

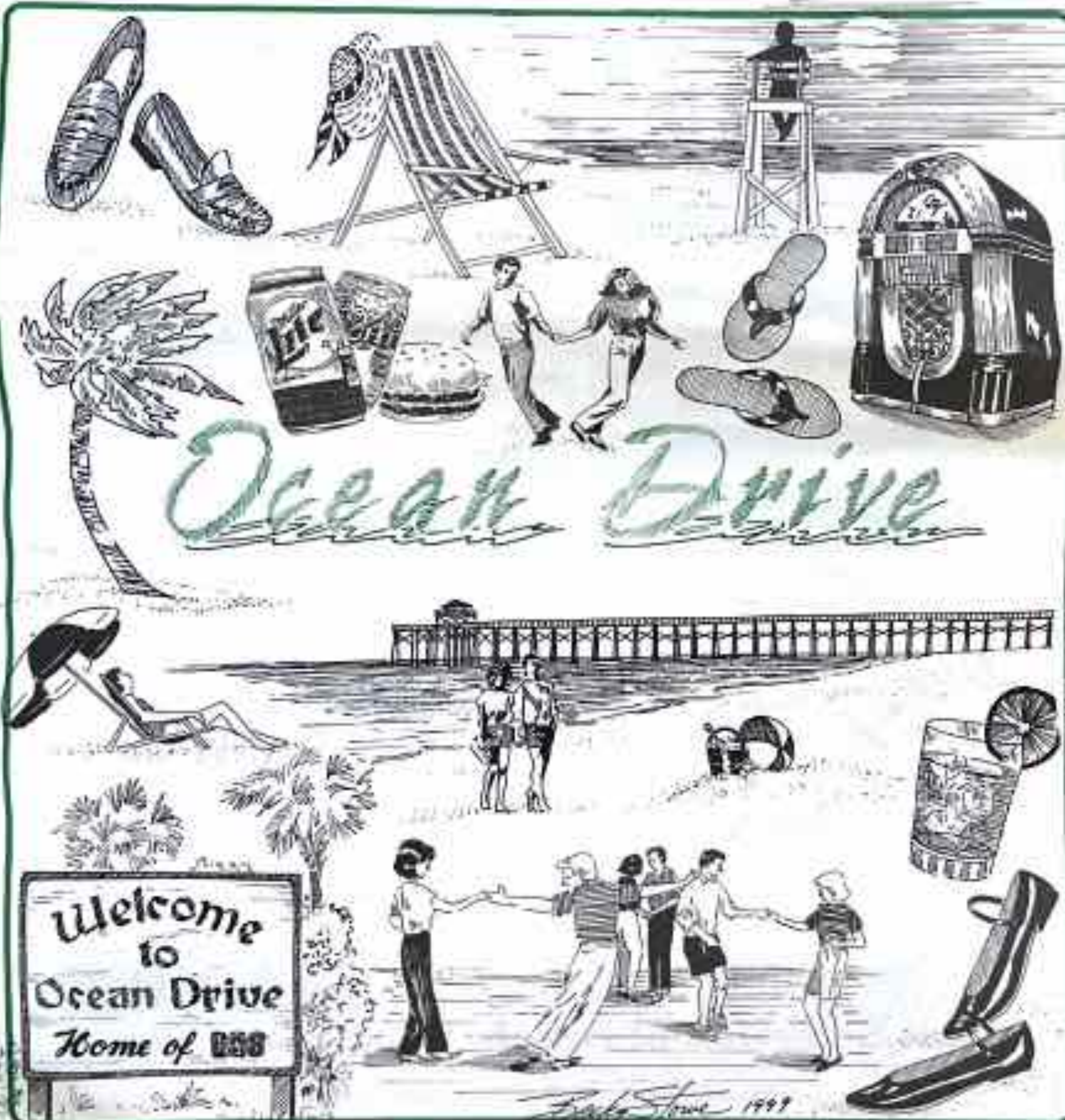


S.O.S.[®]



Carefree Times

19 Spring Safari 99



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 It's Gonna Rain - Coattles
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 Stagger Lee - The Exaltin' Leger with Kifford Curry,
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 Beautiful Lover - C. L. Blue
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 Shake, Rattle and Roll - Soul Patrol (Wanda
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 Maybe Someday Baby - Dalbert McClain
 Memphis Women and Children - Don Fern
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 Since I've Been Loving You - Alexander O'Neal
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 - Carrie Lucas
 Hot Red Sweater - Jay Bodnar

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 I Gave My Love in Cherry - The Men of Distinction
 39-21-45 Shape - Arville Bell & The Drifts
 Remedy - The Band
 Miss Grace - Orleans
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 Sweetening Soul Love - The Impressions
 Louise Louise Blue - Axel Zwingenberger &
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Carefree Times
19 Spring Safari 99



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Welcome, Y'all

Message from the Chairman of the S.O.S. Board



Ron and Peggy Wiseman

Welcome all S.O.S. members! Welcome to the beauty of spring and the wonderful moments and experiences that will come with S.O.S. Spring Safari 1999. It is my pleasure to welcome each and every one of you, our members, to beautiful Ocean Drive Beach, the home of S.O.S.

This should be another great year for us in many ways. We have been very fortunate in our past S.O.S. times to have great weather, for the

most part. We have ordered the best that the weatherman can promise—sunshine, warm days, fun-filled nights with old and new friends, and shagging in our favorite beach clubs. It just don't get any better than this.

Remember to be respectful of the rules and regulations of the community and to use common courtesy while being a guest in North Myrtle Beach. We have always been welcome here, so let us show our appreciation for what the community, town officials, and clubs do for our members in providing us a beautiful place for our party.

If any of the S.O.S. Board members can be of service or help to you in any way while you are here, please let us know. Use the Company Store as a communication center and to purchase your official S.O.S. wear, memorabilia, and souvenirs.

Let the party begin! — Ron Wiseman, Chairman, S.O.S.

Message from the City of North Myrtle Beach

Dear Strangers: On behalf of the city of North Myrtle Beach and the Department of Public Safety, a cordial welcome is extended to our visiting shaggers and strangers for the 1999 S.O.S. Spring Safari.

We will do our best in serving you in public safety endeavors. Please feel free to call upon us if we can assist you to make your stay more pleasant.

Being new to the area, I have learned about the S.O.S. tradition and the state's official dance, the shag. I support the Spring Safari, the

Fall Migration, and the Mid-Winter gatherings, with festivals and parades, as positive events for our community.

The North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety is very appreciative of the \$6,000 S.O.S./A.C.S.C. contribution to our community-oriented policing program for the purchase of a 1999 Club Car D5 golf cart. The cart will be used primarily for the Police Waterfront Patrol around the "Horseshoe" area whereas to enhance our night patrol.

Our department is committed to the concept of community-oriented policing that is designed to prevent and combat crime by the involvement and interaction of citizens, groups like S.O.S., and law enforcement, harmoniously working together in community partnership and problem-solving.

Please take a look at the new cart during the Spring Safari. A decorative plate has been attached to the cart that



S.O.S. Board presents golf cart to Sgt. Fred Morris of the North Myrtle Beach Police Department

(Please see next column)

Message from the A.C.S.C. Chairman

The 1999 S.O.S. Spring Safari has arrived! Whether you like to "be here when the gate opens and leave when it is relocked" or you are just here for a few days, I hope you have a memorable visit to the beach.

The year 1999 marks the tenth anniversary of when the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs purchased S.O.S. I would like to thank the previous A.C.S.C. Officers and S.O.S. Board Members, as well as all the other unselfish volunteers in the shag community who helped get us to where we are today. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you. Thank you!

Despite starting out small, S.O.S. is now blessed to have seven lounges participating in our events. These lounges, their managers, and their owners all help perpetuate S.O.S., our music, and our dance by supporting and participating in our events each year. For these reasons, we owe these facilities and these people our thanks. When you see them during the week, be sure to let them know how much you appreciate what they are doing.

As S.O.S. has grown, it has become possible to offer more to its members. S.O.S. now provides tram service, the free food you find in the lounges during the week, this paper, and many more benefits.

But S.O.S. continues to work hard to make S.O.S. membership and S.O.S. events even better. The Spring S.O.S. Parade and the Fall S.O.S. Fun Monday events are just two more recent examples of this effort.

I encourage you to help out and to share any ideas you have to help make our organizations and our events even better. And if you can, please consider offering some of your time and effort to the S.O.S. Enhancement Committee. You won't find a better or more motivated group of shaggers!

One of the biggest keys to S.O.S. continues to be the support that it gets from the 110+ organizations

and the 15,000+ individuals in the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. The Association may well be the foundation for what we now call "the shag world."

If you are not a member of a local shag club, you are missing out. In addition to the discounts offered to members of local clubs, there are many opportunities for fun and festivities that can only be obtained through club membership. Each shag club has its own direction and personality. But they all offer you a chance to meet some new friends and enjoy a lot more shag dancing and shag music. I encourage you to become more involved with a local club. The listing on the back cover of this paper will give you some contacts.

An even better source of information about these clubs is our web site, www.shagdance.com. The shagdance site is also the only place on the web for official, up-to-date information about the A.C.S.C. and S.O.S. People visit shagdance for club information, party information, to find lounges that feature beach nights, for shag music listings. Use shag world news, to check on the weather at the beach, and for many other tidbits of information. It's great!

In the first 16 months of its existence, shagdance has been visited over 40,000 times. It's free, it's fun and there are no strings attached. So, what are you waiting for? You can even help out by sending us a note on the shagdance site when you have some news to share or a suggestion as to how to make the site better.

As you can tell, the shag world is growing bigger and stronger, and you are an important part of that growth. For now, have fun at the S.O.S. Spring Safari. I hope I get to talk to you this week and to see you again in September for the Fall Migration. — Mike Rink, Chairman, The Association of Carolina Shag Clubs

Rescue Squad Always Alert Shaggers Often Assisted

Shag and party away S.O.S.ers—there's a guardian angel always looking over your shoulder, ready to help you if you need it.

The North Myrtle Beach Rescue Squad, with two state-of-the-art ambulances completely equipped with space age technology and a completely equipped extraction truck, is just seconds away.

Staffed by fully trained personnel, all volunteers provide needed emergency service without cost. These modern Good Samaritans give 25 to 40 hours a month of their

time and willingly risk their lives to help perfect strangers.

Voted the Best Rescue Squad in South Carolina in 1997, the squad was later voted Best Rescue Squad in the Nation in 1997. It boasts of having the Paramedic of the Year in South Carolina for 1998.

The Rescue Squad is just one of the many ways the local community serves the shaggers and strangers. We can all enjoy ourselves all the more knowing that such dedicated and professional medical people are watching over us.

commemorates the important gift. We are proud of the gift, and thanks again for the donation and continued support.

We wish you a very enjoyable

stay with us in beautiful North Myrtle Beach.

Sincerely,
— David A. King, Director,
Department of Public Safety



S.O.S. / A.C.S.C. NEWS

Expect the Best Parade Ever!

It's that magical time of year again ... spring! And with spring comes the first 10 days of S.O.S. And with those 10 days of S.O.S. comes the greatest parade to ever travel down the streets of CD.

Yes, it's the 5th Annual A.C.S.C./S.O.S. Spring Safari Parade, Saturday, April 24th at 2 p.m.

This year will be the biggest and best ever. Floats, marching troops, cars, trucks, golf carts—you name it—will be filled with club members,

celebrities, personalities, deejays, etc. And for the second year in a row, the clubs will again be competing for cash awards in addition to trophies.

For the first time, a professional video company will be on hand to film the parade and the crowds. Be there on the second Saturday at 2 p.m. on Main Street and become a part of shagging history!

—Doo Doo,
S.O.S. Parade Chairman

Important Notice About Your S.O.S. Membership Card

S.O.S. membership cards that have been lost, stolen, forgotten, misplaced, or that have suffered any form of destruction will not be replaced. In addition, refunds will not be given for replacements which are purchased.

Please be careful with your S.O.S. Membership Card! Treat it as you would any other important document. Keep it in a safe place and

assure that you bring it with you when you come to S.O.S.

To reduce incidents of lost or stolen cards, cards should not be worn attached to clothing during the Spring Safari and Fall Migration. Cards should be protected by carrying in pockets, wallets, or purses.

Please remember, cards will not be replaced for any reason.

This Newspaper ...

... Was promulgated at no cost to S.O.S., thanks to the fine advertisers contained herein. We urge you to support these generous advertisers whenever you are in need of their goods or services.

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The staff of the S.O.S. Carefree Times would like to thank all of our readers who contributed articles, poems, photos, and other items of interest for publication in this issue. We couldn't have done it without you!

We think you'll find this issue one of the most enjoyable ever, and we wish there had been more space to include everyone's contributions.

The deadlines for submissions for upcoming issues are shown at right. The Carefree Times production staff

adheres strictly to these deadline dates, and the sooner submissions are received, the more likely that they will be published. The Carefree Times reserves the right to edit all submissions for content and copyediting purposes.

Send submissions to:
Michael Payne, Editor
7528 Arlington Expressway 4806
Jacksonville, Florida 32211

Email submissions are also welcomed at: socstimes@aol.com
(Please see next column)

S.O.S. Announces New Tram Schedule

Tram service is a valuable benefit of your S.O.S. membership, provided by the Society of Strangers for the safety and convenience of its members. S.O.S. is pleased to announce a new schedule for the 1999 Spring Safari.

Tram service will be available on Friday and Saturday of the first weekend (April 16 - 17) and then from Wednesday through Saturday during the following week (April 21 - 24).

The trams will run starting at 5:00 p.m. on these days and continue for as long as needed.

The Coastal Rapid Transit Authority (CRTA) trams travel up and down Ocean Boulevard. They go as far North as Cherry Grove and as far South as Windy Hill. Each round trip takes between 20 and 30 minutes. Please be patient.

Because we want you, the card carrying members of S.O.S., to get

the best service, the following rules have been established:

- You must have a current S.O.S. membership card to ride the trams.
- Trams will not wait for anyone for any extended period at any stop. No fare is charged to ride the



trams; however tipping is certainly allowed if you are so inclined.

Please take care of these drivers and all of the people who help make your visit to North Myrtle Beach enjoyable.

More specific details about the Carefree Times advertising deadline policies are found on our Advertisement Order form (which must accompany each ad order).

Forms may be requested by emailing socstimes@aol.com or by phoning Michael Payne at (904) 724-

9024 or Janet Harrold at (803) 249-4667.

We recommend that your advertising plans be formulated well in advance of these deadline dates so that we can do our best job for you and be sure your ad will be included.

"S.O.S. Carefree Times" Deadlines

EDITION	DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION
Summer Mailout 1999	May 21	June 21
Fall Migration 1999	August 13	September 10
Winter Mailout 1999	November 19	December 20

From the Winter Workshop ...

The S.O.S. Entertainment Committee with their Casey Award for Fun Monday



L.R. John Grubbs, Ron Whisenant, Marthe McNelly, and Chuck Ward, John Marthe, and Chuck were elected to fill three of the ten seats on the S.O.S. Board. Ron was elected by the entire Board to serve as Chairman.



The Very FIRST Shag Party



At the end of 1999, there will be a New Year's Eve Party to remember brought to you by the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs, Ducks, Ducks Too, Harold's, The O.D. Cafe, The O.D. Arcade, and The Pirate's Cove.

Starting on Thursday, December 30, and going through Sunday, January 2, this four-day event is your chance to be part of history. This will be the first shag party at Ocean Drive in the year 2000. People will be talking about this event for years to come.

Ocean Drive has been an important part of our lives, and it will be important to all of us for many years to come. So, if you stop and think about it, O.D. is the obvious choice for shaggers looking for a special location to celebrate the start of the next 1000 years.

There are about 11,000 S.O.S. members and roughly 15,000 people in the Association of Carolina Shag

Clubs. But only 3,000 tickets will be sold to this event. This means demand for tickets will be very high.

But by limiting this event to 3,000 people, all ticket holders can be in one of the participating lounges (if they want to be) when the clock strikes 12 midnight. So if you want to attend, you need to get your ticket now! All your friends will be here! Will you?

You have probably seen advertisements for various Millennium packages at various locations. Prices for these packages range from \$600 - \$4500, depending on location. Fortunately, your ticket to this event at O.D. will only cost you \$75.

There will not be any single day passes, nor will you be able to pay a cover charge to get in these lounges. The only way to get in during these four days will be with an official Millennium party ticket.

The keepsake card (ticket) that you will get will entitle you to unlimited access to the six lounges named above during these four days. Champagne and party favors for midnight will be provided in the lounges on New Year's Eve.

A display is also being planned

for the horseshoe for those who want to be outside the moment midnight arrives.

And there is much, much more. There will even be a Super Saturday Party in the streets, featuring several beach, boogie, and blues bands and a "headline" entertainer you will not want to miss.

The tickets to the Millennium Party will be numbered and will be suitable for framing after use. Many people want one of the first few tickets to this event. We have decided to raffle off the first ten tickets (01-10) on the last Saturday of Fall S.O.S.

Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 each at The S.O.S. Company Store. Drop by today and get yours. You could be #1 at the first party of the year 2000.

More details are being finalized as we go to press. But don't wait for final details. Order your tickets today.

Send \$75 per ticket along with your name(s), mailing address(es), and phone number(s) to:

A.C.S.C.
P.O. Box 4688
Columbia, SC 29204

If any tickets are still available after 10/1/99, they will cost \$100 each.

For more details and regular updates about this event, visit www.shagdance.com.

A Thank You Note

Dear Shaggers, Swingers, Boppers, and all other generous friends:

I want each and every one of you to know that your kindness and generosity overwhelmed me! It is certainly nice to know that I was thought of in such a loving way.

My back surgery is still keeping me from dancing, let alone doing a boogie walk! I'm coming along too slow to suit me. Believe it or not, I am actually still a lot of the day!

God bless each and every one of you for thinking of me during this time. Hope to see all of you soon.

Love, — Joanne Johnson

S.O.S./A.C.S.C. • 2000 • S.O.S./A.C.S.C. • 2000 • S.O.S./A.C.S.C. • 2000

Not getting your mail-out "Carefree Times"?

It could be that we could not read your application. We will have a printout of all S.O.S. memberships at

The Company Store
211 Main St.

Stop by and make sure we have your correct information.

1999 S.O.S. Membership Application

Includes mailed out issues of the S.O.S. Carefree Times • Photocopies are acceptable

Name: (1) _____ Male Female

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (day) (____) _____ (night) (____) _____

Were you an S.O.S. member in 1998? Yes No Are you a member of a shag club? Yes No

Name: (2) _____ Male Female

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (day) (____) _____ (night) (____) _____

Were you an S.O.S. member in 1998? Yes No Are you a member of a shag club? Yes No

() Memberships @ \$35 ea. - Total due: \$ _____ S.O.S. / Box 4688 / Columbia, SC 29204

METHOD OF PAYMENT: CHECK CASH VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS

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Because we mail via bulk mail, if you move and don't tell us or if your address is incomplete, you will not receive your mail-out S.O.S. Carefree Times issues.

Please fill out this change of address form and return to: Pat Smith, 407 Ivy Circle, Anderson, SC 29621. A photocopy is okay.

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Post Office Box 933
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29587

The Ocean Drive Shag Club would like to welcome you to Spring Safari. There will be many activities—especially our First Annual ODSC Member Only Breakfast on Sunday, April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the OD Arcade. Other invited guests are all deejays and their guests and the S.O.S. Board members.

We also have a Three Men and a Lady Golf Tournament on June 19 at Eagle Nest. The entry fee is \$35 per person, and there will be a Captain's Choice, lots of refreshments, door prizes, and cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Places. Come back and join us!

Our traditional Fall Migration Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, September 25 also at the Eagle Nest Golf Club. This will be our 9th Annual Tournament, and we hope to see you there.

— Alan McGowan, (843) 249-7446

The OD Shag Club will be hosting a private breakfast for all OD Shag Club members and their guests on Sunday, April 18 at the OD Arcade from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for all of those out-of-town members to join us local members and get to know one another. What better way to start S.O.S.!

Membership cards are required, and please wear your name tag if you have one. Breakfast will be catered by the Todd House—yummy! Screwdrivers, bloody marys, greyhounds, and beer will be provided by our club. We hope to see you there.

— Becki David, OD Shag Club Board Member



presents



3 Men & A Lady Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 19, 1999-Eagle Nest Golf Club
Tea Times beginning at 8:30 AM

ENTRY FEE: \$35 Per Player

Includes cart, green fee, breakfast (coffee, juice, Bloody Marys and sometimes an extra hot sandwich at the host's following play)

ENTRY DEADLINE: Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Players and entry fees to be received as soon as possible. It will help in hole plans and a better experience for all participants.

FORMAT: Captain's Choice

AMCO players: Open to 1st 128 players

DRAW FOR TEAMS: Friday, June 18, 1999

Teams will be drawn by the Tournament Committee at 9:00 PM at the Todd's Beach Club.

COOK-OUT/BBQ'S

Cook-outs at the host's home following play. Awards and prizes will be presented at this time.

Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

Class is Male Players on all but 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 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Myrtle Beach's Most Complete Nightclub Welcomes...



Spring Migration

For your Entertainment all week:

The Lounge David Sessions April 21-24th 8:00 - 2 a.m.
Razzies T.K.O. and Crazy George April 19-24th 8:00 - Close
Pulsations Madd Marcus April 19-24th 9:00 - Close

Show your SOS card in The Lounge for \$1 discounted drinks

- Shaggin' on the Grand Strand -

No cover charge for SOS Members for the entire ten days w/ card!

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, April 20th

- **2001 Ladies' Night**
Ladies FREE Admission!
And chances to win great prizes from Myrtle Beach area stores and businesses!
- Doors Open at 8:00!

- **Free Four & Light Hors D' oeuvres** will be served from 7-9pm before the show!

• Fall Migration Getaway Drawing!

Register to win a week-long, two bedroom suite at the Sands Ocean Club Resort for the SOS Fall Migration! Drawing at 10 p.m. on the 21st. Must be present to win.

SOS Cocktail Party

Wednesday, April 21st!

Our traditional cocktail party welcome for the SOS migration... Featuring the multi-Cammy Award winning vocalist Terri Gore & T.K.O.! Shows start at 9:00 in Razzies' Beach Club!

*Also Check Out the "Pulsations" **NEW LOOK, Exciting... Club!**

Don't forget to reserve your SOS accommodations at Sands Ocean Club Resort! Call 1-800-845-2202! (just a few blocks from 2001 Nightclub!)

Appearing Nightly!



Remember Mojo Blues Band for Fall SOS!

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"SUMMER BOOGIE BLAST"

MUSIC City BOP Club's

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Memorial Day Weekend

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Adult May 27, 1999
\$25 Adult May 28
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Sue Kestner

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DJ's Special
"Beats"

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Sponsored by
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Thursday Night Kick-off Party
Friday Afternoon Dancing
Saturday Pool Party
Sunday Afternoon Bowling
First Youthzone
Dance & the May 27th
See a DJ's Party from the
Club Level... \$20.00
\$20.00

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Speakers
Join in the BRASS
BAND
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Overlooking Verreen's Marina
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North Myrtle Beach, SC

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 4-11 PM

119 Item Menu including
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Back Ribs, Fresh Seafood,
8 Item Kids Menu

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS 4-5:30 PM

HAPPY HOUR 7 DAYS 4-6:30 PM DRINKS 1/2 PRICE 050 OVERERS

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CATFISH COOLER
Dine in a Casual Atmosphere of Fun and Relaxation at Sante de Station

Celebrating
Our 15th Season



SOS FUN MONDAY

September 20, 1999
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Featuring



Mojo Blues Band
'Alligator Walk'

with
**Special
Guest
Artist**



A.C. Reed
'Help Me Spend My Gold'



Deitra Farr
'The Search Is Over'



Fantastic Shakers
'Shakin The Shack'



PLUS A SURPRISE ARTIST

\$15,000⁰⁰

REVERSE RAFFLE

1ST PRIZE \$10,000⁰⁰

WOMANLESS BEAUTY PAGEANT

SHAG VENDORS



ELIZA

With the Rhythm of the Beach,
from Ocean Drive to Rio,
to the depths of her soul!
Eliza's New CD...

"That's What She Said!"

Debuts During Spring Safari '99
on Carlen Records

She's back with a very danceable 18 track CD.

"That's What She Said!"

Includes *I Wanna Rock, Mockingbird, Rock-A-By Your Baby
With A Dixie Melody/Swanee Medley, Shake A
Hand, So Little Time*
and stuff like that there!

From the girl that brought you
Broken Heart Melody, Walking After Midnight, Green Door,
and *Sweet Dreams* on her CD *"Speakin' Easy"*.

Eliza will be appearing at Ripete's Spring Promotion
and making the rounds at your favorite SOS hangouts!



Many thanks for your gracious support
at the 1998 Gammy Awards!

Eliza's CDs are available wherever Carlen and
Ripete records are sold.

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The BEST Summer
Kick-Off Party!

Virginia Beach, VA • Oceanfront
29th Street Stage - In the Sand!

FRIDAY, May 21
7:00-8:30 pm &
9:00-10:00 pm
The Embers

Sat. 7:00-9:00 pm
Shag Contest
24th Street Stage
Call Larry Williams for contest
details 757-342-3323

SATURDAY, May 22
2:00-3:15 pm & 3:45-5:00 pm
Bill Deal, Ammon Tharp
& The Rhondels

5:30-7:30 pm
The Mardi Gras Band
8:00-9:30 pm
Chairmen of the Board

SUNDAY, May 23
2:00-3:30 pm
Band of Oz
4:00-5:30 pm
The Spinners

FREE and
Open to the
Public





Spotlight on



Georgia On My Mind

— by Anne Jernigan Henry

When you think of Atlanta, some things just automatically come to mind—the sweet sound of magnolias, Ray Charles crooning Georgia, Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*, Southern hospitality, and ShagAtlanta. Atlanta is steeped in history, and so is ShagAtlanta.

Many in the shag community do not know that on February 26, 1964, Atlanta was one of six clubs to sign the charter forming the Association of Camira Shag Clubs. Together with five South Carolina clubs (Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Rock Hill, and Winnsboro), your Georgia counterparts helped to pioneer and pave the way for the

Association to become the outstanding organization it is today.

When the Olympics came to Atlanta in 1996, so did the "once in a lifetime" opportunity for shaggers. Each shag club in the Association was invited to send its "best and brightest" dancers to perform for the world. Dewitt Hinson and Harry Driver emerged, as 41 couples joined 10 Hall of Fame couples and danced in rave reviews at Centennial Olympic Park.

On this particular day (July 21, 1996), the shaggers realized why the city is called HOT-lanta. ShagAtlanta members hosted these couples in their homes, and friendships and bonds were formed that will last a lifetime.

ShagAtlanta is host club to the annual Grand National Dance Championship, a Charlie and Jackie Production, which takes place on Memorial Day weekend. Unique in its own right, this event brings the shag and swing worlds together in perfect harmony.

In August of each year, ShagAtlanta hosts

the Peach Jam, a "swim" party, one of two ShagAtlanta weekend parties. When it was first organized, it was called the Olympic City Jam. The Christmas party, a tradition now for more than 16 years, takes place the first weekend in December and is the "star" of all Christmas parties.

The club's chosen charity is Camp Sunshine, a special-needs camp for kids with cancer. Not only do ShagAtlanta's members give generously of their money, but they also share their time and talent by showing up at camp and assisting ShagAtlanta's dance instructors in teaching these courageous kids to shag.

To tell you some other things you probably don't know about ShagAtlanta, it produced an innovative video called *Shag Time*, which was aired on cable television and was quite a hit in the Atlanta viewing area.

It owns its own dance floor, a 28' x 48' masterpiece, artfully created by some of its most talented members. It comes complete with the ShagAtlanta logo and its specially built transport trailer. Installing the floor for special events, and its removal after, has become a separate social

event for the group of highly skilled volunteers who are on the dance floor committee.

For the past two years, the club has created a yearbook—yes, track like the one you had in high school—another shag club first, so far as the club can tell.

ShagAtlanta's quarterly newsletter, the Peach Beat, has long been a favorite throughout the Association.

"They" say that you can't get from Point A to Point B without going through Atlanta. If you find yourself in Atlanta, stop by and shag with your friends at ShagAtlanta.

If you're in town for a Braves, Hawks, Falcons, or Thrashers game, you'll find ShagAtlanta members at the newly refurbished Marrott Perimeter Center Lounge on Saturday night.

Call the Hotline at 404-626-0322 to find out what's happening or "come calling" on the Internet at www.shagatlanta.com. (If you haven't visited this web site, you're in for a treat!)

Better yet, make ShagAtlanta your ultimate destination—a shag club planning for the future, rich in history, and leaving its imprint on today!

Anne Jernigan-Henry has been involved with ShagAtlanta since moving to Atlanta from Jacksonville, Florida and marrying Allen Henry in 1994.

She has served as secretary, vice-president of communications, editor of the Peach Beat for three years, and president in 1998.



Preparing to dance for the world at the '96 Olympics

CINCINNATI BOP CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS



FALL CONVENTION



NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 1999

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS RESERVATIONS: Drexelbridge Estate, Ft. Mitchell, KY (2 miles south of Cincinnati on I-75) \$65.00 per night (1-4 Person) Free Parking, Busse & W's Webcam (Peter Friday & Saturday webcam stay. Must purchase your own tickets Bus & roads. Cash/Check/CC ok to make room reservations at the Drexelbridge)

PARK & PARTY INFORMATION: 14000 sq. ft. ballroom, 4048 sq. ft. wooded dance floor, 36 hours of dancing, more seating, Adults Only, No Competition, Free Workshops (Shag Swing & Shag, Dance Exhibitions, Exotic/Exotic/Exotic, Showcase open 24 hours, Beverage Buffet, Friendly Beer & Bottles, Free Airport Shuttle Service.

SPECIAL SURPRISE: DON'T MISS THURSDAY NIGHT

GUEST D.J.'S: Jason Johnson (Cincinnati, OH), Larry Huff (Washington, DC), Gary Bass (Birmingham, AL), Ben Wallace (Lynchburg, VA)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL TO: Cleveland Shag Club, P.O. Box 4232, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-0232

COORDINATOR: Paul Ramsey (513) 485-4183

1999 TICKET APPLICATION

Number of Tickets: @ \$25.00 Total (before Oct. 15, 1999) @ \$30.00 Total (after Oct. 15, 1999 if available) NO ONE DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tickets are NON-REFUNDABLE but may be rescheduled

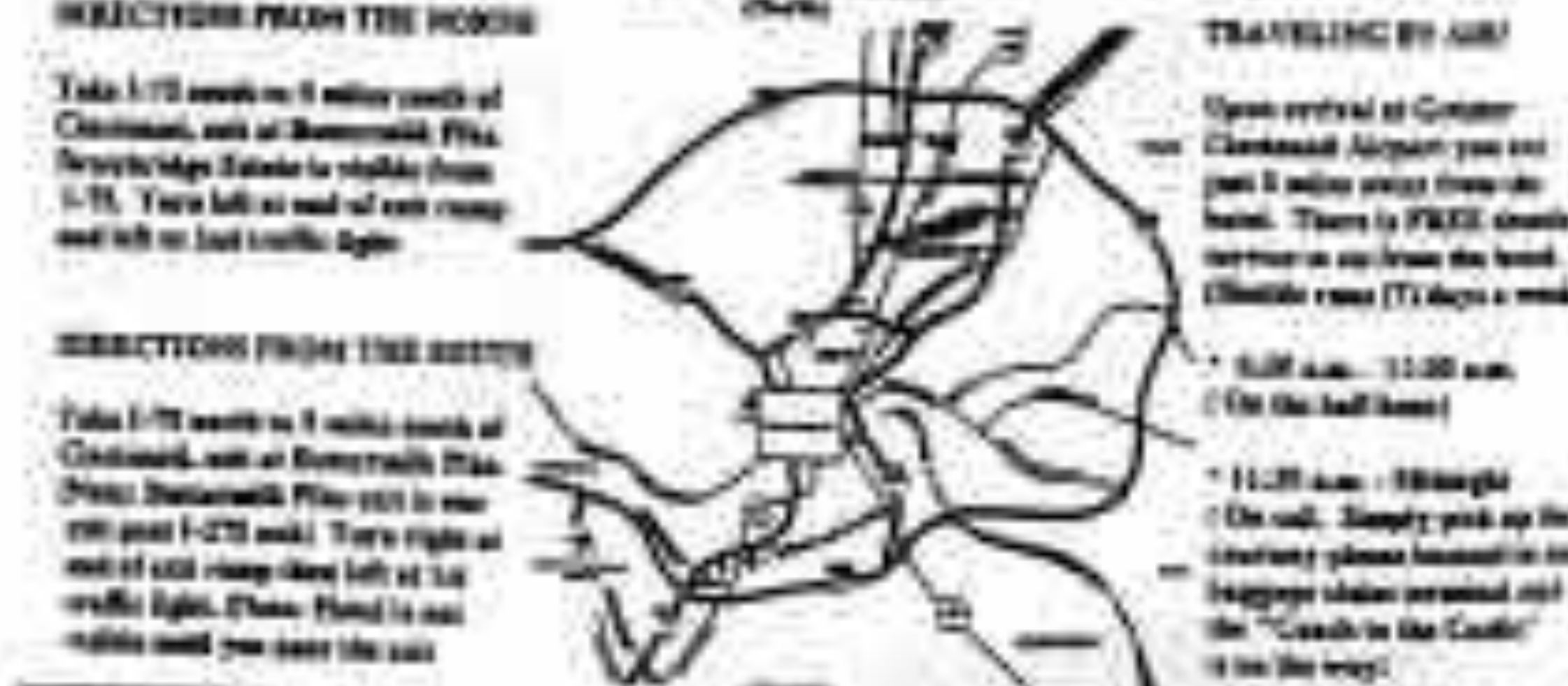
Name _____ Title _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone () _____
Club Affiliation _____ Club Affiliation _____

(Advance ticket requests received by 11:59 PM ET on Oct. 15, 1999. Ticket requests received after 11:59 PM ET will be held at the door.) (Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope pre-addressed to the club with your ticket request.)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Day	Time	Event	Day	Time	Event
Wed	17:00-18:00	Pre-Party Cocktail Lounge	Thu	18:00-19:00	All-Over-the-Party
Thu	17:00-18:00	Concert/Dance Exhibition	Thu	19:00-20:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	18:00-19:00	Supper	Thu	20:00-21:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	19:00-20:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	21:00-22:00	Supper
Thu	20:00-21:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	22:00-23:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	21:00-22:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	23:00-24:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	22:00-23:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	24:00-25:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	23:00-24:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	25:00-26:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	24:00-25:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	26:00-27:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	25:00-26:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	27:00-28:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	26:00-27:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	28:00-29:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	27:00-28:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	29:00-30:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	28:00-29:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	30:00-31:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	29:00-30:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	31:00-32:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	30:00-31:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	32:00-33:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	31:00-32:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	33:00-34:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	32:00-33:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	34:00-35:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	33:00-34:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	35:00-36:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	34:00-35:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	36:00-37:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	35:00-36:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	37:00-38:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	36:00-37:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	38:00-39:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	37:00-38:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	39:00-40:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	38:00-39:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	40:00-41:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	39:00-40:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	41:00-42:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	40:00-41:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	42:00-43:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	41:00-42:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	43:00-44:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	42:00-43:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	44:00-45:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	43:00-44:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	45:00-46:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	44:00-45:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	46:00-47:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	45:00-46:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	47:00-48:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	46:00-47:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	48:00-49:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	47:00-48:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	49:00-50:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	48:00-49:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	50:00-51:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	49:00-50:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	51:00-52:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	50:00-51:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	52:00-53:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	51:00-52:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	53:00-54:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	52:00-53:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	54:00-55:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	53:00-54:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	55:00-56:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	54:00-55:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	56:00-57:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	55:00-56:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	57:00-58:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	56:00-57:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	58:00-59:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	57:00-58:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	59:00-60:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	58:00-59:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	60:00-61:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	59:00-60:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	61:00-62:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	60:00-61:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	62:00-63:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	61:00-62:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	63:00-64:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	62:00-63:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	64:00-65:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	63:00-64:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	65:00-66:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	64:00-65:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	66:00-67:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	65:00-66:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	67:00-68:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	66:00-67:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	68:00-69:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	67:00-68:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	69:00-70:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	68:00-69:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	70:00-71:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	69:00-70:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	71:00-72:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	70:00-71:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	72:00-73:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	71:00-72:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	73:00-74:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	72:00-73:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	74:00-75:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	73:00-74:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	75:00-76:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	74:00-75:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	76:00-77:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	75:00-76:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	77:00-78:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	76:00-77:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	78:00-79:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	77:00-78:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	79:00-80:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	78:00-79:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	80:00-81:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	79:00-80:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	81:00-82:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	80:00-81:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	82:00-83:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	81:00-82:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	83:00-84:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	82:00-83:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	84:00-85:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	83:00-84:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	85:00-86:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	84:00-85:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	86:00-87:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	85:00-86:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	87:00-88:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	86:00-87:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	88:00-89:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	87:00-88:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	89:00-90:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	88:00-89:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	90:00-91:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	89:00-90:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	91:00-92:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	90:00-91:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	92:00-93:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	91:00-92:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	93:00-94:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	92:00-93:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	94:00-95:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	93:00-94:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	95:00-96:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	94:00-95:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	96:00-97:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	95:00-96:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	97:00-98:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	96:00-97:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	98:00-99:00	Shag Swing Workshop
Thu	97:00-98:00	Shag Swing Workshop	Thu	99:00-100:00	Shag Swing Workshop

MAP OF THE AREA



SAVE SOME VACATION FOR "MOVE ACROSS THE RIVER DO"

BY YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MISSED!

SEE YOU IN CINC!



1999 Shagging Icon Award Inductee

The S.O.S. Board of Directors and the A.C.S.C. have created the Shagging Icon Award as a humanitarian award for excellence in the preservation of the art of shag dancing. This award is presented to persons who have made outstanding and continuing contributions to the dance, S.O.S., and the A.C.S.C. through years of service and deeds of merit.

All persons nominated must have had involvement with their local shag club or S.O.S. or A.C.S.C. for a period of at least five years.

A nomination and three records, all in writing, must have been submitted to the S.O.S. Board for each candidate to have been considered. A three-quarters vote of the S.O.S. Board for each candidate was required to earn the award. All candidates' names remain in nomination for five years. There are no set numbers of awards that will be given.

The biography of the following 1999 inductee has been edited for brevity.



Charlie and Nancy Cline

Charles (Charlie) Cline

Mt. Hope, West Virginia

CREDENTIALS

- Founder, Beckley Area Shag Club
- President, Beckley Area Shag Club for three years
- Treasurer, Beckley Area Shag Club

Charlie Cline single-handedly brought the shag to West Virginia, after seeing the dancer in

North Myrtle Beach eight years ago. Charlie just loved the shag and vowed to do everything in his

power to introduce the dance to his native state.

He immediately began creating West Virginia's first shag club upon his return and insisted that his shag club be formed along the A.C.S.C. guidelines. He was determined to have his club become a member of the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs as soon as was possible.

Charlie and Nancy taught shag at every opportunity at the local YMCA and in local night spots. They helped create fundraisers, in the name of shag, to support underprivileged kids and also helped

raise thousands of dollars for a local woman who was in need of a kidney transplant.

Charlie's club started slowly, but due to his enthusiasm, has grown to over 100 members, mainly by word of mouth.

Charlie and Nancy, along with a few others, helped start the second shag club in West Virginia in Charleston, some 55 miles away. He and the others drove to Charleston to assist in that club's formation and organization. Charlie also helped in the creation of their annual party, Mountain Boogie Walk.

TURNING THE TABLES

News from the Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays



Mike Lewis,
President
Association
of Beach
and
Shag Club
Deejays



Every year the Association of Beach and Shag Club Deejays hosts two grand weekends in Ocean Drive to celebrate the music, dance, and lifestyle that make shagging so special to us all. These two weekends are free to all members of S.O.S. or the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs. They are:

- DJ Throwdown
Ducks/Ducks Too
First Weekend in March
- DJ Hall Of Fame
Fat Harold's
First Weekend in October

Since we usually have a nationally known rhythm and blues band, reminiscent of when all this shagging stuff started long ago, the weekends also include the Thursday night before, and there is a small charge for that night only to help us with the band.

This year's Throwdown was a huge success for us again, and we are already looking forward to our invasion of Fat Harold's in October. Literally thousands of you honored us with your partying presence, and everyone reportedly had the proverbial good time. We certainly hope so!

A subject brought up to me by so many S.O.S. folks, A.C.S.C. members, and other shaggers is this: Why can't I hear all the wonderful music I hear at S.O.S. when I get back home and go to my local shag club events or parties nearby? Why

is it so different? Consider this:

► S.O.S. is a twice yearly, very special event. Our deejays prepare to play music for you at S.O.S., in some cases, for months in advance. Since there are so many terrific, enthusiastic dancers at S.O.S., everything (almost) gets a crowd on the dance floor. Deejays feel great!

► Music is very expensive, sometimes very hard to find, and to put it simply, heavy to carry. We all try to guess the tunes that will "light your shagging fires" and concentrate on taking that stuff to S.O.S. We usually get lucky and please you; but every deejay does not have every popular song, and many do not have the resources to buy them all.

We depend heavily on our member stores and music dealers, like Collector's Choice in Kannapolis, Judy's House of Oldies in NMB, Ye Olde Clock Shoppe in Concord, N.C., and the Record Rack in Goldsboro, N.C.—just to name a few in my area—to help us gauge your current and future tastes.

Deejays love to hear you make requests, so long as they aren't followed by, "I can't believe you don't have that!" Who could know it cost \$50 for a single song and was only available from Europe?

► While there are more than 300 deejays in our Association, there is very limited opportunity to play at S.O.S. with only a small number of clubs to go to do this wonderful thing. So the question of "is it

worth it?" must necessarily come into play for the deejay who might play for your home club six times a year, a neighboring club once or twice more, and seldom if ever at S.O.S. or an A.C.S.C. workshop event.

In an ideal shag world, Joe the Deejay in Parump, Texas would have the resources to buy 150 new CD's annually and get to play them on Saturday night for you and then at S.O.S. for thousands more folks. What a dream!

What's the moral of the story? Be gentle. Be helpful. Be kind. Your local deejay wants you to tell her or him that "You're playing great stuff tonight!" the same as I do when you see me at Fat Harold's or that Gene Petty does when you see him at Ducks. It's no different.

If you hear a great new song you love, tell your local deejay! Be

creative and even let her know where you bought the one you love so she can go do the same. Some of my best music has come from tips from shaggers.

My point is: the positive approach always works best. If your local shag club paid \$500 per night and hired Ms. Local Deejay twelve times a year, she would have a ton more music! Somewhere between them and reality is a happy medium you can help create. A complimented deejay is a happy deejay. It's simple—really.

More ramblings from Chapel Hill, where you can e-mail me: <beachdj@email.unc.edu>, call me: (919) 942-4498, or yell if you have questions about the deejays, the music, or your fortune.

— Mike Lewis, President, The Association of Beach & Shag Club Deejays

Why I Dance

I dance to allow my creativity its fullest expression;
To achieve what I can achieve no other place;
To create the carefreeness of eternal youth;
To feel freedom from every worldly constraint;
To sink my troubles in a sea of joy;
To experience the merriment that only music can make;
To make fantasy and fancy a part of my reality;
And to touch and hold another person without condition.
I dance because dancing is the most outward expression of the inner me.

— John B. Harper, Beach Shaggers of Birmingham



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- * SUGARFOOT



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Becky Stone

OFFICIAL S.O.S. ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

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PLATES *HAND PAINTED GIFTS & FURNITURE & MORE!



1999 Event Planning Calendar 1999

S.O.S. Dates

1999

Fall Migration
September 17-26
Millennium Party
Dec. 26-Jan. 2, 2000

2000

Mid Winter Classic
January 20-23
Spring Safari
May 5-14
Fall Migration
September 15-24

2001

Mid Winter Classic
January 18-21
Spring Safari
April 27-May 6
Fall Migration
September 14-23

2002

Mid Winter Classic
January 18-20
Spring Safari
April 12-21
Fall Migration
September 13-22

MAY 1999	JUNE 1999	JULY 1999
1 Club Fundraiser Party, Pittsboro, NC 14-15 Beach Music Fest., Panama City, FL 22 Mountain Boogie Walk, Beckley, WV 22 Class Blast, Camden, SC 27-30 Summer Boogie Blast, Nashville, TN 28-30 Memorial Madness, Atlantic Bch., NC See our ad on pg. 11	4-6 Southern Comfort, Columbia, SC See our ad on pg. 8 5 Pig Roast, Roanoke, VA 11-12 Richmond Shag Club Party, Petersburg, VA 11-13 Sandlot Shag-a-Ganza, Jekyll I., GA 12 Anniversary Party, Smithfield, NC 12 Beach Music Fest., Carolina Bch., NC 12 Shag Your SASS Off, Sanford, NC 12 Jivvy June Jam, Lancaster, SC 18 Boogie to Boone, Valle Crucis, NC 26 Summer Festival, Plymouth, NC	9-11 ACSO Summer Wksp., Burlington, NC 23-25 Capital Shag Classic, Alexandria, VA See our ad on pg. 8 24 Shag Blast, Goldsboro, NC 30-31 Boogie & Bodey, Southern Pines, NC See our ad on pg. 8
AUGUST 1999	SEPTEMBER 1999	NOVEMBER 1999
2 Peach Jam, Atlanta, GA See our ad on pg. 9 5-8 Island Hop Birthday Bash, Hampton, VA See our ad on pg. 18 7 Summer Chill-Out, Atlantic Bch., NC See our ad on pg. 8 7 Chicken Pickin', Gastonia, NC 13-15 Capital Area Kickback, Raleigh, NC See our ad on pg. 9 20-21 Shag Tracks, Chattanooga, TN 21 Reject Party, Statesville, NC See our ad on pg. 8 28 Jackpot Party, Southern Pines, NC 28 Meet Me in Middle, Greenville, SC	17-28 SOS Fall Migration, MBS, SC 	5-7 Fall Cyclone, Mooresville, NC See our ad on pg. 8 6-7 Columbia Invitational, Columbia, SC 10-14 Move Across Flaw, Mitchell, KY See our ad on pg. 14 12-13 Turkey Blast, Winston-Salem, NC 20 Shaggin Gobbler, Concord, NC
OCTOBER 1999	DECEMBER 1999	
7-10 Shag-A-Rama, Panama City, FL See our ad on pg. 9 20-31 Beach Bash, Virginia Beach, VA 30 Halloween Blast, Lk. Waccotow, NC 30 Shag-O-War, Greenville, NC	9-5 Christmas Party, Atlanta, GA 20-2 Millennium Celebration, MBS, SC See details on pg. 6 31 New Year's Eve Pty., Cornelius, NC	

Upcoming Event Details



MAY 1999

- 1 **CLUB FUNDRAISER PARTY** in Pittsboro, NC. Hosted by the Chatham Area Shag Association. Tickets are \$5. Reverse raffle and \$3.50 drawings. Finger food provided. Call 919-775-7297 for more information. E-mail cbvash@email.unc.edu.
- 14-15 **BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL** in Panama City Beach, FL. All proceeds go to several worthy causes. Friday night sock hop with Tami; tickets \$10. Saturday: Tami, Original Duffers, Clovers, Beachtones, Zodiac; tickets \$10. Call 850-702-2766 for more info. E-mail jaypapa@earthlink.com
- 22 **MOUNTAIN BOOGIE WALK** in Beckley, WV. Hosted by the Beckley Area Shag Club. Tickets \$20. Call 304-466-0571 for rooms and ask for the party discount. Call 304-253-2056 for more information. E-mail jreed@visitors.net
- 22 **CLASS BLAST** in Camden, SC. Hosted by the Camden Lugoff Area Shag Society. Tickets are \$20. Call 803-438-6441 for rooms. Call 803-436-3826 for more information. E-mail booger@prosof.net
- 27-30 **SUMMER BOOGIE BLAST** in Nashville, TN. Hosted by the Music City Club. Tickets are \$30 until 5/1, then \$35. Free shag workshop. Pool party. Free pours and more. Call 615-259-4343 for rooms and ask for the party discount. Call 615-899-0251 for more information. E-mail 4663@aol.com
- 28-30 **MEMORIAL MADNESS** in Atlantic Beach, NC. Hosted by the Sugarfoot Shag Club. Call 919-735-7901 for more info. E-mail shaglover@mail.comnet.com

JUNE 1999

- 4-6 **SOUTHERN COMFORT** in Columbia, SC. Hosted by Palmetto Shag Club. Tickets \$30 by 5/1, then \$35. Workshops: Fantastic Shakers Sunday. Call 803-772-7275 for rooms. Call 803-636-1552 for more info. E-mail inkbarb@mindspring.com
- 5 **PIG ROAST** in Roanoke, VA. Hosted by the Roanoke Valley Shag Club. Tickets are \$20, sold in advance only. Early bird party on Friday is \$5. Call 540-662-1096 for info. E-mail raikcar@aol.com
- 11-12 **RICHMOND SHAG CLUB PARTY** in Petersburg, VA. Tickets are \$20, or \$25 for Saturday only. Shag workshop, free raffle, pool party and more. Call 804-732-2006 for rooms. Call 804-796-4769 for more information. E-mail loopylo@aol.com
- 11-13 **SANDLOT SHAG-A-GANZA** in Jekyll Island, GA. Hosted by Golden Isles Shag Club. Call 906-742-4437 for more info. E-mail goldislesshagclub@shagger.com
- 12 **10th ANNIVERSARY PARTY** in Smithfield, NC. Hosted by the Johnston County Area Shag Club. Tickets are \$5. Call 919-969-8078 for rooms. Call 919-634-2200 for more information. E-mail 461101@aol.com
- 12 **BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL** at Carolina Beach, 15 miles south of Wilmington, NC. Features Cabbins, Bird Of Cr, Breeze Band. Tickets \$10 in advance, then \$15. Under 12 free. Call 919-458-7897 for more info. E-mail haphun330@aol.com
- 12 **SHAG YOUR SASS OFF** in Sanford, NC. Hosted by the Sanford Area Society of Shaggers. Tickets \$15. Call 919-774-8090 for more information.
- 12 **JIVVY JUNE JAM** in Lancaster, SC. Call 803-285-8119 for more information. E-mail kenneth@v@earthlink.net
- 19 **BOOGIE TO BOONE** in Valle Crucis, NC. Hosted by the Boone Shag Club. Tickets \$22. Call 828-282-5177 for more info. E-mail ashlerenga@appstate.edu

JUNE continued

- 26 **SUMMER FESTIVAL** in Plymouth, NC. Beach sand with fireworks, crafts, food, a ski show and more. E-mail wachfem@plymouthnc.com

JULY 1999

- 9-11 **ACSOC SUMMER WORKSHOP** in Burlington, NC. Hosted by the Burlington and Danville Shag Clubs. Tickets are \$25. Call 336-227-6541 for rooms and ask for the party rate. Call 336-584-8828 for more information.
- 23-25 **CAPITAL SHAG CLASSIC** in Old Town Alexandria, VA. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Shag Club. Tickets \$55. Free food and Shag workshop. Call 540-775-5342 for more information. E-mail hyswings@earthlink.com
- 24 **SHAG BLAST** in Goldsboro, NC. Hosted by the Sugarfoot Shag Club. Call 919-735-7901 for rooms and ask for the party discount. Call 919-735-4355 for more information. E-mail shaglover@mail.comnet.com
- 30-31 **BOOGIE AND BODEY IN THE PINES** in Southern Pines, NC. Hosted by the Sandlot Shag Club. Tickets \$25-30. Golf, pool party. Call 919-895-4872 for more information. E-mail cme2bul@intsave.net

AUGUST 1999

- 2 **PEACH JAM** in Atlanta, GA. Hosted by ShagAtlanta. Call 770-825-4832 for more information.
- 5-8 **ISLAND HOP BIRTHDAY BASH** in Hampton, VA. Hosted by Boogie on the Bay Shag Club. Call 757-466-6849 for more information. E-mail shagiva@aol.com
- 7 **SUMMER CHILL-OUT PARTY** in Atlantic Beach, NC. Hosted by the Coastal Carolina Shaggers. Tickets \$5. Heavy fans, discounts, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Call 252-633-0817 for more information. E-mail btofoe@coastalnet.com
- 7 **CHECKEN PICKIN** in Gastonia. Hosted by the Gaston Shaggers. Call 704-857-6526 for more info.
- 13-15 **CAPITAL AREA KICKBACK** in Raleigh, NC. Hosted by the Capital Area Shag Club. Tickets \$35. One day tickets available. Call 919-878-5238 for rooms, ask for party discount. Call 919-486-3000 for more info. E-mail dnrbeach@aol.com
- 20-21 **SHAG TRACKS V** in Chattanooga, TN. Hosted by the Choo Choo Shag Club. Call 423-478-1574 for more information. E-mail pparing@aol.com
- 21 **REJECT PARTY** in Statesville, NC. Hosted by the Statesville Shag Club. Tickets \$20. Call 704-694-3756 for more information. E-mail rjparing@america.net
- 28 **SUPER SUMMER JACKPOT PARTY** in Southern Pines, NC. Hosted by the Lake Tillery, MASS, and SASS Shag Clubs. Tickets are \$10. Call 919-672-3301 for more information.
- 28 **MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE PARTY** in Greenville, SC. Hosted by the Carolina Shag Club. Contact 864-292-8132 for more information.

These event listings courtesy of www.shagdance.com, your best web source for complete and up-to-date shag club party information. The site is updated daily, so be sure to visit it often!



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Carefree Times
19 Spring Safari 99





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- S.O.S. cards for sale daily at the front door
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Thursday, April 15

D.J. 9 pm - close Judy Collins

Friday, April 16

D.J.'s (In) Noon - 5 pm Wilkie Whalley
5 pm - 9 pm Judy Collins
9 pm - close Roger Holcomb
(Text) 9 pm - close Paul Northrup

Saturday, April 17

D.J.'s (In) Noon - 5 pm Wilkie Whalley
5 pm - 9 pm Roger Holcomb
9 pm - 2 am Judy Collins
(Text) Noon - 5 pm Paul Northrup
5 pm - 9 pm Larry Elmore
9 pm - 2 am Terry Ellis

Sunday, April 18

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Jay Nelms
5 pm - 9 pm Judy Collins
9 pm - 2 am Gary Bass

Monday, April 19

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Jay Nelms
5 pm - 10 pm Mike Lewis
10 pm - close Gary Bass

Tuesday, April 20

D.J.'s Noon - 5 pm Judy Collins
5 pm - 10 pm Mike Lewis
10 pm - close Harold Beaver

Wednesday, April 21

D.J.'s (In) Noon - 5 pm Mike Lewis
5 pm - 10 pm Roger Holcomb
10 pm - close Gary Bass
(Text) Noon - 5 pm Larry Elmore
5 pm - 10 pm Jay Nelms
10 pm - close Bobby Grayson

Thursday, April 22

D.J.'s (In) Noon - 5 pm Mike Lewis
5 pm - 10 pm Ervin Ellington
10 pm - close Terry Ellis
D.J.'s (Text) Noon - 5 pm Sandy/Doug Brown
5 pm - 10 pm Harold Beaver
10 pm - close Bobby Grayson

Friday, April 23

D.J.'s (In) Noon - 5 pm Mike Lewis
5 pm - 10 pm Roger Holcomb
10 pm - close Terry Ellis
D.J.'s (Text) Noon - 5 pm Ervin Ellington
5 pm - 10 pm Sandy/Doug Brown
10 pm - close Batch Davidson

Saturday, April 24

D.J.'s (In) Noon - 5 pm Jack Moore
5 pm - 9 pm Terry Ellis
9 pm - 2 am Gary Bass
D.J.'s (Text) Noon - 5 pm Larry Elmore
5 pm - 9 pm Roger Holcomb
9 pm - 2 am Ervin Ellington

Sunday, April 25

D.J.'s (In) Noon - 5 pm Roger Holcomb
5 pm - 9 pm Paul Northrup
9 pm - 2 am Judy Collins
D.J. (Text) Noon - 5 pm Larry Elmore

ACTIVITIES:

- Sat, 4/17: BBQ Cookout, 6 pm
Wed, 4/21: Chicken & Trimmings, 6 pm
Fri, 4/23: Ripete Promo, Noon - 5 pm
Sat, 4/24: Hall of Fame Exhibition, 5 pm
Original Lake Wylie Fish Fry, 6 pm
Donations for Camp Kemo
Sun, 4/25: Camp Kemo, 1 pm
Charlie & Jackie Shag Workshops, 10 am
Cost \$10 per person (except free basic) ---
Sat, 4/17: Free Basic Shag
Sun, 4/18: The Flyer (technique & variations)
Mon, 4/19: Basic Variations/Social Patterns
Fri, 4/23: Laid Back



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EVENTS

- Tuesday, April 20, 8 pm
Rookies Revenge Mixed Doubles
Fun Shag Contest sign up 7 pm
- Thursday, April 22, 2 pm
Smoothies Contest sign up 1 pm
- Friday, April 23, 5 pm: Bar B Quo
- Saturday, April 24, 4 pm: Twisted, Palmetto, and CSRA Shag Clubs Tea Party
5 pm: Heavy Hors d'oeuvres
- Shag Workshops with Ellen Taylor
Workshops vary from basics to advanced.
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Thurs, 4/22, 10:30 a.m. • Fri, 4/23, 11 a.m.

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D.J. SCHEDULE

Friday, April 16

5 pm - 9 pm — Dennis Hydrick
9 pm - until — Muri Augustine

Saturday, April 17

12 n - 4 pm — Mr. Bill
4 pm - 9 pm — Dennis Hydrick
9 pm - until — Muri Augustine

Sunday, April 18

12 n - 4 pm — Muri Augustine
4 pm - 9 pm — Mike Rink
9 pm - until — Tommy Samole

Monday, April 19

4 pm - 9 pm — Muri Augustine
9 pm - until — Mike Rink

Tuesday, April 20

4 pm - 8 pm — Harold Beaver
8 pm - until — Muri Augustine

Wednesday, April 21

12 n - 4 pm — Tommy Samole
4 pm - 8 pm — Mike Rink
8 pm - until — Muri Augustine

Thursday, April 22

12 n - 4 pm — Batch Merrill
4 pm - 9 pm — Harold Beaver
9 pm - until — Dennis Hydrick

Friday, April 23

12 n - 4 pm — Mike Rink
4 pm - 9 pm — Tommy Samole
9 pm - until — Judy Collins

Saturday, April 24

12 n - 4 pm — Dennis Hydrick
4 pm - 8 pm — Judy Collins
8 pm - until — Muri Augustine



S.S.S.
Carefree Times
19 Spring Safari 99





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Sugarfoot Shag Club presents
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\$1000 Raffle

Raffle Tickets: \$ 5

Part of Proceeds To Benefit:

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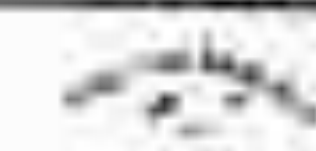
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Doug Weaver
(919) 738-4300

Sugarfoot Shag Club presents
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Afternoon Pool Party: DJ - Jimmy Sasser
BIG Night Party: DJ - Walter Upchurch

ACCOMMODATIONS

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(919) 738-7901
Ask for "Shag Blast" Rates

Hors d'oeuvres



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The Motel Room

— by Archer T. Jeger

My shoes are quickly shed as we enter the smog-unit-filtered/maid-induced-scented motel room in order to experience the soon-to-be-strewn carpet. Not again during this stay would I again glimpse the clean, uncluttered, safe-to-tread-upon carpeted floor of this, our mansion away from home.

Soon each crevice through the heavy, multi-layered, card-activated metal door would evolve into an adventure. The ever present single shoe would forever remain perfectly located to create a tripping hazard as one stepped into the room just prior to hitting the wrong light switch. Where is its mate?

The bathroom, once gleaming with sparkling hexagonal ceramic tiles underfoot and waxed fiberglass tub/shower enclosure panels, now yields to aged stains of mildewed grout, cracked porcelain, yellowing tile, and cozing silicone repair attempts. The too thin fabric shower curtain obviously contracted static cling as I try to maneuver under the too low shower head, the curtain sucking against my soapy torso creating a sad, bathtub mummy.

The lime deposit laden shower head, with a dead stream control knob, spews varying degrees of freezing to scalding water in a random pattern. However, there is one partial stream angled perfectly for rinsing my face; the remainder beats against the hungry curtain, the ceiling, and high on the silicone jointed fiberglass wall panel.

I climb onto the outer tub side, one foot trapping the mummy wrapping, balancing myself with my other foot in a cramped toe grasp on the narrow lip extending from the front snap dish, on which six plastic bottles reside. The six lacy looking things women use with liquid body soap that are stuffed behind the grab bar tickle my foot, but I desperately maintain a firm toe grip.

In this lofted position, the partial stream at least reaches my armpits. In this steamy jungle, I finally submit to partial rinsing, close the mixing valve, slide the mummy wrapping along a rusted rod, step out onto cold, slick tiles, begin to towel water and unscented soap, open the door to allow steam to escape, and behold a strange pair of boxers in the corner and a visiting neighbor leaning against the mystery lavatory countertop admiring my naked, but cleaned, being.

Moving into the lavatory counter area with towel deftly encircling my private self, I quickly notice no vacant counter space on which to park my meager shaving kit. Perhaps if I balance it just so on the motel's micro-mini-coffee maker — let's see, shift three disposable razors to the left side and offset that with the bottle of motel supplied shampoo ... yml!

I have now claimed my counter-top (or ... coffeemaker-top) for the duration. I dare not drop or absent midedly lay my toothbrush amidst the hair dryers, hair irons, hair

curlers, hair spray, hair brushes, hair conditioner, hair rinse, hair shampoo bottles, or hormone patches for fear of permanent loss in the vast abyss of feminine appurtenances.

Having attempted a shave in the showercomb (and not bleeding too badly), I complete my oral hygienic effort and only have a wet head to dry. I notice 26 electrical cords all plugged into one duplex outlet. Switching on my dryer, I notice nothing happening and am at once suspicious that none of the 26 cords is mine. I decide to use the outlet into which the ever droning TV is plugged.

Simply walking away from the mystery counter, dryer in hand, creates havoc with the trailing cord thrashing about, upsetting further the already chaotic assemblage of stuff on the counter. I smile re-vengefully as four compacts, three bottles, five empty drink cans, and one used Playtex bosom halter (size 36C) hit the floor.

I plug my hair dryer into the aforementioned outlet, only to find the cord long enough to allow me to see the right half of my head in the mirror above the TV stand/dresser/desk/chest of drawers/uggage rack/combo unit.

Okay, with that half dried, I simply turn, move to my left, and view the other half of my head in the glass of a framed seagull picture above the dual lights between the beds with the switches that, no matter how you turn them, the wrong combination of lights always comes on.

I must hurry, for the blinding glare of sunshine is almost through

that window curtain gap that never fully closes. (And I've still got to clean the bloodstain from that u-shaped plastic device that holds the curtain away from the light switch at the door; my left shoulder swiped it while wrestling 85 pounds of her luggage into the room.)

I notice that around my big toe I have snagged one of those colorful circular elastic things that the girls use to hold their hair in a pony tail. I also notice lower extremity pain from kicking slag bags and three more orphaned shoes from my path of travel.

Now clean, orally hygienic, and dry, I can finally move into clean underwear. Groping through my suitcase for a clean pair, I notice three pair of her shoes in my bag. "Didn't have room for those in my bag!" she retorts when accosted with this divorce-laden breach of privacy. The other 18 pair are scattered throughout the room, on the floor, on the heat pump unit under the window, and somehow in the bed between the sheets and the comforter.

Grabbing my clean underwear, I again head for the bathroom, tripping on the entry door shoe's lurking mate and noticing more pain in the lower extremities. Exiting the bathroom, I triumphantly hang my wet towel over the swinging right fender arm next to the TV.

You know you've grown comfortable with your roomies when his wife comments, "New boxers?"

Archer Jeger and his wife Pat live in Greenville, NC. He is an architect and was the president of the Competitive Shoppers' Assoc. in 1998. He is a current member of the CSA Board of Directors.

A Tribute to Harry Driver, the Coolest Dancer of All

— by Millie Newell

It is difficult to think about Harry Driver not always being there. After all, he was always there for us, as a dancer, leader, hero, and larger-than-life figure in the dance and beach music community.

He was all of this and so much more to those that knew him, and his untimely death in 1998 has left a void, which may never be filled, and shoes which will definitely never be filled. The fact that he is no longer here should give us all pause to think about the valuable people and times which we take for granted in our lives but are so fragile and fleeting and can be gone in an instant.

Harry was an original, and there are so many more people who knew him longer and better than I did. I don't think that there are many who were influenced more by his style or enjoyed watching him and Dottie

dance any more than I did. It was stylish and simple, fancy and plain, old and new—but always classy and a pure joy to watch. A lot of people claim to have been taught by Harry, but the reality is that we all were taught or influenced by him in some way or another.

Harry was one of the first people to enjoy the dance we now hold so dear. When he danced—whether back in the '40s and '50s or in the '90s—the floor cleared, and people just watched with joy, pleasure, and envy on their faces, knowing that he and Dottie were something special. We are now the beneficiaries of all that they accomplished and brought to the dance. And even though we may have thought them lucky, we were the lucky ones to have been able to watch and enjoy them.

Back when I was growing up in the mid and late '60s and fortunate enough to go to a dance hall, there

was nothing you wanted to hear more than someone say, "Harry Driver's in town and he'll be here tonight." The crowd would buzz with excitement, because both men and women knew they were in for a treat.

His name was synonymous with the phrase "the best around." You couldn't wait for him to show up. To see him dance with the cool clothes, tugging his pants out of his shoes when he danced, was a thrill which is difficult to describe when talking about it now but was almost impossible to describe back then. He was the man, he knew it; we knew it; and we got to watch him perform at his best.

As with all who knew Harry, it was our good fortune to have known him. He always had a warm greeting, a smile for you, and a firm handshake. He loved to tell stories of the old days and had a million of

them to tell. He knew so many people and so many knew him that I often wondered how he could always call them by name. All will miss his contribution to his community, the beach community, and his dedication to his family. We will surely not let his memory fade nor his tremendous influence on the good times and dance we love so much.

Every time I go to Ocean Drive, I trust one to Harry, as I do for all the great friends who are no longer with us. As Charles Gurley always says about him, "Son, Harry Driver was the coolest dude ever to hit this beach." How true, and we will miss him terribly. But weren't we so lucky to have known him and to have had him with us for as long as we did?

Millie Newell is from Goldsboro, North Carolina.



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If You Haven't Treated Yourself To It, You Really Should

—an anonymous commentary

I'm writing this commentary anonymously, in hopes that you will focus your full attention on the point at hand, instead of, perhaps, laboring over my character, fortitude, frankness, grace, or reputation and then miss something which you really should treat yourself to.

If Charlie and Jackie decide to tell you who the author is at some point, that's up to them. I'm writing this for your enjoyment and information—not for self-recognition. Besides that, a little mystery in everyone's life is good for the imagination!

I've been in 48 of the 50 states and around the world twice. Until the past couple of years, since 1970, I've spent 10-14 days (two or three times a year) in either New York, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Atlanta, New Orleans, Chicago, Houston, or Denver on business. On occasion, I've even traveled to Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, and Thailand, attending merchandise trade shows and/or retail conferences.

In those travels, I've attended a variety of shows on Broadway, as well as some of the finest entertainment spots in Las Vegas and around the world. But you don't need to travel that far or go to that expense to treat yourself to something just as entertaining, professional, and spectacular! All you need to do is attend the GNDC.

What I'm talking about is The SOS Grand National Dance Championships, which are held each year in Atlanta, Georgia! This year was the fourth year for this spectacular event, and it was g-r-e-a-t! As a matter of fact, it was the best ever! Ask anyone that was there, and I assure you that they will tell you the very same thing, which I'm about to tell you in this article!

You won't see any more talent, any more variety of dance, or have a more enjoyable time if you were to go to the shows in the nightclubs of Las Vegas or even to Broadway or Radio City Music Hall in New York. Dollar for dollar, whether it's Las Vegas, New York, Disney World, Hong Kong, or S.O.S. itself, there is no comparison!

You'd spend some B-I-G dollars for three or four nights of show tickets and room accommodations in a comparable hotel as luxurious as the Waverly-Renaissance Hotel in Atlanta, where the GNDC is held.

When you combine all of the talent and variety, which goes on throughout the competition, along with the absolutely impeccable hospitality and warmth—which is laid out (24 hours a day) by the members of ShagAtlanta, Charlie & Jackie Productions, the hotel, and all of the other folks at The SOS Grand National Dance Championships—you simply won't believe it. What's more, if you enjoy the "park and party" concept (and loads of F-U-N), this is the premier event of all!

Believe it or not, there's even more to enjoy! Things like hours and hours of open dancing for everyone's enjoyment—dancing, I remind you, which goes on until the wee hours of the morning. There are numerous dance workshops, conducted all weekend by some of the world's greatest exhibition and competition dancers, plus there's five-star shopping, golf, sightseeing, sunbathing, saunas, fabulous restaurants and food, and much, much more!

If you don't enjoy the weekend, I might respectfully suggest that, perhaps, you consider bringing a different date or mate, because you do and will get what you paid for—or more—from your ticket!

If you haven't seen live cabaret or showcase dancing or the many versions of the swing and classic dances, danced to perfection, you are in for a real treat! Or if you've never watched swing, shag, hop, and some of jitterbug pair up and dance in a Jack & Jill—a mixed double of sorts—you have really missed something.

There's team-dancing competition, where precision is a must and pure entertainment is the result. And the juniors, in all divisions, will take your breath away, make you laugh, and some will even bring tears of joy in your eyes, as they dance their hearts out in competition.

Real life celebrities, such as Robert Duval, Ramiro Gonzalez, and a host of others, often attend the GNDC, along with other celebrities (though perhaps never in a movie they'd likely show or admit to) like Phil and Chick Sawyer, Tom and Bel Barrineau, and other SOS/ACSC Board Members and Officers.

There are numerous deejays, a slew of Hall of Famers, and always some special guests from far and abroad, like Annie Hirsch from California, Tim Auclair from St. Louis, 60+ members of a New York dance club, and many, many others you'll really enjoy. And everyone will dance with you, regardless of your style or ability level. Most times they'll even ask you if you'd care to dance! So I guess the question of the day is, "Was one of the missing celebrities this year, perhaps you?"

I can't say enough about the organization and promptness of each event. It is absolutely remarkable! As well, the (two) ballrooms and dance floors are large, elegant, and refined. The music is mixed to everyone's enjoyment (professionally presented by deejays wearing formal evening attire) and there's plenty of room to dance.

Lastly, to cap off your weekend of total enjoyment, the Awards Banquet on Sunday night is an absolute first class production. Speaking of first class, to everyone's delight, the hotel even runs the air conditioners for your coziness and comfort all weekend!

If that's not enough to make you want to be there, here are a few more highlights to consider! People come there from all over the United States and some foreign countries, and they all dance! The deejays couldn't do a better job of selecting, mixing, and playing the music. You will meet many new people and perhaps make some new friends. You won't stay in a finer, more upscale, first class hotel anywhere.

You also get the very special GNDC (discounted) room price, which is offered to all GNDC ticket-holders. Plus the public bathrooms are sparkling clean, the bartenders are prompt and friendly, drink prices are reasonable, the whiskey is strong, the beer is cold, and you won't find anything any more fun, entertaining, or enjoyable that you can do with your clothes on and only your dance hand o-u-t!

The 1999 event promises to be even bigger and better! Advanced tickets and reservations go fast, so I respectfully suggest, for those of you that want to treat yourself, you'd better get your reservation in now for at least start hinting to that husband, boyfriend, or mate that you are going, and that a trip to the GNDC would make a wonderful birthday, anniversary, Christmas, Hanukkah, or other special occasion gift!

As with everything, though, let me warn you that there is a downside: it only lasts four days! So get there early and stay late.

I believe that a special thanks is due to Jim and Becky Coley, who pull \$2,000 out of their pocket, personally, for founding the Annual

Sandy Coley Junior Scholarship Fund, and to the CSA shag dancers for supporting and funding the \$2,500 Dewey Kennedy Junior Scholarship Program, also awarded to junior dancers each year.

Equally, Barry Durand is due a round of applause and admiration for the time and effort that he dedicates to children, especially when he makes it a part of his life, part of their competition. It's things like scholarship programs and adult participation which make things possible for kids!

Before closing, I'd like to congratulate all the winning teams and couples! And if you saw it, you'd know what I'm talking about, as congratulations are extended to the one competitor who danced alone, yet won a place in his division (and, I believe, in the hearts of all). Above all, I'd like to congratulate every person that competed. By merely showing your courage, talent, and willingness to be a winner, you were one!

Last, but certainly not least, to Marie Robau, Jr., as the Master of Ceremonies, you made everyone a winner by bringing the level of class and entertainment to a higher degree. A thanks and congratulations were well earned by you (and your loving wife).

It also goes without saying that the weekend would not be what it is without the efforts and dedication of Linda Bellflower and the folks at ShagAtlanta.

Until next time, keep on dancing and do all that you can to help preserve the music and dance that you enjoy the most! Save me a dance. Peace be with you. And I hope to see each and every one of you at the 1999 SOS Grand National Dance Championships (Memorial Day weekend) in Atlanta, Georgia! You won't regret a minute of it.

Boilerplate

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

1. S.O.S. membership cards WILL NOT—REPEAT—WILL NOT be replaced at the beach during an S.O.S. event for any reason. This includes lost cards, forgotten cards, stolen cards, concavity cards, or whatever. No one at S.O.S. Headquarters is authorized by the Board to issue a replacement card. Please do not request anyone at Headquarters to do so.
2. There is a \$5.00 charge to replace lost cards by mail prior to S.O.S. events.
3. S.O.S. membership cards are not transferable.
4. There will be a \$15.00 charge for all returned checks.
5. S.O.S. cards must be visible, above the waist, at all times in participating S.O.S. clubs.
6. Glasses, cans, drinks, or bottles cannot be carried into any club. This is against South Carolina law and will be enforced in all participating clubs.
7. Accepting membership in S.O.S. constitutes agreement to respect and comply with all ordinances of the City of North Myrtle Beach.
8. Official S.O.S. membership cards are sold only from S.O.S., P.O. Box 4688, Columbia, SC 29204 and the participating clubs. MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE NEVER SOLD ON THE STREETS OR AT LOCAL PARTIES. Counterfeit cards will be confiscated and replacement cards will not be issued.
9. S.O.S. will pay a \$200.00 reward and lifetime membership to anyone who presents evidence which convinces a person or persons for selling counterfeit cards.
10. To receive S.O.S. discounts from participating merchants and restaurants, your S.O.S. card must be presented before you order.
11. S.O.S. cards are valid only when in the possession of persons 21 years old or older. Persons below 21 years old will not be admitted to clubs.



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Sunday, April 18 10:00 THE PIVOT (technique and variations)	Tuesday, April 20 11:00 Male Lead/Female Power
Monday, April 19 10:00 Basic Variations/Social Patterns	Wednesday, April 21 11:00 Free - Basic Shag
Friday, April 23 10:00 Lead/Follow	Thursday, April 22 11:00 Basic Variations/Social Patterns

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Gone But Not Forgotten

— from your former Chairman, Dennis Way



I would like to start by thanking each of you for all the support given to me during my days as your chairman.

Thanks for all the phone calls and words of kindness expressed to me following the S.O.S. election held at the A.C.S.C. Winter Workshop in February that has meant more to me than I could ever express. You will always be close to my heart.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know, as your chairman, how I have enjoyed serving as a member of the S.O.S. board for the past ten years and the last four years as your chairman of the board. I have met so many good, kind and loving people and made great lifelong friends throughout these years.

I have been responsible for many accomplishments during my years on the board of S.O.S. and as chairman, ones that I am very proud of and I feel I have contributed to each of you for making S.O.S. a stronger

organization and more fun for all to come and party and retrace friendships every spring and fall.

I would like to list some of my contributions. They are:

1991: S.O.S. Long Range Plan Chairman. Helped develop increased stability of the S.O.S. Corporation for years to come.

1992: S.O.S. Transportation Chairman. Started the famous tram service.

1992: S.O.S. Carefree Times Advertising Chairman. Helped start the Carefree Times and solicited advertising for it.

1993: Elected Chairman of the Board.

1995: Formed the now famous Enhancement Committee (looking for ways to add more activities and value to the S.O.S. events) [Pam Monday, Line Dance Competition, and Beach Run.]

Again I would like to thank every one of you for being a member of the greatest social organization in the world. This great organization and its members will always be at the top of my list of things that I keep close to my heart.

This is not a good-by. I will always be in the background, and maybe some day I just might show up on election day again.

Keep on Shaggin'

—Dennis Way

Past Chairman S.O.S.

The Bear Was There!

— by Fred Judge

Yet Our fuzzy little mascot rolled into North Myrtle Beach for another great S.O.S. Fall Migration with much anticipation and excitement. But Wow! Fall Migration 1998 has to go down as the greatest S.O.S. event ever!

From greeting old friends that first weekend in that phenomenal Fun Monday to the pajama party at the Pirate's Cove right through to the gospel hour on that final Sunday, the Shag Bear partied with one and all. Moreover, several special treats were in store for him, which he had not anticipated.

First, as if seeing, hearing, and being photographed with Francine Reed and the Mojo Blues Band was not enough, our Shag Bear had the honor of chauffeuring "the boys" around N.M.B. in his convertible—top down, of course. He says to all who missed the performances of the Mojo Blues Band, "You missed some great tunes from some great guys."

Then on Thursday (actually Friday morning) the Shag Bear was asked to help host the First Annual All Night Pajama Party at the Pirate's Cove. The Bear had a ball—as did all who attended. Not a single die-hard was seen leaving before 6 a.m. Milford Powell promises to make the pajama party an annual event, and the Shag Bear promises to be there to party with the band! (Who needs sleep anyway?)



And what better way to end an S.O.S. event than with a gospel hour? "Rev. Shag Bear" collected many of his friends for a wonderful experience. In between, the Shag Bear partied with his friends, old and new, always proudly displaying his S.O.S. membership card.

Oh, yes! There have been reports that our little friend disappeared for two days and nights and was later spotted in the company of an extremely lovely lady... he's neither confirming nor denying this... however, some have commented on noting an added gleam in his eyes.



Near as I can tell, we're somewhere behind Mt. Rushmore!

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5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

FALL 1998 S.O.S. D.J. SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18
6 PM-10 PM TOOTIE BROWN
10 PM- CLOSE JOANNE JOHNSON

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19
12 NOON-5 PM-CHUCK WATERS
5PM-10 PM JOANNE JOHNSON
10 PM-CLC-WALTER UPCHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20
12 NOON-5 PM-MIKE PHELPS
5 PM-10 PM-WALT UPCHURCH
10 PM-CLC-CHP & NEAL

FUN MON. SEPT. 21
12 NOON-5PM-BETTY BROWN
5PM-10PM-CLYDE WALLER
10PM-CLC-RUSSELL PERKINS

TUES. SEPT. 22
12 NOON-5PM-J. JOHNSON
5 PM-10 PM-CHP & NEAL
10 PM-CLC TOOTIE BROWN

WED. SEPT. 23
12 NOON-5 PM-RUSSELL PERKINS
5 PM-10 PM-HAROLD BEAVER
10 PM-CLC-TERRY HOPPER

THURS. SEPT. 24
12 NOON-5 PM-TOOTIE BROWN
5 PM-10 PM-TERRY HOPPER
10 PM-2 AM-RUSSELL PERKINS

2 A.M. FRI. P.J. LOCK-UP
PARTY TIL THE CRACK OF DAWN
T. HOPPER/ W. UPCHURCH/ G. GIBSON & R. PERKINS OPEN BAR
COVER \$20 PER PERSON

FRI. SEPT. 25
12 NOON-5PM-DICK HAMBICK
5PM-10 PM-CLYDE WALLER
10 PM-CLC-WALT UPCHURCH
& GARY GIBSON

SAT SEPT. 26
12 NOON-5 PM-TERRY HOPPER
5 PM-10 PM-UPCHURCH/
GIBSON
10 PM-CLC-HAROLD BEAVER

SUN. SEPT. 27 9:30
AM.
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CHOIR
11 PM-GOSPEL HOUR W/ WALT
UPCHURCH

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CRACK OF DAWN
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YOU CAN START PARTYS
THUR. NIGHT 8PM AT 2 AM
YOU MUST HAVE YOUR OWN
A D.J. OPEN
BAR...FOOD...SWEET...GIFT
TICKETS WILL SELL OUT
EARLY! HURRY!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27 9:30 AM
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
LIVE GOSPEL
CHOIR!
TEEM AT 11 AM
GOSPEL HOUR - WALT
UPCHURCH
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HERBY M'ARRYS
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23	— Kays	16	— Coastline Band
30	— North Tower	23	— North Tower
		30	— Coastline Band
May 7	— Coastline Band	Aug. 6	— Band of Oz
14	— Fantastic Shakers	13	— Breeze
21	— Men of Distinction	20	— The Maxx "Boys of Motown"
28	— Billy Scott	27	— The Rizzle
June 4	— The Maxx "Boys of Motown"	Sept. 3	— Fantastic Shakers
11	— Coastline Band	10	— Kerry Michaels Blues Band
18	— North Tower	17	— Coastline Band
24	— Coconut Groove	25	— Band of Oz
July 2	— Breeze		

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Who Needs a Junior Dance Partner?
Who's Interested In Dancing In Junior Contests?

— by Ron Alexander

As the person who puts out the Junior Shag Association newsletter, I often have people ask if I know anyone looking for a partner to dance with in contests.

I know of a few junior dancers out there who are interested in competing but have no partners. I am sure there are many more that I do not know about. We also have a few dancers out there that have competed but have lost their partners for one reason or the other.

I also have people call me looking for the names and addresses of competitive dancers. Most of these callers are interested in sponsoring or putting on a junior contest and are looking for help. They want to contact the dancers during the planning stages to get input on schedule dates, schedule conflicts, availability of the dancers, etc. They also want mailing lists so they can send out flyers, applications, etc.

Junior shag contests are one way to get new young people interested in shagging. We need to increase the number of dance couples willing to compete and to make it easier for sponsors to hold good contests.

To support this effort, the JSA will develop and maintain a list of competitive dancers and those looking for partners. It will be a spreadsheet with all current competitive junior dancers and anyone looking for a partner. It will have the following information about each dancer: Name, address, phone number, date of birth, current partner, and competitive level.

The only reason I plan to put "competitive level" on the list is to help those looking for partners know where to start. Since the contests we have had in the last year or so have had some strange division definitions, the "competitive level"

will be my best guess or what the person that supplied the name gave me.

The list will not have anything to do with what division they must dance in during a contest. It will also have nothing to do with their age. Having your name on the list will not commit you to anything.

Here's the general description of each level:

Beginners: Not danced in any contests before with a junior partner.

Amateur: All dancers that have danced in any contest before but have won less than three junior contests of any kind.

Novice: All dancers that have won three contests as an amateur and less than three contests as a novice.

Pro: All dancers that have won three contests at the novice level.

I will start the list with those dancing in the Nationals and add the few I have heard from who are looking for partners. The first draft will likely have errors, and a dancer may decide they do not want their name on the list for privacy reasons. If so, let me know and I will be glad to correct the information or remove your name from the list. It may take a couple of revisions to get a good list.

I need the help of the whole shagging community to develop a full list. There are "pockets" of junior dancers spread around the Southeast that we seldom see except at Junior S.O.S. It is especially important that the shag instructors, club owners, and adult competitive dancers in these areas (or "pockets") help us develop this list by supplying names.

Send the name, address, phone number, date of birth, partner's name, and competitive level to me.

I will call the dancer, confirm the information, and make sure they want to be on the list before I add their name.

Ron Alexander
JSA Adult Advisor
1141 Babe Harvey Rd.
Clover, SC 29710
803-222-4317

**Plans Underway
For 1999
Junior S.O.S.**

We don't have all the details for this year's Junior S.O.S., but we do know it will be July 15 - 18 in North Myrtle Beach. Make your reservations now!

We have not firmed up where each event will be held or the timing for each. We do plan to use multiple clubs and are planning the same basic format.

It will start off on Thursday night with a warm-up party, followed on Friday with workshops, dancing, and a "fun contest" of some type. Saturday will be more workshops, more dancing, and the annual mixed doubles contest. Sunday morning gospel hour will finish us off. We are planning no more workshops than before and maybe a little more variety in the food offered.

Everyone had a fantastic time last year. Based on the great feedback we have received, we expect a larger crowd this year. We have had quite a few adults who were there last year volunteer to help do anything, just as long as they can be there and see the kids having a ball. It also sounds like more of the families are making plans to come down for the entire week.

By offering a few more workshops and maybe earlier in the

weekend, we hope to make it even more fun for "the first timers" and hope they can go away with a lasting interest in shagging. Bring the kids or grandchildren.

We'll get you more details when things are firmed up. If you have questions, call me!

Ron Alexander
803-222-4317 or
alexanderron@MSN.com

The Shag Bear

Who's the Shag Bear?

He just appeared
Among the shaggers at O.O.
And S.O.S. for all to see.

But where did he come from—our fuzzy friend?

And what's his purpose? To what end?
"Tell us about the Shag Bear," they all ask.
"Why the bear? How did he come to pass?"

Surprise? There's no great mystery.
The Shag Bear comes from you and me.
He symbolizes why we are
Assembled together from near and far.

At S.O.S. each spring and fall
To dance and party one and all.
To be a part of something great
And in between to only wait.

And when honored by N.M.B. an honorary citizen to be proclaimed,
For all of you, this he was named.
And when depicted in Becky's art,
It is so that we can be a part.

Of these symbols of beach, music, dance,
good times,

Captured there more than in these phrases.
The Shag Bear belongs to you and me.
He comes from within us. Don't you see?

In each parade, he rides for you.
At Becky's store he'll greet you, too.
Some have asked, "Who owns the bear?"
He can't be owned but only shared.

He's some small part of all the fun
For which, year after year, we all come
To N.M.B. for S.O.S. for those low nights
and days

To dance and laugh, party, and play

— Fred Judge



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by Johnny Hammond

In the mid-'50s, when moonshine and rhythm and blues had both reached their zenith, I was what some referred to as a wild child. That really wasn't true—I just wanted to be where the action was; and, in those days, everything I did was an adventure.

Located between Clemson and Central, S.C. was a juke joint called Littlejohn's that catered to blacks. Those were the days before mini bottles—or even "brown bagging"—became legal. Littlejohn bought all his booze, "shine," and government whiskey from my father, Willie "Big Daddy" Hammond.

Now, Littlejohn was a fun-loving, very comical guy. He was always laying the latest jive expressions on me, because he knew I got a large charge out of such tom foolery. He also knew I loved the blues and R&B. He once told me I was the only white boy he'd ever seen who loved that kind of music.

One day, as he was picking up his order, he asked me if I had ever heard a song called *High and Lonesome*. I had to admit I had not. Then he asked me if I had ever heard of a bluesman named Jimmy Reed. Again, I answered no.

He then placed his hand on my shoulder and, with a big grin, said, "Sonny boy, I got a big treat for you."

He told me this guy was going to play his club the next Friday and Saturday nights and he wanted me to be his guest on either or both nights. He was a pope off a table close to where Jimmy Reed would be performing and for me to

remember I was there to watch—not to dance or drink.

That weekend turned out to be one of the most memorable of my teen years. There he was—a slender black man perched on a stool with a large guitar on his knee. Fitted on this guitar were two steel braces attached to a harmonica for harp, as he often referred to it.

And, Teddy Bear, I'm here to tell ya, then and there I became a big, big fan of the man who was soon to become one of the biggest blues artists of the late '50s and early '60s. He was second only to the great B. B. King.

Now, don't misunderstand! I never thought Jimmy Reed was a great singer; and as far as playing the guitar, I've seen much better. But, as harp players go, he sure could hold a note. I guess what I'm trying to say is when he pulled it all together in his own style, it would make goose bumps pop out all over your body. He be so good!

Jimmy was born in the Delta country of Mississippi and was taught to play the guitar at the tender young age of seven by his boyhood friend Eddie Taylor. In 1943, at the age of 18, Jimmy moved to Chicago and shortly afterward entered the Navy.

After WWII was over, he settled in Gary, Indiana. Sometime in 1949, he teamed with his old buddy Taylor, and they began playing small clubs in the area. Reed was on harp and guitar and furnished the vocals, while Taylor played the guitar. The duo auditioned for Chess Records and was turned



Johnny Hammond

down. Chess said their style wasn't true blues.

In 1954 they cut a single for Chance Records titled *High and Lonesome with Roll and Tumble* on the flip side. This same record was the first single ever issued on the new Vee-Jay label, for which Jimmy recorded the next eleven years. There were a couple of minor hits to chart in the R&B field, but Jimmy's big break didn't happen until '56 when he cut *Ain't That Lovin' You, Baby*.

From 1955 into the '60s, Jimmy Reed was one of the major attractions on the black circuit across America. He had only three years of formal education, so his wife "Mama" Reed helped him write most of the songs he performed. Jimmy suffered from a large case of stage fright that superseded all his other fears combined. He soothed his fears with alcohol to the point that Mama Reed had to stand by him on stage and in the studio so that she could whisper the words to him as he sang.

In fact, on some of his records, the mood was so irresistible and Mama so moved that she just joined in the singing. Her harmony could be heard loud and clear on such records as *Baby, What You Want Me to Do*, which was written by Jimmy. It has become a beach music classic, with Etta James having three different versions playing the circuit now. It was a Top Ten hit for her; but in '59, it was not only an R&B hit for

Jimmy, it crossed over to become a Top 40 Pop Hit.

He also had another R&B hit to go Top 40. That was in '57 with a little number titled *Honest I Do*. Now, that's the kind of blues I love. Another one of Jimmy's big hits from 1959 that, even today, gets a lot of beach play is *Take Out Some Funerals*. Going into the '60s, he was laying 'em down hot and heavy with *Big Boss Man*, *Bright Lights*, *Big City* and *Shave, Shave, Shave*.

Jimmy toured Europe with his main man Eddie Taylor. In England they found that many of their songs had been done by the Rolling Stones and Liverpool contemporaries of the Beatles. They hit the American Blues festival in 1968.

After recording nearly 40 singles and a dozen albums for Vee-Jay, he signed with ABC-Bluesway to do "The New Jimmy Reed" album.

In the '70s his career was frequently interrupted by ill health, brought on by alcoholism and epileptic seizures, from which he had suffered since 1957. His recordings from those final years were the ones that showed how far the deterioration had gone.

His diction had become slurred, and his once captivating rhythm had become sluggish. But the bottom line is that he left a permanent impression on blues artists of the present and future.

Jimmy Reed died on August 29, 1976. He was eight days shy of his 51st birthday.

He was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 1980 and into the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame in 1991. His life-long friend and long-time partner, Eddie Taylor, died on Christmas day in 1985. He was one month shy of his 62nd birthday.

Johnny Hammond is a member of the Electric City Slug Club in Anderson, SC. This article was first published in their newsletter, *Slug 'n' Talk*. His articles appear regularly in the *Carefree Times*.



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April 24	Swinging Johnsons	July 16	Coastline
			and Caribbean Steel
		July 17	Coastline
		July 18	Coastline
		July 21	North Tower
		July 22	North Tower
		July 23	North Tower
			and Caribbean Steel
May 1	Swinging Johnsons	July 24	North Tower
May 8	Swinging Johnsons	July 25	North Tower
May 15	Swinging Johnsons	July 28	Coastline
May 22	Breeze	July 29	Coastline
May 28	Coastline	July 30	Coastline
May 29	Coastline		and Caribbean Steel
May 30	Coastline	July 31	Coastline
May 31	Coastline		
		August	
		Aug. 4	Swinging Johnsons
		Aug. 5	Swinging Johnsons
		Aug. 6	The Entertainers
			and Caribbean Steel
		Aug. 7	The Entertainers
		Aug. 8	The Entertainers
		Aug. 11	Breeze
		Aug. 12	Breeze
		Aug. 13	Breeze
			and Caribbean Steel
		Aug. 14	Breeze
		Aug. 15	Breeze
		Aug. 18	Swinging Johnsons
		Aug. 19	Swinging Johnsons
		Aug. 20	Swinging Johnsons
			and Caribbean Steel
		Aug. 21	Swinging Johnsons
		Aug. 22	Swinging Johnsons
		Aug. 25	Swinging Johnsons
		Aug. 26	Swinging Johnsons
		Aug. 27	Swinging Johnsons
			and Caribbean Steel
		Aug. 28	Swinging Johnsons
		Aug. 29	Swinging Johnsons
		September	
		Sept 2	North Tower
		Sept 3	North Tower
		Sept 4	North Tower
		Sept 5	North Tower
		Sept 6	North Tower
		October	
		Oct. 2	Swinging Johnsons
		Oct. 9	Swinging Johnsons
		Oct. 16	Swinging Johnsons

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Kays Gary

"One of the keys to making S.O.S. a reality"

— by Rich Harris

A Poet of the Ordinary

Kays Gary "was the soul of *The Charlotte Observer* during the last half of the century," said former editor Rich O'Connell. Gary was an inspiration to many people with his wonderful columns about the "triumph in simple lives, joy in quiet moments, and hope in tragedy." He would make his readers laugh out loud or weep with him.

He earned a journalism degree from UNC Chapel Hill in 1942, but he was "a poet of the ordinary." He had a gift with words to make his readers feel what he was feeling and live vicariously with the subject of his stories.

The world was a better place because of Kays Gary, who died on September 13, 1997, at age 76.

The S.O.S. Connection

You may wonder why I am writing about Kays Gary in the *S.O.S. Carefree Times*. I started researching his influence on S.O.S. at the '97 Spring Safari when I ran across a copy of the '86 Fall Migration newspaper (then called *Beach Roots*), whose editor and publisher was S.O.S. founder Gene "Swink" Laughter.

One of the lead articles in that issue was entitled, "The Way We Were Before the Music Stopped," written by Kays Gary. Gary was very instrumental in the early success of S.O.S., and Laughter added this editor's note at the end of Gary's article:

Kays Gary and Jerry Bledsoe were the keys in making the dream become reality. And the Gary-Laughter Connection was all so very wise ... as always. Were it not for that secret bottle in the surf ... S.O.S. most likely wouldn't have happened.

I had heard the story about the beginning of S.O.S., but I never imagined that one of my favorite newspaper columnists played such an important role in its success.

Gary's "Beach Roots" Article

The theme of Gary's article was that the lone survivor of a scuttled, music-less planet might find in the ocean an ancient bottle containing a manuscript with a history of "The O.D. Migrations of the 1980's" signed by "G.L. and B.W." and shed a tear "that no one will ever know the way we were before the music stopped." Then he said that "today S.O.S. is alive."

S.O.S., today as then, is a community of friends who share their love for the shag and for beach music. Gary said that "the music birthed the cool rhythms of laid-back soul, Shag mastery became a passport to where and what you wanted to be, and wherever it was danced there were no strangers." The shag was born out of rhythm and blues, but "they simply called it 'Beach Music.'" ... It was cool, easy understanding.

Gary then reminisced about Depression-born UNC students dancing on the big hard boards and also a dance partner named Jane Moody. "When *Mae the Kagle* or the first notes of *Tangerine* sounded, we found each other and we were 'one' for some moments of ecstasy without definition except in music." Gary captured the essence of that special dance we have all experienced at S.O.S.

Gary said that his first trip to the beach was in '47 after his marriage and first child. He remembered watching "the kids" at the Pavilion and feeling guilty in his wife's presence while watching the kids "getting to what fun and I had been on the edge of."

Then he remembered his special shag dance at the Pavilion with a friend's 18-year old little sister who invited him to dance to *Sixty Minute Man* and gave him the ultimate accolade by saying, "Hey, you do pretty good for a father."

How did he remember, at around age 65, the special dances with Jane at UNC in his youth and the Pavilion dance when he was 25? The shag dance at S.O.S. has always created special memories not only of the dancers with each other but also of the spectators who remember when Shad and Brenda Alberty, Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee, Jolo Putnam and Joanne Johnson, or others cleared the floor and blew us away with their special magic.

The First Save Our Ship (SOS) Bottle

Gary then told the story of which I had heard parts. I can't begin to tell it as well as he did, so these are his words:

In August of 1978, Deeb Padal, a Charlotte item, brought to the newspaper office an old bottle found in the Myrtle Beach surf and inside, an obviously ancient paper, was posted a note signed by man named the shipwrecked whaling ship "Axe Alexander" in 1887. The curator of Charlotte's Mint Museum judged it to be authentic and we ran the story.

The next day the Whaling Museum of New Bedford, Mass. declared it a fraud, noting that the "Axe Alexander" had sunk more than 30 years earlier than the bottled message.

Meanwhile, a Charlotte switchboard operator overheard a mobile phone conversation between a laughing friend of Richmond attorney Bob White and White himself, as the friend gleefully reported that the *Observer* had fallen for the story.

Tipped by the operator, a phone call quickly found White and his preschool colleagues, Gene Laughter ...

Laughter not only confessed to this hoax but recounted it as a rather elaborately-planned event, traditions of the White and Laughter families. Each year they brought their families back to the seashore place of their youth, the Grand Strand, and delivered the message by casting old bottles containing purportedly centuries old notes into the surf.

In 1979 a deposit of fossil shells found on the usually shell-bare beach caused quite a stir until they turned out to be shells common only to the Potomac River basin. "Laughter had struck again."

By 1980 the *Observer* reporters—especially Kays Gary—would call Laughter about any unusual matters along the Carolina coast.

... and they were soon aware that the excitement in his real-friend was doubly a reminder about the Strand, especially grand as a teenage kid found there in a world of golden girls and crazy, beloved bottles and their glorious Grand, The Shag.

And so, in the Spring of '80 when fellow columnist Jerry Bledsoe wrote a piece concerning the history of evolution of "the Shag," Laughter was the first responder of many.

Immediately Laughter also phoned me with an idea. He wanted to figure a way to bring all these great beach kids of the 40's and 50's back for a reunion.

Swink remembered their names and nicknames, their home towns, the clothes they wore, the cars they drove, and "most of all the dancing nights."

Gary then said that:

Laughter even had a name for the reunion ... either the "Society of Shaggers" or the "Society of Stragglers."

Many *Observer* columns by Bledsoe to me about the planned reunion brought baskets of mail to Laughter's home in Richmond ... That first September migration of 1980 brought them in ... some flying, some driving, by the thousands with estimates ranging from 1,000 to 10,000.

Timeless Youth

Gary then concluded his column by again capturing the essence of S.O.S. as he described the people: "Many of them have less hair, more bulges and the laugh lines around the eyes and mouth have become a little deeper. But when the music starts, the years fall away ... And [S.O.S. is] the richest reflection of a timeless youth celebrated one more time."

That article was just like reading a history book; yet the feelings, mood, and excitement are the same today at S.O.S. as they were in 1980 when it first started and in 1986 when that article was written.

The Bledsoe and Gary Columns

After I read that '86 edition of *Beach Roots*, I decided to research *The Charlotte Observer* to see if I could find those early Kays Gary and Jerry Bledsoe articles.

Sure enough, the February 10, 1980 edition had an article by Bledsoe called "Shaggers Cling To The Magic And The Dance Of The Beach" including a photo of Shad Alberty and mention of a shag class by Cadillac Jack Smith (who in 1998 danced in the Masters Division of the National Shag Dance Finals with Sandra Schwartz). He described the beach boys as follows:

They had less as deep but every little hair on their bodies stood out, radiating gold. As likely as not, they provided their hair, kept it cut short and neat. Their teeth were as white as an Axiom tank. When they danced, they wore leather with slinger tangles, slinger belts, raffly starched shirts, and slacks with their zippers on new pockets.

Bledsoe's second *Observer* article, published on March 9, 1980, was called, "Who Was the First Shag Dancer?" Referring to his first article, he said:

[It] provoked an outpouring of response from shaggers ... The column sent Gene Laughter into a frenzy of reminiscence and research ... He gained notoriety beneath a couple of years ago when he helped perpetrate a hoax with an old bottle and a piece of parchment at Myrtle Beach ... Gene pointed out to me that my column concentrated on third and fourth generation shaggers and that the dance actually originated much earlier, even before the *Saxton Pad* was built at O.D. in 1950 [sic] ... He was an O.D. lifeguard from '49 - '54, one of the beach boys (they never called themselves beach boys, he says).

Bledsoe concluded that article by saying that "the probability is that [the shag] wasn't invented by any one person but simply evolved from a number of other dances ..."

Bledsoe reported that the shag was refined in the '50s when many new steps and turns were created, but "the era of the shag's history ended in the fall of '54 when Hurricane Hazel wiped out some of the favorite dancing spots."

The March 30, 1980 edition of *The Charlotte Observer* had another article by Jerry Bledsoe, entitled, "All Right,



Jacques and Rich Harris

All You Shaggers, Gather Round," Bledsoe mentioned the outpouring of response to his two previous articles and said:

From that response have grown plans for a big reunion of the old shaggers to be at Ocean Drive in September, compilation of a directory of early-day shaggers and their present whereabouts, and a proposal that the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce sponsor an annual "Shag Week" in late summer or early fall.

Bledsoe continued that the reunion "is the work primarily of Gene 'Swink' Laughter of Richmond, Va. (formerly of Albemarle) and Dennis Bean of Shelby ..." with encouragement and assistance from others, including Homer Bessent, cousin of the "fat one" himself of Fat Harold's Beach Club fame.

Kays Gary wrote an article in the May 4, 1980 *Charlotte Observer* entitled, "Is Shaggers Answer SOS, Plan Party." He said that:

SOS stands for Society of Stragglers (and/or Shaggers) and apparently evolved from *Observer* columnist Jerry Bledsoe's exploration of the origin and development of the shag ... My friend Gene Laughter ... picked up on Jerry's theme and went on the call to reassemble the pieces of the shag one more time. He's being swamped with requests for more, with some spillover inquiries coming to me.

The SOS reunion was planned for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, September 11-13, 1990.

The Second SOS Bottle

These Gary and Bledsoe articles never mentioned the bottle with the secret invitation to the first SOS. The story I heard was that the bottle thrown into the surf was found, authenticated, and published in the media in 1980 with the following message:

SOS. Reward for Delivery. Please see that this gets to Captain Earl Beale of the USS *Fleming* in the Port of Charleston. Kays is rocking off Carolina Banks. Migration is underway. Due at Oak Tree September 11th. Contact Wynnie Harris. 14 June 1897, James Ricks, Capt, USS *Karen*.

If that legend was true, then why didn't Kays Gary and Jerry Bledsoe have a big story about the "authentic" SOS message in a bottle leading up to the first S.O.S.? Instead, they mentioned a similar incident about a bottle boat in 1978, two years prior to the first S.O.S.

When I first read Kays Gary's *Beach Roots* article, I called his home in Myrtle Beach where he had retired, but I was unable to reach him. I did reach Jerry Bledsoe, who remembered his first *Observer* article and how it had triggered the others which led to the start of S.O.S. But he couldn't remember the story of the second bottle with the secret invitation to it.

Then I tracked down the third person who had the true facts—Swink Laughter himself—vacationing (where else?) in O.D. He confirmed the first bottle story in 1978, which Gary had reported in his article, and he also confirmed that the second bottle or bottles were tossed in the surf during the summer of '80 with
(Continued on Page 18)



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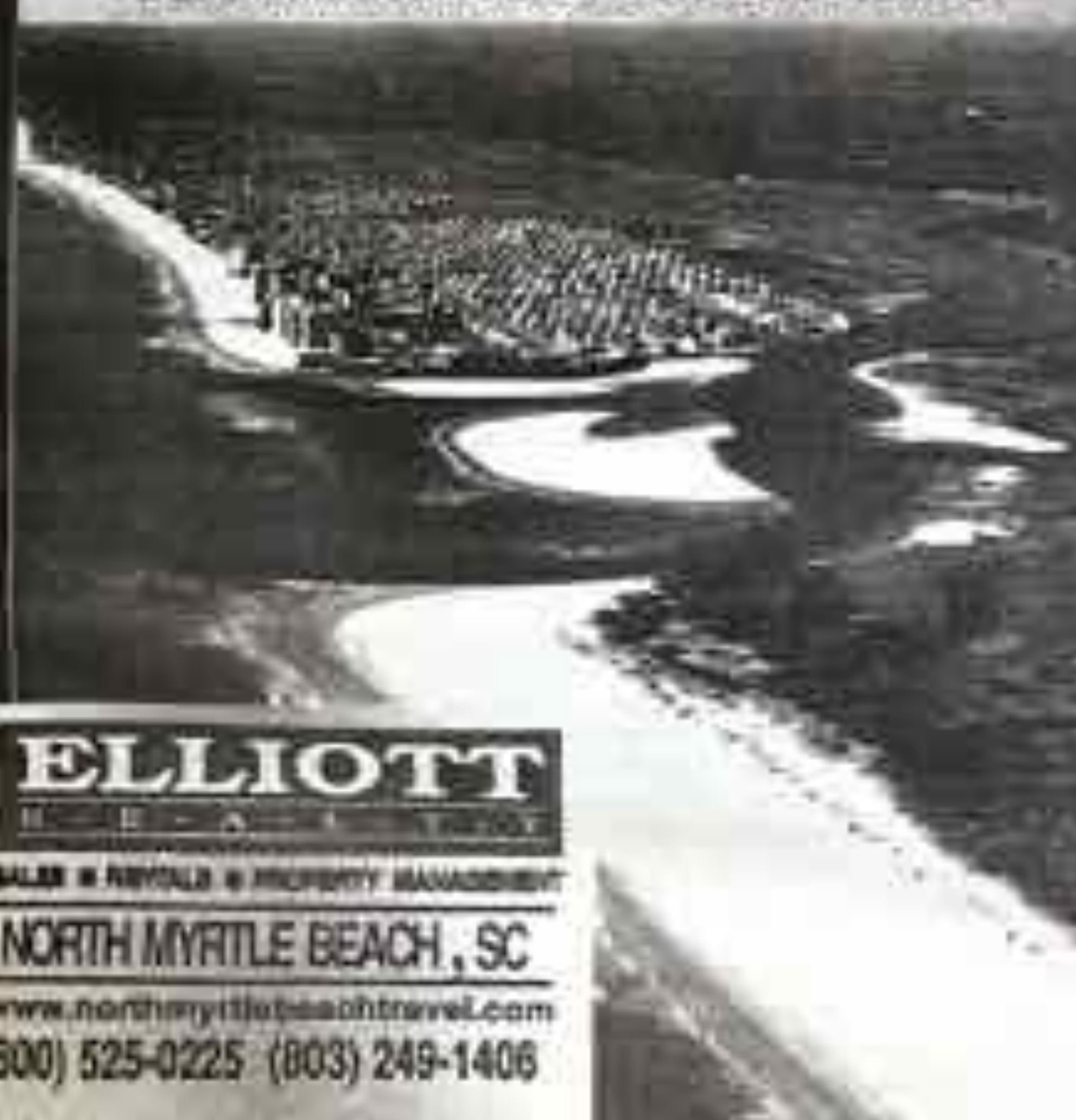
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Shaggers' Bartenders

— by Bill Cleland

The famous basketball coach and announcer Al McGuire, who grew up the hard way, once said, "Everybody should be a bartender or cab driver one time to see what people are really like."

Keeping this in mind, I asked the best bartenders what the shaggers are really like. (Of course, the best bartenders are those who remember my drink and are here year round.)

It was amazing! They were so closed mouth on the subject that I feel free to confide anything to them. It convinced me that they are the unsung heroes of the beach club.

Contrary to what some believe, bartending is not a part-time hobby. It is a real life supporting job. Those tips put food on the table. And it is work. With a reasonable crowd, they are busy all the time. It wears me out to watch.

Of course, their number quadruples with part-timers during S.O.S. And they are so busy that the operation is broken down into servers, liquid restockers, ice restockers, card checkers, clean-ups, and (hopefully) tip jar emptiers.

Still, they are bright enough to learn some verbal time savers...

"What kind of wine do you have?"

"Red, white, and pink. Pick a color."

"Where does your orange juice come from?"

"A truck."

"Where do you get your grapefruit juice?"

"Same truck."

Most customers who shout at the bartender to get their drink before it is their turn are much less aggressive when it comes to tipping. So as a rule, good tippers don't have to shout. It's easier to remember a good tipper's drink, too.

I'll admit that I try to buy mine and Bev's refill at the same time so that a one-dollar tip will cover two drinks. But after a while, it's cheaper

to split up, because I can't keep up with Bev anymore. It's my age.

I like to watch the expression on a bartender's face who finally gets to someone who has been patiently waiting, and they say, "Let's see..." and goes through a long process of selecting a drink on the bartender's time. The look is only fleeting, but it's there.

Often a bartender will buy the customer a drink. It is pleasing for the customer to stay with his favorite brew. The offer is not made again to the customer who moves up to a White Russian because it's free.

The law makes clubs and bartenders liable for over-serving, but we seldom see one over-served in a beach club. I saw one guy who was refused a drink go to sleep on the bar. He was asked to move. Square footage in front of the bar is valuable space at S.O.S. He raised up and said, "Not fair! I'm just sleeping it off so that when I wake up I can get another drink!"

Pour me another one, Shannon.

I trust that lady. She will never tell you what I'm really like.

Bill and Bev Cleland live in N. Myrtle Beach and have been long-time contributors to the *Carefree Times*.

Kays Gary

(Continued from Page 14)

the encoded invitation to the first S.O.S. event.

Laughter cast six to eight bottles with slightly different versions of the encoded message during the summer of '80 while vacationing at Myrtle Beach. The *Sunstar Daily News* ran the story, on August 21, 1980, of a local resident having found a small, odd shaped brown bottle washed ashore at Myrtle Beach with the word "possee" imprinted down each side and containing a message sealed inside. He had taken the unopened bottle to a museum where an archivist pried loose a thick seal of pure beeswax and found a scrap of yellowed paper inside with the USS Raven message in old-timery script and faded brown ink.

That vacationer would then take the bottle and message home, report it to the local newspaper; and when the

newspaper validated the unique bottle and paper, it would publish the story.

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The *Sunstar Daily News* ran the story, on August 21, 1980, of a local resident having found a small, odd shaped brown bottle washed ashore at Myrtle Beach with the word "possee" imprinted down each side and containing a message sealed inside. He had taken the unopened bottle to a museum where an archivist pried loose a thick seal of pure beeswax and found a scrap of yellowed paper inside with the USS Raven message in old-timery script and faded brown ink.

According to an archaeologist at USC, the Raven was a revenue cutter similar to a Coast Guard ship; but the *Book of American Shipwrecks* did not list the Raven as wrecked. Another researcher at the Naval Institute said that Earl Bostic was a supplier based in Charleston at that time. Neither researcher knew where the Oak Tree might be. The article said that the Smithsonian Institution (sic) was also looking into the discovery.

Two days later, the headline in the *Sunstar* newspaper was "Bottle Note Practically Beach Music Trivia Quiz." A *Sunstar* radio news director reported that Earl Bostic was the name of a recording star from the '50s and '60s (whose No. 1 hit was *Falsetto*). The Ravens were a popular beach music group in the '50s (whose lead singer was Jimmy Ricks and whose big hit was *Green Eyes*), and Wynonie Harris was another '50s beach music star (whose big hit was *Good Rocking Tonight*).

The clincher that the note was a hoax was that news director's knowledge of a big beach music convention in North Myrtle Beach with headquarters at the Oak Tree. Another alert reader reported that S.O.S. had not been adopted as the international distress signal until 1912, and the first ship to send an S.O.S. was the *Titanic* in April 1912.

The AP wire service picked up the story, and Laughter got calls from all over the nation after the hoax was also uncovered. He held a national press conference in Richmond on August 26, 1980 to confess to the hoax and to advertise the first S.O.S. Fall Migration.

Kays Gary added to his column, on August 28, 1980, a story about the

"Incredible Hoax" and said that when he had read the *Sunstar* newspaper report that experts were poring over the evidence, he knew Laughter had struck again.

The First S.O.S.

On Friday, September 12, 1980, *The Charlotte Observer* reported that the planned event at the Shag Reunion included "Today beer bust, Fat Jack's 1 p.m.; Boogie Boat Cruise, Women's Marina, 8 p.m.; After-Cruise Party, Fat Jack's, Saturday, Boogie Boat Cruise, 12:30 p.m. Sunday, bloody Mary party, Fat Jack's noon." The registration booth was at the Oak Tree Inn Lounge.

On Saturday, September 13, 1980, *The Charlotte Observer* headline was "Old 'Toons' Shag Down To Beach Reunion." The article included reminiscences of some of the attendees who had summered at O.D. as teenagers in the early '50s. Marvin Bellamy, the police chief at O.D., described memories about picking up some of the beach boys for vagrancy if they had no place to stay, but they would usually tell him that they were staying at the swanky Ocean Forest, meaning the ocean by day and the forest at night.

Readers were also told how the name beach music originated:

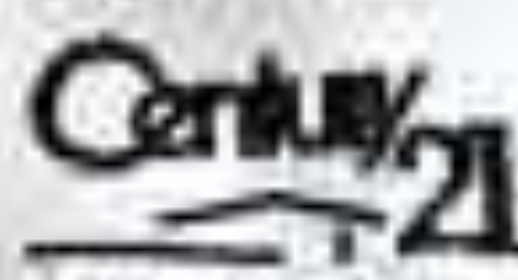
Black music artists played on white radio stations until songs like *Grease* by the Crews—written to cross over into white markets—broke the color barrier in the middle '50's. Before that, white kids often went to the beaches—away from mom and dad—to hear the jukebox black music they preferred. Hence the name beach music.

Conclusion

S.O.S. was an idea to revive the good old days at the beach just once more, but many great ideas never come to fruition. The Strangers who enjoy S.O.S. today are forever indebted to Swank Laughter and his buddy Kays Gary and Jerry Bladock of *The Charlotte Observer* for making that great idea a reality.

Thanks S.O.S. for the good times shagging, for the memories of those special dances, and for all the deejays who play that fantastic beach music.

Earl Harris, a member of the Good Time Shaggers, is an attorney from Charlotte, North Carolina. He has been a long-time contributor of pictures and articles for the *Carefree Times*.



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N.C. Shaggers Honored — Finally

— by Bill Harper

Wow! What a weekend in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. For those of you who were there, you know what I mean. And for those of you who weren't, you missed one heck of a weekend.

Atlantic Beach, NC? What is it and where is it? It's across the Morehead City bridge and is on the coast about halfway up the state. Some will argue with you 'til this day that the shag started here. From what I understand, it probably started here, Williams Lake, White Lake, Carolina Beach, and Ocean Drive about the same time. We still have two great shag clubs here—Courtney's and Memories.

I know there is a lot of history in our small town that many of the old-timers will verify. Did you know that there was a Ducks on the Atlantic Beach boardwalk? Ducks Burger Palace, along with Clark's, Stairway to the Stars, Jolie Hour, Pavilion, and the Jolly Knave. There is as much history here as any other shag community around.

Many of the people who danced and contributed to the shag in our area have never been honored. So Memorial Beach & Shag Club in Atlantic Beach decided to honor these people on February 19 & 20, 1999. The first annual induction into the Atlantic Beach Shaggers Hall of Fame was held that weekend with 50 people being inducted.

This Hall of Fame was set up as a non-profit corporation. All the people inducted have played some part in the shag history of our area. They might not have been the best dancers (some were) but they have contributed with the lifestyle, longevity, and growth of the shag.

There was also a dance contest held that same weekend along with exhibitions and a workshop by Leslie Melton and Norman Aldridge, 1998 winners of the Junior Shag Grand Nationals and the Junior Swing U.S. Open.

Friday night the amateurs and non-pros danced. Between the amateur and non-pro divisions, Leslie and Norman put on a terrific exhibition dance. The pros danced Saturday night and put on a great show. The doxy for the contest was Terry Ellis from Wilmington, and his wife Marty was the head judge for the three divisions of dancers. Prize money in the amount of \$2000 was given out, and there was no entry fee to dance in any division. The dancers really loved that! Gene and Reamonia of Shagart donated prints to each division winner. Contest winners were:

Pro — Gene & Nancy Pope
Durham, NC

Non-Pro — Harvey & Gail Ham
Wilson, NC

Amateur — Keith Smith &
Tina Hamilton, Spartanburg, SC

The club opened at 12 noon on Saturday with Leslie and Norman putting on a workshop for many excited participants. Music was provided all afternoon by Bill Harper who tried to mix it up for the pro dancers warming up for the night's competition and the "old-time" Hall of Famers, who were present for the Hall of Fame cocktail.

Some of the old tunes heard were by Joe Turner, Lampighians, Earl Bostic, Dominice, Clovers, Five Royales, Hank Ballard, Pergunta, and Lloyd Price.

The old-timers were sure doing some reminiscing. Nothing looked finer than seeing Milton Nowell and

Charles Garvey with hands raised singing, dancing, and remembering their Atlantic Beach days. Don't know which one was holding the other up, but ask them about the weekend and the history of Atlantic Beach. There was a free BBQ chicken cookout at 4:00 for all.

The Hall of Fame induction started at 8:00 with the MC'ing being done by Bill Harper and Alan Shefor. The color announcing was done by Big George Summerlin. He had the crowd rolling as only Big George can do. All the inductees gathered for a group picture and danced one song, *Old Friends* by Lloyd Jones. Old friends—that's what it's all about!

After the induction, Leslie and Norman danced another exhibition dance. After discussing the circumstances of the schedule conflict with the benefit for Norman Holiday in South Carolina, Leslie and Norman decided to do another dance. Terry announced to the crowd that the next song was to raise money for the Norman Holiday benefit, and if anyone could throw money on the dance floor during that song, it would go towards the benefit. After that wonderful dance, \$367 had been raised, probably mostly from people who don't even know Norman Holiday.

I found out later that Leslie and Norman had taken \$50 out of the money they had made in their workshop and had put it towards the benefit. This money was sent to Wanda Holiday from Leslie, Norman, and Memories. What wonderful kids. Not only are they champions on the dance floor but are champions in their heart as well.

I know that my high point of the weekend was those kids and what they did and gave of themselves. I want to let you all know that in no way was Memories trying to take away from the benefit being held the same weekend. We had gotten too far into the event and also thought our participants would be

mostly from Eastern N.C. We would not have done this to take away people from their heartwarming benefit.

Plans are in the works for an annual dance contest around this same time each year. There will be an oldtimers reunion and Hall of Fame induction on a separate weekend. There are still many names that have contributed to the shag in our area.

In closing, the highlights of the weekend for me were the two Juniors putting on a wonderful show and then giving \$50 of the money they had earned to the Norman Holiday benefit. This is money they had worked so hard for so they could go to New York and dance. Another was when most of the Hall of Fame inductees came up to speak about the shag dance that had been passed down to them from the ones preceding them and how they were happiest passing it on to the ones after them.

Of the 50 inductees, with two being deceased, 30 were there. They were from North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Lastly, the oldest inductee, Harrell Baldree, 73 years young, has been dancing here since the '40s and was one of the original boppers and fast dancers. He unfortunately was put into the hospital that day. His wife Shirley was here and looking well.

The shag community is a close knit and caring family. Unfortunately, there are too many of us older crowd that might not be able to continue shagging for many more years. Let's do what we can to support these up-and-coming junior shaggers. There might be a few hundred of them, but there are many thousands of us. Let's help, teach, and praise the ones that do hang around with us. How many of you would have spent time around 50 or 60-year olds when you were that age?

Unless we all do our share to continue the growth of the dance we all love so well, these few hundred junior shaggers will have a very, very difficult time trying to carry on the shag tradition as we know it today.



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Schedule of Events

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