the real winners, but rather the entire shag community had become the benefactor of the day. We came, they saw, and the community is now aware that the Shag is alive and well in the Low Country.

S.S. Day thanks to Ted Bryant who donated the wooden signs for the Islanders and Folly Beach Shag's float.

Reprinted from the Christmas Shag Club Newsletter



The Paradox of Leadership

1. People are logical, unmovable, and will resist. Live them anyway.
2. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, shallow reasons. Do good anyway.
3. If you are successful, you will hate friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.
4. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
5. Honesty and kindness can make you unpopular. Be honest anyway.
6. The bigger you are with the biggest sleep can be shut down by the smallest people with the smallest ideas. Think big anyway.
7. People love underdogs but follow only dogs. Fight for the underdogs anyway.
8. What you spend your building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.
9. People who need help may attack you if you help them. Help them anyway.
10. Give the world the best you have and you may get kicked in the teeth. Give your best anyway.

Doing the right thing won't always win you the prize - life is full of competition and overt disappointment. True leaders know that the right thing is worth it itself, and eventually they are rich and respected.



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DANCE CLINIC

Learning Hints

by Heidi Zoff



1 Learn to smell some don't you just to learn everything at once. Some ideas will take weeks or months to "take hold."

2 Measure your progress against your own previous performance, not against the couple dancing next to you. (Or, indeed, the couple that won 1st place in the last swing/drag competition.)

3 Go over what you have learned later the same evening—even if only for five or ten minutes. By the next day, things will be fuzzy. Practice as often as possible until the next lesson. (Yes, almost) if you do not practice at all, you will not learn, but your progress will be much faster with practice.

4 Get used to practicing from floor embarrassment on the dance floor. Some of the shyest people claim to be free from "the Big Eye." Think about the music. The people who you think are watching are interested about their own performance to give you a second thought. They are concerned about living up to someone else's dancing that they admire. Proficiency in dancing is relative. There is always someone better, no matter what

your room level is. So being inhibited by public practicing is self-defeating; you are not getting the practice and results you need.

5 Contrary to popular belief, learning is not always a gradual thing. If you feel like you are virtually "stalling still," rest assured that you are headed for a learning "spurt."

6 In social dancing, memorize the entrance to a pattern. Many patterns are forgotten because the preliminary entrance movements have been lost. If the entrance steps are remembered, the remainder of the pattern will automatically flow.

7 Arguing with your dance partner does not lead to making progress. The process of learning to dance should not be a grim experience—but a fun activity. Keep things in perspective and keep things "light."

8 You'll learn more efficiently if you are in a happy, relaxed frame of mind. A well-known male instructor with Houston makes funny faces until the lady laughs. He insists that his smile makes the

muscles relax, and the lack of tension makes her dance better!

9 When learning a new pattern, teach individuals first. Then teach your partner so that the leading skills will be more easily learned.

10 When learning new patterns, it is very helpful to learn the names of the patterns. This will aid tremendously in remembering them. Make notes, write them down.

11 Become familiar with the music associated with the dance you are learning, establish where the downbeat is, and learn to start dancing on the downbeat. Also be aware of the rhythm structure of the dance, i.e., where the slow and quick are.

Above all, give yourself time to learn. Be kind to yourself and refrain from making unreasonable demands on yourself or your dance partner. Enjoy learning as well as dancing!

Reprinted from the Spring Swing Club newsletter, Inc. 1993, reproduced in the First Coast Swing Dancers newsletter (April, TX, Nov. Dec. 1992)

John Gets a French Lesson!

One day while taking a well deserved vacation, John O'Dell, lives happily, was walking along the beach in France. There were many beautiful women (and in the gym, and he really wanted to know how they do it. He tried to get some ideas at all. He was really, really, in when he met a French guy from the beach who was surrounded by adoring women.

"Excuse me," John said, making the guy smile. "I've been trying to meet one of these women for about a year now, and I just can't seem to get anywhere with them. You're French. You know these women. What do they want?"

"Maybe I can help a little bit," said the Frenchman. "What you do on you go to the gym. You buy a bottle of mineral water every day. You walk up and down the beach. You must get very quickly and fast."

"Thanks!" said John, and off he went to the store. He bought a skinny real bathing suit, put it on, and went back to the beach. He walked up and down the beach but still had no luck with the ladies.

So he went back to the French guy. "I'm sorry to bother you again," he said. "But I want to be more like the other men, and I can't seem to be able to meet a girl."

"Okay," said the Frenchman. "I tell you what to do. You go to the store. You buy pants. You put pants in your room and walk up and down the beach. You will meet girls very, very quickly and fast."

"Thanks!" said John, and he ran off to the store. He bought the pants, put it in the street, and watched up and down the beach. Up and down, up and down he walked. By the second week he had a lot of girls. After half an hour, he couldn't take anymore and went back to the Frenchman.

"Look," he said. "I got the pants, I put the pants in it, and I walked up and down the beach—and still no girls! What were you talking?"

"Well," said the Frenchman. "Maybe I can help you a little bit. Why don't you try moving and talking to the girls of the swimming pool?"

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Should I or Shouldn't I Ask?

by Peggy Cash



I think we have all wondered a thousand times whether or not we should ask someone else to dance. When I heard that some of our members had this concern, I decided to comment.

In the past ten years I have discovered that sometimes it is the only way that you will get to dance to that favorite song. It is an unwritten policy between all the married and single dancers that it is okay to ask each other to dance. It is also well known that since you can do the asking, jump out there and ask when your favorite song is being played. Otherwise you will miss a lot of fun. There have been times when I would not have danced during an evening if I hadn't asked someone else. It's probably happened to you, too.

Staggers are a different kind of

people. They don't follow all the "normal" rules. They just want to have fun together, dance, and promote the drag everywhere. So join the action!

Keeping stagging alive is a main concern. So, what if everyone stood around wishing on someone else to do the asking? The drag would soon die! I love the music and the dance. Anyone from age 10 to age 80 can drag. Even if you don't know the minor steps that the other person can do, dancing with different people exposes you to different styles. I plan on dancing until I can't do it any more. And I will never stop asking when I want to dance!

Whether you are a man or a woman, single or married, there is no excuse for sitting on the sidelines. Ask someone—please! I can't help but say that you can't be invited

down. You may lead out the person you ask really wanted to ask you. Either way, asking someone is a great way to welcome a new dancer into the crowd and help enlarge our drag circle.

The writer's Editor's note:

Peggy writes a lot of good points in this article. We have great DJs playing music for us. If you want to have your favorite song, all you have to do is ask the DJ to play it.

By the next issue, we have a new table where you can buy writing to dance with you. If you want to know the man that can make your stagging friends, just ask someone to dance. You can't dance anyone but yourself if you are sitting on the sidelines watching!

Reprinted from the Yarners' Drag Club newsletter, 1993

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PAST S.O.S. EXPERIENCES

S.O.S. Fall Migration '93

by Steve Barth, Richmond Stag Club

WEDNESDAY, September 8. I was sitting above the dance floor at DFC listening fine joints of shag music with Moody and Tricia Power. Presently, Earl Robinson walked by and joined in the conversation by commenting that he could feel the rhythm pounding through the ground from Myrtle Beach. This was just before the official start of Fall Migration, but the heat had already started and would get louder as the time for S.O.S. approached.

It was, as usual, magical and mesmerizing to be at S.O.S. Our large contingent from Richmond arrived anywhere from a week before to S.O.S.—then in the middle. One can never recall to get to one's shagging shoes and walk down OD past The Pod where speakers have driving blues and jazzy melodies to all pastersday. Once immersed within the pulsating music and steamy crowds in Docks, you're drunk without a drink, flying without leaving the dance floor.

TUESDAY. Arrived! The slinky suit set made me know I was "home" in OD again. Pulling into Fat Harold's parking lot, I immediately ran into Moody and Tricia, Marcia, Susie, Jess, and Jane. Upon entering the club, I saw "Maximum Joe" Tobacco and Ralph and Vicki. Mike Lewis was, of course, in the DJ cage, and I was delighted to see and

encounter a couple great, Joe T. (marksmen) but with whom, better Joe, however, lived to print and draw-dish another day—in fact, just about every day! But I got to dance with Maxine!

Late I wandered into The Pod where Pat Harmon, always the center, showed me the Walling Pivet on the spot. The humidity had moved out, and every club was like a sauna, but who cares? Alexander D'Neal was singing "Star For Ben (Only You)" the Electric Lemonade was too cold, and the shaggers were more grateful than I'd ever see.

THURSDAY. By now, things were starting to run together, but the highlight of the day was the "Smoothies" open competition at the OD Annex. I saw Earl the poet dancing with a Half-of-Famer (who was she, Earl?), and our Larry and Shales from placed seventh! This is a field of Half-of-Famers and pros. I cannot describe the sensation of seeing the people who attended shagging performing to their smoothest perfection.

After watching the boys' second round routine, I wandered back to Fat Harold's—the de facto headquarters for the Richmond crowd—near the back door, edge of the dance floor. Being rather tormented by cold medicine, I decided to get a pitcher of Sea Breeze. With that jumpstart, I commenced shagging.

The entire day was like a dream: free pours at the Gallon, free food at Fat Harold's, and beautiful women shagging. Smooth Frank and I agreed—beery—at Fat Harold's that we'd both died and gone to heaven, but I can't remember which day we agreed on this.

big his diminutive and comeliness charming wife, Lydia. She said she'd unzip my shorts with her teeth (your shagging boy is 43" in Weejana, Lydia is 41") if I'd bully rail her.

After depositing my junk in the condo, I hit the dance floors in smooch Fat Harold's, Ducky, Dixie Tea, and the Gallon. Somehow—slinging with 5-8 Natural Light—OD makes the summer smoocher, the men were creative, and everybody's private club.

Finally, I found my favorite blues/jazz band—7 is The Devil by Freddie King—at S.O.S. Evy Ellington will from now on be one of my favorite DJ's. After dancing with many familiar Richmond partners and a heavy of Carmine helms, I crashed for the night, still vibrating from the music so only it can be played in OD.

WEDNESDAY. Awaiting surprisingly early with a strong, leisurely cup of coffee. I BS'd at length while hanging on my tan plaid boxer shorts, no doubt thrilling my contemporaries (Phyllis, Wanda, and Melissa). The afternoon was spent on the beach reading up for the official start of S.O.S.

Then off to Fat Harold's where my most memorable dances were with Marcia M. (best friend of the ancients), Maximum Joe had torn a muscle in his calf (allegedly while

The boat, the plotting, and the jumping music rained my head long enough to make it 41 1/2. As I stumbled along in the intermittent lightning down Ocean Blvd, a good Samaritan dropped out of the sky to give me a ride home to 11th Ave. S. This was probably my one "last day" at S.O.S. My apologies for not being able to report on any late-night tequila by the RSC crowd.

FRIDAY. What do you do when you're making your way through the Stag City Grill area of Fat Harold's, your hand down, and suddenly look up and you're toe-to-eye with Sy Greed? You grab his hand, shake firmly, and say "Wednesday, Chicago!" So I did. Across the room was Dick Brown, gliding effortlessly as she simply walked through the crowd. Oh, Joe T., I didn't offer to haul their luggage! I watched them dance Friday night; there is truly a glow of top quality around the magic pit as they rotate in air. You don't believe me? Go to S.O.S. watch and believe.

The entire day was like a dream: free pours at the Gallon, free food at Fat Harold's, and beautiful women shagging. Smooth Frank and I agreed—beery—at Fat Harold's that we'd both died and gone to heaven, but I can't remember which day we agreed on this.

(Continued on Page 33)

Romance Blossoms at Spring S.O.S.

by Sandy Patterson

It all started on April 25, 1980. That happened to be the last day of Spring Safari, and I was staying over that Sunday night in episode for the night at the end of the week.

As a girlfriend of mine and I were walking by the bay at Duke's bar I've done a thousand times before, a big, strong hand came out of nowhere and took my arm, pulling me to him. I made little squeals as I looked into the face of the man who started to kiss me, and he said, "I need to know who you are."

I was about to laugh and walk on when he smiled, and I noticed that he had the sweetest eyes I had ever seen and they were smiling, too. I must admit that approach was a new one, too, and I had to give him a lot of credit for making that move on a total stranger. He was unique!

We stood at the end of the bar and talked, danced, and listened to our music. You know how there seems to be one song at every S.O.S. that stands out most in your mind and seems to be your favorite? Well, last spring mine was "Love Is Here Tonight" by George Benson, and of course I had no idea this gentleman as we were getting acquainted. Little did I know what was coming.

I learned that his name was Vic Calvert, and he was from Charleston, South Carolina. The fact that he was wearing a shirt with "Catcher Blast" and "Vic" emblazoned on it helped to confirm that. A while later, I turned toward the dance floor to watch friends shagging, and he gently wrapped his arms around me from behind as we shared these together. Now, here's the weird part—I didn't object or move away, because it just felt right; it felt like home. I couldn't explain it.

By now it was getting late, and I had a long drive back to Atlanta the next day. So I told him I had to go. Oh yes, remember that shirt I told you he was wearing? Well, he wanted my phone number and I wanted his shirt, so we proceeded to me un-parked on the curb in front of Fat Harold's. Right there on the sidewalk, he took off his shirt and handed it to me and got another one from the back seat of his car.

In 1980, I gave him my phone number, we kissed goodnight, and I walked off in the darkness back to Tilghman's thinking, "wow, he's really a nice guy and I liked his eyes." By the way I kept in his shirt that night and had a lot of explaining to do to my friends the next morning about how I

enjoyed it (We do love ourselves! Meet S.O.S. don't you?)

As I was driving home Monday, I wondered if I would ever see him. "my beautiful words with the man, my eyes" again. I didn't have to wonder for long because as I was pulling in my garage about 1 pm, I could hear my telephone ringing in the kitchen. When I ran to answer it, guess who? Smiling eyes! We talked on the phone a bit before our next meeting, which was about two weeks later, and we're still talking. Oddly enough, the distance between Atlanta and Charleston became shorter, and we became friends, life lovers.

I told you earlier that Vic was unique, right? He proposed to me on a weekend picnic September 22, 1981. It said, "Sandy, I love you. Will you marry me? Vic" (Actually, I think he wanted his shirt back.)

We made it official this February when he gave me an engagement ring. That happened between Mel Wilkins and Dr. Theodorium. I don't know if he planned it that way or not. We haven't set a date for our nuptials because we want to celebrate our first anniversary at Spring Safari before making further plans.

You know the really crazy part of this story? Neither Vic nor I had ever gone to S.O.S. looking for an expecting to find that "special someone." We went to most all friends, party, make new friends, party, dance, party, get some sun, party, and party. Last year we got something extra—something wonderful—each other! Thank you, S.O.S.

So, my fellow shaggers, shaggers, hoppers, etc., this year as you head on down for up to S.O.S., don't be surprised if you leave with more than just another special memory at the happy times we share at Ocean Drive, South Carolina. See you there!



Sandy Patterson and Vic Calvert

Many of you probably don't know that when Bob Wood was a young man, he worked as a butler for a wealthy couple. The wife was very beautiful and much younger than her husband. One evening they sat at the table but he sat last, but the young wife came toward another than expected.

"Bob," she said, "come to my room." He followed her. She closed the door and said, "Take off my shoes." He did so. "Now take off my stockings," she commanded. He rolled them down. "And off with my garters." He removed all of that too.

"Now, Bob," she said, looking him straight in the eye, "don't ever let me catch you wearing my clothes again!"



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Saturday, April 16

4 pm - BBQ Cookout

Sunday, April 17

8 pm - Kerry Michaels Band
 10 pm - close - Gary Bass

Monday, April 18

8 pm - 10 pm Gary Bass
 10 pm - close Judy Collins

Tuesday, April 19

8 pm - 10 pm Gary Bass
 10 pm - close David Gascoy

Wednesday, April 20

4 pm - 10th Annual Early Bird
 BBQ chicken & ribs

Wednesday (continued)

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Mike Lewis
 5 pm - 10 pm David Gascoy
 10 pm - close Judy Collins

Thursday, April 21

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Mike Lewis
 5 pm - 10 pm Roger Holcomb
 10 pm - close Terry Ellis

D.J.'s (Tent) Noon - 5 pm Jerry Mason
 5 pm - 10 pm Gary Bass
 10 pm - close Walter Upchurch

Friday, April 22

Noon - Rippe Records event

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Mike Lewis
 5 pm - 10 pm Roger Holcomb
 10 pm - close Gary Bass

D.J.'s (Tent) Noon - 5 pm Ed Timberlake
 5 pm - 10 pm Harold Beaver
 10 pm - close Birch Davidson

Saturday, April 23

1 pm - Bill of Hero Exhibitions

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Jack Mason
 5 pm - 9 pm Harold Beaver
 9 pm - 1 am Gary Bass

D.J.'s (Tent) Noon - 5 pm Walter Upchurch
 5 pm - 9 pm Tom Hamrick
 9 pm - 2 am Birch Davidson

Sunday, April 24

8 am - 1 pm Liquid Furniture with Beach

1 pm - Camp Kemo

9 pm - Kerry Michaels Band

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Roger Holcomb
 5 pm - 9 pm Walter Upchurch
 9 pm - 1 am Judy Collins

D.J. 11 am - 5 pm David Gascoy
 (Tent)

• Look for Marlene in the tent area •



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Sunday, April 17

5 pm - BBQ Cookout

Tuesday, April 19

8 pm - Heavy Horn'd'nesses

Wednesday, April 20

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Jerry Mason
 5 pm - 10 pm Chuck Waters
 10 pm - close Roger Holcomb

Thursday, April 21

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Birch Davidson
 5 pm - 10 pm Tom Hamrick
 10 pm - close Chuck Waters

Friday, April 22

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Chuck Waters
 5 pm - 10 pm Dave Roby
 10 pm - close David Gascoy

Saturday, April 23

4 pm - Heavy Horn'd'nesses

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Bob Foster
 5 pm - 9 pm Terry Ellis
 9 pm - 2 am Roger Holcomb

Sunday, April 24

D.J. Noon - 5 pm Chuck Waters



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Steppin' Out—the CSA Way

By Shank Drew

The Competitive Staggers Association (CSA) is just like any other stag club except that its members are from all over the Southeast and all of its members compete in contests. So we come from more or less competitions—making them fun for us and, hopefully, enjoyable to watch. Otherwise, we're just another stag club.

Over the years many non-competitors or "just for the fun of it" dancers have watched us competitive dancers practice and struggle and have joked with us good naturedly about our "serious" approach to stagging. Why do we do this? This article is an attempt on my part to explain the motivation of competitive stag dancers from my point of view.

To begin with, competitive stagging is not all work and no play. Some of us (Shank Drew in particular) think "practicing" the dance is actually fun! It can be challenging, and it's always great exercise and for most competitive dancers a certain amount of practice is necessary for a confident, professional performance. Great under pressure usually only comes if the dancer has practiced enough to know that if their nerves seize out and their brains fail them completely in their moment of need, hopefully something from practice will kick in and come to the rescue so their feet will move without being told what to do.

But "Why do we do this?" I'm sure the answer is different for each competitor. For basically I guess we all must have a bit of "horm" in us to want to get up in front of an audience and "perform" with the distinct possibility of making other folks of ourselves. The majority of us, in some manner or other over the years have humiliated ourselves by falling to the floor, dancing off beat, getting out of step, losing our clothes (shoes, belts, earrings, bracelets, etc.), spinning out of control, giving our partners an accidental blow to the head or elbow or the gut, or some other equally embarrassing move—all in the name of "performing." But even more so, that watching a stag contest is very much like watching a stock car race because every spectator is waiting for a wreck or similar catastrophe. And we, the dancers usually judge and provide at least one dramatic per contest—just for added entertainment, of course!

With the risks, however, come

the rewards. I don't mean money. I mean I met the stag dancers yet who can make a living from competition prize money! The real rewards are personal in nature. There are times when one partner is "on" and the other is not, but when you both are "on," and you have what you as a couple consider to be a great dance, the feeling is euphoric. It's a natural high. Of course, if the crowd loves it, too, you're on top of the world—at least until the next performance! So, to a lot of us, it's not whether we win, it's whether we like the way we dance and whether we please the audience. That's a great feeling of accomplishment when it happens.

"I guess we all must have a bit of 'horm' in us to want to get up in front of an audience and 'perform' with the distinct possibility of making other folks of ourselves."

I don't know how many staggers ever get addicted to competitive stag dancing, but I suspect a state with something a contest. We just recall a contest at Pat Jack's in Ocean Drive on Labor Day weekend in 1980 or 1981 when we initially became intrigued with the idea of performing. We had never seen a stag contest before. There were "amateur" people competing we had never heard of before: Cadillac Jack and Cassie Smith, Cool and Linda Squires, Babe Grant (although I remembered her from college) and DeWitt Hinson, Charles and Betty Jennings, and Charis and Ann Calcutt to name a few.

And over on the back then a lanky, loose-jointed guy named Charis was trying to teach his much younger and good-looking girlfriend, Jackie, how to dance. Now, I watched it five years later and said that "Charis" seems to be a good name at least in this dance!

Shad Alberty, another name new to us, was the Master of Ceremonies and when the DJ could get him to stop talking and hand over the microphone, each couple danced for the crowd. As Bill and I sat there cross-legged on the floor admiring the dancers executing their intricate steps while the audience clapped and whooped, we were bitten by the "staging bug." Although we actu-

ally first met at Sonny's Pavilion in Cherry Grove in 1964 "stepping the right way" and had been dancing ever since, we wanted to dance like the club guys, and that was a whole different ball game. Never mind that we didn't know a single "step" and never heard the jargon and lingo I had witnessed the competitors go through before they were called to the dance floor: nail biting, hand winging, floor paring, numerous trips to the bathroom and temper flare-ups. (I now am guilty of all of the above—in spades! It comes with the territory!) But in the end, as in all performing arts, the challenge, the excitement, and the sense of accomplishment make it worthwhile.

Competition as well as the dance, has changed a lot since that Labor Day contest at Pat Jack's. In those earlier contests there was a certain number of required steps which each couple had to execute. Today that is no longer the case. There seems to be a broad interest more individuality in each couple's routines. "Topline steps" have become more pervasive and more intricate and constantly more elaborate. . . . The younger generation definitely has had its influence! We now are judged on two categories during each dance: smoothness, tightness, and degree of difficulty, tempo, and execution—all to be performed in just 30 seconds (There's where the rub sometimes comes as I mentioned earlier.) Different people will give you different explanations as to the precise meaning of these five categories, and every competitive and judge is sure that he or she knows exactly what they mean and, equally important, how they are collected on a piece of music on.

"I think most competitive dancers want to make some contribution to stag dancing in general. As a part of the entertainment, we hope that we can bring some well-learned innovations to the dance and demonstrate alternative styles."

It's obviously pretty subjective, and that is why we always have five judges at each contest. Each of these five judges has an opinion of every couple's performance and how it ought to be graded (and of like the Olympics, but not as big a deal—maybe). There are certain built-in checks and balances in the scoring and regardless of whether you agree with the outcome in a particular contest, the system used is fair and has stood the test of time.

The competitors are still strong. Labor Day is still one of the biggest contests of the year, but Pat Jack's is now Fat Hamlet's and the moved up Main Street. Due to the growing number of participants in the past few years, CSA and the club members have decided to try a change to the contest format in 1994. Beginning with the Fall contest (the year of The Guard in Winter-Spring) (April 8-10), you'll see only top



John and Jean English

(rather than top) dancers by each couple in all three categories: Amateur, Novice, and Pro. The idea is to give everyone, spectators included, more time to party and "gild." Hopefully this will make current seasons even more fun for all.

In addition to participating in the contests, I think most competitive dancers want to make some contribution to stag dancing in general. As a part of the entertainment, we hope that we can bring some well-learned innovations to the dance and demonstrate alternative styles. Admittedly, these experiments aren't always good and they don't always "catch on," but we're sure the worse the having time! And that's the point of the fun for us. It's a tremendous compliment when someone in the audience picks up a move or two at a contest. I see kind pretty jazy chull on the floor at S.O.S. and other weekend gatherings, and I'd like to think that competitive dancing made some contribution.

Regardless of all the changes to the competitions and the dance, however, I am confident that I speak for all the competitive dancers when I say that to us, nothing is lovelier or more exciting than watching the stag danced by the masters who invented it, entered it, loved it, and still dance it their way today. They cut through all the amendments and keep everything in perspective. They are the originals and our true role models. May we all share the floor in friendship, which is ultimately the very best part of stag dancing—competitive or otherwise.

Hope to see you at some of these 1994 contests!

THINGS NOT TO SAY WHILE HAVING SEX



1994 CSA CONTESTS

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| May 20-22 | Waynes, Irma, SC |
| May 27-29 | Ducks, N. Myrtle Beach, SC |
| June 10-12 | Guava, Greenbush, NC |
| July 8-10 | Fat Hamlet's, N. Myrtle Beach, SC |
| September 2-4 | Fat Hamlet's, N. Myrtle Beach, SC |
| October 7-9 | The Guard, Winston-Salem, NC |
| October 21-23 | Looker's, Raleigh, NC |
| October 26-30 | Ducks, N. Myrtle Beach, SC |
| CSA/Club Owners' Fun Halloween Weekend! | |
| November 11-13 | Courtney's, Atlantic Beach, NC |
| November 18-20 | Waynes, Irma, SC |
| To Be Announced | Nature's, Fayetteville, NC |
| To Be Announced | Stationers, Ocean Isle, NC |

If your club would like to hold a CSA contest, please contact Bill and Shank Drew at (704) 364-5130 or (803) 246-4311 or Cole and Kathy Benfield at (919) 552-3921.



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EDITORIAL

Shag Music: The Debate Goes On

by John Harper, South Shaggers of Birmingham

"You can't change the music of your soul." — Katherine Hepburn
"Nor should you change the soul of your music!" — Anonymous

The debate about Shag music is an ongoing endeavor—a contest. It seems like the only thing we do, we run it, discuss it, and debate it to death. I have heard so many definitions of beach and Shag music that I have concluded that the more words I use, the more I'm wrong. It's like when a poet once said about pornography: "I can't define it, but I know it when I see it." Well, I don't think I can really define "Shag music," but I surely do know it when I hear it. Anyway, I hope you will please to have led on the Shag trail to get in his two cents on the subject.

I think—and I think most Shaggers agree—that Shag and R&B are the heart and soul of Shag music. If that ever changes, I sure the Shag will lose its identity and Shaggers will lose their, too. In fact, I suspect this wonderful way of life, at least as we know it now, would come to a halt with R&B.

"More than anything, R&B generates an uncontrollable desire to move with the music—in pure vertical expression to our horizontal lives."

R&B including all its variations—jazz, blues, etc.—is essentially the folk music of Black America. Shaggers will be eternally indebted to them for leading us into magnificent music. The country music, R&B has its roots in struggle and strife. Naturally, it has roots in gospel and the blues of yesteryear. To its people it provided escape, often in songs with a theme like "Cool River" (70's).

R&B is rooted with love-making rhythm and deep emotion. It basically speaks of what was once forbidden. It leads us to promises it is not made for real people. R&B lives in our imaginations, creating it all in our most innocent youth. When we love R&B, we tend to find the slightest similarities, allowing our real selves and some of our past

fantasy to surface. More than anything, R&B generates an uncontrollable desire to move with the music—in pure vertical expression to our horizontal lives.

Shag music has changed from time to time and has often included more other than R&B. It seems that lately, it has increasingly come to include a bit of that archaic bit of that. We can stay in country music, the little Southern rhythm and the New Orleans to a fifteen minute spot, which is a tribute to the remarkable versatility of a spiritual Jesus. Obviously, we love it, especially at 2:30 a.m. when our feet and legs are weary for we see why down here in Alabama—"were you out?" I think? We love it. It is so uptight and so dogmatic easy to dance to. Nevertheless, neither music since the depths of our musical desires who Shaggers are like R&B.

With the wide variety of music being played comes certain desire, often complaining and down-right hating, about much of the music we hear at clubs and shows. The example, when I was first involved in Shagging about five years ago (after having my mind everything years), I was amazed that lots of folks, especially deepies, just down some of the older music like Little Red Book as being "bitchy-give beach", yet others still love this music as much today as they ever did (and I am one of them).

Some folks today insist that the blues is the real Shag music and even refer music as a bit "southern." Others will play any song, no matter how good or bad or how danceable, as long as it comes from their own favorite category or artist. Some people complain that the deepies, who live all this wonderful music for us, play too many bargains or even bad songs. OK, as one S.O.S.'er said to me last fall, "The deepies are playing for each other, each trying to show that he or she has the true Shag music sense."

Some say the "deepies" are lowering West music. Others, like me, lament the steadily increasing popularity of Shag music caused by its strange popularity

of R&B and the advent of CDs. To us this causes the top 25 chart to turn over much too fast. We are forced to move up to the very small label we get that of the old.

I suppose this kind of opinion debate has gone on for years and will continue forever. After all, Shaggers are a diverse group, representing four all parts of the country and, in essence, from all walks of life.

"To us this causes the top 25 chart to turn over much too fast. We are forced to move up to the very small label we get that of the old."

An dancer, most of us have always been Shaggers. Some of us are converted hipsters, jivebusters, and swingers. Some of us have not converted our dance steps, but simply love the Shagging way of life. From this diverse group comes a diversity of musical taste.

There is strength in diversity, and diversity makes things interesting. Too much diversity can also alienate and even destroy. To illustrate, to me there is a world of dancing difference between Big Alvin's Max and Dirty Records. The former will always symbolize Shag; the latter never will, no matter how the latter. I feel we are losing the major spirit of Shag music. It is not that I dislike the variety of music (stemming from diversity) is necessarily bad. It just seems to me that we need more boundaries before we go too far. Within reasonable bounds, everyone can be accommodated, and Shaggers can retain their unique identities.

What are those bounds? For me they are pretty loose. First, I hope we stick to the stronger songs. There is simply too much great music—old and new—for us to have to suffer through the weak, the marginal, the obscure, and the obviously out-of-place. What is a strong song? To me, the answer is simple, almost too simple. A strong Shag song is one that a Shagger gets around humming, singing, and whistling it

and, more importantly, that will propel almost anyone from a the local into the dance floor. The mixtures of these songs will vary from place to place, often depending upon the musical experience of our youth. What is the best Shag music for Birmingham, Alabama is not necessarily the best for Hickory, North Carolina or Virginia Beach, Virginia or Tampa Bay, Florida. What may work at S.O.S. where, born on the dance floor at the more popular spots is a precious commodity and we will dance to almost anything! may not work back home.

Second, I think we should stick primarily (but not exclusively) to R&B. To me, it represents who we are and what we are about. Even with our differences, R&B is the thread that binds us together. As long as we stick primarily to the traditional, I think we can appreciate some of our other differences, rather than arguing about the music. Arguing just gets in the way of fun. What we are doing is simply too darned much fun to have any distractions!

So, can the best "Shag music" be defined? I don't think I can do it (but if my feet could talk, they would probably murmur something about "R&B").

A Touch of Humor

contributed by Dick Newberry

Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows that it must run faster than the fastest lion, or it will be killed.

Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle; when the sun comes up, you'd better be running!

(Adapted from Cyprien Goussier's "Lion and Gazelle" from "The Lion and the Gazelle" by Cyprien Goussier, 1973)

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PERSONALITIES

But The Legend Lives On... by Van Williams

On September 9, 1983, the shag world lost another of its "old soldiers." Lee Higgins of Fayetteville was no doubt best known for his dancing (although he was a great shagger). But for being the "father" of unquestionably the most grandiose private shag party ever held, the annual "Old Times Party," held in Fayetteville each November, had its humble beginnings as a birthday party for Lee in 1981.

Last year, in response to his lovely wife Gayle's perennial question, "What would you like for your birthday this year?" Lee jokingly replied that he would like to throw a party for all the "old times" he had known when he was younger and when his favorite hangout was "The Pad" at Ocean Drive. I don't think Lee ever suspected that Gayle would set out to accomplish the formidable task, but the results are history.

With the help of a select group of friends (who would collectively become known as the "Old Times"), Gayle tracked down an army of North Summ from Lee's younger days and these one of the most important parties for her husband's birthday. Lee took an immediate interest that first event that he would if he never received another gift in his life, this was enough. He hastened to add, however, "Why can't we do this every year?" A legend was born.

Since that time, the annual "Old Times Party" grew to be the quiri-

ousness shagger event. Attendance was in attendance only, and to be invited to the great life was a distinction indeed. Each year the party grew, and as shag's prominent reputation to attract became one of the most coveted trophies to shaggers, eagerly awaited by each guest.

Last year's extravaganza was housed in the Granite Ballroom of the Howard Johnson Convention Center of Fayetteville and was attended by nearly one thousand revelers. Yes, I said "thousand"! The party was extended to two nights, Friday and Saturday, and a Sunday morning (celebration) function.

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing about "Old Times" is that it remained an "invitation only" party and was put on each year at no cost charge to all its guests. Once inside, you were treated to a feast of fancy food (courses that would make any chef proud) many prepared by the Old Times themselves. Although the Old Times would never discuss the cost of this event, it had to be staggering and was borne steadily by those putting on the event.

I first met Lee and Gayle Higgins at Shag Expositions in 1985, and we all had such a great time that Shirley and I were honored with our first invitation. We never suspected at the time that "Old Times" would become the only event we ever looked forward to more than S.O.S. We came to know all the Old Times themselves—Pepe and Pat, Edgar and Myrtle, Barney and Lynette,

Ray and Melissa, Pat and Cheryl, and, of course, Lee and Gayle.

The image of Lee—smooth, graceful, and deviously handsome—mingling effortlessly with all his many guests will never fade from my mind. I will always see his crooked smile and remember his "short member" jokes. Lee was over six feet tall, yet it wasn't his height he was always poking fun at. His pride in being able to bring so many happy people together in one place always shone in his face.

An unexpected heart attack claimed the youngest "old timer" I have ever known; and I, like so many others, will surely miss him. I can guarantee you one thing, though: We will all have private

memories when we fight back the years over his loss, but come this November, we will party like hell and celebrate his birthday like never before. Lee Higgins will live in our hearts and minds forever. The annual "Old Times Party" will be with his legacy and our tribute to him.

—Greatest, Lee! Thank you for watching our lives!

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a memorial column and part of the "Old Times" series of the Lee Beach Shag Club and with the members of Lee Beach, North Carolina, Send \$100 and Christmas Friendship Ring Order.



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Local Group Protects Baby Sea Turtles

Hi to all S.O.S. Members.

There is a group of shaggers who live along the coast that do other things besides "shagging on the Strand," such as helping our environment.

I live in Hixson Isle Beach, North Carolina, just north of Myrtle Beach, and I am part of a group that takes care of the large sea turtles that come to lay their eggs in the spring and summer. I am talking about from 100 pound turtles to 1200 pound leather back turtles.

After they lay their eggs, we are responsible for marking off their nesting areas with dental signs stating that if you disturb this area, there is a fine of \$10,000 and a jail sentence. We put a wire net over the area, stake it down, and put a rope around it to keep deer that walk the area at night, hawks, raccoons, etc.—but mainly man—from digging up the nests and removing the eggs.

I am the co-ordinator for Ocean Isle Beach, and it takes a lot of time to get together with groups, schools, and volunteers. I adopt the middle of the nest to interested groups or individuals who donate their time to the program.

After the eggs are laid, the female turtle goes back to sea, never to be seen again in the area in the baby months. This is why we have groups in coral and watch the nests after the 30th day. Usually around the 55th to the 65th day (depending upon the weather), the baby turtles start to hatch. They then make what we call a beach.

Then the fun starts! You will have from 85 to 200 baby turtles emerge from the sand. Our job is to see that they go down a protective trench without getting picked up by the birds or crabs on the beach. They follow a special light that we have for them. We use this light because years ago there were not many

beach lamps on the continent so the turtles would go straight to the moonlight and out to sea. But now it is different. They are waiting until they will get out to the first light they see, which could be a street light, a house light, etc. because they lay out on their way trying to find the water.

Over the babies are in the water, our job is still not done. We walk the beach at sea if the waves bring them back to the beach, then we strive once more to get them back beyond the waves. They are believed to make a journey of thousands of miles in the Gulf Stream before they return in 15 years to lay their eggs on the exact beach where they were hatched.

Our program is worthwhile. I, along with our volunteers, talk to a lot of visitors who have their children and grandchildren with them. They get very excited about our program and return year after year to see this special event. We are a non-profit organization, and all donations help us buy the wire, stakes, rope, etc. So if you want to help us, either with your time or money donation, we would appreciate it. We are trying to keep the program going so that your children's children can see what we are doing now.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the Spring S.O.S. If we can be of any help by sending literature for your child to present in a program in their school, feel free to contact us.

It is fun to be known as the "turtle lady" who never rests. Her shagging is fun, so, so on the front of my tank car I have a plate that says, "Turtle Patrol 1," and the back plate says, "The Strip." I try to combine the two together and have a lot of fun with both.

With respect to all, — Cleo Lee

Ocean Isle Beach Turtle Watch Program
Gladys Jean Hixsonburg, Co-ordinator
P.O. Box 8127 • Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28549
(910) 574-9311

Spanish Galleon



NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

Spring S.O.S. 1994

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Friday, April 15 | 6 p.m. to close — John Wilson |
| Saturday, April 16 | 8 p.m. to close — Ted Whitlock |
| Sunday, April 17 | 8 p.m. to close — Van Williams |
| Monday, April 18 | 3 p.m. to close — John Wilson |
| Tuesday, April 19 | 8 p.m. to close — Mike Lewis |
| Wednesday, April 20 | 4 p.m. — Free Hot Hots d'ouverts 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. — John Wilson 8 p.m. to close — Joanne Johnson |
| Thursday, April 21 | None to 8 p.m. — Jerry Holland 3 p.m. — Free Hot Hots d'ouverts 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. — Jack Moore 9 p.m. to close — Mike Lewis |
| Friday, April 22 | None to 4 p.m. — Jack Moore 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. — Joanne Johnson 9 p.m. to close — Debbie Dee Keys |
| Saturday, April 23 | None to 4 p.m. — Sid Prott 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. — Jerry Holland 9 p.m. to close — Debbie Dee Keys |
| Sunday, April 24 | None to 5 p.m. — Van Williams 3 p.m. — Free Hot Hots d'ouverts 5 p.m. to close — Ted Whitlock |

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S.O.S. Carefree Times
19 Spring Safari 94



DJ Schedule

Wed. April 20

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Muri Augustini
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Ed Timberlake
9 p.m. - close
Walter Upchurch

Thurs. April 21

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Walt Medical
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Judy Collins
9 p.m. - close
Steve Baker

Fri. April 22

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Floyd Robinson
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sid Pruitt
10 p.m. - close
Judy Collins

Sat. April 23

Noon - 5 p.m.
Boat Army
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Floyd Robinson
9 p.m. - close
Walter Upchurch

Sun. April 24

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Muri Augustini

WELCOME BACK

To The
19 Spring Safari 94



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Electric Lemonade \$10
White Russians \$12

**Large wooden
dance floor**

Events

Wed. April 20

"Get off on
the right foot"
Party with us
4 - 6 p.m.
Hors d'oeuvres

**Thurs. April 21
Smoothies Contest**

2 p.m.
with WRDX Phil Kerr
Sign up 1 p.m.
Prizes 1st & 2nd place

Fri. April 22

5 - 7 p.m.
Bar B Que

Sat. April 23

12 Noon
Don't Miss It
Party with WRDX
4 - 6 p.m.
Hors d'oeuvres

Sun. April 24

12 Noon
Free Sunshine

**A/C Lounge & Arcade
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SHAG WORKSHOPS**

Spring 1994

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Shag Couple of the Decade

**Technique and
Mirror Patterns**

Thursday, April 21, 1994 Friday, April 22, 1994

DUCKS*

11:00 a.m.

HAROLD'S

10:30 a.m.

*Free pour for participants immediately
following workshop conclusion.

\$10.00 per person

Register 10:30 at Ducks and 10:00 at Harold's



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19 Spring Safari 94



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BASICS PLUS

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Basic | Belly Roll |
| Close-up Basic | Triple Basic Pattern |
| Slide | Triple Basic with Double |
| Female Under Arm Turn | Female Turn |
| Male Under Arm Turn | Knoback with Turn |
| Male Double Under Arm Turn | Single Walk |
| Female Double Under Arm Turn | Side Single Walk with |
| Slide Foot | Lean |
| Shag Pivot | Flaky Approach |
| Breakaway | |

TAPE I

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Power Walk-up | Power Walk-up with |
| Arch | Single Walk |
| Slide Step | Arch with Male Turn |
| Tuck | Backwalk into Pivot |
| Ball | Side Pivot |
| Circle | Side Spread with |
| Arm Up Turn | Backwalk Step |

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| BEST OF... 8 tapes | @ 24.95 ea. | |
| Set of all three... 8 sets | @ 64.95 ea. | |
| | | Tape Total 5.00 |
| | | Shipping/Handling |
| | | (Georgia residents add 6% sales tax) |
| | | TOTAL |

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1994 Spring Safari of S.O.S.

Broadcast Schedule



Come join the Beach 106 personalities "Dr." John Hook, Boo Barron, Stevey B, Mike Wayne, Kitty Keebler, and Phil Kehr and be a part of this year's S.O.S. while they broadcast live back to the "Carolina Class Country Club" on "The Official Radio Station of S.O.S.!"

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

7-10 pm live from DUCKS with Norfleet Jones

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

7-10 pm live from DUCKS with Norfleet Jones

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

7-10 pm live from DUCKS with Norfleet Jones

MONDAY, APRIL 18

7-9 am and 4-6 pm live from DUCKS

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

7-9 am and 4-6 pm live from the MEMORY LANE in Cherry Grove with Donny and Susan Trexler

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

7-9 am and 4-6 pm live from the MEMORY LANE in Cherry Grove with Donny and Susan Trexler

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

7-9 am and 4-6 pm live from the O.D. ARCADE & LOUNGE with Elaine Hunter
8-10 pm live Association of Carolina Shag Clubs broadcast from the O.D. ARCADE & LOUNGE

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

7-9 am and 4-6 pm live from the O.D. ARCADE & LOUNGE with Elaine Hunter

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

12 noon-3 pm live from the O.D. ARCADE & LOUNGE with Elaine Hunter

THURSDAY AFTERNOON (4/21) — THE BEACH 106 "SMOOTHIES CONTEST"
at the O.D. ARCADE & LOUNGE (Registration 1-2 pm — Contest 2-4 pm)

FRIDAY AFTERNOON (4/22) — THE BEACH 106 "VOLLEYBALL CONTEST"
12 noon-3 pm on the beach in front of the SPANISH GALLEON